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## Serve, Reserve, Preserve...

Editorial



We have been discussing various options for making our ashram more oriented towards the natural energies like solar and biomass energies. The natural energies are abundant and practically freely available. One does not have to pay the Sun for getting his solar energy. Nor one has to pay the wind to get the wind energy. So is the case with the water and the earth (gravitation energy) too. The problem is that the current technologies developed by man can not make use of these energies in a flowing way. We need to store them so that they can be used. The larger problem here is that it is the storage which makes most of these free energies very expensive and non-viable with respect to the conventional energies like Coal fired or hydel powered electricity generation. It is the storage which makes a nature unnatural. That is what becomes difficult to manage.

I have been a keen observer of modern developments on electronic products. What I have been consistently

observing that these machines do not last long. The first thing that happens to these machines is that a battery breaks down. The replacement of batteries cost hell of a lot and sometimes as much as the instrument itself. The batteries-the storage devices do not last long. Initially I thought this phenomenon was common in India. However during my last trip to US, I realized that it is happening in so called advanced countries too. So it seems to be an universal phenomenon. Why does it happen? Apparently the storage of energy is not natural. Nature does not like to be preserved or stored. Nature is too dynamic to be reserved and preserved. Anything that is stored or preserved becomes stale in the nature. The water becomes stale, the air becomes foul, even the human life comes to end when energy is stored and does not flow. It is the flow which is natural, it is the flow which is truly a life. Storage or preservation goes against the basic nature of energy. It takes a lot of efforts to store it and secondly at one point of time it just becomes non-functional. Today unfortunately we have gone far off from the idea of flow. Reservation and Preservation have become the mantras for the modern life. We have forgotten that not every mantra is a blessing to human life. Some mantras may lead to curse.

Humans are forgetting the virtues of serving and moving towards reserving and preserving. They have different directions altogether. Serving may lead you to a lot of stability and security while reserving and preserving may only create more fears and insecurities as it has already started happening around us. Serve the nature so that nature can help you to lead a better life. Serve the God so that the life becomes a blessing. Accumulation of anything may ultimately lead to pains and sufferings. Serving is the basic nature of human being, not preserving and reserving.

# WIRED COMPASSIONS

By Sister Elaine Prevallet taken from *Sacred Fire Light of Compassion*

*Fire is a thing of past and is a thing of future. With the human life turning around a whole circle, suddenly there is a lot of interest in the fire and its hidden properties which were known to the generations of the yore. Suddenly the awareness has started awakening that the fire is not something which happens just by burning the stuff. It is much beyond that. It is a life for the human bodily existence which is truly a manifestation of fire. Guruji was invited to Festival of Faith in Louisville, Kentucky, USA as a chief guest from Eastern world last year and the theme was Fire. This was an opportunity for Fire worshippers to come together breaking all barriers of religions, sects and regions. Guruji has a sankalp (intention) to start a Fire Museum at Devrukh to bring out the multi-dimensions of Fire. This piece of literature on Fire authored by Sister Elaine Prevallet taken from 'Sacred Fire Light of Compassion' is worth reading.*

***"The only hope or else despair  
Lies in the choice of pyre or pyre-  
To be redeemed from fire by fire"***

Those words of T S Elliot in (4 quartets) come back to me sometimes when I reflect on the condition of our world. We humans stand on a cusp of choice.

A nuclear fire, or any number of catastrophic events or failures, can destroy life as we know it on earth.

Or: a fire of compassion in our hearts can spark a universal compassion that draws us together into a new creation to face the future whether or not we are aware, we are, right now, in the process of choosing: Fire or Fire. Over the past decades, humans have begun to understand and to speak of ourselves as one human family, related to all species that have preceded us on the planet— and beyond. But

what is the role of human species? If we look closely at our own biological history, we can escape an intricate and interdependent connection with the whole of creation. Each of us is participating in an ongoing, emergent creation, part of a process so enormous that we cannot grasp it. We are inescapably participants in a larger life. Evolution shows us that the human brain has developed to include capacities of our ancestors the reptiles and mammals, and, in the neocortex, a new capacity for rationality and language, creativity and compassion.

We are gifted with mirror neurons: even to see a picture of someone in pain triggers an automatic resonance of pain within us. We are wired for cooperative, compassionate behavior. Feeling the pain of others sparks us to do something, to heal, to assuage and to remedy.

Why are we gifted with this capacity? And why aren't falling off our chairs in amazement? Why are we not stunned, overcome with reverence and gratitude for this miracle that has been worked within us?

Compassion is the centre motive of all religious traditions. According to Dalai Lama there is a Tibetan word which translated means "the inability to bear the sight of others' sufferings". Observing that suffering, Jesus preached that it is our responsibility to care for the poor, the orphans, the prostitutes, the outcast and disenfranchised.

"As often as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me" Jesus said.

Compassion compels us to actions of feelings, of justice and peace making. Perhaps the cutting edge of human evolutionary development lies at this moment in time. The human species MUST claim responsibility to be healers, reconcilers, vehicles of peace and justice on the planet.

*continued on page 2*



*Wired Compassions continued*

It is our duty to let our hearts be broken open—for this we were created. And this responsibility extends beyond the tribe. It may well be that our present planetary crisis is not just inviting, but requiring that we open our hearts in compassion for all living creatures. The stakes are high; the choice between pyre and pyre. Currently technology— satellite, television, the internet, twitter and the like - has given birth to a “global brain”. We cannot be unaware of climate change, water shortage, escalating violence, social breakdown and gross economic disparity. But we know also that there is an emerging voice of non-violence, the “green” movement, the world wide press for democratic reforms. We have to internalize how we deeply we depend on each other and develop a sense of common good. Earth humanity is drowned together in network that span the globe. Still, technology may connect us but it cannot unite us. Now we desperately need to match the global brain with a global heart. As Jesuit priest and French philosopher Perry Teilhard de Chardin, wrote in the phenomenon of Man, “Love alone is capable of uniting living beings in such a way as to complete and fulfill them... for it alone take them and join them by what is deepest in themselves.” We face an entirely new context, kairos, most opportune moment for the human species and earth. No one has been here before. We are charting new territory. As the species that embodies the capacities for compassionate concern for the whole planet we can act or not act, we decide when we will act on compassionate cues and when we will choose to selfishly serve our own egos. We choose between Fire and Fire.



## A PEEK WITHIN !

*By Preeti Khanna, Delhi*

I brought a sapling to my tiny garden,  
Nurtured it with love and passion.  
Day after day woke up to see,  
A bud or two in this tiny tree.  
To my dismay, it stood erect,  
Responded it, with all its reject.

Lost my patience, with a wishful determination,  
To pluck it out, full of dejection.  
Whispered a voice "Give it a chance",  
Calmness set in me, and the 'chance' I did grant.

Eager expectation again sprang within,  
Each dawn evoked a ray of hope in me,  
'Tomorrow a bud would surely bloom'  
Lo! It sunk me into a deeper gloom.  
All set was I now, not to spare,  
This lush green, grand, which only despaired.

"Pluck me not!" said it to me again,  
Tears of joy poured out like rain,  
To watch, bright red buds come out in a train,  
My efforts had not gone in vain!

Redundant many appear in life,  
Discard them oft we out of our sight...  
Like this poor hibiscus, to sustain they fight,  
To come out like the full moon one night...

It's the quality within that always lasts,  
Only a peek within every "me", touches the heart...



# Caste System: Blessing or a Curse?

By Telangan

Today there are too many conflicts of thoughts and it is in a great fashion to hold our culture and sacred scriptures like Vedas responsible for the clashes over the caste system. Most people today actually have not understood the real meaning behind it and they blame our Rishis who in reality had an enormous vision. We keep quiet many times in fear of the disagreements.

Rishis related body of the society, four classes (*charturvarnas*) with the human body very well. Brahmanas (priestly class) are the head of the society; Kshaatriyas (ruling class) are arm and the chest, Vaishyas (merchant class) are abdomen and Shudras or laborers are feet. ***It is not that Brahmanas are better than the Kshaatriyas or Vaishyas. A true Brahmana will use knowledge to self- realization and to assist others to realize and not to control them. Kshaatriyas are natural rulers and they will tend to use the power or knowledge they gain from austerities to conquer others. Vaishyas as true merchants will well package and sell any knowledge as true business people. In Kali Yuga we stumble over the sold knowledge everywhere. When in some people the Jathara Agni is very powerful than the Bhuta Agni then this class is not fit to recite Vedas and these people are Shudras. It is not about the profession at all but it is about the inner tendencies of human being. The person born in the Shudra family could be true Brahmana if he uses the knowledge to empower others. How could we forget great Rishi Vyasa the son of Rishi Parashara and Matsyagandha or even our saints Rohidas, Kabir or Namdev?***

Today we find more conflicts in the society, the marriage system is falling apart, some issues are so

unusual that we try and ignore them until they reach us. ***Rishis had great amount of knowledge about the genetics and therefore they have inaugurated the Gotra system.*** We use the Gotra today only for the purpose of marriages but it has larger meaning than that. Marriages within Gotras are still forbidden only because Rishis understood about genes and chromosomes so well that they knew about the good and bad effects as well. Today we find African marrying American or Indian marrying Scottish very easily. ***This cross breed allows new pattern of genes to develop and which tend to promote new ways of looking at things.*** This causes discomfort and uncertainty to most old ideas of the society. The acceptances of new ideas are high among the westerners than Indians partly because there are more numbers of mixed breeds in western countries than India.

People reborn with good karmas get an opportunity to be reborn in higher state. ***Rishis never said that lower class of the society is inferior or the higher class is superior*** as we see it happening today in Kaliyuga. Our present state is based on the past Karma; it is as simple as that. If your forefathers are great warriors for last fifteen generations then you will most likely make good warrior material. This is pure genetics and this is how we find doctor in doctor's family or lawyer in lawyer's family.

- This esoteric knowledge was never available to masses and some people changed the meaning of casts and made it rigid than ancient time for their own gains in *Kali Yuga*. ***The Blessings turned into The Curse on the long way...***



I woke up not by my alarm clock but a beautiful song of a bird. There is a huge banyan tree next to my bedroom and usually it is covered with all the birds in the early morning. It was 5:30 and I could not find the singing bird in darkness but I started my day with thanking him with the gratitude. The thought sparked in my mind... let me thank to everyone today... I will smile to all and say thanks. Let me show the gratitude to the world around me for baring me for such a long time. This was a simple act but so powerful at the same time.

I did not beep my horn at any driver that changes lanes in the traffic. I drove peacefully. An auto almost brushed my car but I looked at the driver with an expression of thanks for not touching... instead of getting angry with him. There was a miracle. The auto driver coyly smiled at me accepting his mistake. I smiled back cheerfully. After a while on the signal he walked to me from almost three cars behind and expressed his apologies. I had never dreamt of getting such an expression by any auto driver in my life.

When I reached office I was not feeling tired as usual, in fact I smiled at everyone and whispered good morning. I was so happy and relaxed. I realized that's what Guruji keeps saying about '**Attitude of Gratitude**'.

*Life is like a mirror. It shows us the same what we offer. We can create our world peaceful and a loving place.*



## Pain - A Pleasure... *By Rajesh Khanna, Delhi*

A contradiction? No just think a little deep... it is a natural phenomenon!!

Labour pain give immense pleasure to mother as she looks forward to see her new born and in the anxiety and excitement she bears the pain with pleasure!

A pain inflicted by an injury is a way to connect to God as we pray to Almighty for a quick healing from the injury!! Here Pain becomes a reason to communicate with the Super power which invokes a spiritual feeling... A connect to the Universe!

It Pains when someone very close to us hurts by behaving in an unpleasant manner. Delve a little deeper... It is a tremendous opportunity to let it go. .Forgive him or her. We feel enlightened as the only blessed can forgive from his heart!! Its is a Great feeling!

Body Ache it is in fact communicating that the body needs some good care and rest! Head ach is an early warning to take care of your eyes and all these pains

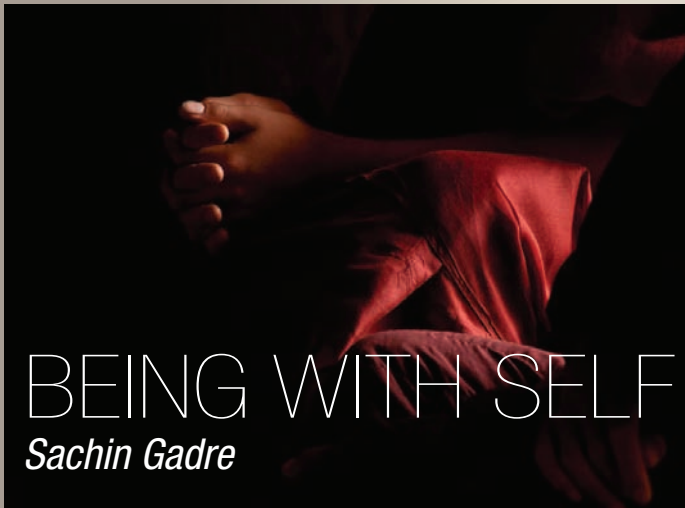
work as an early warning system hence keeping you aware about your body so that you take care and enjoy life!!!

It hurts when someone very close leaves for his or her Heavenly abode. For a moment it really pains! But then it gives us an opportunity to complete ourselves giving us an extraordinary strength to bear the loss and the void.

Eventually whenever we are in pain (read sadness) there is always a light at the other end of the Tunnel. The very feeling that the pain is a passing phase and we are going to be better, enthralls us filling us with joy!!!!

Learn enjoying Pain of the life as every time it hurts, gives you a new birth as you come out a better human being with lots of Patience, Perseverance, Ethos. Its always a very bright future at the end of the road. Keep Smiling...





## BEING WITH SELF

*Sachin Gadre*

Now a days we are talking about thoughts popping in our minds & being engaged with them. We are continuously engaged with current affairs like problems, activities, handled in routine. We also are engaged with situations in the past or future we are going to land up. Senior citizens are saying, we have traveled so long journey from our childhood. So, we all are tired being engaged with situations & thoughts.

But, if we (any age) carefully review the situations in our lives from early age. We were kids & favourite of our parents. Our days in nursery/montesary, the toys, stories, sweets. Then our days in primary & secondary school, new friends, teachers, poems, books & increased burden of study. Our college days are always romantic for us. The new feelings, totally different

syllabous, new friendship, cheerful and charged atmosphere, dreams in eyes about love & career.

It was a difference experience of our new job, opportunities, challenges & totally different colleagues from our friends. After a certain period of job we have taken the experience of love & romance with our life partner, then our kids and for rest of the life our chase earning for our family.

If we carefully review all the situations we will notice that every situation is totally different from other. Also the persons playing roles in our life at different stage are totally different. There is no permanent situation any as we are supposing & sunk with. Today's permanent situation converts tomorrows temporary one. So, everything is temporary except one who experiences same. It is the self who is experiencing all the situations, has not changed & is the witness of all.

Once you click the idea, you will notice that, we are not chasing the situations, being flown by time but we (the self) are steady & the situations are flowing in front of us like a film. So, after popping thoughts at any time in our mind, will automatically realize, I am thinking of a temporary situation and not a permanent one. Then our mind is automatically unclutched with the thoughts and situations and rested with self which is a real place of peace. Practicing with the changed attitude will automatically retard the flow of thoughts & engagement with the situations. Also, being with self the mind will automatically get the strength to tackle the thoughts & situations & go on increasing peace in the mind.

## THE COMING EVENTS

### Shree Datta Sthana Yatra

(3rd December 2013 to 10th December 2013)

Organising of Shree Datta Sthana Yatra between 3rd and 10th December 2013 is another step in initiating the living opportunities for Devrukh sadhaks. A group of sadhaks in Devrukh have formed an entity in the name of Datt Swami Paryatan to organise pilgrimage events for the benefit of sadhaks associated with Devrukh Ashram. The pioneering yatra will cover seven vibrant locations on Datta Bhakti path, like Devrukh, Audumbar, Narsoba Wadi, Akkalkot, Kadganchi, Manik Nagar and Ganagapur. The first batch will comprise of 16 sadhaks. Such yatras will be organised on monthly basis by this organisation. For those who would like to know more may contact **Ms Kalpita Keer (Cell: 9833976353 or mail kalpitakeer@gmail.com)**

### Shree Datta Jayanti

(14th, 15th and 16th December 2013)

The festival of Shree Datta Jayanti will be celebrated with a lot of enthusiasm and zeal as is done every year for the past 13 years, at Devrukh ashram on the above dates. The non-stop 60 hours Datta Yaga (with more than 1 million nama homa aahutis) will start at the dawn on 14th December and the Poornahuti will be performed on the noon of 16th December. Shree Satya Datta pooja will also be performed on 16th morning. The newly constructed Guru Charitra Sabhagriha will be inaugurated by installing the idol of Guru Charitra on 14th December. This possibly will be the first such Guru Charitra Temple in the world.

*Those who would like to attend the ceremonies may contact Ms Kalpita Keer (Cell: 9833976353 or mail kalpitakeer@gmail.com) for registration and further details.*

### Swachetana Shibir at Alandi

December 27th, 28th & 29th, 2013

Swachetana Shibir will be conducted on the above three days at Alandi, a place where one of the most revered saint in the millenium Sant Dnyaneshwar took his live (Sanjjevan) Samadhi way back in the 11th century. This is considered to be one of the most vibrant spiritual locations in India. The event is open only for 60 sadhaks and will cost app. Rs 1500/- to cover the costs of accommodation, food and rent of the place. There will be no tuition fees for the event. The shibir will be conducted in Marathi language. Those interested to register may enroll their names with **Mr Amrut Kirpekar-the Shibir In-charge (Cell # 9960101018/ 9175050900) or to any of the centre coordinators convenient to you.**



# The Bugs

by Dr Bharat Thakkar, Chicago, USA

Deep in the forest  
It was those little bugs that made holes  
in the bamboo tree for food.

The early afternoon wind passing  
through these holes, came out  
decorated drunk with melodious music.  
Bamboo flute!

By late afternoon,  
platoons of wind entered  
the forest to taste the music.

The forest was humming,  
The bamboo trees were dancing.  
The wind's teenage sons and daughters  
(the breezes) were climbing and  
swirling through the bamboo trees.

By evening,  
The music festival was in full swing!  
While the bugs remain ignorant  
Of their invention!

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*Dr Bharat Thakkar, is a highly regarded engineer, quality control expert and popular teacher by profession. He is also a widely read poet both in Gujarati and English. Over a career spanning 45 years (mostly in Chicago USA) he has written exclusively both as an engineering mind and a poetic soul. This poem is from his recently published collection of poems titled as "Magod Mystic". Dr Thakkar came on the Reiki path just in the last month when he attended Guruji's training session in Chicago. The poem however shows that his Reiki Heart was already activated even before the event.*

*What he brings out in this poem is a truth, many of us have ignored. There are good and bad people in the world. Corrupt and Pure. Even those termed as bad and corrupt also create opportunities for goodness to grow and celebrate the cause of life. The best part is that even those who create such opportunities by their badness are not aware about that. The worst part is that those who are pure and good also do not know about such opportunities being made available. Spiritual practices create this awareness.*



# You Can Speak But I Can Rhyme

By Shivani Karnataki

Landed on an island unknown to me, fleeing from the world to live in glee!  
Should I see the smiles faked by all, called worth nothing at my every fall?  
Now it's peace that I've met, regrets no more, ever I can be upset;  
In an ocean where my dreams I'd meet, defeat my fears for here comes my fleet!

Recalling the past I was unable to bear, care I missed, seemed so unfair;  
All I did was cried and cried, pried by the world, wished I had died;  
No joy in life as such, much respect I deserved but only I was judged;  
Eyes all around stared constantly, reluctantly I walked, pretending to be happy...

A human at heart though I was; coz to reach here I deserved an applause;  
Rejected by the world which lived on terms, firm was I, now it was my turn;  
Cared no more for silly narrow thoughts, distraught no more, a lesson being taught;  
Ignorance disappeared as I landed right here, fear too vanished, my mind's now clear...

Words and letters sprinted through my mind, rewind to the past, reason I couldn't find;  
Being blamed for never ending loss, across all the way though I never spoke false;  
Always being told to keep it all shut, but I couldn't resist the invisible hate and dirt;  
Wiped it all away to make the world pure, sure I will strive till I die I assure...

On this land I've reached to find a new way, stay never idle, I ain't made of clay!  
I still crave to speak like those earlier days, rays of the sun but don't affect the deepest hay;  
Deprived to let my violent heart out, takeout this whole world, this is what it's all about;  
Write out my heart and pour my words out; "doubt no faith, Yes I've found this new route!"

A challenge to face by the world left in disgrace, embrace it or not, sure to set it ablaze;  
Ready they are with guns or swords, words are more profound, they'll scream 'Oh Lord!'  
Lord Almighty sure is watching, peering through the clouds, He must be smiling;  
He says "May the best win?" it's time, climb to the top I'd say "You Can Speak But I Can Rhyme."





## Light is the Magic

## Ashram Wisdom

The seminar team was returning from Madgaon in Goa by train to Devrukh ashram. It was a day time journey. As you may all know by now, that the road between Goa and Devrukh is extremely scenic. Passing through numerous tunnels covering the mountains and valleys, especially after the monsoons are just over, is a real treat to human eye. It is just breathtaking and awesome experience to say the least. One of the sadhaks asked Guruji why is that the nature which looks so beautiful in the daylight looks equally fearful when sighted in the darkness of the night. Guruji explained to him that it is not the nature which is beautiful or frightening. Beauty and fear are both the feelings created by mind. When the mind does not see the reality it starts falling back on memories and creates images. Unfortunately the images of fear and insecurity are at the top of the mind. The moment the reality is withdrawn, what remains is the fear. There is always a fear of unknown. The unknown creates the insecurity. And anything that our senses do not experience is the unknown. The moment the light falls on the object (including the nature) the reality dawns. And in reality there is no fear. Reality becomes "known" to the five senses. So it is the light which creates a magic. Light leads to reality and of course the fearlessness. No wonder Lord Buddha says "Lamp unto yourself" and Jesus says "and there was a light" It is the light, the enlightenment that is to be sought.



## Seminar Schedule for December 2013

	Dates	Master / Teachers	Location	Degree
1	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Vishal	New Delhi	1 <sup>st</sup>
2	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Rakesh Kumar	Mumbai	1 <sup>st</sup>
3	21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Ajit Sir/ Kalpita	Thane	1 <sup>st</sup>
4	21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Seemaben	Dharmaj	1 <sup>st</sup>
5	21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Rakesh Kumar	Bengaluru	1 <sup>st</sup>
6	21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Krupa	Bharuch/ Surat	1 <sup>st</sup>
7	21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Sangitaben	Baroda	1 <sup>st</sup>
8	21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Vishal	Nasik	1 <sup>st</sup>
9	27 <sup>th</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> December	Swachetana Shibir	Alandi (Near Pune)	.....
10	11 <sup>th</sup> January 2014	Swachetana Shibir	Madgaon Goa	.....
11	19 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Ajit Sir	Ahmedabad	2 <sup>nd</sup>
12	22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Ajit Sir	Rajkot	2 <sup>nd</sup>
13	25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Ajit Sir	Baroda	2 <sup>nd</sup>
14	8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Ajit Sir	Bengaluru	2 <sup>nd</sup>