

Point of View
Two things indicate weakness
— to be silent when it is proper
to speak, and to speak when it is
proper to be silent.

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Soul-Consciousness is the way to liberated life

Who am I — this is the eternal puzzle that has mystified human minds for ages. Prophets, mystics and various scriptures have explained that the self is an eternal entity that is distinct from the physical identity that we get attached to.

That we are not the physical body, which is mortal and perishable, and that we are immortal souls — spirits embodied in physical forms — is a spiritual insight that has been shared and understood by many. Yet to live in consciousness of that eternal, immortal, pure spirit is a spiritual pilgrimage, a deep penance ('tapasya') of another kind which is by no means easy. We know at the intellectual level that we are souls and we may believe it to be true, but being soul-conscious is the real way to break free from all limitations created by the human mind and by karmic bondage.

Soul-consciousness is the 'I am' consciousness where we are naturally and constantly aware of being the eternal spirit imbued with divine nature — a being of peace, joy, love, truth and bliss. A soul-conscious being is able to live with this identity, of being God's child and hence able to reflect godliness or purity in an unconditional way. For a soul-conscious being, peace, joy and love will not be conditional, i.e. they will not experience peace, joy and love sometimes or with some people and at other times experience a lack of these pure feelings.

In contrast to this awareness, when we are body-conscious or role-conscious, wherein we identify ourselves with a limited role or with some aspects of our physical identity, we are limited to an egocentric self and all our innate qualities tend to get limited to conditions that are shaped by identifying with gender, race, caste, creed and lots of other social, cultural, economic and political identities. Body-consciousness gives birth to all vices, including lust, anger, greed, ego and attachment.

It is said that knowledge liberates. Knowledge of the self being an immortal, infinite being of peace, purity and love liberates us from fear, insecurity, selfishness, ego and all kinds of pettiness that binds us to a vicious cycle of ignorance



Abu Road: Mr. Devendra Fadnavis, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, meeting Rajyogini Dadi Janki and Rajyogini Dadi Hirdaya Mohini, Chief and Addl. Chief of Brahma Kumaris, at Shantivan Complex of Brahma Kumaris Headquarters.

and suffering. Soul-consciousness makes one fearless and powerful. 'Nirakari', 'nirvikari', 'nirahankari' (bodiless, viceless, egoless) — this is the true nature of every soul. It is soul-consciousness that helps us go beyond all vices and live in a state of natural purity.

Soul-consciousness makes us realise that no matter what happens, by way of loss or gain, success or failure, praise or defamation, destruction or harm — we can still remain stable and peaceful because 'I the soul' cannot lose anything. I the soul am more powerful than anything that can ever happen by way of situations and events. Whatever happens during life's journey is a karmic play of cause and effect, but the soul is the master, the creator, who can go on creating and manifesting all that is good within because the goodness and power that a soul has is infinite.

Thus we can start living a life of 'jeevan mukti' — a liberated life. It is not renunciation of worldly roles or relationships that sets us free, it is the renunciation of our limited sense of identity, our egocentric consciousness that liberates us.

Instead of chasing desires,

clinging, attaching, grabbing and holding on and living in a state of constant insecurity, we begin to live like carefree emperors. A Rajyogi is a person who has attained self-sovereignty by being seated in the seat of the highest self-respect that comes from realisation of one's true worth. Such a person remains unshakeable and equanimous in all situations.

When Jesus said, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth," he meant it. When we get rid of our body-consciousness we claim our true inheritance. We don't have to struggle for a position in this world; it is secure for us everywhere due to our immortal right to be a spiritual heir to the inheritance that God has given to every soul.

Soul-consciousness can be practised through meditation and awareness of being a soul while playing our roles. Life and its roles are the context that helps us realise our completeness and fullness. Soul-consciousness is the only way to unite and live in universal brotherhood. The purest love — unconditional love and a sense of unity with all souls and God — can only be experienced in soul-consciousness.

When we learn the notes of

music, an isolated note does not give us pleasure, but when the notes are woven into a song or tune it becomes a source of joy. Each soul is like a pure diamond radiating several qualities, but it is only when it plays a role and expresses itself through the medium of the body that its value shines forth. A diamond has to be studded in a piece of metal such as gold to be of use and value.

The soul, when detached and imprisoned within the narrow limits of the self, loses its significance, for its very essence is unity. It can only find out its truth by unifying itself with others, and only then does it get joy. When we are soul-conscious, our sense of identity is derived from the inherent worth of the soul rather than from roles that make us feel superior or inferior. To remember who I am is to develop the ability to maintain soul-consciousness as we think, move and interact with respect and love through our attitude, vibrations and expressions. The egocentric identity of the self interferes with the purpose of the soul in this world which is to realise itself by perfecting its union with God and with other souls in the world. ★

(Purity Features)



Nahan, Himachal Pradesh : Mr. Veerbhadra Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister, inaugurating Brahma Kumaris pavilion in international fair along with BK Rama and BK Deepshikha.



Mount Abu, Pandav Bhawan : Standing in silence on the 47th Ascension Day of Prajapita Brahma at 'Shantistambh' are Dadi Ratan Mohini, BK Brijmohan, BK Laxmi, BK Shashi, Brother Narayan Kriplani, BK Bhopal and others.



Abu Road, Shantivan : Inaugurating national conference on Mind-Body-Medicine are Mr. Rajendra Singh Rathore, Hon'ble Rajasthan Health Minister, Dadi Janki, Dadi Ratan Mohini, BK Nirvair, Mr. Otaram Dewasi, Cow Minister, Rajasthan, Dr. Banarsilal Shah, Dr. Satish Gupta, Dr. Pratap Midha and others.

Photo Gallery

It is not the distance but the first-step that matters.



Nepal, Virat Nagar : Mr. Nanda Bahadur Pun, Hon'ble Vice President of Nepal, being given Godly gift by BK Sister Bishnu.



Vijayawada : Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, being presented a New Year Momento by BK sisters Padmaja and Uma Rajeshwari.



Dehradun : Dr. K.K.Paul, Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand, meeting with BK Manju and BK Meena.

Pune : Padma Vibhushan N.R.Narayan Murthy, founder of Infosys, being presented Godly literature by BK Deepak.



Sanfransisco, USA : BK Chandru meeting with newly elected Mayor after leading a meditation on the occasion of his inaugural eve prayer service.



Om Shanti Retreat Centre, Gurgaon : Group photo of corporate participants in a dialogue on 'Discovering the Purpose'. Seated in front row are BK Asha, BK Rama, Mr. R.N.Grover, Industrialist, BK Promila and others.

Is Peace Possible?

At a time when the world is witnessing shocking levels of violence, peace seems to be a distant, even impossible prospect. Faced with economic woes, sectarian strife, terrorist attacks, as well as the ravages of climate change, most people are looking to the future with uncertainty and fear.

According to the Global Peace Index 2015, compiled by the Institute for Economics and Peace, the majority of countries in the world are currently involved in some form of conflict.

Deaths from internal conflict have been rising, and terrorism has grown steadily over the last decade, which is a trend that shows no sign of abating. UN estimates indicate that more than 50 million people are now either refugees or internally displaced because of conflict and violence, which is the highest number since the end of the Second World War. On top of it all, military expenditure as a percentage of GDP has increased globally.

In terms of societal safety and security, there has been an increase in violent crime.

For millions of underprivileged people, even thinking about peace is a luxury, with their lives consumed by the daily struggle for survival in the face of poverty or violence. Most of them eke out a living on the fringes of society, with some resorting to criminal activity in order to attain the kind of life they aspire to. This is just one example of how the difficult conditions in the world

The spiritual dimension to peace making holds the key to its success.

are spawning more problems for societies and nations.

None of these facts, obviously, inspire optimism for the future of mankind. However, when we look at our past we find hope. There was a time in history when there was peace and prosperity in the world and man and nature existed in harmony. The memories of that era, referred to in some cultures as the Golden Age, are etched in human souls. This is why we all yearn for peace.

Even in recorded history, different parts of the world have experienced periods of peace at various times, which saw the development of art, culture, the sciences, and trade. Almost every civilization and nation has progressed when it was not in conflict or threatened by it.

Violence, on the other hand, destroys human and physical resources as well as social and political institutions. It can disrupt creative and economic activity and divert assets from productive areas into others such as large security forces and high military expenditure.

Studies have found that peaceful societies are more likely to achieve developmental goals,

are more resilient when faced with crises, and have fewer grievances. They are also more likely to adapt and make concessions to reconcile grievances.

The complex and unprecedented challenges before the world call for global solutions. Finding those solutions requires all nations and other stakeholders to cooperate for their common well-being. Without peace, it will not be possible to achieve the levels of cooperation, trust and inclusiveness necessary to solve these challenges.

Why then, in spite of all the dividends peace brings, and the urgent need for it, have we failed to achieve it globally?

The reason is the mismatch between our desire for peace and our actions. All people want peace, but their actions are often guided by other motives. As the constitution of UNESCO states, "ignorance of each other's ways and lives has been a common cause, throughout the history of mankind, of that suspicion and mistrust between the peoples of the world through which their differences have all too often broken into war."

Failure to understand and appreciate the uniqueness of each human being is not the only reason for discord between men. Even where there is a clear understanding of individuals or nations that are different from us, peace becomes a victim of the desire to dominate, to control or gain superior access to resources, or to fashion rules to one's advantage.

Even international institutions and mechanisms designed to ensure peace are often rendered ineffective because peace is superseded by other issues in the competing agendas of the stakeholders.

When individuals and nations disregard the concerns of others and pursue their goals at the expense of others, they damage the fabric of mutual respect, goodwill, trust and cooperation that helps and protects men and nations far more than any

self-serving actions.

Such actions undermine the values of universal cooperation and brotherhood and set wrong precedents that can only lead to a world order governed by the principle of 'might is right'.

Even peace treaties have often failed because while laying down rules and setting out mechanisms to ensure peace, they do not effectively address the mutual suspicion, hatred or grievances underlying conflicts.

Building true and lasting peace, therefore, requires its defences to be built in the minds of men, as the UNESCO charter says.

The root cause of conflict is that humans see those who are different from them — in appearance, beliefs, practices, or in other ways — as undesirable or as a threat. We can rise above such tribal thinking only when we realise that the human family we speak of is indeed one family, tied together by spiritual bonds.

People everywhere, regardless of the language they speak, the passport they hold, and their beliefs about God, want to live peaceful, happy and comfortable lives. That is because all souls are beings of peace, love and truth, and it is the nature of the soul to be happy. But when we forget our spiritual identity and look at and define each other by race, religion, nationality or gender, we begin to think in terms of 'us' and 'them', 'mine' and 'yours'.

We can begin to establish peace globally when we start to look inwards and know who we are. When we learn to see the light within us, we can also begin to see the light in others. This opening of the 'eye' of wisdom helps foster the bonds of spiritual kinship, helping people transcend social, political and racial boundaries and understand and appreciate each other as members of one global family. This spiritual dimension to peacemaking holds the key to its success.*

(Purity Bureau)

Think It Over

- Change the way you look at things and the things you look at change.
- How people treat you is their karma; how you react is yours.
- Begin to see yourself as a soul with a body rather than a body with a soul.
- Conflict cannot survive without your participation.
- When you judge another, you do not define them, you define yourself.



Gulbarga: Inaugurating a Conference of Political Leaders on Future Power, at Amrit Sarovar Retreat Centre of Brahma Kumaris, are Dr. Qumrul Islam, Karnataka Minister for Municipal Administration, Dr. Sharan Prakash Patil, Karnataka Minister for Medical Education, BK Brijmohan, BK Laxmi behn, BK Prem Singh, Mr. Mohd. Asgar Chulbul, Chairman, Gulbarga Development Authority, Mr. Bhimreddy Patil, Mayor, Mrs. Patil, Dy. Mayor, Mr. Gouda, Dist. Congress President, BK Vijaya, BK Gangaram and others.

God's Role in World Drama

What God does and what God does not do

God is the most remembered, revered and worshipped being in the whole of human history. There is no one in the world who is remembered, worshipped and revered as much as God.

Even though God is remembered by human beings for His supreme powers and benevolent actions, there is a lot of confusion regarding His divine acts. Does God create the universe? Does He motivate everything that is being done on earth? Does God guide the functions of the physical elements of nature? Does He adjudicate on human actions? There are many questions that arise regarding the divine acts of God.

Broadly, there are three different views about God's acts. A lot of people believe that God does everything that happens in this world; human beings are merely instruments who execute His will. The second popular belief about God is that He doesn't do anything, but He gives the fruits of actions by way of rewarding or punishing humans for their good or bad deeds. The third belief is that God gives direction to humans or motivates them to perform actions.

God is remembered as a benign, merciful and benevolent being who brings peace, joy and bliss to all. If He were doing everything through humans then there should have been no crime or sin in the world and all humans should have been existing in constant bliss and harmony. In other words, it would mean that God commits all the crime and sin. So why should criminals be punished or sinners made to suffer?

If God doesn't do anything and only acts as an adjudicator for human actions, then why would He be eulogized or worshipped? What would be His greatness? In this case God's role would be limited to pardoning our sins and there would be no scope to improve our lot.

In case God motivates everything that happens on earth, then again why should humans get the fruit of their actions, for the acts of the agent are considered the acts of the principal.

God is the highest on high Father of all human souls, the Creator of Heaven, the omniscient, omnipotent, eternal, almighty and ever-pure being who alone has the wisdom and power to transform hell into heaven and to liberate all creatures from the bondage of suffering. All religions, prophets and messiahs have spoken of God as a compassionate, merciful and benevolent being who guides humanity towards liberation from sin and suffering through His divine inspirations and acts.

At the end of *Kaliyuga* (Iron Age), in the present auspicious age of *Sangamyuga* (Confluence Age) God Himself reveals His true identity and role through a human medium whom He names Prajapita Brahma. Through him God imparts the knowledge and power for changing *Kaliyuga* into *Satyuga* (Golden Age) or Heaven, and for liberating all human souls from suffering.

Like all human souls, God is an incorporeal point of light, an eternal spark of consciousness, but He is supreme in all virtues and powers. He remains ever-pure because He never enters the cycle of birth and death. He manifests infinite wisdom, love, peace, bliss and power. His name is Shiva, the benefactor of all. When the world



To commemorate Prajapita Brahma Baba's ascension anniversary on 18th January, 'World Peace Day' was celebrated at Thyagraj Stadium, New Delhi by BK family of Delhi zone. Sitting in silence on stage are (L-R) BK Gita, BK Chakradhari, BK Brijmohan, BK Asha, BK Kamalmani and BK Shukla.

God does not perform miracles such as bringing a dead person back to life...

sinks into extreme spiritual ignorance and unrighteousness, He begins the threefold divine act of creation of the new world, destruction of the old world and sustenance of the new world.

The process of destruction of *Kaliyuga* happens by itself. Evil destroys evil. Nuclear wars, natural calamities and civil wars are also processes of destruction that occur due to our errant and sinful actions. The new world is created by the righteous actions of enlightened souls who are reborn to live in *Satyuga*, and the purest among them sustain that world for a long time.

Through Prajapita Brahma, God Shiva unravels the deep mysteries of creation, the eternal cycle of time, the rebirth of souls, the laws of karma and, most importantly, the method of purifying and liberating souls from the burden of sin and karma.

God is the director of the human world drama wherein every soul is enacting its role through a body, birth after birth. He directs humans to perform elevated actions and remove their sins by following Godly wisdom, called *Rajyoga*. He is the Seed that begins the task of creating a new world when the old world is about to crumble. The seed remains incognito while the tree manifests itself.

God's direct role is to create heaven out of hell, *Satyuga* out of *Kaliyuga*, so He is a 're-creator' or transformer. He does not create the universe or a new world in empty space but creates heaven on earth when the world becomes hell.

Moreover, God does not control the elements of nature. Nature is basically a complex web of energy, and energy can neither be created nor destroyed. Natural calamities and other phenomena occur as per the natural order in which all elements and energy interact with each other. Science has explained how everything in the material world functions.

Nor does God perform miracles such as bringing a dead person back to life or making a lame person walk. Essentially, God does not meddle in individual karmic accounts. Human beings experience joy or sorrow as per the law

of karma, which operates automatically and infallibly.

God does answer honest prayers and penance through His inspirations and blessings. God also has the power to grant visions of the patron deities, saints or any other image that a devotee believes in.

Like all creatures, God is also bound by the cycle of time. There is a right time and way in which God performs His role. He cannot do as He wills even though He is Almighty and Supreme. He knows the past, present and future of the world but still He does not control, manipulate or change the events of this world.

At the right time in *Sangamyuga*, He guides human destiny towards perfection, but even this transformation happens only when humans choose to follow His directions. So God cannot and does not control the will power or intellect of humans. When we realize the importance of God's role we also understand our individual role and responsibility in the supreme task of world transformation. It's time for humans to wake up and delineate the greatest role for themselves by becoming co-creators with God in the task of recreating Heaven on earth.★

(Purity Bureau)

In Lighter Vein

- Being a nonconformist helps you get away with being a non-performer.
- To steal ideas from a person is 'plagiarism', but to steal from many is 'research'.
- 'What is the reason for frequent motor accidents?' Crash courses in driving!
- Success is relative; more the success, more the relatives.
- 'I doubt there is intelligent life up there.' 'Why do you say that?' 'There's very little down here.'
- Teacher: What is bacteria? Student: Rear entrance of cafeteria.
- Some definitions:
School: A place where papa pays and son plays.
Politician: A guy who is ready to sacrifice your life for his country.

Ruling the Kingdom of the Mind

Have you ever looked inside the inner kingdom of your mind, where your thoughts, feelings and emotions are your ministers? Is it a kingdom of law or anarchy (lawlessness)? Do you ever wonder – “Ah, I wish there would be more order and less chaos in my kingdom!” So what stops you from creating a kingdom of law and order? Is it external situations or is it your internal reactions to the situations? Just for one day, perform this little exercise: check that out of the tens of thousands of thoughts and feelings you create in a day, how many are your own creation and how many are responses to external events. If they are your own positive creation or if they are responses to events, but correct ones, then be proud that your ministers are obeying you. Do you realize that the time when these thoughts and feelings are the wrong type of reactions on your part and not your original correct creations, is the time when these ministers are wicked and disobeying you?

A kingdom where the ministers disobey the king (that is you) repeatedly is a kingdom whose atmosphere is lacking in harmony, love and joy, which in our case is our mind. It is a kingdom which is not respected by its people, who work under the ministers of thoughts and feelings, the people being your attitudes, expressions, words and actions, who further disintegrate and go their incorrect way following the orders of their seniors – the thoughts, feelings and emotions. It is a kingdom where the king has to bow down in front of outsiders, which in this case are the external situations and other spiritual kings like me, involved in these situations. Also, it is a kingdom which is lacking in stability and susceptible (vulnerable) to repeated attacks by outsiders.

“Am I a weak king or a mighty (strong) one?” This is a question that each one of us needs to ask ourselves at the end of each day. Every night, call upon your ministers, the thoughts, feelings and emotions, in your kingdom’s court and have a heart-to-heart conversation with them regarding the kingdom and its people, which are your attitudes, expressions, words and actions. A court is also held to check the daily report of the behaviour of the ministers. As the ministers of a kingdom, so its people (as mentioned above). To keep the kingdom in order, an able (talented) king will train the ministers and its people to



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react correctly to topsy-turvy situations, which the kingdom is exposed to every day, which causes instability in the kingdom. This ability is the power of the king in action.

To train the ministers to respond correctly, a powerful king will, at the start of the day and at regular intervals during the day, give thoughts of power to the mind, such as ‘I am an ocean of success’, or ‘I possess the all-powerful driving force of motivation’, or ‘I can destroy obstacles that try to obstruct my path’, coupled with thoughts of peace, such as ‘I shall not react angrily, but maintain my calm’, or ‘I shall not look at others’ actions but keep my focus on my stable stage’, or ‘I shall keep a relationship of outer detachment with external situations as well as inner detachment with internal pressures’. He will also give thoughts of love such as ‘I am an overflowing source of good wishes’, or ‘I will be forgetful of others’ mistakes’, or ‘I shall absorb others’ virtues and fill others with virtues’, coupled with thoughts of joy such as ‘I will remain light and give others the same experience’, or ‘I shall spread the wings of enthusiasm and fly high’, or ‘I shall gift a smile and a greeting to everyone’. These types of thought suggestions will, in turn, positively influence the feelings and emotions, the ministers of my kingdom and my attitudes, expressions, words and actions, the people of my kingdom.

Rulers have ruled over different territories all

across the globe for thousands of years. There was a time when rulers headed the whole world, a time when there was no trace of sorrow or hatred or injustice or disharmony in their kingdom. We know these rulers as devis and ‘devtas’ (deities) or as gods and goddesses today. What was the secret of their success? They possessed, apart from the skill to rule, all the powers to succeed. So what is the secret of success for the spiritual king, which is me? I can enhance my spiritual powers and make them a part of my personality trait. How? The practice of thought suggestions which we explained earlier. Thought suggestions coloured with the seven primary virtues – peace, love, joy, purity, bliss, power and truth.

These virtue-coloured thoughts, when repeatedly brought into my conscious canvas every day, seep inside me and colour my subconscious canvas, which then fills me, the spiritual king’s personality, with those seven virtues. Virtues in turn cause the creation and increase of spiritual powers inside me, which in turn makes me mighty or strong, a king with the eight primary spiritual powers – the power to withdraw, the power to pack up, the power to tolerate, the power to accommodate, the power to face, the power to discriminate, the power to judge and the power to cooperate. Such a power-filled king is then obeyed by his ministers, the thoughts, feelings and emotions, and his people, the attitudes, expressions, words and actions, and all of them learn to respond to the outsiders i.e. external situations, in tune with their king’s personality i.e. in tune with the seven primary virtues and the eight primary powers. As the king, so his ministers. As the ministers, so his people – resulting in an atmosphere filled with harmony, love and joy in the kingdom. Such an orderly kingdom is a kingdom of high self-esteem and is respected by other spiritual kings it associates with every day because the kings who come in close connection with such a kingdom experience these virtues and powers from the kingdom and its people i.e. my complete self.★

(Purity Features)



A tree that can fill the span of a man’s arms grows from a downy tip;
A terrace nine storey high rises from handfuls of earth;
A journey of a thousand miles starts from beneath one’s feet.



Editorial

Once and for all

The scriptures mention that God comes to earth 'yuge yuge' to finish the empire of evil. This is often interpreted to mean that He arrives in each of the four 'yugas' or ages in the human drama. However, in the Godly knowledge studied at the Brahma Kumaris, it is clarified that He comes to renew the earth only once in the entire 'kalpa' or cycle of 5,000 years, when unrighteousness reaches its peak at the end of *Kaliyuga* or Iron Age.

The human drama is eternal and runs clockwise – from the Golden Age to Silver Age, Copper Age and Iron Age – with a slow decline of soul power in the beginning and a steep degradation later, especially as the cycle enters its last leg.

By the end of the Iron Age, human values are at their lowest. The pillars of society – religion, politics, economy and family – crumble. Relationships become unreliable and a source of conflict and pain. The flora and fauna, mines and resources are plundered recklessly out of human greed. The earth's atmosphere, water bodies and land become toxic beyond repair.

The earth then needs to undergo a mammoth shift in order to make the transition from the most vicious Iron Age to the most pure Golden Age. This task is beyond the already dwindling human capacity.

It is at this time – the confluence of the Iron Age and the Golden Age – that the Almighty intervenes in the human drama and restores everything to its superlative stage. The world changes from the oldest to the newest during this Confluence Age, roughly a period of 100 years. As one cycle of time ends, a new one starts identically yet again.

So God comes once at the end of each cycle and for all souls. He rescues them from the loop of sin and suffering. If He were to come in every age, the world would not undergo degradation but revival in every age. The fact that the drama continues to tip to a further low proves that there is no such Godly intervention in every age.

In the Copper and Iron Ages (*Dwapar and Kaliyuga*), religious preceptors appear on earth to stem the degradation. But to actually restore the world to its highest goodness, richness and beauty is the divine act of God alone.

He brings about this transformation through souls who accept His will and undertake a journey of self-purification at the end of the Iron Age. They incinerate their old *traits* by connecting to the Supreme Being and commit themselves to the path of truth and purity. They become inhabitants of the upcoming Golden and Silver Ages.

Before starting with the next cycle, all souls, the actors, leave the stage of the earth and go back to the soul world, their original home, *Brahmlok*, far beyond the constellations and planets. During this time, the five elements of nature clean up the earth and prepare it for the next cycle. Then the souls come down one by one at their given time and don pure bodily costumes. Till it's their turn to enact their role, the souls rest in *Brahmlok*, their home of sweet silence, also called *Paramdham*.

It must be noted that every soul is perfect when it first arrives on earth. It gets its share of bliss irrespective of which age it arrives in. But those who become instruments of the Almighty during the Confluence Age get the deity status in the ensuing Golden and Silver Ages.

So when is that auspicious confluence going to occur? The good news is that it is currently going on and God is imparting knowledge about our real identity, universal truths and the way to connect to Him to cleanse ourselves. The offer to live in the Golden and Silver Ages is open to anyone who can commit himself to His *directions*. ★

Gleanings from the press

New polymer to purify water in seconds

Scientists have developed a new reusable polymer that can remove pollutants from flowing water within seconds, just like air fresheners trap invisible pollutants in the home and remove odours. A team led by Will Dichtel, associate professor at Cornell University in the US, developed a porous form of cyclodextrin that has displayed uptake of pollutants through adsorption at rates vastly superior to traditional activated carbon — 200 times greater in some cases. (PTI)

Are you obese? Cut down on sitting time

If you are suffering from obesity, reducing the time spent watching television or playing computer games may be as important as doing exercise to reduce the risk of diabetes and heart diseases, suggests new research. Sedentary behaviour is associated with poor cardiovascular health and diabetes in adults with severe obesity, independent of how much exercise they perform, said Wendy King, associate professor at University of Pittsburgh in the US. The study was published online in the journal *Preventive Medicine*. (IANS)

Keep calm and make a list

Most people can only hold about four things in their mind at a time. And people mostly have more than four things to do in a day. List making takes that mental juggling out of the picture. You don't think about what you have to do, and you're not distracted (at least not as much) since it's written down in front of your face, which allows you to become immersed in whatever activity it is that you're tackling, says McGill University neuroscience professor Dantel Levitin. (News Item)

How key defence protein triggers cancer

Scientists have decoded how a defence protein that fights viral infections in our body takes advantage of a weakness in our DNA replication process, causing cancer. (The Hindu)

More plastic than fish in oceans

A new report has forecast that the oceans will contain more plastic than fish by 2050, by weight. Most plastic packaging is used only once, as a result of which material worth \$80 billion-\$120 billion is lost each year, according to the report. (News Report)

'Bioactive' glass for tooth fillings

An antibacterial 'bioactive' glass may not only prolong the life of dental fillings but also prevent secondary tooth decay and even replace some lost minerals, say scientists at Oregon State University in the US. Bioactive glass is made with silicon oxide, calcium oxide and phosphorus oxide. The bacteria in the mouth that help cause cavities don't seem to like this type of glass and are less likely to colonise on fillings that incorporate it. (PTI)

Bhoola Bhai

And our friend Bhoola Bhai on Temple Street wonders why too many of us strive for new abilities instead of striving to develop abilities we already have lying dormant within us.



Wisdom of Dadi Janki

The Power of Purity

I draw love and power into myself through a relationship and connection with the Supreme. I make that love and power my own so that it constantly radiates into the world. This is the royal path to real, lasting peace.

It is through God, who is truth, and gives me the aim of making my life truthful and valuable, like a diamond. As I move towards this goal, my thoughts and feelings become very light. I feel like a free spirit, still part of this world but not bound by it. I can fly, like an angel, in the service of humanity.

Before there can be such complete truth in my life, there has to be purity. Purity underpins the entire process of restoring truth into my character and relationships.

Purity enables me to make my thoughts and actions free from the negativity, waste and weakness that were created when I ceased to understand myself as a spiritual being and thought of myself only as the offspring of my physical parents and circumstances.

God shows me real, true, love, and through that teaches me to understand the difference between truth and falsehood. This creates an inner light and warmth, a rekindling of the flame of the soul, that forms the heart of the process of purification. Care is needed to keep the flame burning strongly and complete the job of becoming free.

Purity and truth are different states. Purity means free of impurities. Truth means whole, without deception or falsehood.

I wouldn't say a glass of water was true, for example, but I would want it to be pure. It would then be good to drink and would help to keep the body healthy, functioning true to its purpose; in other words, fulfilling its potential.

When thought is pure, it enables my life to be truthful and valuable and my potential as a human being to be fulfilled. Purity clears the path for truth. It makes space inside my mind in which truth can be experienced.

In fact, originally the soul is truth, so when I clean my mind of thoughts and desires that cause disturbance, I can begin to comprehend and recognize what truth is and appreciate its value in my life.

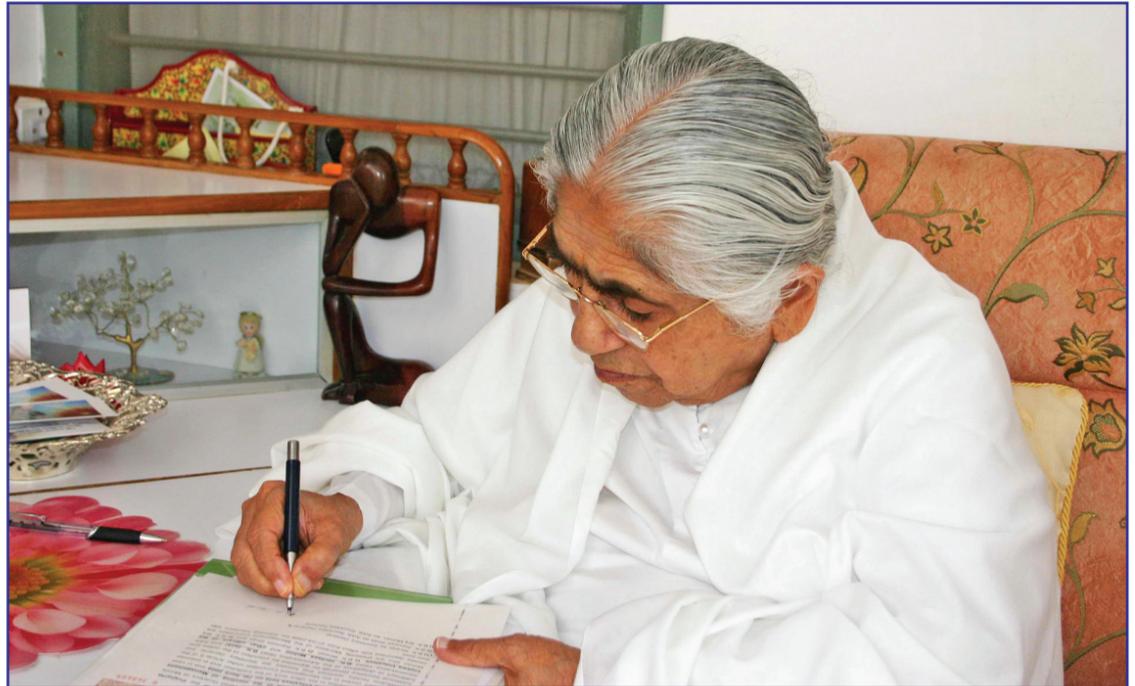
Purity within the soul is essential for peace. When purity is lacking in even the slightest way, there cannot be peace.

Love, also, cannot remain true and honest if physical desires are mixed in it.

Some people think they have peace in their lives, and others that they have love. But if purity also is not there, there can't be contentment.

You may be experiencing peace through having moved away from your responsibilities. Or people may be giving you love just to keep you happy. As long as there is some weakness mixed inside, however, you can't really experience peace or happiness. Your love will not be constant, either. Sometimes you'll stay loving, and sometimes you'll not even be capable of giving love to yourself.

When I embrace purity in my life, it serves to finish all traces of the physical from my thinking. A human being has a body, of course,



but the point of purity is to become free of the hold that the body has on my consciousness. This is what makes it possible for me to live and serve as an angel.

When someone really understands this, and puts it into practice in their life with honesty and the power of truth, that is wisdom.

Purity comes through relationship and connection with God. Without the power of this connection, there cannot be complete purity.

The renunciates of India, who follow celibacy, do so with great difficulty. They leave their homes, hide in caves, and suffer dietary and other privations.

But God injects purity deep into the soul. Actually, what this relationship really does is to give an injection that extracts the impurity that has infiltrated the soul. The soul is truth, and so with purity you are able to experience that truth.

God gives us the knowledge of our original state of purity, but the knowledge is not just for the intellect. It is not just information; it is a deep and beautiful experience. When you make this connection, you are able to taste the sweetness of real love, like nectar. This

sweetness draws out the poison.

Then there's the feeling of new blood being inside the soul. It is as though you awaken. You become aware of what is real within you and around you. Peace comes. The heart feels so comfortable.

For a long time, it hasn't been in human consciousness that it is possible to experience such peace, love and happiness — such reality. The peace, love and happiness that come as a result of purity are filled with truth.

It is said that information is power. In a limited sense, that may be true. We can access information about how things work, they become useful to us.

But spiritual knowledge requires much, much more than information to have power to absorb it and use it, we need purity.

The essence of spiritual knowledge is very simple. It is to know who we really are, as souls; that our original home, the ground of our being (as opposed to our doing), is non-material; and that this home is also where we connect with the Supreme Soul.

But without inner purity, the connection is weak and therefore power does not accumulate. So, it is essential to give ourselves time to really understand what purity is.★

Ten methods for keeping your outlook positive

1. Think, speak and feel positive about yourself, others and situations. Believe in your own worth. Happiness is your decision.
2. Always visualise yourself and your way of life the way you want it. Dwell on what you want, then you will gravitate towards that.
3. Set goals, but remember you need goals not for what they get us but what they do to us. What you become is more important than what you get.
4. Don't place limits on yourself. The biggest limitation is the thought, "I can't."
5. Discipline your mind and intellect. You are in control. You decide what you put in there, so you determine what you get back. Knowledge is the essential nourishment for the intellect.
6. See problems as opportunities to learn.
7. Treat yourself well. Make time for yourself as a necessity, not as an objective. Pause on your path, just like "music is the space between the notes."
8. Surround yourself with good people, those who support you in your efforts to change.
9. Have an attitude of gratitude. This ensures your attention is on what you want.
10. Realise how valuable the present moment is. Make the most of every moment.



Mysore : Inaugurating youth programme 'Appreciate the self' (L-R) BK Jignesh, Mr. M.N.Nataraj, Co-ordinator, Nehru Yuvaka Kendra, BK Lakshmi, Mysore sub-zone incharge, BK Atamprakash, Mt. Abu, Mr. K.V. Suresh, Distt. Officer, BK Ranganath and BK Pranesh.



Mohali : BK Rama, Director, BK Centre, explaining various aspect of life and teaching of Prajapita Brahma on his 47th ascension day. Bibi Paramjit Kaur Landran, Chairperson, PSWC is also on stage.



Daman : Inaugurating 'Alvida Tanav' programme by BK Poonam are Mr. J.P.Agarwal, Collector, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Chief Engineer, Mr. Vishan Tendal, BJP leader, BK Rohit, BK Ranjan and others.



Ahmedabad, Navrangpura : Some of the slum children of 'Divya Nagri' adopted by Brahma Kumaris after distribution of 200 sweaters to them.



◀ **Sonepat :** BK Pramod being felicitated for her services in Gita Jayanti programme by Assembly Speaker Kanwar Pal Gurjar and Mr. Lalit Batra, Haryana Incharge, BJP.



Deogarh : Group photo of State Bank of India officials after a programme on 'Tension free living' by BK Sister Rita.

Respect



There was once a boy who always treated his mother horribly, shouting at her, insulting her. It didn't matter to him how sad he made her. One day, without knowing how, he woke up in an immense and lonely place. He was sitting on a rock from which four huge pillars rose up into the sky, appearing to support the entire world.

He was all alone, but soon an enormous flock of crows with beaks made of steel landed on the rock, and set about violently chipping away at it. After the crows left, a mysterious door in one of the pillars opened, and through it came a charming and pretty girl.

"Have you come to help us? That's great! We need all the people we can get." The boy was puzzled, and spotting his confusion, the little girl explained.

"So you don't know where you are? This is the centre of the Earth. These pillars support the whole planet, and this rock keeps the pillars in place."

"And how can I help you?" said the boy, confused.

"Well, to help look after the rock, of course. Anyone can see by your face that you're the best person for the job," answered the girl,

"And what do you see in my face?!" exclaimed the boy, surprised. "Here, look in this mirror," said the girl, holding one in front of the boy's face.

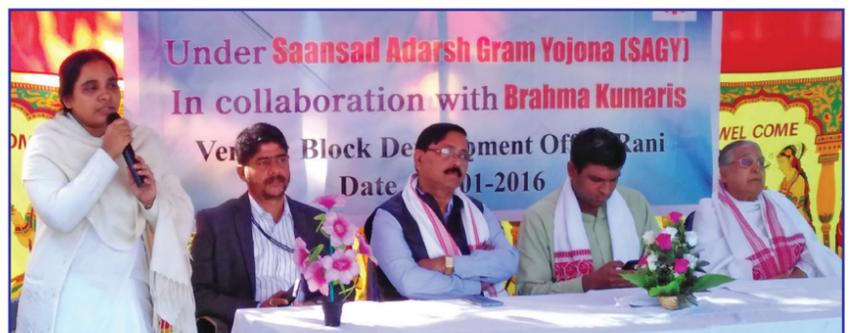
The boy could clearly see he now had the face of a bird, and his nose was gradually turning into steel. There he stood, shocked and worried. "All those crows used to be children like you and I," explained the girl, "but they decided not to look after the rock. Now that they're older they've turned into evil birds; all they do is destroy."

The boy looked closely at the pillars and could see that each one was made of thousands and thousands of little figurines, representing the best virtues: sincerity, effort, honesty, generosity. He could see that the enormous rock was made up of little instances of children showing respect to their mothers, grandparents, brothers, sisters, and old people.

What the crows were trying to do was cover over these instances by carving out scenes of shouting and insults. Next to his feet, he could see his own little carving, representing the last time he shouted at his mother. That image, in such a strange place, made him realise that the only thing keeping the columns standing was respect. Respect was sustaining the world.

The boy, filled with regret, stayed there and looked after the rock for many days. He carried on until, exhausted by his efforts, he collapsed; completely spent.

When he woke he was back in his bed at home and what he was now sure of was that no crow would ever again get the chance to carve a picture of him shouting at his mother. ★



Guwahati, Asom : At inauguration of 'Centre for Human Development & Rajyoga Meditation' under 'Sansad Adarsh Gaon Yojna' of Central Govt. are Mr. Vinod Sessan, Dy. Collector, Mr. Pankaj Chakraborty, Project Co-ordinator and BK Sheela, Director of BKs in Asom.



New Delhi : Brahma Kumaris contingent participating in 'Road Safety March' at India Gate, jointly organised by Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways, Delhi Traffic Police and NGOs.

The three root causes of anger

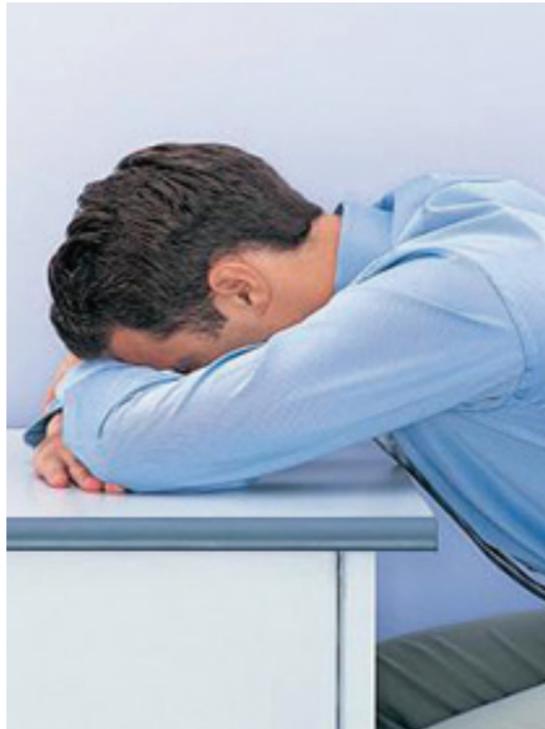
Any time we sense irritation, frustration or anger emerging inside our consciousness, if we take a close look at it, we will notice we are fighting a war in our consciousness with one of these three: either with another person, most obviously, or with the past, or with the self.

We are at war with the past because our anger is always towards something that has already happened, and looking at it we react emotionally, which means we are trying to change it, which is impossible. Any scene that has taken place a year ago, a month ago or even a second ago cannot be changed. We may be completely convinced and we may believe we can. That's because we hold this belief subconsciously. Somewhere and sometime in the past, we have picked up and absorbed the belief that the world and its circumstances should shape up exactly as we want.

When our internal desire for a certain type of circumstance is not fulfilled, or in other words something against this belief happens, our instant reaction is one of the various forms of anger, and we tend to try and change the incident that has happened in a far-off past or a past that has just gone by. We keep replaying an incident with words and actions that we would have liked and that suit our convenience, and we also keep trying to nullify the actual incident or remain in a mode of rejection towards it. This is like fighting a war with the incident. We tend to do this inside our minds, repeatedly, even realizing somewhere deep within that it is impossible.

We are at a subtle war with another person when he/she has done something which we perceive or judge to be wrong, and our anger is an attempt to change them or take revenge. This is the second belief that is embedded very deeply in our consciousness, that the world, including all its people, should do exactly as we want them to, or what we think they should do. Perhaps we have not yet realized that it is impossible to control others and make them change. Lack of awareness and realization of this truth, which we will definitely realize at some point or the other, does not let us become anger-free very easily. People will always make their own decisions and control their own actions, always. They can definitely be influenced, but they

When angry, we are fighting a war either with another person, or with the past, or with the self.



cannot be controlled. When our internal desire for a certain type of behaviour from people is not fulfilled, or in other words something against the above belief happens, our instant reaction is one of resentment, irritation, frustration or hatred, which are all forms of anger.

One of the most important attributes of a great soul is the ability to not have even a trace of desire for revenge inside and the ability to forgive someone who has supposedly wronged him in any way. Don't we all acknowledge that such an individual who has freed himself completely from all forms of anger earns our and everyone else's respect and deepest admiration, and we give him the medal of greatness in our minds,

and even physically? So doesn't that mean we intuitively know that anger is a wrong emotion and peace, good wishes and forgiveness are the right ones, in harmony with the basic nature of the human spirit?

We are at war with our self when we fail to make the world do exactly what we want, or we believe we have let ourselves down. An example of a war with the self is: You are standing in a queue waiting for your turn, only to discover an hour later, just when it is about to be your turn, that it is time for the counter to close, and the counter closes. You get upset, but with whom? Perhaps the person at the counter first, and maybe with the other people in the queue, and then with yourself, for not having found out the closing time of the counter earlier. There are two failures that make you uneasy here. First, you failed to ask someone early enough, which would have saved you the time lost. Second, you failed to control your emotion of anger. Although you might not externally admit that you failed, inside you know it. Because of these two failures, you start to get angry with yourself. The thought pattern inside your mind: to fail is to lose, to lose is to be sorrowful, to be sorrowful causes you to become angry, as you look for an external cause of your sadness, which, in this case, is initially the person at the counter and the other people in the queue (who would have known the time of closing and could have told you). So you demonstrate to others your justified anger towards them. But deep inside you know it is you who has made yourself sorrowful.

As the anger builds up inside you, again, after a while, you find someone else outside on whom you vent your anger. You seem to feel better as a result, but it's only temporary. The next time you become angry; interrupt the pattern of your anger by asking yourself two simple questions: Who are you fighting a war with? Answer: Yourself. Who is suffering the most due to the war? Answer: Yourself. And if your anger is directed at yourself for your own supposed failure, then just tell yourself, "There is no such thing as failure, only a different result from the one that I expected, and results are not going to be exactly as I want, expect or desire. That is a rule of the game of life."★

(Purity Bureau)

How Spirituality differs from religion

Basically and essentially, both religion and spirituality stand for certain universal values, virtues, principles and a code of human conduct.

Religion, in the true sense, concerns inculcation of sacred virtues and principles. But in course of time the concept of religion has been given a narrow connotation of denoting a particular section or community in society subscribing to a particular faith or belief system with or without any regard to others' beliefs and practices. Intolerance, bigotry, conflicts, coercion, wars, and all sorts of negativity have flourished in the name of religion.

Spirituality (science of the 'self' or soul) deals with certain universal precepts, principles and practices which are common to all religions. In fact the quintessence of all religions is encapsulated in spirituality, which broadly envisages the practice of all ethical, moral and social values.

While spirituality has retained its secular and universal character, religion, in practical sense, has acquired the form of rituals, blind faith, communalism and fundamentalism, which is proving harmful to society. ★



NOIDA, UP: BK Manju and interfaith leaders celebrating 'Maha Karuna Day' at Gautam Buddha University in Greater Noida, organised by Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre at Leh, Ladakh.

Anger and Calm

- An angry man is again angry with himself when he returns to reason.
- A person with a clenched fist cannot shake hands.
- Deep rivers move with majesty, shallow brooks are noisy.
- When you are good to others you are best to yourself.

Influences on your decision-making

It is extremely important to realize that in any situation you have the power to choose whether your response to that situation will be passive or pro-active, positive or negative, indifferent or attentive. You choose what action you take and how you feel. But do you exercise your power of choice all the time? You need to check which factors influence your decision-making and push you in one direction or the other? There are many factors that control and limit your power to make the right, and more importantly, free choices. These factors primarily include the influence of people who dominate your way of thinking, your beliefs, your attitudes, and even your complete personality. You are also limited by the influence of your fears, attachments, desires, biases or other negative and waste thoughts, which result in a lack of focus.

There are a lot of people who are not used to thinking for themselves, or prefer being a 'yes' man, going along with what others think and say, without having an opinion of their own. Also, as you pass through your childhood and teenage life and enter adulthood, you acquire many preconceived ideas or beliefs from your family and social and cultural environment; that is why you assume that some things or people are always positive and others are always negative when, in fact, that's not necessarily true. This directly affects the type of decisions you make each time there is a requirement for one. In any particular situation, courage, wisdom, high self-esteem and focus are required to sit down calmly and make an assessment about the possible choices before

you, and then finally make the right decision. The more you practise relaxation, positive thinking and meditation, the more you rise above all the factors with negative influence mentioned earlier, and the more you experience the positive qualities and powers mentioned earlier and exercise your power of choice accurately and with confidence.

With whom does the choice to make your decisions lie? Are you going to be dominated by your fears and others' negatively powerful influences, which paralyze your judgment power and confuse you sometimes, or are you going to exercise your choice? When someone dominates you, they control you and make you feel irritated, frustrated and weak; they satisfy their own ego by controlling you and bringing you under their influence. You need to decide if you are comfortable being a victim of the other by being the one who satisfies the egos of others. It is not a very healthy attitude, on their part, but it happens in many relationships and we fall prey to that because of a lack of spiritual power. Get back your personal ruling and controlling power and do not be afraid to be free and responsible for your choices. From today on, promise yourself that you will not allow your husband or wife, or children, or your friend, or mother-in-law, or your office colleague, anybody for that matter, influence the power of choice, the power to decide, that you possess. In the end, that way they will be happier; perhaps not at first, because a power game is created. Your personal freedom will lead to a healthier relationship in the long run. Its fine to take an opinion or a viewpoint or support from

someone, but there is a fine line between that and being controlled by someone, which we cross many a time and become a victim.

You are free when you take responsibility for what you are and how you feel. In meditation you can realize everything that has influenced you and know how to clear it, so that only the highest, the most positive influence you. This depends on each one of us. In our present society, there are many influencing factors, from the most negative, violent, corrupt and mediocre to the purest, highest and most spiritual. It depends on each one what they want to consume and allow to be influenced by.★

(Purity Bureau)



The purpose of life

The purpose of life is to lead a life of purpose. - Robert Byrne

'What is the purpose of life?', has been a matter of contemplation for many philosophers, scientists, sociologists and saints. Purpose is defined as the reason for which something exists or is done, made or used. Simply put, if we have got this birth, then how are we putting it to use? There can be many different ways.

Looking at their life and motive of living, it is easy to differentiate people into three types. Let us look at the first one. These are individuals who work on the principle of 'get, get and get more'. Their sole objective is to derive what they can from everything and everyone, as if the whole world is meant for them and everything should serve them. It is like living at the cost of others.

The second type is often found quoting the famous slogan, "Live and let live". Decoded, for them it means to 'give the least to others' and 'get the most from others'.

The third kind is rare in this time and age. These are the ones who truly wish to "live for others". Their approach is always 'to give'. Apparently, for most of us, the third one seems to be the most difficult lifestyle to emulate.

As a matter of fact, the 'to give approach' is in conformity with the universe. Just take a look around and you would observe that everything is giving. If you are sitting in a room you would notice that the bulb or the lights are giving light. The chair or couch you may be sitting on is giving

comfort. The sun outside is providing heat and light to all. The flowers in the garden are giving fragrance. God, the Supreme Father, is known universally as the giver.

This principle of giving leads us to another principle, 'Nothing in this world exists for itself'.

The fruits growing on the tree are not eaten by the tree. The well or the river never drinks its own water. The sun is not using its own heat and light. The comfort provided by an armchair is not meant for it. Nothing has utility by itself. It is of value when it serves others.

As human beings we also feel joy in giving. There is a feeling of burden or obligation when we are at the receiving end of any favour, material or otherwise. This law holds true: 'As you give, so shall you receive'. Therefore, the wise remind us to "get respect, give respect", to "get love, give love" and to "get blessings, give blessings". This law works even at the level of the vibrations of thoughts.

Many would put thinking caps on, wondering how to work without motivation? Is it possible or even worth working for something without expecting a return? The truth is if we first think of the reward and then perform the action, the action becomes vitiated. For example, if a minister has to sanction the construction of a bridge, before giving his approval he may calculate what he would get in return. Most people do good only if they foresee getting something in return. The correct approach is: A good

action must be performed because it is a good action.

Apart from the two spiritual principles mentioned above, there are others working at all times. Let us consider the third: "mere possession of objects of desire, goods, things etc is no guarantee of your happiness". The same thing can become an object of sorrow. The relationship which was giving you happiness, when it fails can give you a lot of sorrow. The jewellery giving its owner a sense of happiness brings a lot of anxiety and gloom when the same jewellery is lost or stolen.

As human beings our purpose lies in working towards the betterment of the soul at every step. As the soul reaches its original, perfect and pure state, the actions performed reflect that virtuous state. Happiness is the litmus test of purity. The purer the soul and its actions, greater is the happiness experienced by the one who performs the actions and those at the receiving end.

Therefore have good wishes for everyone and get good wishes in return. Let us make it our purpose to be happy and spread happiness!★

(Purity Bureau)



BK Meera, Director of BK Centre in Santacruz, Mumbai, meeting with Mr. Rahul Gandhi, Vice President, Indian National Congress.



Narnaul, Haryana : Lighting candles at the programme 'Happiness in Life' are Dadi Ratan Mohini, Jt. Chief of BKs, Ms. Santosh Yadav, Dy. Speaker, (R-L) Mr. Nehal Singh, BK Usha, Faridabad, BK Manorama, Allahabad, BK Suresh & BK Leela from Mt. Abu and BK Ratan, Incharge, BK Centre.



Shillong : Mr. V. Shamuganathan, Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya, being presented literature by BK Neelam.



Kalyan, Mumbai : Inaugurating 'Success in Business - A new dimension' programme are Mr. Rajendra Deolekar, Mayor, BK Gita, Mt. Abu, BK Santosh didi, BK Yogini, Mr. Vijay Narayan Pandit, Mr. Nandi Sir, Principal of Poadar School (CIE) and others.



Kolkata : BK Asmita being given 'Hall of Fame in PR' award from Public Relations Council of India for her song 'Yeh mat kaho khuda se...'.



New Delhi, Janakpuri : Swami Pragyandji, BK Vijaya and others during a programme on 47th Ascension day of Prajapita Brahma.



Bhopal : Sitting on dias at mass meditation programme for world peace are BK Avdhesh, Zonal Director, BK Rani, Centre-in-charge and Guinness world record holder Iron Queen, Mrs. Swarna Khanna, Mr.C.P. Mursenia, Section Officer, IGNOU and others.

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Borivali, Mumbai: Brahma Kumaris Transport & Travel Wing and RTO joined hands to organise a 'Run for Road Safety' by 5,000 runners from all walks of life, during National Road Safety Week. The event was flagged off by BK Divyaprabha, Mr. Ravi Gaikwad, Chief of RTO, Mr. Gopal Shetty, MP, Sahastrabhute, Addl. Transport Commissioner, and Mr. Daya Shetty of 'CID' TV serial. Renowned singers Sonu Nigam and Sadhna Sargam were also present during the event.



The Moeraki boulders of New Zealand: The gigantic boulders started forming on the ocean floor and are now seen sitting mysteriously on the coastline, thanks to centuries of erosion.

Mr. Wise



Mr. Wise?
 Yes.
 God is the dearest of all?
 Yes. We always use superlative degree for God, the Supreme.
 Then why do we find it difficult to remember the One who is the dearest of all?
 I cannot say.

♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

And Mr. Wise?
 Yes.
 We can easily remember the friends and relatives of our present life?
 Yes. They keep coming even in our dreams.
 Why can't we remember our dearest father God with the same ease?
 I cannot say.

♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

Lastly...
 Yes.
 God is incorporeal?
 Yes. Each one of us is also an incorporeal soul residing in a mortal body.
 But today most of us have forgotten this and try to remember God in a state of body-consciousness.
 And fail to connect because God is bodiless?
 Perhaps you are right.

♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

Tailpiece

While he was visiting, my father asked for the password to our Wi-Fi.
 "It's taped under the modem," I told him.

After three failed attempts to log on, he asked, "Am I spelling this right? T-A-P-E-D-U-N-D-E-R-T-H-E-M-O-D-E-M?"

♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

Seeing her friend Promila wearing a new locket, Sharmila asks if there is a memento of some sort inside.

"Yes," says Promila, "a lock of my husband's hair."

"But Sunil is still alive."

"I know, but his hair is gone."