

Satsanga ~ Sister Parvati

(DISCLAIMER: These notes are our best attempt to capture the essence of what was said at this class. There is always a degree of human error involved when taking notes and we have transcribed them to the best of our ability.)

Babaji told Daya Mata that her nature is love. Our guru is also a premavatar, an incarnation of love. So our line of gurus begins and ends with love.

Early on, Master gave Mrinalini Mata a project... study The Autobiography of a Yogi and look up in the dictionary every word she was not absolutely sure that she understood. This was in 1947. She was about fifteen. He saw in her already the editor of his writings. She then brought The Gita and The Second Coming of Christ to fulfillment in these years following.

A group of nuns was meeting with Master. He had been speaking about God. Eventually Sister Parvati was alone in his presence. He said about Mrinalini, "She is so humble." He said this with the deepest feeling. "She has the unusual combination of very great wisdom and humility." She thought, see how he speaks to her. He spoke to her with love and wisdom.

I have been asked to speak about Gururji's appearance. He had long shining black eyelashes. They were straight. They didn't curve like those of most people. When he looked down, they rested on his cheek. On one occasion, I went to give him a message in his study. When I walked onto the porch, the French doors were open. He was writing. I stepped up to the threshold and waited for him to notice me. He just raised his eyes- magnificent black eyes through a shining curtain of thick eyelashes. He was divinely beautiful inwardly and outwardly.

On another occasion, I was cleaning the Encinitas hermitage. I was at the far end of the room. It was early in the day, and the long hallway was dark. Master came from his room down the dark hall toward me. Even in the dark hallway there was a soft circle of light around him. Master is all light within. His consciousness was interiorized. He didn't seem to notice me. It is a sublime memory. The circle of light in all of the photos of him is an inner light.

Master was well known for his kindness. He was always thoughtful and considerate. There is a story in In Memoriam that occurred just before his mahasamadhi. Ambassador Sen's wife was sitting just to his right. Just moments before he left his body, he asked the staff to bring Ms. Sen a bit of butter. His whole life was thinking of others. He was a divine example. He expected more of himself than anyone else. His interactions were based on spiritual principles, but he met the individual needs of each one.

When we came into his presence, he always radiated divine love. He could be disciplinary, but with love. He could be fiery if we didn't get the point. He knew our faults, and encouraged us to be our best selves. He trained us in many ways and tested us to see how we would respond. He is still

doing this today for every one of us. "I know every nuance of your thoughts," he would say. Let us be receptive so that he can help us.

Many years ago, a dear member came to Convocation. When she arrived, she was very ill with a high temperature. She was sent to the hospital and was there for several weeks. Daya Mata asked me to check on her every day. She had a visit from her husband, and he came and sat on her bed and talked to her. She told him that Guruji had visited her. He went to her room and said, "Master's here." She was asleep. We sat with her and meditated and then left. Some say they think they felt Master's presence but often doubt that it is real. They think that it must have been their imagination. Don't doubt that it is real.

How did I know that Master was present? Because I had exactly the same experience when Master was present in the body. I experienced the same feeling. Master said that doubting puts a barrier between him and you, like static on a radio. Your doubt is a barrier to receiving his presence. Don't imagine, but don't doubt that it is real. Receive him with gratitude and reverence.

He said of Sri Yukteswar, Master's divinity automatically bowed our heads before him.

I was 13 when I first entered the ashram at Mother Center. I had been there only a couple of weeks and had had no training. Master was greeting each of the nuns. I was struggling inwardly. I thought only Jesus should be called Master. I was unable to answer him because I was trying to figure out what to call him, and he said to me with the sweetest smile, "Just call me 'little sir.'" Then I was able to answer him. He was so humble.

I learned apparently very quickly that he was a Master, and it became easy to call him that. He was always very balanced and normal while his consciousness was expressing the Divine.

One day Master was waiting in a car to take him to the Encinitas Temple. He stood facing the hermitage. I looked toward the retreat and saw a wadded up white paper. I was worried that if I went after it I would hold the group up, but I ran down the hill and picked up the paper. Master was very quiet and interiorized, but he turned and said, "That's what I like to see."

He taught us to take care of what we had. He never missed anything. I know he blesses you for all you do for Master's work. Anything you do for God he repays a hundred fold.

Another afternoon in Encinitas, he was in the kitchen preparing dinner. He often served fresh spinach. Sister was preparing the spinach. He did the cooking and the seasoning, and tested for the taste. He like using a heavy cast iron skillet. He lit the fire under the skillet for a time and asked for spices. I turned to see him pick up the skillet. He was very interiorized. It was nano seconds when he picked up the pan. I thought, "Oh, it's hot!" I started to warn him, and before I could stop myself the words were coming out. He then became aware of the heat. I felt badly that I did not stop. He looked

at me in exasperation and said, "You had to say it." I planned to apologize the next day but it was clear he had forgotten about it. I was relieved that he had not been harmed. It showed his state of consciousness. He told us that we would not experience pain if the mind was disconnected from the body.

And so, I say to you, "Keep on keeping on. Practice throughout the day. In time you can experience this. I came in August of the year the Autobiography was published. It came in November. We told him that a big wooden crate had arrived. He asked Anandamoy to bring him his fountain pen. The monks opened the box with a crowbar. He signed our copies with "December 10, 1946, with blessings, Paramahansa Yogananda". He was so happy. Later, I asked him to write a thought in my copy. He wrote my name and then this: "Find the Infinite hidden on the altar of these pages".

We must develop a personal relationship with the guru based on love. It is an intimate family relationship. All prayers begin, "Father, Mother, Friend, beloved God." We can be in the world, but we do not have to be of the world. Don't identify with the conditions. Don't take the world so seriously. Hold to the truth that you are energy, joy, and love, and made in God's image.

Master reminds us that this world of maya is a dream. Reach out to one another in a loving way. All souls who are our brothers and sisters, all in the world are very much in need of this today.

Master wrote in a letter, "You must never lose courage. Divine Mother sent me to pilot you out of the clouds of your mind." Overcome all inwardly by calling on God and talk to the guru. It is the easiest way out of your difficulties. Master said, "Your troubles I do not mind. I will never give up my job about you. Never identify yourself with momentary flashes of error. You will never be alone."

If you are frightened, turn to him immediately. Master said, "I may not scold you then but I will constantly whisper to you guidance through your loving self. So do not make life discouraged and tired, but always be interested in helping Divine Mother. Do not make life discouraged and tired. Be ever interested in doing for divine mother no matter what.... if death, discouragement, war dance around you, I will lift you up no matter how many times you fail."

In the San Diego temple at Sunday service, he told us, "In the future we will live more simply. Don't get attached to luxuries. "It was with such spiritual power that he spoke. "Always remember this. God is not mocked. He will have the last word."

Practice these blessed teachings and hold to the right thought and teaching no matter what the world does.