

Sister Parvati
SRF Greenfield Women's Kriyaban Retreat
October 29, 2017

(Sister Parvati told us that she would be expanding on her talk from the 2017 Convocation. A light rain was falling in Front Royal on the morning of this talk.)

Master used to say that this kind of light rain falling is very auspicious. The rains in India were often very heavy. This kind of rain is God's mercy falling on us. I thought of this rain this morning as a blessed rain. I want to give you some thoughts and stories about Master and his training.

First, I want to talk to you a little about Mrinalini Mata. When I was preparing this talk in April through June, she was still with us. It is interesting to think of the line of Gurus. Mahavatar Babaji told us that his nature is love. Our Guru is also a premavatar. His nature is love, not to mention the love of Divine Mother.

Master said he had given Mrinalini Mata a project during the first years. He asked her to study the Autobiography of a Yogi. She came into the ashram when she was about 14 or 15 years old. I came when I was 13. He gave her this project almost immediately, because he saw what she would do in the future. He said that she had great wisdom and love. He asked her to look up in the Autobiography any word that she didn't understand, and then he quizzed her. This was around 1947. We came sometime around the middle end of 1946. I came the same year that she did. I have many wonderful memories of Sister Daya Mata.

This was the beginning of her training to be the editor of His writings. We now have the Bhagavad Gita and The Second Coming. Master trained her in such a way that he implanted in her soul His way of thinking and how to do this. I may be prejudiced, but I know that my Guru is unique in his conveyance of the Gita. I read many versions while in India, and none compared to this version. We have The Second Coming, and now, soon, the new Lessons. We see the things that Master guided her in, and he kept improving and editing over the years. He told her, "These Lessons are your life's work." A few months before her passing, she finalized the revised Lessons.

She was so humble. She told us, "I didn't want anyone to know that I did this. It has to do with the Management (that's what I call the Gurus). It is

Master's work. I can't tell you what she went through in editing and *The Second Coming*. There was a knot that she had a very difficult time untangling. She needed to find a reference for it. She talked to scholars in India, many people, and no one knew. Finally, toward the end, she found an obscure, ancient scholar who said "There is one place it is mentioned", and showed her where to look. It was a herculean effort, just for this one point.

A group of nuns were talking to Master in the dining room. I was the last to depart, and was left alone in His presence. He turned to me, and said with the deepest and tenderest feeling, "She is so humble! She is so humble!" He said this very quietly, and was so overwhelmed, and He was humility itself. Mrinalini Ma said, regarding all of Master's writings, "I would love to do all of this if no one would know who did it."

I remember thinking, "It was so sweet of hi to share this with me". Those of us who were with Master saw how he spoke through her with love and wisdom.

When I was about 13, I was cleaning the drawing room at the hermitage. It was very early in the day. The hall to the living room in the hermitage is a very long, dark hallway. Few lights were on in the dining room. Master progressed along the hallway. I gazed at his face. Even in the dark hallway it was radiant with light, all the way from the forehead to the upper lip. You will see this in his photos. I was thinking, "So this is the light from within." His consciousness was interiorized. I stood very still. I observed him when he passed. This is a sublime memory. This is not a light from the outside; it is the inner light of divinity. If you're thinking that this was the light from the photographer, as I was saying to a retreatant, "Phooey" It was NOT the light of a photographer.

Master's kindness was limitless. He was always thoughtful and considerate. You can read this story in *In Memorium*. Master was seated next to the Ambassador's wife, Mrs. Singh. Just a minute before he rose to speak, Master called a monk to him and said, "Would you please bring Mrs. Singh a little butter." Imagine! He was always thinking about others in all conditions. His whole life was like that. That's how Divine Mother is. Then he talked about India, and then he left his body. He was always thinking of others.

Our training was always based on spiritual principles but designed to meet the individual needs of each one. Master told us, "When I look into your eyes, I see clear back to the beginning. To those who came for his training, he could be insistent and if we didn't get the point he could be fiery. He

would say, "I want to impress certain things on your mind. Once, Daya Mat told us, "This time, I think He really means it. The mind and the ego can be hard to dislodge. But then, we came into his presence always feeling the Divine Love. Once we were receptive, it changed. But after that, He never mentioned it again. He tuned in in many ways, and liked to see how we would respond. He saw our higher selves that he wanted to bring out with these tests of us.

And the best news is, he's still in charge, running this work. Those of us in responsibility are aware of this. Once, the monks and nuns were talking about a major decision. Daya Ma told us, "I don't care what you think. I don't care what I think. I only care what Master wants us to do." She realized that we were getting out of touch with that inner guidance.

I am so glad that we have Brother Chidananda as our new president. I am so comforted, because I know that he had Mrinalini Mata's training for years. Master told us, "You will keep the teachings pure." The ministers say this in our vows. The ceremony to become a minister was done by Daya Mata in Master's room on one occasion. She included in the vows, "You will strive with full soul effort to keep the teachings pure, as a minister. We're all human. We make mistakes.

Many years ago, a dear friend from India got off of the plane and found herself very ill. Ma asked me to check on her each day. She was there for several weeks. We nearly lost her. She was an elderly woman. While she was in the hospital, she had a visit from her husband who had passed on. He sat on her bed and talked to her. Later on, she had a visit with our great Gurus. They appeared sitting in a row and blessed her. As I stepped over the threshold in her room, I said to myself, "Oh, Master is here". I felt his loving presence filling the room. She was still asleep.

From time to time over the years in counseling a member says to me, "I think Master came to me." I always find this a little disturbing. Many will say they think they felt His presence in meditation or at other times, but dismiss it. It was not real. I am not worthy of this. You shouldn't think this is just your imagination. When you feel He is with you, then acknowledge that with acceptance and devotion. Otherwise, you shut God out. Be receptive. God can't do a thing for us unless we're receptive.

Do you know how I knew that Master was with the lady in the hospital? It is because the vibration was exactly the same as when Master was in the body. I experienced exactly the same feeling as when He was in the body: His spirit, personality, and great love. We're so caught up in doubting what we

can't see and hear because maya is so strong. Forget what everyone else experiences and think, "Master came for me", and then develop that personal relationship with him.

Master used to question us about doubting on the path. He said doubt is like the static on a radio. Doubt is that static. He wants to and is trying to read you, but your doubt leaves a barrier. So we have to prepare ourselves. Be there waiting to receive His message and His long presence. If we resist, and we have free will, the Guru will disappear.

When I was 13, I had just arrived at Encinitas. There was no Autobiography of a Yogi published then. One day, the Guru was greeting each one of us. The other devotees replied, calling him "Master". Inwardly, I had a terrible time with this. I struggled with this so. I had a Christian background and a loyalty to Christ. I felt that only Christ should be called, "Master." The Guru spoke to me last. I was unable to speak, because I was so worried about loyalty. I was so silent for so long. He looked up at me with the sweetest smile and said, "Just call me, 'Little Sir'". He was so humble. He had read my mind. I knew that if He could do that, something was going on. It was so clear that this was a Master of the universe. Now I prefer to call him Master. He doesn't mind.

Master exhibited the deepest Divinity and humanity. He was humble, normal, and Divine, and so appreciative of any little thing anyone did in the work.

Master told us to take care of the things you have. He blesses you for everything you do for this work. Anything we do for God, He repays a hundred fold. I'm not a gambling person, but I'd say those are pretty good odds, and we sure could use the prayers and blessings. Don't worry about man's appreciation. Know that God knows everything.

We have an inner and an outer life. The inner life is our relationship with God. Gurudeva said the personal relationship, the quality of the relationship and our love, is what we should develop. Develop that and deepen that. They are right within us at all times. It is a very intimate family relationship. Whether in family or vocation, don't keep God away. Your outer life is lived in maya, in the world. The conditions of the world may seem disturbing. Don't identify with it.

The word is God's dream. I often think of billionaires and their greed. What are they going to do with all of that money? They could help those who need it, but they don't know how to share. A great Moslem saint once said, "Avoid greed. It is another form of poverty."

Don't dwell on all that is going on outside. Don't take it so seriously. Hold to the thought that you are energy, joy, and love. He created us in his image, so that is what we should be. We are energy, joy, and love. We are made in God's image but feel the effects of the world. The world of maya is a dream. Things go on, but you don't have to be flattened by them. Reach out to one another, even those who don't know how to behave.

Years ago, at the San Diego temple service, Master told us not to get attached to luxuries, because in the future we will all live our lives more simply. We don't need most of the things. Be simple. We need a warm bath, a meal, basic clothing. When everything else is ripped away, God is there. Master must have felt apprehension among the congregation because he spoke very slowly. "Always remember this. God is not mocked". Then, such spiritual power poured off of him as he said. "He will have the last word!" You may think that we're all going to hell in a handbasket. He's in charge. Let us practice these teachings. Hold to right thought and activity. Master always reminded us that things will get better.