

**Brother Bhumananda ~ “Expanding Your Awareness of God”**  
**SRF Encinitas Temple**  
**Sunday March 4, 2018**

Brother told us how Master used to tell the story of the square peg trying to fit in a round hole. The square peg is us. The round hole is the earth. One day we will realize that the square hole is God.

Brother told the story of Akbar, the king, hearing two blind beggars on the street. One cried out, “those upon whom the king bestows riches is rich.” The other was crying out, “those upon whom God bestows riches is truly rich.” Akbar thought about this and decided to have a gold bar baked into a loaf of bread to give to the first beggar. Weeks later the king was again traveling down the street with the two beggars. He saw that the first beggar was still begging. Akbar asked him what he had done with the loaf of bread that he had given him. The beggar said that it was heavy and ill-baked so he sold it to the other blind beggar for a few rupees.

Weave the consciousness of God into our everyday life. One way is to memorize spiritual phrases or passages and repeat them throughout the day. [At the retreat, Brahmacharini Kazumi told us that Daya Ma chose the passages for the Spiritual Diary and that she read them often throughout the day. Mrinalini Mata also helped with the editing of the Diary.] Master once told a monk working outside in the gardens to every so often stop, fix the inner gaze at the Spiritual Eye and say, “for God and Guru.”

In India and other countries there is the practice of holy pilgrimage. One holy pilgrimage that is very close is the Spiritual Eye. Master said to keep the consciousness always centered at the Spiritual Eye. Feel God working through all of your actions. Don't be absentminded. Do it with attention. In the Lake Shrine film there is a scene where Master is brushing his hair from his face. He's God-intoxicated so even this simple gesture is imbued with beauty.

The Gita passage for today – the last thought at death determines what kind of astral world we'll go to. But, don't take this literally. Master said that all of life is a preparation for this moment. Our Life Review at death is made up of all the moments of your life. Every little effort to lift our mind up to meditate, to do good, etc. counts. No effort is wasted. This doesn't mean that these things have to be done without mistakes. It's hard not to make mistakes in this earth plane.

The Bible passage for today – the kingdom of God is within you. In the body, life is templed. In the soul, peace is templed. Be regular. Meditate every day as this helps to forge a Divine Connection. Master's vision after finishing his Gita commentary [I don't know if Brother misspoke as I thought this vision happened after Master completed the Second Coming of Christ commentary], he saw the face of Christ then he saw a horrible face. This represented the two opposing Cosmic forces. Remember, if you're not seeking God then Delusion is seeking you.

Things to remember:

1. Regularity – daily meditation
2. Concentration – just keep putting the mind back on God
3. Grace of God

Brother talked about his factory job when he was younger. He was assigned the job of pouring rubber into a mold to make a part for an Air Force plane. After the rubber had set and was taken out of the mold he and the workers sent it along to Quality Control where the extra bits of rubber were trimmed. That wasn't his job. His job was to pour the rubber and then send it on. Results were not his concern. So, in our spiritual life there are two departments:

1. Effort
- 2 Results

Our department is Effort. God's department is Results. Remember that we work in the Effort Department. Results are not our concern.

Master said that having that resolute desire for God is essential. Hold steady the course, as in sailing, until God comes. Perseverance is the whole magic.