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Gurubandhu and Bhagini

In the year 1966, when Vandaniya Dada was in London, a well-known Surgeon came to meet him and seek his blessings for solving the difficulties he was facing in life. Despite the fact that the Surgeon had a flourishing practice, he felt no peace and was discontented with life. He was also unable to get married.

After hearing his problems V. Dada said, ‘Are you willing to hear the truth about your birth and your real parents? The Surgeon told V. Dada that he was living with his mother who loved him and cared for him. V. Dada said, ‘She is not your real mother as you are an adopted child’. The Surgeon was shocked to hear this and preferred to find the truth before taking any further advice.

The next morning when the Surgeon met his mother, he hugged her and told her of his conversation with V. Dada. The mother started crying and said that what had been stated by V. dada was true.

When the Surgeon came to meet V. dada the next day, he said, ‘She has loved me and cared for me the way my real mother would have, so what difference does it make if she is not my real mother’. V. Dada said, ‘Your real mother died thinking of you and of your future. Whenever you call the person you think is your mother, your real mother arrives first, but feels sad as you do not remember her. Because of her love for you, her Spirit and her Karma is always hovering around you and causing the hindrances and dissatisfaction in your life’. To solve this problem, V. Dada gave to the Surgeon a “Nirakaran” (spiritual solution) to his problem and asked him to go to a Church and say a prayer for his real mother.

The Surgeon then asked V. Dada about his marriage problem. V. Dada told him that the first proposal for marriage that he would receive would be the most suitable for him. The Surgeon wondered how he would receive any proposal at all, as he had not registered with any Marriage Bureau, but he decided to trust V. Dada and wait, without raising any queries.

On the eighth day after his meeting with V. Dada, the Surgeon's lady assistant came up to the Surgeon and said, 'I have been working with you for the last ten years. During this period, I have come to know you and your life. Earlier I used to respect you, but now I have also started loving you and would like to marry you'. The Surgeon replied, 'It's good to know your feelings, but before I reply, I have to ask my Master'. The lady assistant was shocked to hear this. She had known the Surgeon for several years, but had never heard about his Master. The Surgeon told the lady of his experience with V. Dada earlier and of his complete trust in V. Dada's advice. He also took the lady to meet V. Dada the next day.

V. Dada greeted them as if they were old friends. The lady was also very happy to see V. Dada and said, 'I thought I was going to see some Indian Sadhu, with long hair and beard and who hadn't bathed in years, but you look like a Hero'. V. Dada said, 'You are talking about old, outdated models. I am God's latest model'.

What did V. Dada mean when he said that he was God's latest model? Technology is developing very rapidly these days. Every day there are new models being put into the market, whether of cars or of mobile phones etc. All of us are blindly following the latest trends. This was not always so. Before the last 400 years, life remained at the same level for thousands of years. Man traveled by bullock cart or horse carriage and his main source of livelihood was either agriculture or handicrafts. He had time for himself, his family and his community and he had a feeling of peace happiness and contentment. Things have changed over the last 400 years, as life has become dynamic and fast. What is the reason for this?

The spiritual explanation of this phenomenon is that after several thousand years, the position of the planets and the stars was such that favorable energies started flowing towards the earth within a certain time span. It is with the help of these energies that man is able to make rapid progress. Just as the gravity of the moon creates the tides in the seas, similarly the position of the planets and the stars has an impact on our bodies and our minds. These kind of changes have happened earlier in the history of mankind, when man developed language as a means of communication and when he moved out of jungles to live in communities. It is difficult for us to comprehend these changes, but they have all taken place due to the favorable energies flowing from the planets and the stars.

In the last 400 years, these energies flowing to the earth from the heavens, were utilized in the West for progress in the industrial and technological fields. In the East, they resulted in progress in the spiritual field. It is in the context of this progress in the field of spirituality that Param Puja Sainath Maharaj and Vandaniya Dada incarnated on earth during this period.

In an earlier era thousands of years ago, when the planets and stars were in a similar favorable position, the Navnaths had incarnated on earth and Sri Gorakshnath had given Karan Diksha to the world. At that time the energies flowing to the earth were

utilized only for spiritual purposes. This resulted in the incarnation of Buddha, Christ, Prophet Mohammed and several other Vibhutis. The Sufis and other Saints who followed later kept this tradition alive.

Today we are at a point of time, where the speed of development of technology is at its peak. What was bought six months ago, has become outdated today. We are leading a live devoted primarily to the satisfaction of bodily desires. The spiritual practices followed earlier have become outdated and ineffective now, because they are not followed strictly, as per the Scriptures. How then, does a person get the benefit of the Atmik (Spiritual) energies flowing to the world? If he cannot do so, he will not be able to control his desires and thus will not be able to achieve peace and contentment. He will become a slave to his bodily desires and will become a modern day Rakshash (Evil Person). The person who showed the way in which these spiritual energies could be harnessed and utilized easily for the benefit of mankind was God's latest model, that is Vandaniya Dada.

A human being functions through three basic mediums. These are the body, speech and the mind. For thousands of years the method of spiritual development practiced by mankind, focused primarily on the development of the body medium. It began with the development of the body medium and then moved to the development of the speech medium and finally to the mind. To develop the body medium a person had to follow certain instructions and restrictions prescribed by the Scriptures. He had to visit the Himalayas, visit Holy places of pilgrimage, bathe in the Ganges, keep fasts and do penance. Once a person had restricted the issues related to the body, the reading of Scriptures and recitation of Mantras and Aartis began the development of the Speech medium. After this, a person reached the stage of the Mind, where the assimilation of Spiritual energies began.

In earlier days, man had the time and the patience to work at these spiritual practices, assimilate these energies and develop the Mind Medium. These days no one knows the Scriptures, nor do they have the time to learn and understand them. So in their ignorance, most people feel that just doing penance, keeping fasts and visiting Holy places amounts to gaining Spiritual energies. But that is not so. Every day their Spiritual energy is decreasing and their desires are increasing due to the increase in their Dehik (Bodily) energies.

Noticing the way aspirants were getting lost in their pursuit of spiritual knowledge, V. Dada with the guidance of Param Pujya Sai Baba, brought about basic changes in Upasana (worship). The focus of his method of worship shifted from the body medium to the mind. There was no need to practice the restrictions on the body medium, instead the spiritual energies were directed to the mind through Aumkar Sadhana, Aarti, Kamkaj and Mulaquat. There was no need to repeat a Mantra or Jaap thousands of times. V. Dada said, ' I do not give a Mantra to anyone, I give only Namsmaran (reciting the name of Sri Sainath). By perfecting the Sadguru Namsmaran, V. Dada brought about another change in the method of worship.

When a person facing difficulties in life, comes to the Centre, then along with a solution to his problems, he is asked to do Namsmaran, which removes the unfavorable influences affecting him and his family and allows them to absorb the Guru energy. The more the regularity and intensity of a person's devotion, the more he is able to absorb the energy.

What is the difference between repetition of a Mantra and Guru Namsmaran? A Mantra is recited to appease a particular Devta, who is given shape in the form of an idol. Once an idol is installed, the Pran Pratishtha (giving life) of the idol has to be performed. The energy of the Dev / Devta is in the atmosphere (in the Akash, Vayu and Tej Tatwas) and through the recitation of a particular Mantra, flows to the idol from which it can through Sewa (devotion and worship) of the idol, be passed on to the devotees. To achieve all this, a lot of rituals and rites as per the Scriptures have to be performed, after which the energy of the Devta is invoked through the repetition of a Mantra. The greater the number of repetitions, the greater the energy that flows to the idol. If however, during the course of the Pran Pratishtha, the conduct of the persons performing the rituals is not as per the Scriptures, the energy of the Devta does not flow to the idol, but remains in the atmosphere in the form of an aura.

V. Dada changed the traditional method of worship by perfecting the Guru Namsmaran and helped the devotees absorb the Guru Energy by giving the four Dikshas (initiations). Guru Namsmaran means meditating upon the name of the Guru, that is upon Guru Shakti (Energy). A person can meditate upon something only when the realization of that thing exists within that person. When a devotee came to the Centre, V. Dada installed the Guru Shakti within the mind of the devotee. As the devotee meditated upon the Guru Shakti, i.e. performed Guru Namsmaran, the mind medium of the devotee developed. V. Dada was able to perfect this simple and easy way of developing the mind. The Guru Shakti pervades not just the atmosphere of the earth, but the entire universe. V. Dada invoked this divine Guru Shakti and installed the perfected energy into the main Centre known as Sri Shaktipeeth at Porvorim, Goa. From this Shaktipeeth, the Guru Shakti (energy) flows to all the Centres. To ensure that the Guru Shakti flows to the homes of his devotees, V. Dada perfected the four Pratimas (medallions), which he gave one by one to his devotees, as they progressed along the spiritual path. These Pratimas are not just a symbol of the Guru Shakti, but have the Guru Shakti installed in them. The Pratimas work both as a receiver and as a transmitter, i.e. they receive a devotee's prayer and transmit the Guru's blessings.

GURU PRASAD — ATMA NIVEDAN — GURU VAANI — PRATIMA — VIMOCHAN — DIKSHA

GURU PRASAD

V. Dada once said that most of the discoveries that have taken place have occurred by chance. For instance the falling of an apple from a tree, led to the discovery of the Theory of Gravity, a lid blowing of a pan full of boiling water led to an understanding of steam power. Similarly the discovery of penicillin and a host of other developments happened by chance. 'But', he said 'the spiritual method that I have developed, was not by chance, but by choice. In the spiritual path, most Sadhaks (aspirants) do not know what they have to achieve and what they have already achieved. However, I can give you knowledge and the experience of the perfection I have been able to achieve, through Guru Kripa (Guru's Blessings) and the guidance received from Sri Sainath and the Vibhutis (divine spirits).'

V. Dada spent the first twenty-five years of his spiritual journey in service to humanity and in 1978 on orders from his Guru, wrote the first treatise on spirituality known as 'Guru Prasad'. V. Dada's daughter was about to get married at that time, but as per the instruction of his Guru, he had to forego doing the 'Kanyadan' and instead go to Tirupati. V. Dada explained later, that the same astrological position that