



# The Cross and The Lotus Journal

Summer Edition

June 2002, Vol. 3 No. 2

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Dear Friends,

The events of last September 11 continue to shake up and change the consciousness of not only America, but of the world. Like the Buddha, in his life as a prince, we come to the knowledge that disease, old age and death are inevitabilities of this life. The result of this realization on Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, was shattering to his world view. However, it also led to the adamant determination to find his way out of the problem, namely: that all life is subject to disease, old age and death.

It states in the Vedas that the greatest wonder is that we live in a world where all things die, but we act as if that is not true. It is not a macabre mood that has me writing of such things. Quite the opposite, I feel the potential for a world revolution. In fact I think we have seen its beginning already. Within minutes the world witnessed the destruction of the symbol of man's power in the world: the World Trade Center buildings and the lives of those who were in them. As a result people did not rush to their banks to withdraw their money or assure themselves that their bank building was still there. Rather they gathered together in record numbers in places of worship and city centers in candle lit prayer.

Suddenly on television it became acceptable to use the word God as everyday people scrambled for their lives and to save the lives of others. The awakening of an individual, such as the Buddha, also happens in a society and in world consciousness. The recognition that we live in an unsafe world can lead to a number of differing responses. We can look to strike out, or we can use the time to look within. For those of us called to an inner life it becomes a time to recognize that all things of the world have a birth, a time of life on this planet and then an eventual dissolution. We then use that knowledge to renew our purpose and intensity in our spiritual practice. Witnessing death or dissolution thus helps to awaken us to God.

World consciousness moves more slowly than an individual's consciousness, but it does move. World conscious-

*(Continued on page 6)*



**Mother Hamilton**

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## MOSES AND THE LAW

**A Talk Given by Mother Hamilton**

**in Seattle, WA**

**on February 17, 1974**

**[Continued from Last Issue]**

Now, whatever comes out of your mouth as a result of what you think or what you feel inside of yourself--they say you can always tell what a person is by what comes out of their mouth, and this is definitely true. Remember it says in the Bible it isn't important what you put into your mouth, because whatever goes into your mouth goes into the belly and out the sewerage system. But what comes out of your mouth indicates what is in your consciousness, what is in your heart. And so there are murderers, and thieves, and robbers, and all sorts of evil things that are in the consciousness and in the hearts of men. As we've talked about so many times, it is so important to control your thinking, because through control of your thoughts, then you are able to control your actions. You are able to control your actions.

**Thou shalt not kill.** Now, always we have thought, perhaps, of killing a man or a woman for some reason. It is only when we are uncomfortable inside because somebody else has not conformed to the pattern that we think they should in

*(Continued on page 2)*

order to make us comfortable that we want to get at them. That is sheer ego. It should not be countenanced at all. But there is more than one way to kill. You can kill a person through what you do to them emotionally, and you are as guilty of murder when you do that as you are when you take a knife or a gun and you kill them, because you can tear a person apart. You can destroy their consciousness, their mind, their soul until they lose their light, till they have no place else to go. Now, some come to the point where they almost do this, and they have a choice, they have a road where there is a fork, and they can go either one way or another way. Either they can recede within themselves and become a vegetable, or they can take hold of themselves, they can take hold of God within themselves, and they can work their way out of this into the light of God. Because no man, no woman, no human being, has the right to murder your soul through what they do to you psychologically, emotionally, through words, through actions. You can kill a person and be guilty of murder that way just as much as any other way, so it behooves you to really think what you do and what you say to another individual, because you're guilty of breaking this commandment, **Thou shalt not kill.**

**Thou shalt not commit adultery.** Now, the true union is between the soul and Christ. Christ is the bridegroom; that is the true marriage. Now, man and woman, of course, must obey the laws of the Holy Sacrament of Marriage when they are truly married. But the true marriage is of the soul, and when the soul, the individual soul has been joined to the Christ consciousness within itself, then no man should destroy that, or attempt to do it, to bring you down into the lower consciousness again.

But in the outer sense, it also has a very deep meaning and a very important one. Today everybody is taking license with this commandment, **Thou shalt not commit adultery.** People are letting their feelings run away with them when they should obey what it says in another place, "If they cannot contain, let them marry." Now, this creative force within you is a tremendous force, but who do you cheat when you let go of that force from your own body? It is a natural thing, this is true, but it should be controlled, it should be governed. You should be master of it.

When a man and a woman come together through love and are joined together in the Sacrament of Holy Marriage, there is no greater experience than the giving of yourself one to the other, but to cheapen this in any way before you take this holy vow in the eyes of God is certainly to disobey this commandment in every sense of the word, because you have not only disobeyed it in the human sense according to the laws of society, but you've also disobeyed it in the higher sense, because you have destroyed the opportunity for the soul to become the bride of the bridegroom, which is Christ within yourself. These things should be thought about seriously. As I've told you, when Swami Ramdas was asked if

he believed in birth control, he said, "Rather Ramdas believes in self control." Self control is a wonderful thing, and few of us have even the beginning of it.

**Thou shalt not steal.** And, again, to steal something is not just necessarily to steal a man's goods, but you can steal his honor. You can steal his reputation. You can steal many, many things from him if you stop to think about it. It isn't just the outer that can be stolen; it is the inner that can be stolen. Again, if you steal a man's light-- in India, most of the saints over there keep their feet covered because people go and bow at their feet, not to the individual, but to God in that one, because they want to honor God in the one who has come to take them out of the darkness and into the light. Also they are very anxious to get whatever they can of the Spirit from the holy ones. Now, you can protect yourself from that to a degree, but there are people they call "spirit robbers", and they sit around on the floor in half-lotus posture, and those that have developed the power on the opposing side sit there and try to rob the saints of their power. I have had people come in my presence who have not only tried, but who have done this momentarily. But immediately I have put myself in God's hands, and I have told Him that I know that this is an experience that He has given me so that I may learn from it and grow from it, and I also know and tell Him that I am totally conscious of His protection. So always He has returned my strength.

But there are some who go to spiritual places, and they go with their bare feet. They go because, in that way, they can absorb the vibrations from the atmosphere from the spiritual consciousness of the guru, the spiritual strength of the guru and many others who come there. This is a totally wrong thing to do. This is stealing. And these people who do this will certainly be punished for that, because God is everywhere equally present, and whenever we want anything spiritual, it must be a thing earned. It is the same way with the usage of drugs today. People say that they have spiritual experiences as a result of taking these various drugs, like LSD, but they are not for real. They are hallucinatory. You have not earned them. And God realization is the pearl of *great* price. You have to pay the full price of transforming the human within yourself in order that the divine may be born. And you don't get it out of a pill; you don't get it out of a shot; you don't get it by anything but conforming to the Ten Commandments of God and gradually working your way up.

**Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.** You know, if we were to each day examine ourselves and the things that we have said, and the things that we have thought, and the things that we have done against others to hurt them, we would be utterly amazed. This thing of gossip, of loose talk all the time, is really something. It can destroy a person's reputation in the flash of a moment. I heard something not too long ago about an individual. It may or may not be true, but that was totally destructive, and it was picked up

by word of mouth and carried here and there and everywhere, and immediately that person took on a totally different look to everybody who had known him all his life. Is this fair? Is it right?

“Judge not, lest ye be judged,” and “There, but for the Grace of God, go I.” There isn’t a person on this earth who doesn’t make mistakes, who doesn’t commit a so-called sin of separation from God at sometime or other in his life. If we want to be forgiven for that which we do, then we must forgive others. We must first of all not see this fault in them but, rather, practice seeing the good, of telling them about the good that is in them, of praising that which is praiseworthy, because only in that way will you change them.

You kick a person in the teeth, you constantly berate them, you constantly do things against them, and they are constantly on the defensive. You are not going to change them except for the worse. Maybe you enjoy that to see that you’ve been able to create that, but that again is killing. It really is. But, if you see them, if you see the beauty and the wonder of God, whatever little good thing there is about it, if you praise this, if you ask them if you can help them, and you show them that you love them, you tell them how attractive they are, how hard they’re trying, immediately they’re going to go into action and become and do what you tell them. It’s psychological. You try it yourself. You know that this has worked on you. When people berate you, you don’t like it. Your father and mother scold you, you have a rough time with them, or your teacher, or the place where you work, you don’t like it at all. You’ve got this thought. But if somebody says, “You’re beautiful. You look lovely this evening. You truly are a joy to me,” immediately you feel all warm and comfortable with happiness, I will bet you will.

There are some children who try very hard; there are also some parents who try very hard, and yet the individuals don’t ever get together. You’d be surprised how many times I’m right in the middle of a family feud or situation, and I’m trying desperately because first one is coming to me, then the other has come to me. It’s the father, the mother, the husband or the wife, or the children, or somebody, and trying to jell all the thing together. But you can never get them all going in the same direction at the same time. And sometimes I feel like a sponge or a piece of beaten up pulp by the time I get through with this. It is really true. It really is true. And it isn’t fair, further than that, because in everything I teach I point you toward God, through Christ.

I point the right way to you. I ask you to be kind to one another, to be good neighbors, to serve one another, to love God in each other, to be what you should be in God, to meditate upon Him, to pray upon Him, to be filled with the joy of God; because if you can accomplish that within yourself, no matter what the conditions are around you, you are going to be master of yourself. You are going to be able to rise above every individual and every condition of your life

without exception. I know, because I have accomplished this. I have had a life I think that very few people have had. I’ve had many very, very difficult things to overcome, and they’ve been the finest things that ever happened to me. I rejoice in them, because they make me grow.

You will find that some people in the orthodox churches find that they have salvation, and they rest in that salvation, and they live a good life of service. They have happiness, they have peace, they get along with their neighbors and all the rest of it. But they stay there, they don’t grow, because you need opposition to grow. The way of the cross and the Christ was not just a resting. It was just not having somebody else do it for you. Two things cannot be true at one and the same time. You cannot get your salvation on one hand and yet fail to pay the price for the pearl. It doesn’t make sense.

Now, when you get your salvation, it means that you have given up the land of Egypt within yourself; you have become an Israelite. And you have risen above the human consciousness, and you have put your feet on the good path. But there’s more to it than that. There’s more than the beginning of it. You have to keep on reaching out and reaching out and do your part until within yourself you have this consciousness of oneness with God. You go beyond even the Christ consciousness, because he himself said, “I of myself am nothing. It is my Father who doeth the works.” You go to God through Christ. He is not the end, not the ultimate. He is the Way, the Truth, the Light, which will take you to the supreme God within yourself, which is a very, very different thing.

You go beyond all form, beyond all human consciousness, beyond duality, into the Light, into the Bliss of your own soul. And when you come down out of that consciousness, you are an enlightened human being. Your face, your whole being is filled with light, and you see nothing but God everywhere, in every form. And still you must function in duality if you are to stay in a human body on this earth, and so you meet, still, the trials of duality. These tests come to you just the same. But you handle them; you are not affected by it, because you have risen above the law, and you are no longer subject to it. Certainly it’s not an easy path, but again, nobody ever said that the way of the cross and the Christ was easy. It doesn’t come handed to you on a silver platter. You have to get in and earn every little tiny bit of it. But when you make that effort, you will find that there is nothing in the world you wouldn’t do to keep it, because your whole life, your whole consciousness, your whole being changes. And where before all the burden was yours, now you have rested in the Lord, and the burden is His.

**Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor’s.** And this is true. We are

so envious, so jealous of other people, of what they have, of their friendships, of their accomplishments, of their thinking, the way they look. You look around you and everything of your life; you have envy--envy of somebody else. And because you put out the vibration that goes from you in these ways, then you wonder why you don't have friends, why you're not popular, why things don't work out for you, and you blame everybody and everything else but yourself. And the fault lies squarely on your own shoulders, because you have not obeyed the commandments of God, principally the first commandment, **Thou shalt not have false gods before me**, because contained in that one are all the rest of them, all the rest of them.

If you put Him first, if you love Him with everything you have, you cannot possibly commit a sin, because your consciousness, everything within you, is lifted up. You can't possibly do it; it is literally impossible for you. Even when things happen that you could take advantage of, you don't do it. For instance, I bought a set of towels the other day. I got home, and I was supposed to have two bath towels; I found three. Two had been folded together. I had only been charged for two. Now, I could easily have kept that other towel, but I wouldn't think about doing it, and I took it back to the very clerk that I got it from. It wasn't on my bill, it wasn't anyplace except in my own consciousness, but I had to be square with God. And when you can be square that way about everything in your life, then you don't need to worry about anything, because God is with you.

Love is the greatest salve in the world. It will heal all ailments. Can you not love? Can you not love? If somebody is doing something that you don't like, perhaps it's the illness of the soul, the illness of the mind, the illness of the body, but you're not going to change them by being upset. You really aren't. Give them love. I think it was St. Augustine that said if you have love, you need not worry about anything else. You can do anything in the world. But he was talking about the love of God, not human love, because people do take license with human love in the end. But when you have the love of God in your heart, you can do anything you want, because you won't want to do anything that is not of God.

Every day of my life I pray for all mankind: that your consciousness may change, that you may realize that all of the riches of God's great kingdom are yours to command--His richness of supply, of consciousness, of love, of feeling--everything is yours. But you have to do your part. God can't do it by Himself. He could, but this is His life this way, and He sends all from Himself, and then gradually He draws all again to Himself, because there is nothing but God anywhere. Know this. "Know the Truth, and the Truth shall set you free."

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"Remember what we are doing is not social work.  
We are touching the face of God." - Mother Teresa



Sunset in the Himalayas (Dhal China)

## India January-March 2002

by Yogacharya David Hickenbottom

In January we left for India. In all, 13 devotees connected with this Guru-lineage visited Anandashram during our two month stay. Pilgrimage is an ancient concept: one goes to receive the blessings of a divine personage or a spiritually charged place. During our stay several new friends felt attracted to this line of teachings and its teachers. Some asked to take discipleship through me. Such is the wonder of God's Grace that works through all, to uplift all. From Anandashram four of us, Lois, Shyamala, Carla and I left for the Himalayas, while Ruth left to spend time in silence and solitude at Pondicherry, the ashram of the great Aurobindo and the Mother.

Our northern tour took us to Babaji's cave near Dwarahat and Anandamoyee Ma's ashrams in Almora and Dhal China

David, on the path to Babaji's Cave





Nanda Devi

rings of love. I felt Ma introduced herself in a most wonderful way. I thought at the time that I could stay in that room forever. The other thing that became clear during our visits to Ma's ashrams was her guiding and protecting Presence at all times during our journey.

It is a continual wonder to me that God comes both as personalities, with the perfection of His pure vibration, as well as in the impersonal, all-pervading Presence of Spirit. When I think of Swami Satchidananda, and so many devotees we met during our time in India, they stand out in my mind as beautiful pearls adorning God. Wonderful it is to behold the purity, devotion and sincere search for Truth found in so many there. India's spiritual wealth has its inheritors standing at the ready. I feel such gratitude for the wealth she has shared so willingly. We are all the benefactors of her timeless message of Self-Realization.

(cheena). Winding, twisting roads brought us to vistas of incredible magnitude. These visual sites thrilled and awed us, but the unimaginable feeling of spiritual vibration pervading those mountains is what made us know the unique nature of the Himalayas. Pristine nature combined with spiritually enlightened residents have combined to create a remarkably charged environment. Those who have sensitive hearts and souls know both the inner and outer peaks of experience.

A delightful and profound "introduction" came to me regarding Anandamoyee Ma. In the past I felt a great veneration for Ma, but I had no direct experience with her. While at Anandashram two devotees of Ma's directed me to some of her ashrams in the Himalayas. At her ashram in Almora I asked to be let into a room Ma had used during her stays there. When they opened the locked door I stepped into a room that had an effect so powerful that it was like entering into an ocean of Bliss. My heart opened into ever expanding



The Divine Mother, Anandaamoyee Ma



Shyamala Kishor, Lois & Carla at Keshashram in Haridwar. Tree in background planted by Babaji.

Our stay at Dhal China, where this picture of Ma came from, represented the original simplicity and beauty of an ashram. Allowing for only six or eight visitors at a time, this remote ashram gave tremendous views of the Himalayas. Meals were prepared simply over a fire, morning meal was self service. There was no program to follow day or night, leaving much time for silence, meditation and sadhana. Each devotee from our group experienced an opening of the heart. Ma's grace was pouring on us and we each received according to our ability. The memory carries with it wonderfully pure vibrations of those Himalayan heights.

## God's Artist

by Yogacharya David Hickenbottom

Mansi and Lakshmi are two renunciant women living at Anandashram in shared quarters. While there I



"Artist" Lakshmi

expressed admiration for a drawing of Hanuman (see back page) that had been drawn by Lakshmi. The image of Hanuman had grown dear to me based on my reading of Rama's life and various other stories. Of course, Mansi immediately handed it over to me in spite of my protests. I later sent an email to Ruth Lamb and asked her to bring a colored pencil set and an artist pad. Later, when Ruth gave them to me and discovered they were for Lakshmi she was thrilled, as she had become acquainted with Lakshmi on a previous trip to Anandashram and liked her very much. When I presented the paper and large set of pencils to Lakshmi she looked at the pencils with wide eyes and said, "So many colors!"

During a talk that I had given on Mother Hamilton's life, Lakshmi had an experience that made Mother feel very close. She determined that the first picture she would draw with the new materials would be of Mother. Her usual pattern is to take weeks to complete a drawing. She stayed up very late that night and completed the portrait (see front page), based on a picture she had of Mother. Lakshmi and Mansi presented the picture to me so lovingly. When I saw the picture, it seemed that Mother had taken on life in the drawing. With what love and devotion these two pictures have been created. They are not only symbols of Mother and Hanuman, but they are expressions of the deep devotion of a wonderful soul.

### Prayer Demand Before Taking Food

Heavenly Father, receive this food. Make it holy. Let no impurity of greed ever defile it. The food comes from Thee. It is to build Thy temple. Spiritualize it. Spirit to Spirit goes. We are the petals of Thy manifestation, but Thou art the flower, its life, beauty and loveliness. Permeate our souls with the fragrance of Thy presence. Om. Peace.

*Paramhansa Yogananda*

*David's Letter - Continued from page 1*

ness is made up of all the individuals inhabiting the planet. What we see is a result of what we have collectively built. In fact realized Beings do not see a distinction between the individual *I*, and the *I* of world consciousness. They see all people, all beings and all events as movements occurring within themselves. Just as you may move your foot and not see it as different from the rest of your body, so fully realized Beings know that all they see is a part of their Self. This universal vision makes them know that we operate not only as human individuals, but as a collective world consciousness and ultimately as the universal consciousness of God.

With the knowledge gained in the universal vision we see the fabric of world consciousness as a living, changing, and very real phenomena. We know that what the individual does is vastly important to the fate of world consciousness. We realize that when individuals live in Divine consciousness, the world is changed for the better. The purity, light, love and wisdom expressed in the life attuned to God, transform not only the individual but the world at large. This principle is expressed by Jesus when he proclaimed "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32) Likewise, before he left on his quest for realization Siddhartha Gautama stated that he was out to solve the mystery for all mankind.

Now the Buddha cannot give us his realization. But he did give us teachings to point the way. His realized consciousness spread out as a spiritual ambiance that helps to purify this world. The great realized Beings of this world, Jesus, Buddha, Krishna, Mohammed and others have all expressed the light through their teachings and their uplifting spiritual power. Because they made the effort to become realized the world consciousness is drawn higher into spiritual consciousness. The same principle is true for you, me and all sentient beings of this world. We can awaken ourselves from this slumber of ignorance. We can gain the realization that makes us recognize the universal vision and transforms our lives. This is the good news. It always has been and it always will be.

My dear friends, today and everyday, let us make renewed efforts, with renewed enthusiasm, to keep our minds focused on God, on the highest Light we know. That each day we live according to the precepts which uplift and purify the mind until that total transformation makes us one with the unified All-Consciousness. That through our efforts the world may be changed into a haven of peace, joy and wisdom. It all starts with individuals; it all starts with you.

In God and Gurus,

David

O Kabir, why be afraid of anyone when the Lord Himself protects you? What does it matter if a thousand dogs bark fiercely when you are seated on an elephant?



Swami Satchidananda, Papa and Mother Hamilton at Anandashram in 1957



Father & Mother Hamilton, Swami Satchidananda, Papa (with Sridar) and others in 1957

The above black and white pictures came from the ashram's photo albums. Ashram devotees are busy scanning many of the old and priceless photos to preserve them. An ashramite, Chandra, found these and gave us copies.

When Mother met Papa in 1954, that year had been one of great spiritual attainment, spontaneously entering into the divine state of Nirvikalpa samadhi and being in that state for eight days. During those 1954 experiences God told Mother that He would come and see her "face-to-face." When Papa visited Seattle, Mother realized that this meeting was a fulfillment of this prophecy.

In 1957, Mother and Father Hamilton decided to sell their home and all their belongings and travel to Anandashram in order to have the opportunity to spend extended time with Papa. Papa more than fulfilled their desires in their daily meetings. In the book, *The Gospel of Swami Ramdas*, Swami Satchidananda records several of these fascinating conversations.

## A Perfect Master

"One of the best known signs of the divinity of a master is his humanity. Real spiritual advancement makes a person more fully human, not more removed from humanity. The advanced saint or yogi maybe so absorbed in his inner experiences that he can't relate to the mundane details of the gross plane but the perfect master is perfectly human.

"Many people expect aloofness in a guru, look for warmth instead. Many people expect a perfect master to be serenely oblivious to the world. Look instead for an uncanny awareness of everything around him. Many expect a somber countenance charged with a seriousness of the struggle of the spiritual path. Look instead for one who could be both appropriately grave and blissfully lighthearted as the occasion demands. A perfect master has an enlivening sense of humor and a super-human consideration for your own very human worries and problems. He is alive to every look in your eyes, every tone of your voice, every hope, every wish, every sadness, and every joy. He cares for you and for your ultimate happiness as with the most loving grandmother and he shows his care with unimagined tenderness in a thousand unexpected ways. A God-Realized master has plumbed the most esoteric mysteries of the universe and he experiences a world of infinite consciousness which is absolutely unknown to the ordinary man. Many seekers feel that such a master would be totally out of their reach, preoccupied and unconcerned with them, but if he is indeed Divine, he will show you what it is to be truly human."

[Quote from Meher Baba, reference unknown. This came from a reading by Mother in her talk, "Divine Guidance" 3/12/75]

## Calendar of Events

June 16	Father's Day
June 18-23	Kriya Initiation in Prince Rupert, BC
June 21	Summer Solstice (6:22 a.m. PDT)
July 1	Canada Day
July 4	Independence Day
July 24	Guru Purnima Day
July 25	Babaji's Remembrance Day
August 13	Mahasamadhi of Swami Ramdas
September 2	Labor Day
September 22	Fall Equinox (9:54 p.m. PDT)
September 26	Lahiri Mahasaya's Birthday
September 30	Mahasamadhi of Lahiri Mahasaya

Front Page Drawing of Mother by Lakshmi  
Back Page Drawing of Hanuman by Lakshmi

Journal Editor: Rev. Larry Koler

Each day begins as a blank page. We write in our book of life, our thoughts, words and deeds which impress themselves on the parchment of mind. Each day is a fresh white sheet upon which to write. At the end of the day the page is full of what we have created. The narrative of our life thus moves from day to day. What do you write today? Does it fulfill the highest Light within you? This is something to ponder.

Yogacharya David Hickenbottom

### Prayer-Demand For Recharging of Body-Battery

O Conscious, Cosmic Energy, it is Thou who  
dost directly support my body.

Solid, liquid and gaseous foods are  
converted and spiritualized  
into energy by Thy cosmic energy--  
and it supports my body.

Help me to learn, O Spirit, to live more and more  
by direct cosmic energy and less and less by food.

Thine energy burns in the bulb of the senses.

I recharge myself with Thine omnipresent cosmic energy.

*Paramhansa Yogananda*

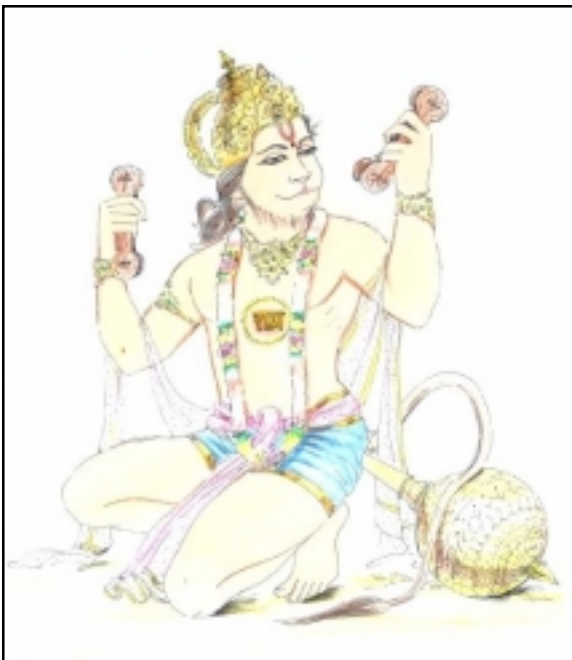
Invite God who is all love and mercy  
to take you up and transform you into  
His radiant and blissful child. Permit His  
grace to purify and vitalise and take  
possession of every part of your being.

Surrender your all to Him and be  
conscious of His presence within you  
and without you.

Swami Ramdas

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### THE JEWELER

If a naive and desperate man  
Brings a precious stone  
To the only jeweler in town,  
Wanting to sell it.

The jeweler's eyes  
Will begin to play a game,  
Like most eyes in the world when they look at you.

The jeweler's face will stay calm.  
He will not want to reveal the stone's true value,  
But to hold the man captive to fear and greed  
While he calculates  
The value of the transaction.

But one moment with me, my dear,  
Will show you  
That there is nothing,  
Nothing  
Hafiz wants from you.

When you sit before a Master like me,  
Even if you are a drooling mess,  
My eyes sing with Excitement—  
They see your Divine Worth.

—Hafiz [Meher Baba's favorite poet.]