

2 May 1977

## SUMMER TERM

## READING 1

In order to try to give as many people as possible the material they want, no predetermined theme has been worked out for this term. We hope that from your meetings this week will emerge certain main interests and important questions that need urgent answers. How many people agree with me that the diagram of the 3 octaves derived from the Ray of Creation (in the simplified form given in Reading 4 and on the screen) can serve as a skeleton plan or 'nutshell' by which to relate the basic knowledge of all systems and of all inner experience? How many feel that the same diagram can be used for the study of different levels of Being and therefore can implement the Shankaracharya's guidance through the maze of conflicting opinions? How many would prefer to have no diagrams at all and be fed as it were, 'from hand to mouth' each week in no very systematic way?

Until we have some overall answer to these questions, it is suggested that you have this short paper to read, for it might help to determine what meetings are for, and why a lot of people seem to want them. It's an answer by the Shankaracharya to a question asked during our last visit to India:

Q. The process of giving importance to say, the Mantra, and also to the idea of the goodness and immanence of the Param-Atman, seems to give them more power to work their wonders. The Lord's Prayer of the Christians begins with the same idea: 'Our Father in heaven, we pray that Thy name be *made holy*.' Through you, both the Param-Atman and our meditation have become 'holy' for many people and this has brought many good and unexpected results. How can we join more in this enjoyable task?

S. Whenever any single person finds union with any glory in full or in part, the usual wish is to share with others, and this same feeling is shown by your question. This is the natural process: whenever one advances on the way, then one likes to have many other people to join with one and share what has been made available.

There are, of course, difficulties; not because the man who wants to share has difficulties, but those who could share have difficulties. They have certain barriers which have to be broken down. For that also, ways have been prescribed.

Meeting in a group ('Satsang') is one of the ways. It is good to bring people together, and then before them one should describe the beauty and the glorious aspects of the Absolute and the Creation in such a way that all the barriers can gradually be broken down, so that they may respond with greater enthusiasm and understanding. This, in fact, is the chief way by which this work can be carried on; for unless people come to realise that there is always something better to be had, they will not move steadily in this direction.

(Record, 30 September 1975)

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