

8 February 1982

READING 3

PART 1

Last week the two groups who have most recently joined us continued so successfully leading themselves along the way of discovering the joys coming from the combination of Meditation and 'good company' that they qualify for another story which covers a lot of their questions.

Any effort made on the Way is itself a step in the Realization of the Way. Slowly and steadily everything is being done, and one doesn't have to worry about the end of the journey which is where there would be nothing further to do at all.

A man had to go out to another town some miles away. It was night and pitch dark, and all he had was a tiny little lantern which could, at most, light up a couple of steps. Because he was trying a new route and didn't know what to expect, and the night was so dark, he was depressed and unsure of reaching the destination with only his small light.

While he stood outside his door feeling frustrated and helpless, a Realized man (like the Mahout) happened to appear and asked him why he was standing in the dark, outside his door, with a lantern. The man replied that he really didn't know what to do; though he was all set for the journey, yet it appeared so long and the night so dark that his small lantern could not really be of much use. The Realized man explained to him that it was not necessary to have a light big enough to illumine the whole Way. 'As you proceed,' he said, 'the light will move with you, so the next two or three steps will always be clearly lit. All you need is to hold on to the light and start walking. As the darkness clears (with the rising of the Sun), if you keep walking, you will reach your destination in the full light of noon.'

The same applies to each person's own little efforts. After hearing the words, the light will be continual enough for the goal to be achieved. Then there will be nothing else to do except to enjoy the union of the individual with the Universal Consciousness.

(Record, 9 November 1973)

PART 2

(After a little quiet reflection with Meditation perhaps and short discussion)

You have a right to know a little more this week about the few *general* instructions we got when, at about the half-way stage, I asked our Mahout: 'Which of all your words so far are the most important for me just now?' He replied:

S. 1) You want to know, from all the discourses you have had with me so far, what exactly is the most important for you today? My difficulty is that, unless I can recall all you asked and all I said in reply, I cannot be in a position to say that. Roughly, however, it may suffice to indicate that the gist of all that should be:

- a) Physically, you devote yourself to universal service, considering yourself everyone's servant.
- b) Devotionally, be magnanimous and give importance to the Supreme Power, keeping in mind its unlimited benevolence.

c). Intellectually, you identify yourSelf as One with Param-Atman, who witnesses everything and shows Himself in all the forms you see.

2). You say: 'It seems impossible to give it all up just yet, but I can keep it usually to only two days a week...'

Now, giving up can be done emotionally and intellectually at all times and in all conditions. In this, there is no question of today or tomorrow, or of one or two days a week. *Practise giving up all the time.* You just consider the body, the heart and the intellect as belonging to Param-Atman, and as such, offering all these to Him. This is what 'giving up' means.

(Record, 15 February 1973)

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This has been so helpful to me since that there'd be no harm in the rest of us trying to live up to it as well!

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