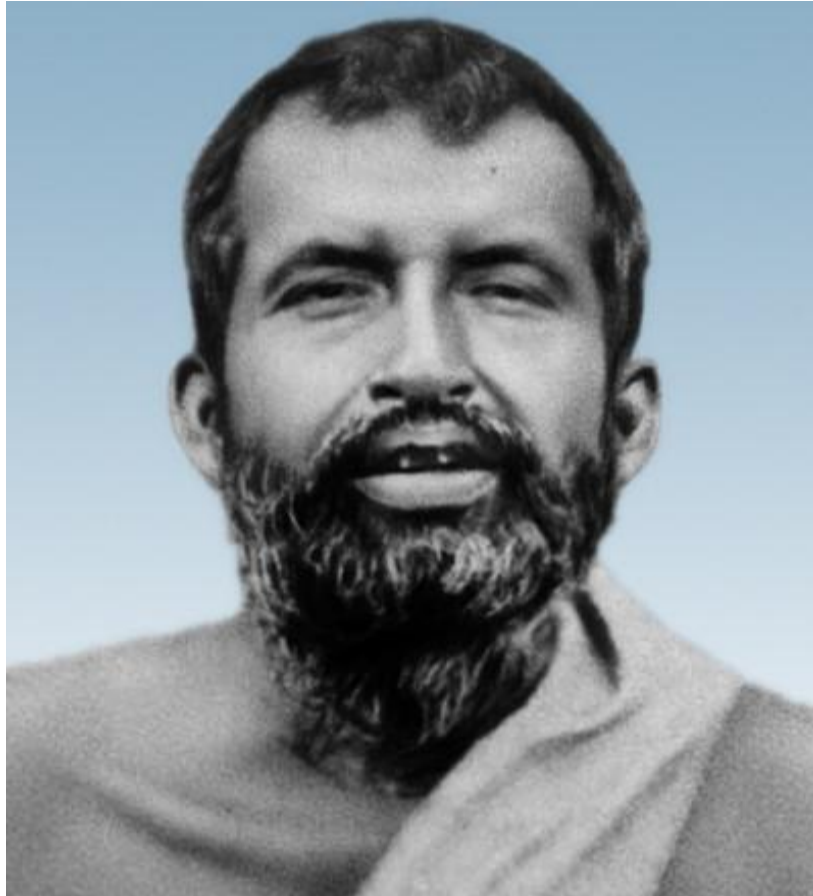


Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, *'The Master who made the Masters'*



Compiled from the speeches of
Sadguru Sri Nannagararu



Sri Ramakrishna does not wear clothes
to his words. It is naked spirituality.

- Sadguru Sri Nannagaru

I never heard the word 'naked spirituality'.



Once a retired professor attended a speech of Sri Nannagaru. He heard Sri Nannagaru saying:

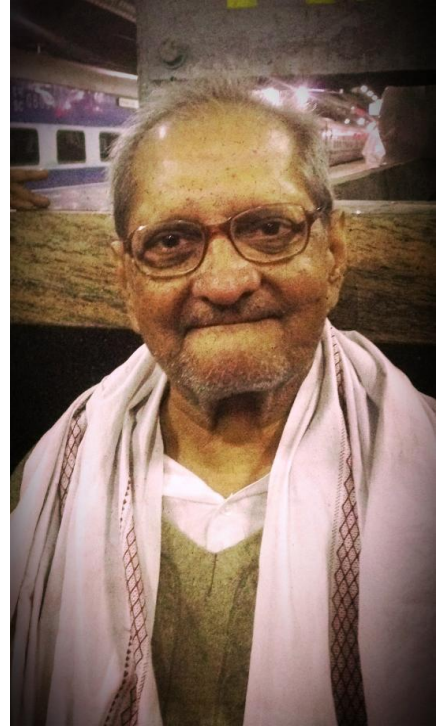
"Sri Ramakrishna does not wear clothes to his words. It is naked spirituality."

After the speech, he met Sri Nannagaru and said:

"My father was an ardent devotee of Sri Ramakrishna. Even I have been devoted to Sri Ramakrishna since my childhood. I read several books on Sri Ramakrishna. *But I did not come across a word like naked spirituality.* This is a very apt description of Sri Ramakrishna's preaching."

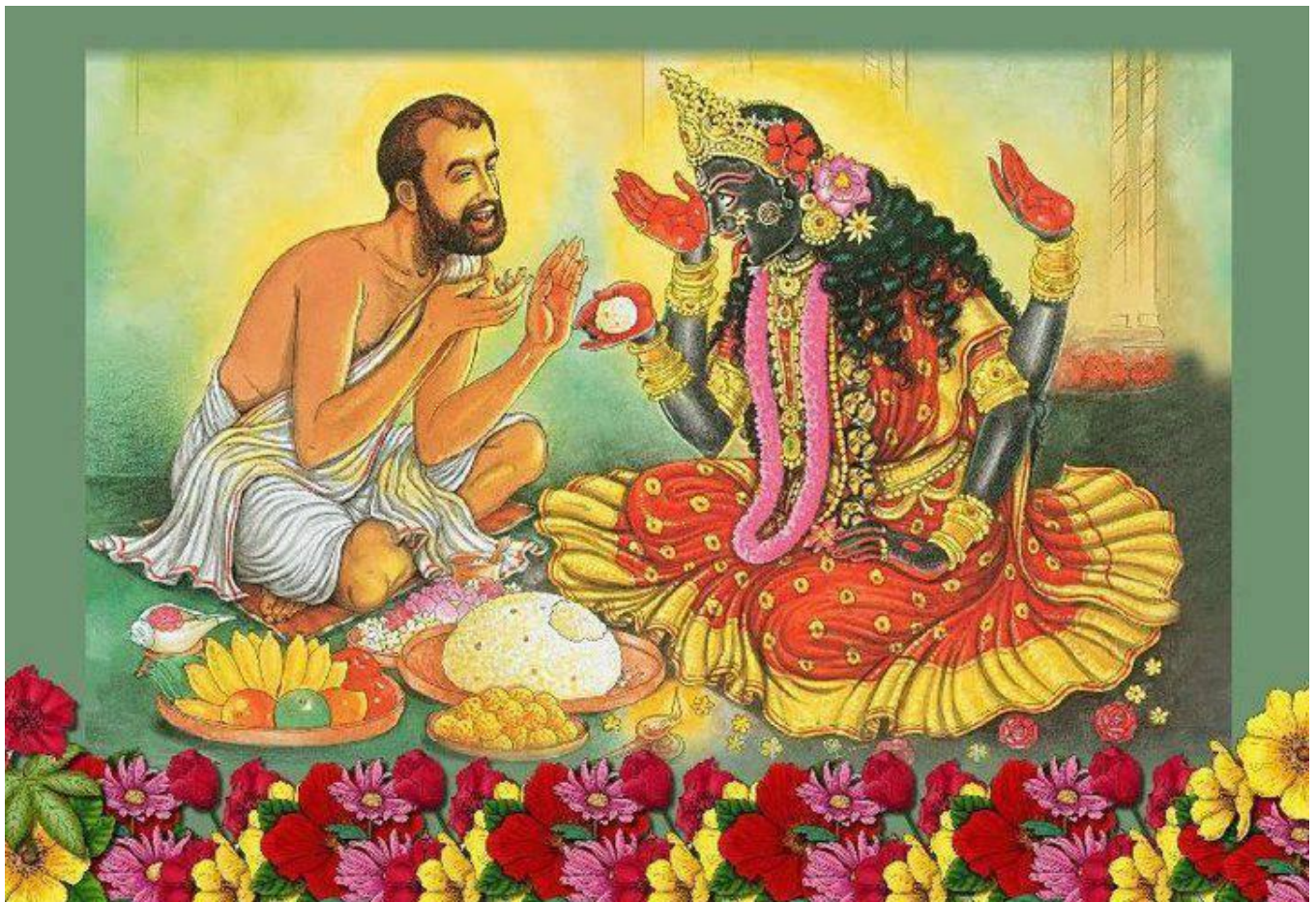
You can understand the work of Sri Ramakrishna only if you possess an introverted vision

Once Sri Nannagaru was told by a monk of Sri Ramakrishna Math: "Perhaps Swami Vivekananda is greater than Sri Ramakrishna for having done so much of work." Sri Nannagaru replied: "Please talk after introverting your mind. Not



only the work of Swami Vivekananda but if you combine the work done by all the 16 direct disciples of Sri Ramakrishna in their entire life, it will not become equivalent to at least half of the work done by Sri Ramakrishna. *You try to understand this with an introverted vision.*"

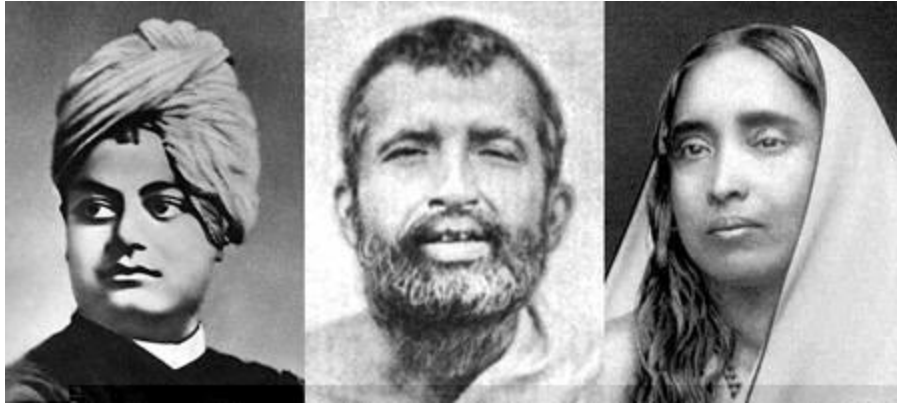
Sri Ramakrishna, The Lover of Humanity





Sri Ramakrishna is 'The Lover of Humanity'.
Sri Ramakrishna makes an open and lovely talk. He doesn't agree with harsh or grave words. Sri Ramakrishna was not aware as to what is meant by crookedness. There was no crookedness in his words. Though Sri Ramakrishna preached about duality, His goal is Non duality. The devotees of Sri Ramana and Adi Shankara consider Sri Ramakrishna to be a devotee and not a Jnani. If it is true, how can

such teaching arise? Sri Ramakrishna taught till his last moment. He is a personification of teaching. Sri Ramakrishna is the incarnation of Sadhana (spiritual effort). He faced many hardships in the process of sadhana. Bhagavan Ramana never expressed his affection. But Sri Ramakrishna expressed his affection. Talking about Sri Ramakrishna, Tagore said:" Since Sri Ramakrishna did not have any task of punishing the wicked and protecting the good, he cannot be called as an incarnation. He can only be called a Saint." However this single sentence is enough to know the state of Sri Ramakrishna: "There are only three people who never thought of themselves. They are Buddha, Sri Ramakrishna and Jesus. They are historical persons only and are not being quoted from puranas."



Sri Ramakrishna, Holy Mother and Swami Vivekananda are called as *Holy Trinity*. If Sri Ramakrishna and Mother Sarada can be called as Rama and Sita, Swami Vivekananda and Sri Ramakrishna can be called as Nara and Narayana.

Sri Ramakrishna gave more importance to the purity of mind. Due to his unconditional love and compassion, he used to try to take us to the spiritual state that he attained. Sri Ramakrishna never honored the well educated, the rich and the scholars on a special basis. He used to say that it is these people only who are

ruining the nation. If any worldly people visited Sri Ramakrishna, He used to get the place where they were seated to be cleansed with the water of Ganges in order to purify it. Sri Ramakrishna used to call river Ganges as 'The Flowing Knowledge'. Thus Sri Ramakrishna considered worldly people to be so dangerous.

Sri Ramakrishna looks at our Heart. If anyone is devoid of likes and dislikes, he would make them sit on his lap. Though they may be 30 years old, he used to say: "*How is it that lust and anger did not enter this person, though he is 30 years of age? Not that he is controlling them after their advent. The lust and anger did not even enter him.*" Saying thus he would make them sit on his lap. Such was his love and affection for devotees. Though you may possess 100 crores, he may not even look at you. But if anyone strived hard in their

sadhana, he used to encourage them. Such is the affection that a realized soul possesses for his devotees.

When Bhagavan Ramana was asked by any scholars to show the proof of His words in scriptures, Bhagavan used to quote from Upanishads, Gita and epics. Similarly when Sri Ramakrishna was asked to show the proof of His words, Sri Ramakrishna said: "What? You need a proof? So what you intend to say is that I am lying? Why should I lie? What will I achieve by telling lies? If I am not aware, I will accept that I am ignorant. Did I ever speak lies? *My word itself is the proof.* Go out. If you want, you believe, else get out." Thus Sri Ramakrishna spoke emotionally.

Sri Ramakrishna used to refer the married people as wet matchsticks (which cannot be

ignited immediately). When anyone gave the wedding card of their children to Sri Ramakrishna, he used to say: "Are you showing me the epoch to ruin your son and daughter-in-law? Go out." People used to comment secretly: "Why does He speak thus? Didn't he get married?"

People used to put this question directly to Sri Ramakrishna. "If marriages are not done, how will this society survive? You are assembling all the bachelors. If marriages are not done, how will the society move forward? Shouldn't the system of marriage exist?" Sri Ramakrishna did not have any hesitation or crookedness. He replied thus, "You leave out the society. Now both of us are talking with each other. Are you marrying in order to fulfill your desire/lust or for the sake of society/country? *You are marrying only to fulfill your desire.* Are you

really concerned about the society/country? Though you may speak big things, I know what exists in your Heart. You get out. Why do you talk about the society? Are you big enough to think about the welfare of the society? You have something else in your heart. Why do you speak big things? Are you really concerned about the society? This society was there even before you were born, and will be there even after you die. GOD will take care of the society. There is no relation between your talk and action. Therefore you get out.” We have to watch out as to what exists in our Heart. We must not speak out like a parrot neglecting as to what exists in our Heart.

Narrating about Sri Ramakrishna in ‘The Discovery of India’, Nehru said: “He is as pure as the crystal.”

Abstracts from the Life of **Sri Ramakrishna**





Khudiram Chattopadhyaya was the father of Sri Ramakrishna and Chandramani devi was the Mother of Sri Ramakrishna. Khudiram Chattopadhyaya was very pure at heart. He never uttered any lies in his entire life. He used to adore Lord Rama. Sri Ramakrishna was born in the village called Kamarpukur on 18th Feb in 1836. He lived for 50 years and left his mortal frame on 16th August in 1886.

I would like to be born as your son.

Can I come?



A big landlord forced Khudiram Chattopadhyaya to give false evidence in the court of law. As Khudiram never uttered lies in his entire life, the landlord thought that the court would believe in Khudiram's words. The landlord threatened Khudiram that he would grab his entire property if Khudiram rejected to give the false evidence. But Khudiram did not heed to the landlord's request and as a result lost his entire property. In spite of losing his

entire property, Khudiram never lost his courage. He led his life peacefully. Being pleased by his his purity and his devotion for Truth , Lord Vishnu decided to take birth as his son. (The Brahman keeps waiting in order to find a pure womb to take birth)

Once Khudiram visited Gaya and stayed there for a week. Lord Vishnu is called as Gadhadhara in Gaya. Khudiram slept in the temple during night. One night Gadhadhara appeared in his dream and said: "*I would like to be born as your son. Can I come?*" Then Khudiram replied: "No. You should not come to my house. I am staying in a thatched hut. I am suffering from such an acute poverty that I am currently unable to feed my family for not more than once in a day. You are not even the all renouncing Lord Shiva. But you are Lord Vishnu, the lover of



decoration. Only Kings like Dasaratha can feed you and not poor people like me. Therefore do not come to my house." Lord Vishnu replied: "In spite of your rejection, I feel like coming to your house. You feed me with whatever you have." Sri Ramakrishna was born 5 years after this dream.

Sri Ramakrishna told Naren (Swami Vivekananda): "Except for my parents, no one else is aware as to who exists within this body. Oh! My Little Naren, you are grasping at least a bit of it due to the fruit of your previous good deeds. In spite of telling you that I am a poor Brahmin, you are not leaving my feet."

‘I could not stop crying on seeing such a pure womb being burnt in the funeral pyre’.

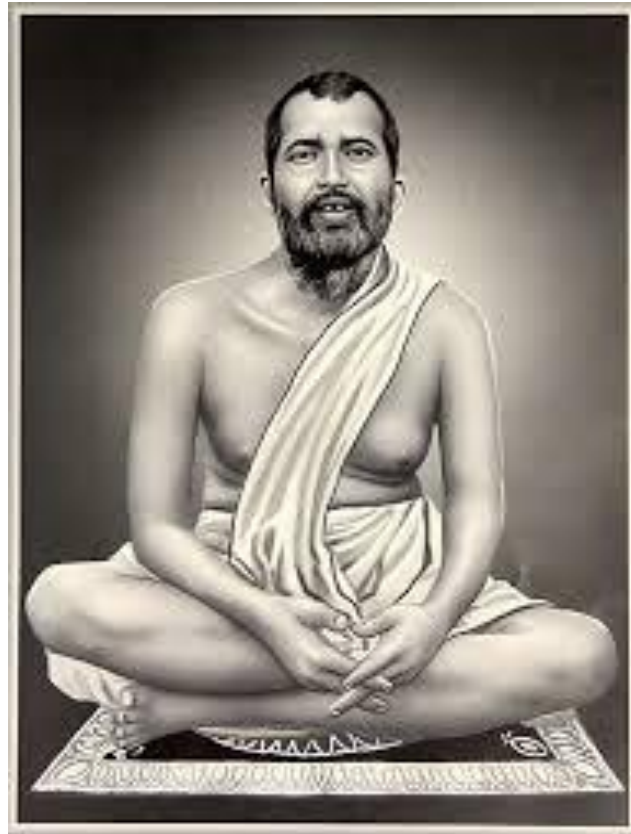
Sri Ramakrishna's Mother scolded Him to be cautious in the intake of His food. She warned Him not to eat the offerings made to the Lord. Sri Ramakrishna used to be afraid of her.

Sri Ramakrishna broke down when his Mother died. One should not estimate a Jnani through His external behaviour. As Lord Krishna encouraged Pandavas to utter lies in the war of Mahabharata, can we stop from calling Him as God? Sri Ramakrishna cried out loudly on the death of his Mother. One cannot consider Him to be an ignorant on looking at this. It is only for the viewers that He seems to be an ordinary



man crying for his Mother. Later Sri Ramakrishna said: "*I could not stop crying on seeing such a pure womb (which gave birth to me) being burnt in the funeral pyre.* I did not cry intentionally. I am not aware of the sorrow experienced by a common man on the death of their family members. Divine Mother showed me their sorrow in this form. It is an experience."

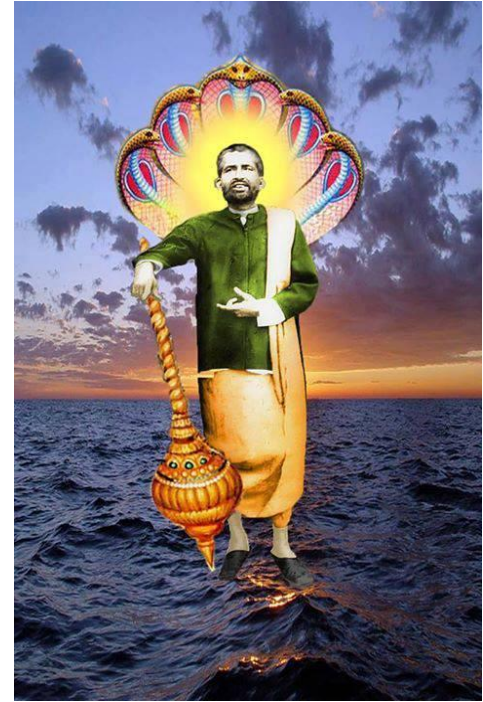
Can Self possess any property? Can Self own any asset?



Many great scholars and wealthy people took birth in the city of Calcutta. Sri Ramakrishna and his father never possessed any worldly attractions. At the tender age of 10, Sri Ramakrishna lost his father. Sri Ramakrishna's brother was well educated.

Once Sri Ramakrishna's brother told his Mother: "I am going away to Calcutta in search of a job. Ramakrishna doesn't require any property and you cannot take care of this property. Therefore let us sell off our ancestral property of 2 acres of land." Mother as well as Sri Ramakrishna consented for the same and the property was sold accordingly. The money was accepted. All of them went to sub registrar office for the purpose of registration. Sri Ramakrishna was quiet till then. After the signature of his brother, Sri Ramakrishna was asked to sign the sale deed. Then began the high level drama. Sri Ramakrishna asked them: "Why do I need to sign the sale deed?" The sub registrar replied: "You are a major and possess the right towards land. Therefore even you need to sign the sale deed." Then Sri Ramakrishna said:" If I sign the sale deed,

doesn't it imply that I am accepting the ownership of land?" The sub registrar said: "Yes." Hearing these words, Sri Ramakrishna fainted. Sri Ramakrishna felt: "*Can Self possess any property? Can Self own any asset?*" Thinking thus Sri Ramakrishna fainted.

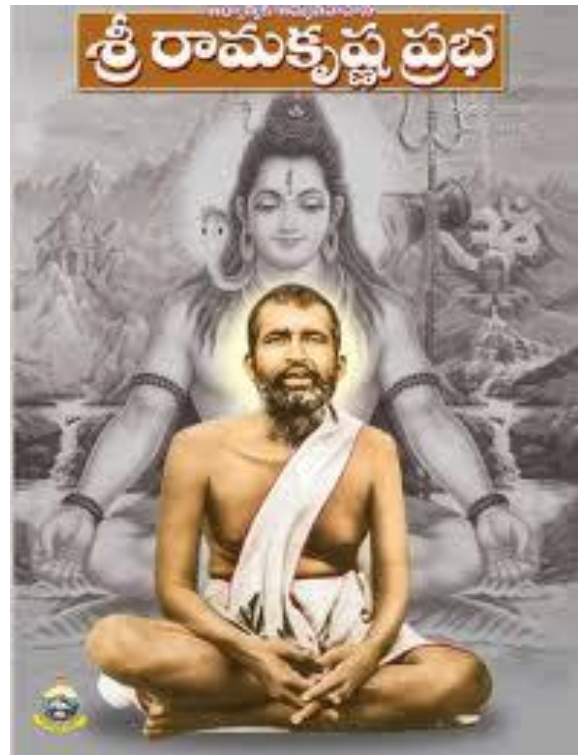


They then thought that at least finger prints of Sri Ramakrishna can be taken when he is unconscious. Then the buyer of the property said: "I am sure that Ramakrishna will not file a suit against me in the court of law. Therefore I don't require any signature or fingerprints of Sri Ramakrishna." Then even sub registrar consented for the sale.

Here ended the high level drama.

Sri Ramakrishna became Lord Shiva Himself

Once one of the drama artist who was to play the role of Lord Shiva fell sick. Therefore Sri Ramakrishna, who was still a child, was chosen to enact the role. Sri Ramakrishna aptly disguised Himself as Shiva and learnt the required dialogues. However when



he stood upon the stage, he became dumb after delivering few dialogues. He attained a deep state of samadhi. *He became Lord Shiva Himself.* When the director signaled him to continue, Sri Ramakrishna could not do so as He lost His body consciousness. Finally people had to carry Him down from the stage.

Sri Ramakrishna was an embodiment of 100% purity without any crookedness

Sri Ramakrishna did a job for a salary of 8rs.

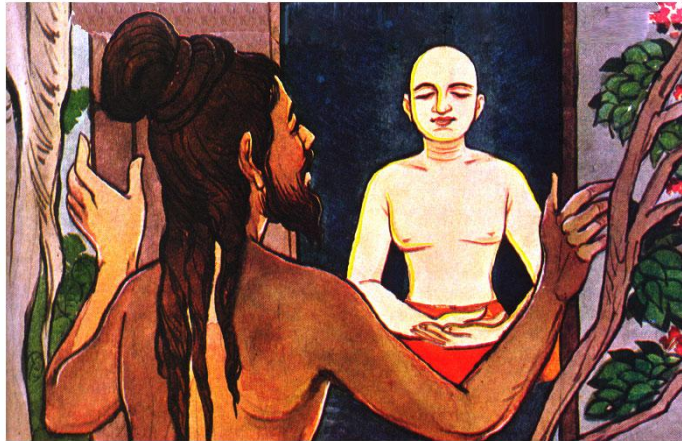
One person has to collect the salary and place it in the cupboard. Another person has to keep an account of it. Another person has to do a charity of 1 rs. out of it. (Therefore 3-4 people were additionally



required if Sri Ramakrishna had to do a job). After marriage, Sri Ramakrishna resigned from his job. When asked for the reason, he replied: "Since I am married now, I don't require a job." (Thus he openly accepted that he did a job only to get marriage proposals). The devotees tried to educate Sri Ramakrishna. They said: "You

should not speak out the Truth. You should not say that since you got married, you have resigned from your job. Rather you should quote your ill-health to be the reason and tell them that you are going to take up the job after a period of time." *But Sri Ramakrishna was an embodiment of 100% purity.* He replied them: "When I am perfectly alright and roaming around, how can I lie about my ill-health?" The in-laws scolded Sri Ramakrishna for having deceived them. Sri Ramakrishna tolerated them patiently. Sri Ramakrishna told his Mother: "Don't worry. Though we took back the jewellery of Sarada and currently I am jobless, Sarada will not give me divorce."

If the utensil is made of gold, do we still need to cleanse it on a daily basis?



Sri Ramakrishna described Totapuri as his Advaitic Guru. We can't say whether Sri Ramakrishna was the Guru of Totapuri or Totapuri was the Guru of Sri Ramakrishna. Once Totapuri said: "As the utensils are cleansed on a daily basis even the mind or intellect should be cleansed by japa and dhyana on a daily basis. This removes the impurity within mind/intellect and reflects the Self within." Then Sri Ramakrishna replied: "You say

that the utensil needs to be cleansed. *But what if the utensil is made of gold? Do we still need to clean it on a daily basis?*" It is only called as Brahman. Once Brahman is experienced all the tendencies are destroyed along with their root. There is no advent and departure of Samadhi. Samadhi becomes natural and Sahaja Samadhi is stabilized.

Once Totapuri was preaching Advaita to Sri Ramakrishna. There were some children making noise in the next room which was disturbing Totapuri. Out of rage, Totapuri went to the next room and scolded the children. When he came back, He saw Sri Ramakrishna laughing. Then Totapuri shouted at him: "What? Even You are laughing?" Then Sri Ramakrishna replied: "Is your advaita (Non duality) complete now? Who is making noise? Is it the children or your mind?"

We should ask Mother only for dispassion and discrimination and not for any external desires



Rani Rasamani wanted to build a Kali temple in Varanasi. However Mother Kali appeared in her dream and said: “Why do you want to build the temple in Varanasi? Why can’t you build the same here on the banks of Ganges?” Hence she built the Kali temple in Dakshineshwar where Sri Ramakrishna worked as a priest. One day while Sri Ramakrishna was singing a song on

Mother Kali, Rani Rasamani was externally listening to the song but was internally thinking about a court case. She was praying Mother Kali to bring her victory in the court case. Immediately Sri Ramakrishna came and slapped her. He said: "*We should ask Mother only for dispassion and discrimination and not for any other external desires.*" Rani Rasamani apologized Sri Ramakrishna. She was the employer of Sri Ramakrishna. Yet she asked for his apology. Thus the devotee's mind was an open book for Sri Ramakrishna.



Will you replace your son-in-law if his hand is broken?

Once when the hand of a deity broke in the temple built by Rani Rasamani, there was a dispute whether the idol needs to be replaced or the broken hand needs to be rectified. Some pandits even said that the idol is no more useful for being worshipped. When this problem was placed before Sri Ramakrishna for a solution, Sri Ramakrishna replied: "*Suppose the son-in-law of Rani Rasamani got his hand fractured, does she provide him medical treatment or replace the son-in-law?*" Rani Rasamani was impressed with this answer. She handed over the responsibility of rectifying the broken hand to Sri Ramakrishna. Sri Ramakrishna performed the job so perfectly that none could trace that the hand of deity was ever broken.

**Oh! Mother, Send me those people who are
craving for Knowledge and dispassion**



Sri Ramakrishna said: "Mother Kali! Only worldly people are coming here. *Send me those people who are craving for Knowledge and dispassion.*" Mother Kali replied: "First, you tolerate these people. Later 'lion like' seekers of Truth will come to you. Till then bear with them."

Today I am seeing an Ocean of Knowledge!

Once Sri Ramakrishna visited Ishwara Chandra Vidyasagar who was a great scholar and who established several educational institutes. The following conversation took place in between them:

Sri RamaKrishna: Till date I have seen only ponds, lakes and rivers. Today I am seeing an ocean.

VidyaSagar: The Ocean consists of salt only. Isn't it?

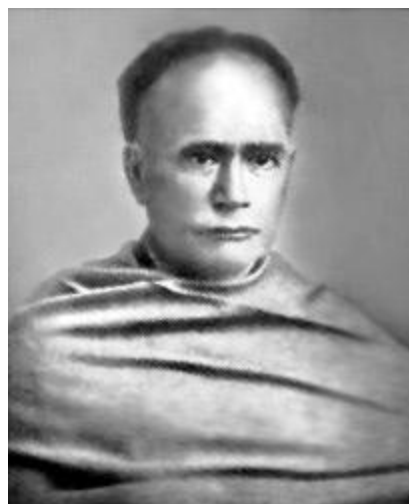
Sri RamaKrishna: *Today I am seeing an Ocean of Knowledge.*

Vidyasagar could not reply back. Though Sri Ramakrishna was an illiterate, a great scholar like Vidyasagar was silenced by him. Such is the glory of Self-Knowledge.

His tail is not yet cut!

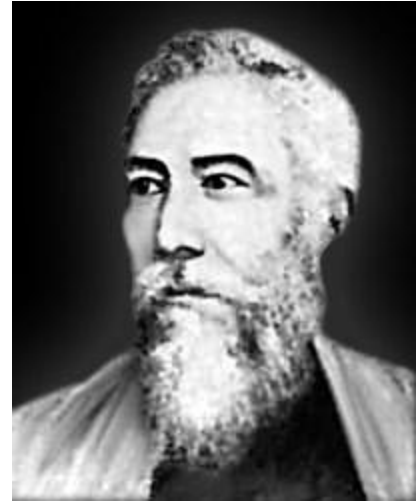
Once a devotee of Sri Ramakrishna told him about Ishwara Chandra Vidya Sagar.

He said: "Vidyasagar is a Compassionate man. He is a great scholar. He gives any



judgment impartially. He provides free education to a lot of students." Sri Ramakrishna replied: "*But his tail is not yet cut.*" Here tail indicates the thought of 'i am the body'. He implied that Vidyasagar did not get rid of his doer-ship (the feeling that i am the doer of the work). He has not yet realized that God is the doer. He is yet to gain the pre-requisites to attain the experience of God. Since his thinking faculty is flawless, even he will be reformed on someday or the other. He is a good man only but is unable to transcend his false 'i' (ego).

He is both a yogi as well as a bhogi



Once the devotees described Devendranath Tagore, the father of Ravindranath Tagore as a great scholar who is well versed in Upanishads. Sri Ramakrishna replied: " He may be a Yogi but he is also a bhogi ie he still has desires for worldly things. Don't be carried away by such dummy (utta-utta) people. They may have great fame or scholarship or power or authority. But they don't have the inner life."

You get the belch according to what you eat!



When Sri Ramakrishna asked Bankim: "Bankim, what is the news?" Bankim replied: "What else exists other than eating, sleeping and mating?" Sri Ramakrishna replied: "*You get the belch according to what you eat.*" Externally Sri Ramakrishna seems to be innocent but He finds out our intention through our speech.

Isn't that building only a brick upon a brick?



Once Sri Ramakrishna went to take bath in Ganges along with his nephew, Hriday. While returning back, Hriday said: "Uncle, look at that building. See how big it is and how good it looks." Sri Ramakrishna replied: "How does it matter as to how good or how big the building is? *Isn't it only a brick upon a brick?*" Sri Ramakrishna indicated that if we get deluded by the worldly/sensory objects the mind would never get introverted.

Sri Ramakrishna, The Greatest **among all the incarnations**



On 6th February 1898, at Navagopal Ghosh's house in Ramakrishnapore, Howrah, Swami Vivekananda was consecrating the marble image of Sri Ramakrishna. During that occasion, he composed extempore the famous pranama mantra:

Sthapakaya cha dharmasya,
sarva dharma svarupine,
Avatara Varishthaya
Ramakrishnaya te namaha

Swami Vivekananda said: Sri Ramakrishna is not merely an incarnation of God but He is 'The Greatest among all the incarnations of God'. Since childhood, Sri Ramakrishna had an intuition that he has not come for an ordinary work but to do an extraordinary work of an incarnation.



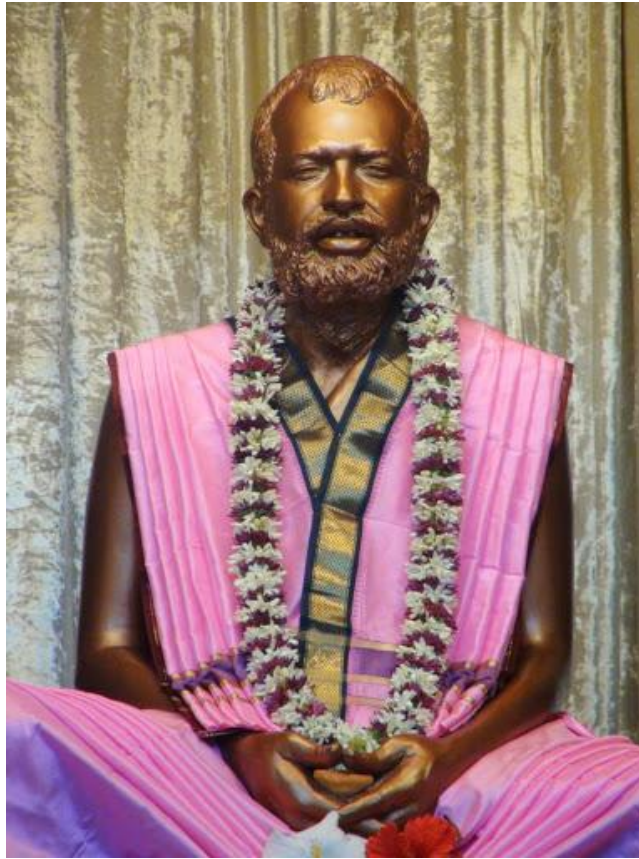
Sri Ramakrishna said: "I am sitting on the wall and looking at this side as well as that side. Whatever I view on the other side, I am narrating you. I feel like jumping unto the other side. But who will be left over to preach you? Why did I come unto this earth? How can I jump to the other side leaving you all? Won't you lose your teacher?" This is His Compassion. If He says that He will release you from the desire, He will certainly release you.



Sri Ramakrishna said: "I have learnt the art of climbing the building, staying there as well as coming down. Some people climb the building and stay there only. But I have learnt the art of coming down also so that I can preach people."



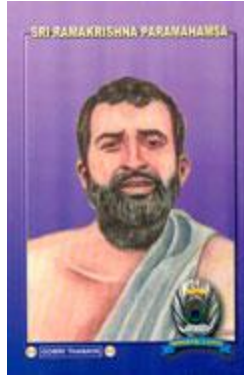
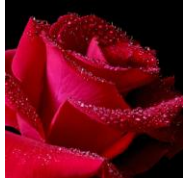
Once a devotee asked Sri Ramakrishna: "If God exists as indweller within each and everyone, why are people like you adored or honoured specially?" Sri Ramakrishna replied: "I am in no way concerned with honour. People worship me as God is revealed in this body."



Sri Ramakrishna said: "People are coming to me without knowing that it would be their last birth on coming to me. Without knowing that I would lick off their desire for pleasures, they are approaching me. How can they enjoy the pleasures without getting a body? Unknowingly they are coming to me. Whoever come here (referring to Himself) will get liberated."



Once Sri Ramakrishna said: "While feeding a child, the Mother pushes in a lump of food once the child gulps in the food in its mouth. Similarly once I finish speaking a word, Mother Kali is pushing forward another word from my mouth. I am not uttering anything on my own. It is Mother who is sending the same."



A devotee approached Sri Ramakrishna and said: "If God exists within everyone as indweller then what is the purpose of advent of an incarnation unto earth?" Sri Ramakrishna replied: "Whether you place your hands on the back of a cow or on its horns or on its tail, it is equivalent to touching a cow. But you get milk only on pressing its udder. Similarly *the Omnipresent Lord exists in the form of Knowledge expressed through the words of an incarnation*. Not everyone can speak about Self Knowledge. Only an incarnation can speak about Self Knowledge. The milk of Self Knowledge is obtained only through an incarnation. Therefore an incarnation comes unto earth."



Some scholars came to Sri Ramakrishna and had the following discussion:

Scholars: "Did you read any scriptures?"

Sri Ramakrishna: "I am an illiterate."

Scholars: "Did you hear the scriptures from anyone?"

Sri Ramakrishna: "Yes. I heard them from others."

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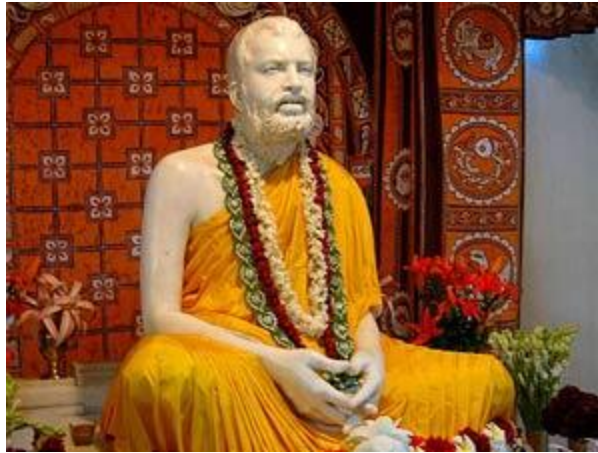
Scholars: "Did you hear that one should get rid of their false 'i' or ego?"

Sri Ramakrishna: "Yes".

Scholars: "Did you ever try to get rid of the false 'i' or ego?"

Sri Ramakrishna: "As and when I heard, I kept on searching for the false 'i' in order to get rid of it. But I am unable to find the same.

Suppose we are told that a snake exists in a lane and hearing that we get into the lane. Can we see the snake only if it exists or even if it doesn't exist? We can see the snake only if it exists. Isn't it? Similarly the false 'i' or ego should exist for Sri Ramakrishna to get rid of the same.



The disciples of Sri Ramakrishna said: "Our Guru goes up as well as comes down on a daily basis. But other great seers went up but forgot the path to return back." Sri Ramakrishna always came down to our level and answered our questions.

Sri Ramakrishna said: "I am entering the state of Samadhi. Yet I am coming down to your level to narrate the experience of Samadhi. Though I don't like coming back from the state of Samadhi, I am coming back only for your sake."



The Book of Bhagavatha alone existed with Sri Ramakrishna. He used to read only that book. Once Sri Ramakrishna read the following in Bhagavatha: The gods sent Prahlada to calm down Lord Narasimha, whose anger did not come down even after killing Hiranyakashyapa. On viewing his dearest devotee Prahlada, Lord Narasimha licked Prahlada with his tongue and thereafter calmed down. On reading this, Sri Ramakrishna felt: "Is God so fond of his devotee that He licked his devotee with His tongue?" Reading this single sentence, Sri Ramakrishna fell into a deep state of Samadhi for nearly 2 hours. Sri Ramakrishna reached the depths of His Heart through this. Being fed up of waiting, the devotees who came to see Sri Ramakrishna finally left.



During his last days, while suffering from throat cancer, it happened that Sri Ramakrishna came out into garden on feeling much better on 1st Jan 1886. He sat under a tree and said: "Ask. Today I will give you whatever you want." He became a wish fulfilling tree on that day. He asked one of the devotees (Girish Chandra Ghosh) the following question: "What do you think of me?" The devotee replied: "How can I describe Him who could not be described by Sages Vyasa and Valmiki? I am only eligible to experience Bliss."

Sri Ramakrishna had the following discussion with one of his devotees Adhar Sen:

Sri Ramakrishna: If there is a ground beyond that wall, how can you view the same having the wall as an obstacle?

Adhar Sen: It is possible to view the ground beyond the wall if there is a hole in the wall.

Sri Ramakrishna: What do you think of me?

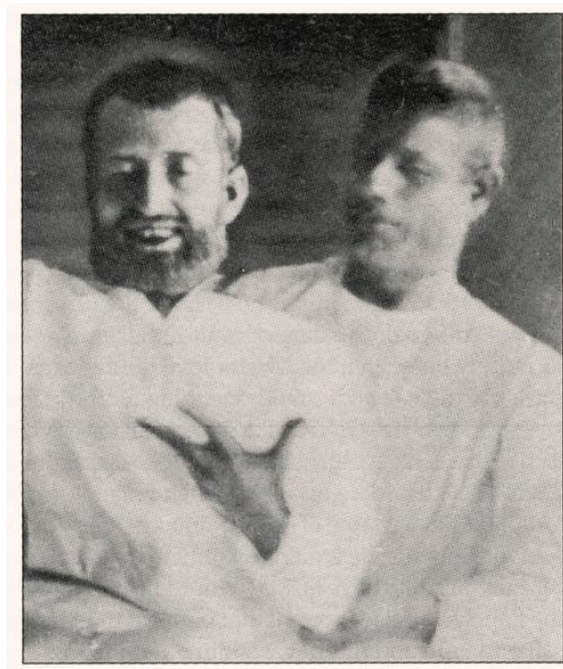
Adhar Sen: I consider you to be the hole in the wall through which I can perceive GOD/ Self.

Sri Ramakrishna: But don't you think that you should get the thought of viewing the ground through the hole in the wall?

Adhar Sen: Yes and for that I need immense purity.

Sri Ramakrishna: Do you possess that purity?

Adhar Sen: That is the reason I come to you.



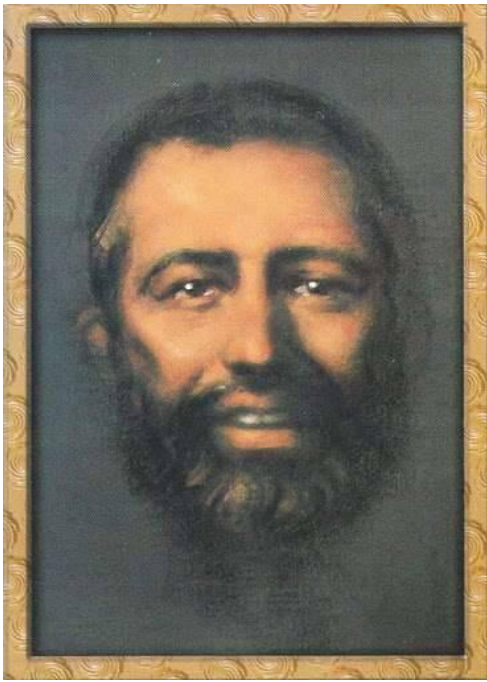
Hriday, the nephew of Sri Ramakrishna, served Sri Ramakrishna for several years but left Him due to some dispute. But very soon he returned to Sri Ramakrishna. Unable to go near Him, he sent a message of his arrival and asked him to come and meet him in a particular place. Sri Ramakrishna took M. along with him to see



Hriday. Hriday cried like a child on seeing Sri Ramakrishna and said: "I experienced many hardships." While returning back even Sri Ramakrishna cried like a child. M. questioned Sri Ramakrishna: "There is a purpose for his crying. But why are you crying?" Sri Ramakrishna replied: "Mr. M., *Do you think that I still possess the faculty of differentiating between friends and foes?* He served me a lot. Let me remember his service alone."



When Sri Ramakrishna was suffering from throat cancer, he was not even able to drink a sip of butter milk. When one of the devotees pleaded with Him to cure himself, Sri Ramakrishna referring to the people around him, replied: " Isn't it myself who is drinking the butter milk through all these mouths. Should I consume butter milk only with this mouth?" *It was Cosmic Consciousness which existed there.*



Mathur Babu said: "Even if I give away my entire assets to Sri Ramakrishna or donate my entire bank accounts to Him or even if gets the entire fame of the Universe, Sri Ramakrishna would never swerve from the path of renunciation."

Sri Ramakrishna told Mathur Babu: "I am aware of all your weaknesses. Still I love you including your weaknesses." This is possible only for a Divine person. Therefore Sri Ramakrishna is a Divine incarnation.



Sri Ramakrishna said: "I exist in the world but I don't belong to it."

Sri Ramakrishna said: "Brahman is Truth and the world is False. However I view the world as well as Jiva as Brahman only."

The Master who made the Masters



Swami Vivekananda
(1863–1902)



Swami Brahmananda
(1863–1922)



Swami Yogananda
(1861–1899)



Swami Premananda
(1861–1918)



Swami Niranjanananda
(1862–1904)



Swami Shivananda
(1854–1934)



Swami Saradananda
(1865–1927)



Swami Ramakrishnananda
(1863–1911)



Swami Abhedananda
(1866–1939)



Swami Adbhutananda
(–1920)



Swami Turiyananda
(1863–1922)



Swami Advaitananda
(1828–1909)



Swami Trigunatitananda
(1865–1915)



Swami Subodhananda
(1867–1932)



Swami Akhandananda
(1864–1937)



Swami Vijnanananda
(1868–1938)



Sri Ramakrishna is not an ordinary Guru. He is the Master who made the Masters. He taught sense control and self control to all the 16 direct disciples. He also warned them:

"You will get the power to perform miracles with this. But never get attracted to such powers. Don't ever leave Jnana." Thus he gave a special coaching to all the 16 direct disciples.

All the 16 disciples attained the strength of elephants (spiritually). They attained a spiritual status equivalent to that of their Guru with respect to teaching.

Sri Ramakrishna used to climb the stairs of his building and looking towards Ganges, he used to shout: "Oh! Boys, Where are you all? Why don't you come? How long it has been that I came unto this earth. How long will you get swayed away by these worldly attractions? Why don't you come?" He shouted thus as if he went mad.

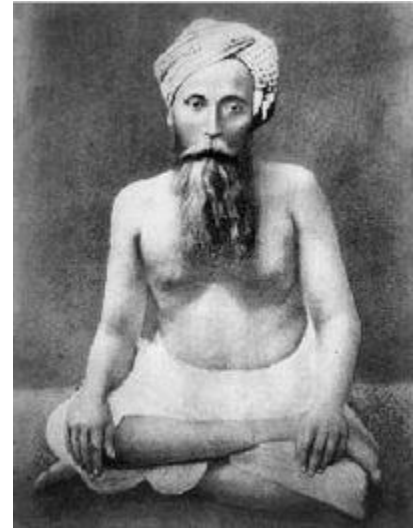
As we examine the udder, ears etc of the calf before purchasing it, Sri Ramakrishna used to examine the eyes, voice, walk, words and behaviour of his disciples before accepting them. He used to examine whether they can transcend their likes and dislikes through their effort.



Sri Ramakrishna used to ask all the youngsters to sit and all the householders to leave. He used to address those youngsters as intelligent who did not marry. He used to take special classes for them. *Perhaps He instructed them not to get married in future.* He does not even ask us to make spiritual efforts but destroys all our tendencies. Only because He did not have any other personal work.

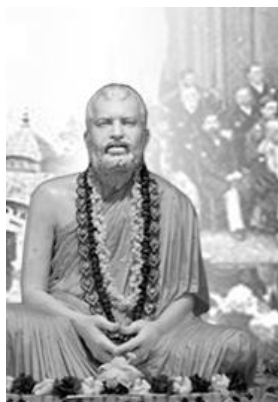
Sri Ramakrishna used to tell the 16 direct disciples who formed the inner circle: "As the Cow licks off the dirt on its calf, I will lick off your inner dirt." Sri Ramakrishna distributed 100% of his spiritual power to all the 16 disciples in his last days. He did not even save 5 paise of his spiritual property. *The result of it was that all the 16 disciples were never attracted towards any of the external pleasures in their entire life time.* Thus they brought the Ramakrishna Order into progress.

Sri Ramakrishna said: *As the bonded laborers strive hard to earn their living, even Maharishis and yogis work hard for the progress of institutions established for the welfare of society.*



Once a devotee (Balaram Bose) came and gave few saffron clothes to Sri Ramakrishna asking Him to distribute amongst the eligible people. Sri Ramakrishna said: "*He is not a Sanyasin who wears saffron clothes. He is only a true Sanyasin who has the faculty of sacrificing.* Other than my disciples, who else has the faculty of sacrificing?" Saying thus Sri Ramakrishna distributed the saffron clothes among all the 16 direct disciples. Thus the foundation for Sri Ramakrishna Mission was laid here.

After Sri Ramakrishna left his mortal frame, his 16 direct disciples suffered from acute poverty. They had no food to eat. Then Sri Ramakrishna appeared in the dream of one of his wealthy devotees and spoke thus: "Do you limit me to a body? Why did you leave out my 16 direct disciples after the expiry of my body? Don't I exist now? Feed my disciples also in the same manner as you fed me when I was alive. You need not feed them for a long period of time. Feed them for one year then they can sustain on their own." The devotee acted accordingly. *Guru is not limited to a body. Even after the death of the body, Guru looks after the welfare of his disciples.* This is a good instance for it.



Sri Ramakrishna's householder disciples were very wealthy and influential. However Sanyasin disciples were only children. When the Sanyasin disciples asked to distribute the ashes of Sri Ramakrishna equally, the householder disciples refused to do so. The Sanyasin disciples thought of stealing the ashes within 12th day. Swami Vivekananda said: "I will stay outside only so that even if you are caught, I can arrange for your release." Four of the Sanyasin disciples started on their mission to steal the ashes of Sri Ramakrishna. Only half of the ashes were stolen. Though the householder disciples became aware of this, they kept quiet. They felt that they were left with their share of ashes.

Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi



“Do not find fault with others if you want peace of mind.” - Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi

Mother Sarada was very balanced

Mother Sarada used to be very Majestic. She resembled a Goddess. Sri Ramakrishna never addressed Mother Sarada as 'You'. He used to give Her Top Most respect. Mother Sarada belonged to a good family.



Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda were emotional. However *Mother Sarada was very balanced*. Even now she is called as 'The Holy Mother'. She never got emotional. She never reacted. Throughout her life, she talked in such a manner that she need not apologize anyone. (resembling Buddha)

‘I will not ruin your sadhana but will help you in your sadhana’



There was a huge delay in the marriage of Sri Ramakrishna. He used to ask: "Search for my bride." He never denied getting married. At the time of marriage, Sri Ramakrishna's Mother hired some ornaments to decorate Sarada. Sarada was then 7 years old. When Sri

Ramakrishna said that the hired jewellery should be returned back, His Mother replied: "My hands are not ready to grab them from her." Then Sri Ramakrishna quietly stole them when Sarada was fast asleep. The parents of Sarada became furious when they came to know that the ornaments were hired and not owned by Sri Ramakrishna's family. Hence they took back Sarada along with them. Sri Ramakrishna then told His Mother: "Sarada is a good girl. She will not give me divorce." Later Sri Ramakrishna completely forgot that he got married. When Sarada was brought back by her father, Sri Ramakrishna asked her: "Did you come here to ruin my spiritual efforts (sadhana)?" Sarada replied: "*No, I will not ruin your sadhana; rather I will help you in your sadhana.*"

Oh! What is the purpose of the advent of that body unto earth?

Once when Holy Mother Sarada was at her parent's house, she suffered from diarrhea. Sri Ramakrishna was told that she would live only for a short period of



time. Sri Ramakrishna did not lament that his wife would not exist anymore. What he said about her was: "*Oh! What is the purpose of the advent of that body unto earth?* If that body perishes without attaining Self Realization, she would be subject to tremendous hardships and also will have to take several births in future." Therefore Sri Ramakrishna was not viewing Holy Mother Sarada as his wife but was considering her to be a Jiva who needs to be liberated. Thus he became an acharya.

'You have a necklace but Sarada doesn't have any'

Sri Ramakrishna was very innocent. However the devotees were very intelligent. Sri Ramakrishna used to point out people and say: "*You have a necklace, You have a necklace. But how is it that*



Sarada doesn't possess the same?" Having heard these words, a rich lady got a necklace made for Sarada. Then Sri Ramakrishna asked the rich lady to gift the necklace to Sarada with her own hands. Thus Sri Ramakrishna did not possess any expectation. Sri Ramakrishna's behaviour resembled that of a child. If we think wrong of Him, we will become blind.

Sri Ramakrishna cut the long plait so that Mother Sarada will not waste time.



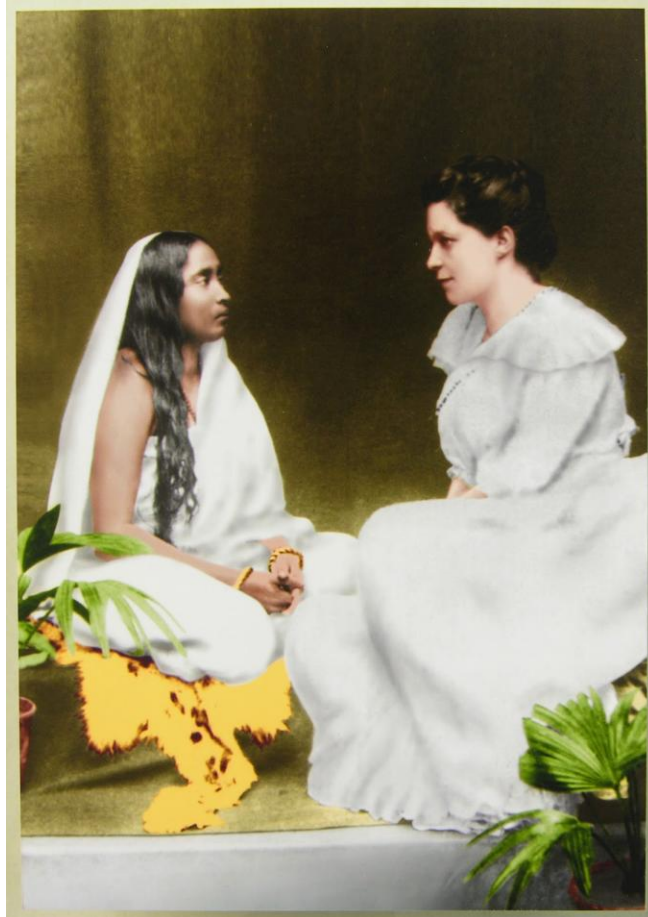
Mother Sarada's nephew had a long plait. Sri Ramakrishna felt that Mother Sarada is wasting a lot of time in combing that long plait of her nephew. So when Mother Sarada's nephew was fast asleep, *he cut her hair*. Sri Ramakrishna later said that he acted thus so that Mother Sarada will not waste so much of her time in combing that long plait.

‘You are the same Mother who gave birth to me and whom I adore’.



Sri Ramakrishna made Sarada sit on a chair and worshipped Her. Sri Ramakrishna not only addressed her with reverence (by not addressing as You) but even worshipped her feet. Sri Ramakrishna told Holy Mother Sarada: *"The Mother who gave birth to me, the Mother whom I adore, it is the same Mother I see in You."* He told Her: "Are you worried that You don't have children? In Future, lakhs of people will call You as Mother."

Holy Mother thought like one's own Mother



Sri Ramakrishna instructed Holy Mother to give very less food to his direct disciples so that it will not affect their sadhana. However Holy Mother replied: "Please don't interfere in this matter. I know their appetite very well. " Hence Holy Mother thought like one's own Mother in this matter.

'Live in the Present and Burn the Past'



One day when Sri Ramakrishna was suffering from cancer, Holy Mother Sarada brought some food for him. Sri Ramakrishna intensely looked into her eyes. She then asked Him," What is it that you are looking into? You normally don't look at me in this manner." Then Sri Ramakrishna asked her: "Will you do a work for

me?" Holy Mother replied: "That is what I am currently doing." Sri Ramakrishna then said: " Will you do my work after the death of this (referring to himself) body? I am going to leave this body within a few days." Holy Mother Sarada consented for the same. Sri Ramakrishna further said: "You should not repent that this body is no more existent. You must completely forget our past life.



Live in the Present. Burn the past. You can perform my work only by living in the present. I am sending my power into you through my eyes." Holy Mother Sarada lived for 34 more years after Sri Ramakrishna and performed His work.

Even we have to forget the past and do sadhana in the present to get liberated. The husband should not think of the wife on the death of the wife. The wife should not think of husband on the death of husband and thereby waste their present period of time.



My Master is no more!



When Sri Ramakrishna left his mortal frame, Holy Mother Sarada should have cried: "My Husband is no more." But She cried saying: "*My Master is no more.*"

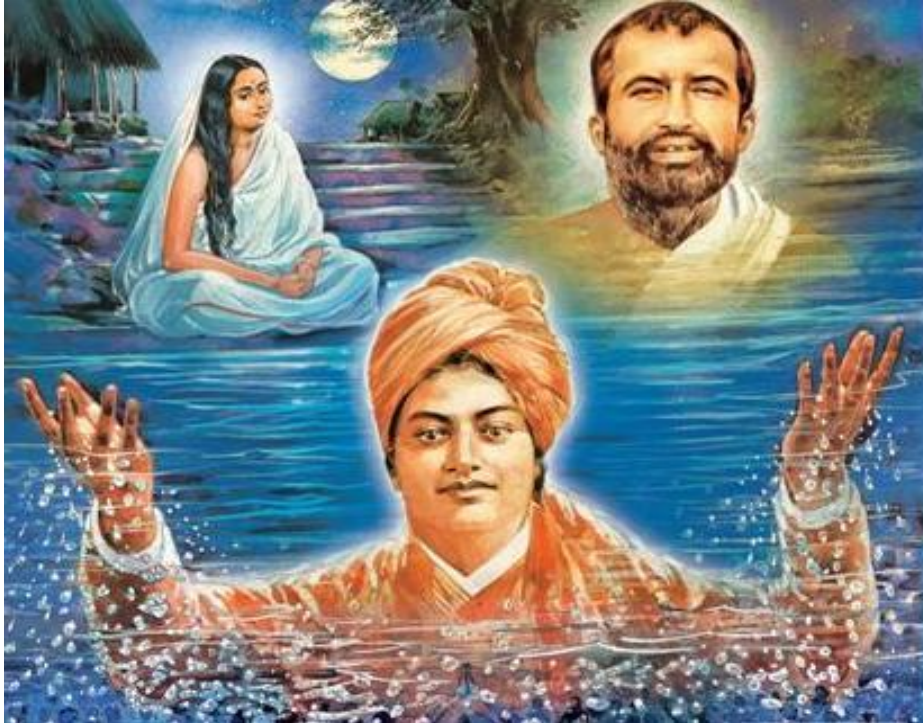
How are you comparable to ordinary people?

Don't remove your bangles.

When Holy Mother Sarada was about to remove her bangles on the death of Sri Ramakrishna, Sri Ramakrishna physically appeared before her (as Jesus appeared 3 days after his death), held her hands and said: " You are fire. Death resembles movement from one room to another. Therefore don't remove your bangles. Can the fire get corroded? *How are you comparable to ordinary people? Therefore don't remove your bangles.*"

On mere change of the mortal frame, how can we consider Him dead? Those eyes of Sri Ramakrishna were unaware of sin. He is the purest of the pure. Though He possessed senses, he said: "I have never enjoyed the world even in my dream."

**Good opportunities are not available forever
and when they come you must utilize them.**



The people of Madras pressurized Swami Vivekananda to attend the Parliament of religions in U.S.A. Swamiji said: "Let me get the permission of Holy Mother Sarada." Therefore Swamiji wrote a letter to Holy Mother. Holy Mother replied: "I will ask Thakur (Master) and

reply within 4 days." Within 2 days, Sri Ramakrishna came into the dream of Holy Mother. As she was looking at Him, Sri Ramakrishna melted into a pool of water. The water within the pool was being distributed to the devotees by Swami Vivekananda. After waking up, Holy Mother Sarada understood that Swami Vivekananda would distribute the spiritual wealth of Sri Ramakrishna and permitted Swamiji to go to U.S.A. She wrote back to Swamiji: "*Good opportunities are not available forever and when they come you must utilize them.* Go to U.S.A and do the work of your Guru."



How come Holy Mother is living in a thatched hut?



As instructed by Sri Ramakrishna, Holy Mother Sarada spent 10 days in Kamarpukur and then left to Jayarambhati. The disciples of Sri Ramakrishna felt: "*How come Holy Mother Sarada is living in a thatched hut?*" Therefore they built a building for her in Belur Math and

sent Swami Saradananda to bring her to Belur Math. At first Holy Mother refused to come to Belur Math. Later Swami Saradananda pleaded with her and convinced her. She initially refused and said: "It is Master's will that I stay here." Swami Saradananda said: "The situation was different then which made Master to speak thus." She replied: "I am used to this kind of life and therefore cannot come." However Swami Saradananda was very stubborn and threatened to fast till death. Therefore Holy Mother Sarada consented in the end to go with Swami Saradananda. While leaving Jayarambhati, she came to the outskirts of the village and saluted the goddess of village.



'I am chanting for the sake of devotees'



Mother Sarada's day started at 4 O'clock in the morning. After toiling hard throughout the day, she started the chanting of the name of Lord at 10 O'clock in the night. She thus chanted for 2-3 hrs and only then she slept. When the devotees asked her: "Why are you chanting the name of Lord in these late hours? Why don't you sleep?", she replied: " Devotees are unable to chant the name of Lord in the course of their hectic lives. *Therefore I am chanting for the sake of devotees.*"

Sri Ramakrishna did not get the honour that Holy Mother Sarada attained.



All the hard work was made by the Guru and disciple. However the entire honour belonged to Holy Mother. What can we say? It is in her body's destiny to get that honour. Sri Ramakrishna did not get the honour that Holy Mother Sarada attained. Of the 2000 monks, if 600 of them are devoted to

Sri Ramakrishna, 1000 of them are devoted to Sarada. Only 20 people attended the funeral procession of Sri Ramakrishna. However nearly 5000 people attended the funeral procession of Holy Mother Sarada.



Sri Ramakrishna used to describe Holy Mother Sarada as 'fire' indicating her purity.

The dispassion of Sri Ramakrishna is most normal and natural.



When Holy Mother Sarada was asked: "There are many Mahatmas who renounced everything. Doesn't Sri Ramakrishna belong to such a category?" Holy Mother Sarada replied: "*The dispassion of Sri Ramakrishna is most normal. It is very natural.* Though he got a necklace made for me, it represents neither his love for gold nor his bondage. It was natural dispassion even there."



When Mother Sarada was asked: "It seems that the devotees of Sri Ramakrishna made a tremendous spiritual progress. How is it that your devotees are so backward?" Mother Sarada replied: "*Master selected elephant like people and gave me ant like people.* Even they will be reformed (though it may happen late) It may take some time. I will not leave them."

Swami Saradananda



Swami Saradananda is the author of the famous book 'Sri Ramakrishna, The Great Master'. He did not possess either desire or anger or hatred. Sri Ramakrishna said: "If you work without any desire/anger/hatred, you will attain Self Realization."

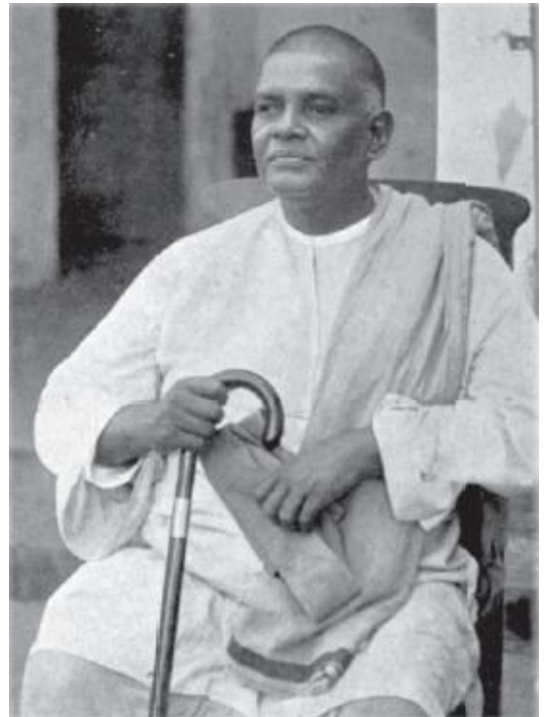
I am examining whether you can bear weight in future or not!

Sri Ramakrishna used to suddenly sit in the lap of Swami Saradananda. Sometimes He used to make Saradananda sit in his lap. When Swami Saradananda hesitated, Sri Ramakrishna used to insist on the same. When he sat in Swami Saradananda's lap, Sri Ramakrishna said: "You need to bear the weight in future. I am examining whether you can bear that weight or not?" When He made Swami Saradananda to sit in his lap, Sri Ramakrishna said: " I am examining whether Swami Saradananda is heavy enough or not (heavy weight ie., one who remains un-perturbed in any situation)."



‘My funeral pyre should be lighted by Saradananda only’.

Mother Sarada took rest for 2 hours from 11 O’clock to 1 O clock in the day time. Throughout those 2 hours Swami Saradananda waited outside her room and ensured that no one disturbed Holy Mother. He did this though he had a very busy schedule being the General Secretary to Ramakrishna Math.



Holy Mother Sarada had 5 brothers. She said: "After my death, my brothers may come to see me but *the funeral pyre should be lighted by Swami Saradananda only.*" Such was the faith of Swami Saradananda towards Mother Sarada.

Tolerance, Tolerance, Tolerance!

Swami Saradananda asked Mother Sarada in her last days: "Master preached us several things. Similarly even you preach me something." Mother Sarada replied the first word as '*Tolerance*', the middle word as '*Tolerance*' and the final word as '*Tolerance*'. Therefore she said: " This is my preaching: *Tolerance, Tolerance, Tolerance.*" It was not her preaching but it was Her Grace. She bestowed Swami Saradananda with the fruit of Her penance and Her Tolerance through those words. It was only due to this tolerance that Swami Saradananda could fulfill the responsibility of General Secretary of Sri Ramakrishna Math for 20 years without losing patience in any situation.



Your blood resembles the blood of a fish ie it is cold blood

Swami Vivekananda told Swami Saradananda: "I have never seen you angry. *Your blood resembles the blood of a fish ie it is cold blood.* Therefore as long as you are alive remain as secretary to Ramakrishna Math. It is because Secretary has a lot of burden to bear which requires immense tolerance. Don't ever become The President of Ramakrishna Math. President is a honorary post and involves the receiving of VIPs, partaking lunch with them and thereby honoring them. It involves only these tasks. Therefore do not become President but remain as General Secretary." Thus Swami Saradananda remained as General Secretary for 20 years and contributed towards the progress of Sri Ramakrishna Math.



Swami Adbhutananda



Though I am an illiterate, service has lifted me,
purified me and elevated me.

-Swami Adbhutananda

‘I will take my food only after feeding you’.

Latu was an illiterate Bihari who came to Calcutta in search of a job. The employer of Latu was a devotee of Sri Ramakrishna. Sometimes he sent Latu to Sri Ramakrishna for delivering eatables. Whenever Latu came to Sri Ramakrishna, he listened to his words for an hour or two. Gradually Latu got attracted to the words of Sri Ramakrishna. One day he told Sri Ramakrishna that he wanted to stay with Him forever. Sri Ramakrishna objected saying: “I am dependent upon others for my food. How can I feed you?” Latu replied: “I will beg for my food. Please give me shelter. I will help Holy Mother Sri Sarada devi in cooking.” After few days Sri Sarada devi said: “You eat here. *I will take my food only after feeding you.* I will feed you with whatever I have. You need not beg now.” Thus Latu stayed with Sri Ramakrishna.

Latu! You are wonderful!

In his last days, when Sri Ramakrishna suffered from cancer, one day it happened that Latu extended his hands and asked Sri Ramakrishna to spit on them. He then put the sputum into the vessel. Latu felt that Guru might

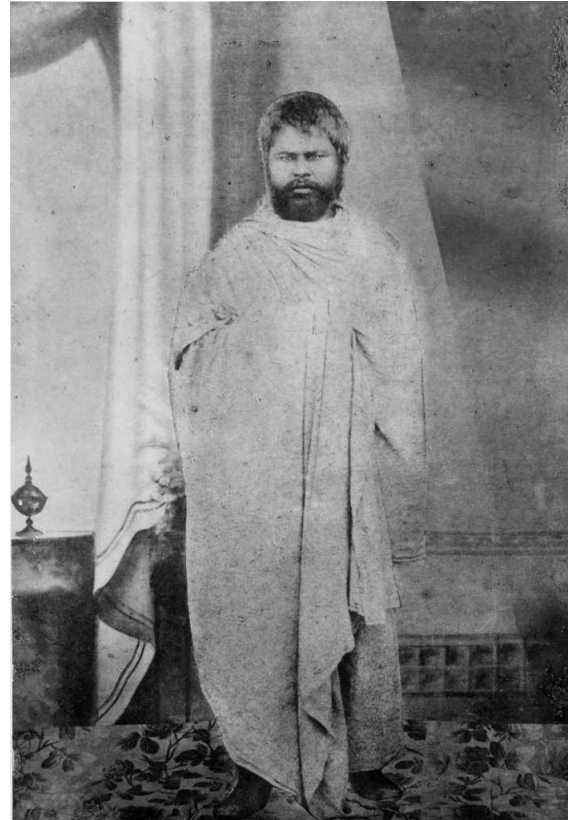


suffer until he brings the vessel. Hence he used his hands. Then Sri Ramakrishna being impressed with the devotion of Latu said: *"Latu you are wonderful."*

Sri Ramakrishna said: It is glorious even to serve one man.

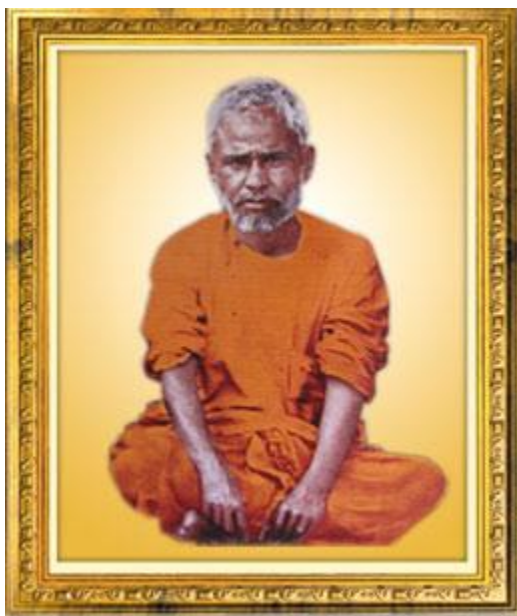
Latu, You have a wide Heart equivalent to nectar.

Latu used to feel shy and anxious due to lack of education. He used to remain humble as his co-disciples were well educated and also did a lot of sadhana (spiritual effort) but he lacked such an opportunity.



Sri Ramakrishna observed this behavior of Latu. Hence he called him one day and said: "Don't regret that you lack education. *You have a wide Heart equivalent to nectar.* It is enough for you to get liberated." Thus Sri Ramakrishna eradicated the shyness and fear of Latu.

How can I answer the questions of aspirants?



When Latu was offered saffron clothes (to accept Sanyasa) by Sri Ramakrishna, Latu rejected the same. He said: "Once I become a monk, people keep asking me questions. But I am an illiterate. *How can I answer their questions?*" Sri Ramakrishna said: "You can answer them. Accept Sanyasa and become a monk." Later Latu answered the questions of spiritual aspirants only out of his experience.



Whenever any discussion arose with respect to any doubt in the words of Sri Ramakrishna, Latu used to express his opinion only out of his experience. Of all the other's opinions, Latu's opinion used to be very close to the Truth and also match with his Guru's intention. All of them used to adopt Latu's opinion.

Latu got liberated first due to his unwavering faith



Latu had unwavering faith on Sri Ramakrishna. He also served Him a lot. *Therefore it was Latu who got liberated first when compared to others due to his faith.* Looking at the suffering of Sri Ramakrishna, Naren doubted whether Sri Ramakrishna is an incarnation or not. However there was no deficiency in the faith of Latu at any point of time.

**Even though the pleasures are in front of you,
you must remain unperturbed**

Once Latu told Sri Ramakrishna: "Don't give me a birth again. I will fall back into Maya." Sri Ramakrishna replied: " Latu, though you may get liberated, whenever required descend to Leela and ascend to Nithya. If you are afraid that you will be bound on getting a body or ascending to Leela, can your liberation be called as a true liberation or true Peace or true dispassion or true discrimination? Suppose your nose falls down on mere sneezing, how long will you retain such nose? It is a challenge. You should not say I will not take birth again. Rather you should not get deluded by Maya how many ever times you may take birth. I grant you such a boon. Not that you should be reborn but even if you are reborn, you should not fall into the clutches of Maya.

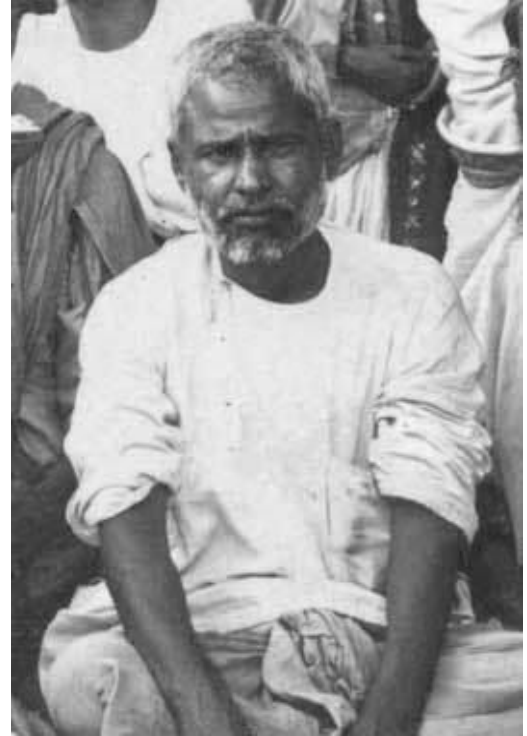


What Sri Ramakrishna indicated here is that if you are afraid that you may get deluded when the objects of temptation are in front of you, then it indicates that you have not yet attained the Ultimate state. Even though the pleasures or objects of temptation are in front of you, you must remain unperturbed. Only then it can be called as the Ultimate State.

‘When I look at your attitude of service, I feel like living for some more time’.

Sri Ramakrishna said:

"When I look at your attitude of service, your love and affection, *I feel like living for some more time*, though my body is suffering from cancer. You are not allowing my body to die, Oh! Adbuthananda."



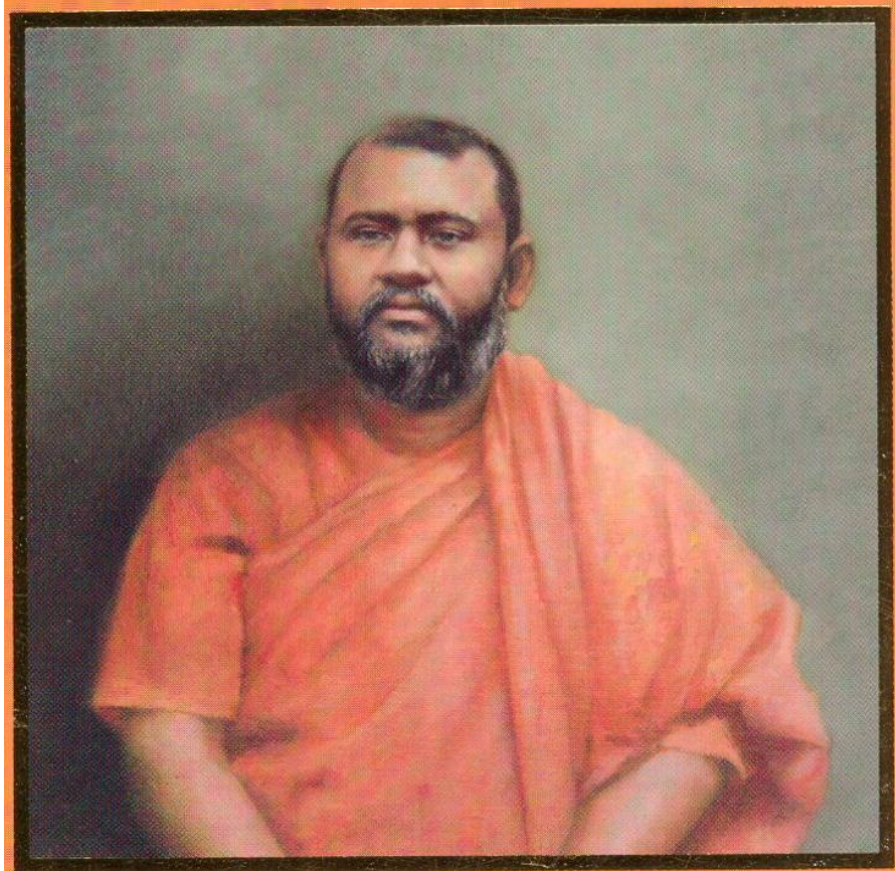
It is not the affection which can be described in words. It is not the service which is done for a payment. Adbuthananda united with his Guru through his service to Guru. His Love for His Guru was unconditional.

Latu was named as Adbuthananda

Adbuthananda was an illiterate. He could not even spell out either 'ka' or 'ga'. Swami Vivekananda said: "Though we are educated, our education is becoming an obstacle for us to attain God. You are not experiencing an ordinary Bliss but you are experiencing a wonderful Bliss. Though you are an illiterate, you are wonderfully experiencing the Bliss within. Therefore I name you as Adhbuthananda."

Latu told Sri Ramakrishna : " As I am an illiterate, I can neither write nor preach others about you. I cannot perform any other work. Therefore let me serve you." Thus he used to clean the toilets, press the legs etc., Latu said: " Oh! Ramakrishna, I am your servant."

Swami Brahmananda



Swami Brahmananda was the first President of Sri Ramakrishna Math. Sri Ramakrishna declared him to be his spiritual son.

He will become your Spiritual Son



Once Mother Kali told Sri Ramakrishna:

"Tomorrow, I am sending you a son." Sri Ramakrishna replied: "When I am dependent upon others for my food, how can I feed him?"

Mother Kali said: "*He will not depend upon you for his food. He will become your spiritual son.*"

Rakhal came to Sri Ramakrishna the next day.

You may possess any number of weaknesses, I will throw them out

Unable to transcend his weaknesses, Once Swami Brahmananda decided to leave Sri Ramakrishna forever. On his way out, he came across Sri Ramakrishna. Sri Ramakrishna said: " Rakhal (pre-monastic name of Swami Brahmananda),



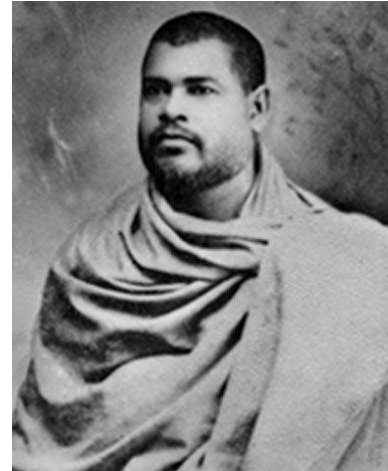
though you may possess any number of weaknesses, I will throw them out." Sri Ramakrishna not only points out the tendencies within devotees but also performs a surgery to make them tendency free. It is not a miracle. He developed this power as his thought, word and deed remained same forever.

Swami Ramakrishnananda



Swami Ramakrishnananda did not differentiate between the idol of Sri Ramakrishna and Sri Ramakrishna. He covered Sri Ramakrishna (the idol) with a blanket in the winter season and fanned Him in the summer season. The Madras Ramakrishna Math was established by Swami Ramakrishnananda.

God is perceptible if the mind or intellect is pure



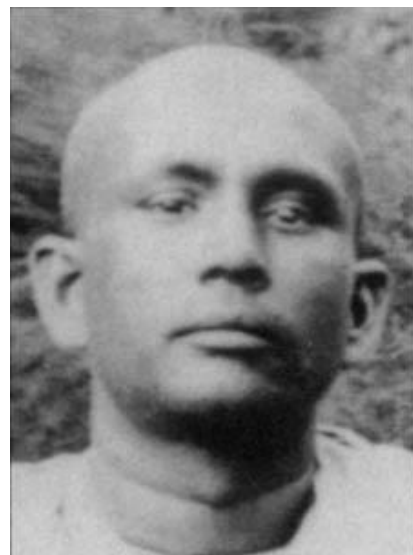
Once Sri Ramakrishna said: "God exists but He is not perceptible by our mind, words and senses." Sri Ramakrishnananda asked him: "If God is not perceptible to any of the above, how are you able to speak about Him?" Sri Ramakrishna replied: "It is true that God is not perceptible by our intellect/mind. *However God is perceptible if the intellect/mind is pure, concentrated and eligible* ie., God is reachable when we do not differentiate between ourselves and others."

Swami Turiyananda



Turiyananda implies the one who enjoys only the bliss contained in the Self. He does not need any other happiness ie He always enjoys the state of Turiya (ie., the fourth state).

Oh! This rascal has found me



When Sri Ramakrishna was suffering from throat cancer, one day a devotee by name Harinath approached him and asked thus: "How is your health?" Sri Ramakrishna replied: "I am suffering from throat cancer. There is a burning sensation in the entire body. Hence Latu is fanning me." Harinath looks at the face as well as into the eyes of Sri Ramakrishna. The face as well as eyes seemed to be blissful. Harinath said: "There is no relation between

your words and face. Though you say that you are suffering a lot, your face and eyes reflect only bliss." Sri Ramakrishna replied: "*Oh! This rascal has found me.*"

The moment Sri Ramakrishna addressed Harinath as rascal, all the foreign matter (tendencies) within Harinath vanished. He became purest of the pure.

Though Sri Ramakrishna called Harinath as rascal, Harinath was not hurt. He said: "Due to your Holy Company, due to your Compassion and Grace, the one who gets hurt does not exist here anymore."

Later Harinath became Swami Turiyananda. He wrote a commentary on Vivekachudamani and preached the same in U.S.A.

Swami Vivekananda



When Swami Vivekananda was asked: "Why don't you speak about your Guru?", he replied: "I don't speak as I feel that I cannot do justice for Him."

'I am able to see God and also can show Him to you'.



Swami Vivekananda was the foremost disciple of Sri Ramakrishna. In his first visit, he asked Sri Ramakrishna: "Have you seen God? Can you show me God?" Sri Ramakrishna replied: "I am able to see God as well as listen to Him as clearly as you are able to see me and I am able to see you. *I can also show Him to you* (I will show you Narayana within your heart)".

Sri Ramakrishna built a fence around Naren in order to protect him



Once Naren came to Sri Ramakrishna when 4-5 people were seated in the room. He had the doubt whether God existed or not? One of them seated in the room was telling Sri Ramakrishna that Lord Krishna preached Bhagavad Gita by becoming GOD Himself. Then Naren said: "How can we conclude that Krishna

is God Himself? How can we say that Gita was preached by Krishna only?" Sri Ramakrishna felt: "I thought that Naren will reform the world. *But how is it that such filthy words are coming out of his mouth?* I feel as if I will lose faith in myself as well as in God." However Sri Ramakrishna did not criticize Naren. He felt that Naren behaved thus due to his bad company. Hence Sri Ramakrishna called Naren to sit near him and caressed him and thereby filled him with his power. Sri Ramakrishna thought that there is a lot of good work to be done by Naren in future for the welfare of the world. Hence *Sri Ramakrishna built a fence around Naren in order to protect him.* That is Sri Ramakrishna.

Does faith possess any eyes to call it blind?

Being influenced by the company of some atheists, once Naren said: "I have no belief in blind faith." Sri Ramakrishna replied: "*Does faith possess any eyes?* If it possesses eyes and loses its sight, you can then refer it to be blind. *When the faith has no eyes, how can you call it blind?* So how can you talk thus about faith or blind faith?" Naren was totally silenced with this answer.

Once Sri Ramakrishna placed his leg on the chest of Naren. Naren felt as if the entire world is rotating and that he would fall down. Then he understood that there is some power within Sri Ramakrishna.

**There is no desire for women, wealth or fame
in that laughter!**



Once M., Naren (Swami Vivekananda) and Sri Ramakrishna were travelling in a bullock cart. Naren started laughing suddenly for some reason. When M. questioned him the reason for laughing, Sri Ramakrishna said: "Wait, Mr. M. Look at his laughter. How pure, taintless and flawless is that laughter? There is no mockery in that smile. *There is no desire for women, wealth or fame in that laughter.*"

'I cannot refrain myself from looking at you'



Once Naren asked Sri Ramakrishna: "Why do you always look at me alone?" Sri Ramakrishna replied: "I keep looking at you because *I cannot refrain myself from looking at you.*"

‘Naren, You are a born Mahatma’

When Naren was a student, he told Sri Ramakrishna that so and so person in Calcutta is very great. Sri Ramakrishna told him: "You are much greater than all of them whomever you are referring to. You are very good at heart. You will teach the world." Naren thought within himself: "The people of Calcutta consider Sri Ramakrishna to be insane and it seems to be true. How can Sri Ramakrishna consider a student to be a Mahatma?" Sri Ramakrishna replied back: "It doesn't matter what you think of me. You can think of me as you wish. All of them became Mahatmas by doing some good deeds. *But You are a born Mahatma.*" Thus Sri Ramakrishna had a great vision.

I am attracted by his purity of mind and grasping power.



Looking at the importance being given to Swami Vivekananda, some Brahmins criticized Sri Ramakrishna thus: "Being a Brahmin, why do you give so much importance to that Kshatriya boy (Vivekananda)?" Then Sri Ramakrishna replied: "I am no way concerned with the caste. *I am attracted by his purity of mind and grasping power.* He will excel in Self Knowledge. If you bring to me a Brahmin boy with equivalent purity, grasping power and wideness of heart, I will train him in the same manner."

Even if we desire, is it possible that the morning arrives instantly?



Naren's father was a lawyer. After the expiry of his father, the responsibility to feed his family fell upon Naren. On one hand He dedicated his life to Sri Ramakrishna and on the other hand there was the responsibility of the family. Naren was in a great dilemma. Sri Ramakrishna said: "Where ever you may take me (whichever country or whichever house) I will remain on your shoulders and come along with you,



Naren." One day when Naren was seated near Sri Ramakrishna, Sri Ramakrishna was told about the pathetic state of Naren's family by some devotee. It was 8 O' Clock in the night. Sri Ramakrishna said: "*Even if we desire, is it possible that the morning arrives instantly?* No. We cannot see the sunlight till 6 in the morning. Similarly Naren will not experience the great light until and unless he undergoes all the required hardships. How can he experience the great light instantly? It is possible only after learning all the required lessons. It is in his body's destiny.

'I will beg for you, if required'.



When Naren's father expired suddenly, his family suffered from acute poverty. Once Sri Ramakrishna asked one of his rich devotees to help Naren. On hearing this, Naren got angry and said: "You are defaming our family's honour. Why are you speaking thus?" Sri Ramakrishna replied: "If you are not pleased, I will stop asking. *But I will beg for you, if required.*"

‘If you will not ask Mother, I will pray Her on your behalf’



When Sri Ramakrishna suggested Naren to pray Mother Kali for food and clothing, he prayed thus: *“Mother! Keep my mind away from lust, anger and gold.”* When Sri Ramakrishna rebuked him as to why he did not pray for food

and clothing, Naren replied: “On looking at the Mother’s face, I didn’t feel like asking her for Material needs relating to this world. I couldn’t ask her of anything else except for purity of mind. I am sorry that I could not make the prayer as suggested by you.”

Then Sri Ramakrishna said, *“If you will not ask Mother, I will pray Her on your behalf.”* It is neither a conversation nor Vedanta. It is unworldly Love.

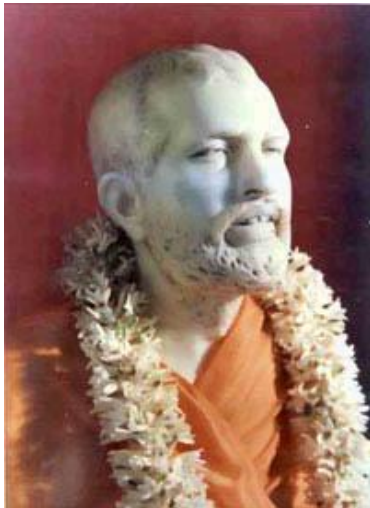
Vivekananda struggled for 6 months whether to sacrifice this world for the sake of his 3 family members or sacrifice the 3 family members for the sake of this entire world? It was only when he decided to sacrifice his family members that his brother got a job and took up the family responsibility.

‘Oh! Mother grant me devotion for
your Lotus feet’.



Once Sri Ramakrishna asked Naren to sing a song. Then Naren sang thus: "Oh! Mother, What is the necessity of doing japa or meditation or self enquiry? Oh! Mother, it is enough if You *provide me with Love for your feet.*"

People don't consider you to be a bad man but consider you to be a mad man



Once Sri Ramakrishna asked Naren: "What is the town talk about me?" Naren replied: "*People don't consider you to be a bad man but consider you to be a mad man.*" Sri Ramakrishna said: "Oh! I got such a bad name in the society. Ensure that I get a good name. They are mad about the world and I am mad about Mother."

Though He said thus, what shall He lose even if He gets a bad name?

'Oh! God, You are the doer; I am not the doer'.

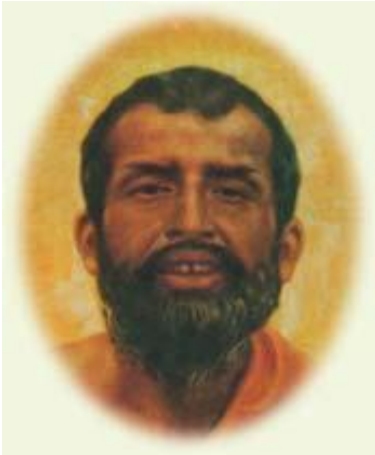
If Sri Ramakrishna did not see Naren for 4 days, his state was equivalent to that of a fish which struggles for its life when thrown out of a pond. It was due to relationship of several births. If any of you were friends in previous births, your friendship in the current birth will continue till end else it will break at some point of time. Sri Ramakrishna asked Naren: "What is meant by Jnana?" Naren remained silent and kept looking into Sri Ramakrishna's eyes, recognizing that Sri Ramakrishna knows something that he doesn't know. Sri Ramakrishna then described Jnana in a single sentence: "*Oh! God, You are the doer; I am not the doer.*"

Provide me a tablet by which I can unlearn everything that I learned



Once Sri Ramakrishna asked Naren: "Are you studying well?" Naren replied: "I am studying well but if you have any medicine, by which I can forget all my acquired knowledge, please provide me the same so that I can swallow it and forget everything." When Sri Ramakrishna asked him the reason for the same, Naren replied: "I understand that all my studies is becoming an obstacle when I try to reach your feet."

You need to work in between the householders



Once Swami Vivekananda told Sri Ramakrishna: "Having got the taste of Self, I don't feel like associating with householders or talking to them." Then Sri Ramakrishna replied: "Don't go to that extent. *You need to work in between the householders.* Let that work happen. You have come only to do my work. You don't have any personal work to do."

Don't renounce till I leave my body



When Naren wanted to become a monk out of renunciation, Sri Ramakrishna said: "*Wait till I leave my body. Don't renounce your house now itself.*" Then Naren held back his decision of becoming a monk.

**If you are satisfied with your own liberation,
then what about other's liberation?**



In his last days, Sri Ramakrishna asked Naren: "What do you want?" Naren replied: "I will not pour ghee into the sacred fire of yagna. But I will throw this small 'i' into it. I want only liberation and nothing else." Sri Ramakrishna replied: "Oh! Naren, I thought that you are a big man. But you seem to be so petty minded! *If you are satisfied with your own liberation, then what about other's liberation?* After my departure, take care of the boys (the 16 direct disciples of Sri Ramakrishna)."

'Your very bones will teach the world'

In His last days, Sri Ramakrishna had the following discussion with Naren:

Ramakrishna: Go around the world and preach.

Naren: I don't have any such intention. I am contented if I get liberated.

Ramakrishna: Are you so petty minded?

Naren: Without reforming myself, how can I preach others? You are preaching only after attaining a particular spiritual status. How can I preach without attaining the same?

Ramakrishna: Naren, you have a wonderful dialogue delivery.

Naren: I will not preach.

Ramakrishna : *Your very bones will teach the world.*

One who is Rama, one who is Krishna, is this Ramakrishna

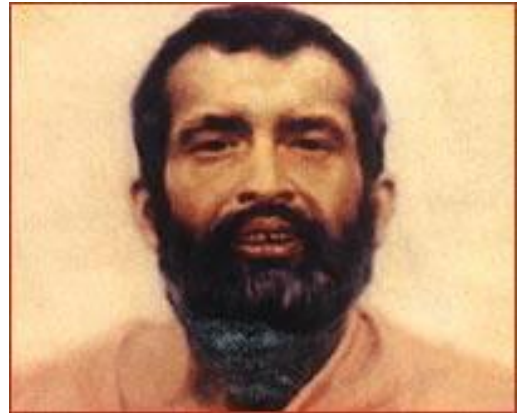
Sri Ramakrishna got cancer in his last days which spread up to lungs. Unable to take breath, He was asking the disciples to make Him sit when He was made to lie down and to make Him lie down when He was



made to sit. Such was His suffering. Looking at the suffering of Sri Ramakrishna, Naren (Swami Vivekananda) doubted within Himself: "Is Sri Ramakrishna an incarnation of God?" Our mind is an open book for Guru. Then Sri Ramakrishna holding his breath said: "You still have the doubt? *One who is Rama, one who is Krishna, it is the same Rama and Krishna who has incarnated as Sri Ramakrishna.*"

Master has come here much before me and made all the arrangements!

Once Swami Vivekananda got the feeling that he is spreading the message of Sri Ramakrishna in U.S.A. One day Swamiji went to a devotee's house on being invited for dinner. When Swamiji entered the house, he was astounded on seeing a painting of Sri Ramakrishna. Pointing towards painting, Swamiji asked the devotee: "Do you know Him?" The devotee replied: "No. I don't know who he is. But he came in my dream. He was so beautiful that I felt like making this painting." Swamiji then felt: "Who am I to spread his message? *Master has come here much before me and made all the arrangements.*"



Naren will do good work sufficient enough for a period of 1000 years

When Sri Ramakrishna was told about the marriage proposals for Naren, Sri Ramakrishna replied: "Naren is not destined to marry. He will not see his 40.



Before his departure, *he will do so much good work which is sufficient enough for a period of 1000 years*. He will work with both the hands. With one hand he will attain Samadhi and with the other hand he will serve the society”.

Swami Vivekananda's relationship with Sri Ramakrishna is similar to the relationship of Hanuman with Sri Rama.

Master Mahashaya



Master Mahashaya is the author of 'The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna'. He was so impersonal that in the entire Gospel he never used his name. He mentioned it as 'M'.

**When all the education is within His throat,
why does He require any other formal
education?**

When M. visited Sri Ramakrishna for the first time, the maid was about to leave the room after completion of her work. Then M. asked her: "In spite of not being educated, how is it that Sri Ramakrishna is able to answer the questions of his visitors?" Due to the Holy Company of Sri Ramakrishna she spoke thus: "*When all the education is within His throat, why does He require any other formal (college related) education?*" M. replied: "The door seems to be closed and there is none to introduce me." Then the maid replied: "I have closed the doors intentionally. However His doors are ever open for the sake of devotees. There is no need of any appointments. You can open the door and go inside."

Though yours is a serious case, I will admit you in the hospital!

M. went inside accordingly and introduced himself to Sri Ramakrishna.

M. had the following discussion with Sri Ramakrishna:

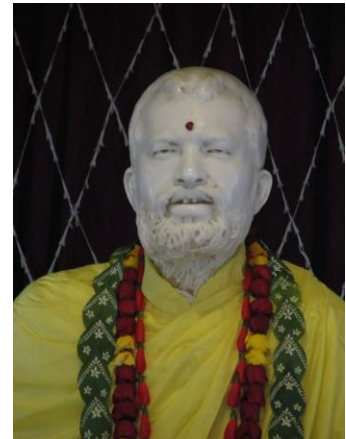
R.K: Are you married?

M.: Yes

R.K: How many children do you have?

M.: Six

R.K: *Yours is a serious case.* You have given place to too many people in your Heart. You came to me faithfully. Therefore I will admit you in the hospital but cannot assure you of recovery.



In his last days, M. resembled Sri Ramakrishna

Though Sri Ramakrishna spoke in this manner, he enabled M. to reach such a spiritual state that M. wrote 'The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna'. Thus M. became One with Sri Ramakrishna through his behavior pattern and entered His kitchen cabinet. M. was alive till 1932. Devotees used to visit M. In his last days, M. resembled Sri Ramakrishna due to his unwavering faith and constant contemplation of Sri Ramakrishna.



Once Sri Ramakrishna described M. :
"He is 100% purity personification."

M. was the investor for everyone

Once in a while, when Sri Ramakrishna felt like eating jilebi (a sweet), He asked M. to bring it. When He wanted a towel, He asked M. to purchase it for him. M. should not return back without bargaining for it at least in ten shops. He must bring it only from that shop where it is most cheap. Only M. was selected for such tasks as M. never had the feeling that he is serving Sri Ramakrishna. M. always felt that he is buying it for himself. Guru selects only such impersonal people All the 16 direct disciples also asked M. only, for a rupee or two whenever they needed. *Thus M. was the investor for everyone.*

Sri Ramakrishna said: "Mr. M, do you know who resides within the Heart? It is the nameless and formless one."

‘You have no right to criticize Sri Ramakrishna’

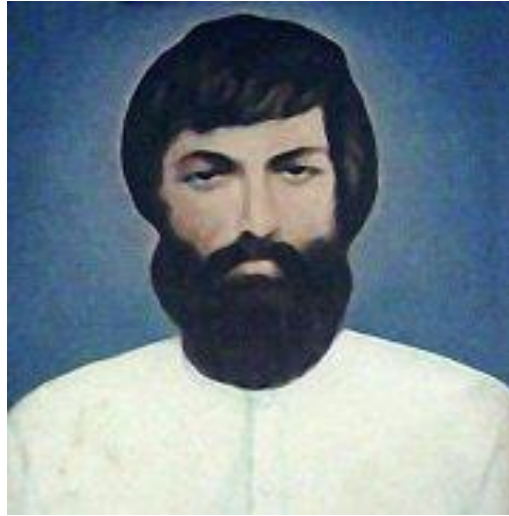


M. worked for Ishwara Chandra Vidyasagar. One day when Ishwara Chandra Vidya sagar criticized Sri Ramakrishna, M. said: “You can rebuke me if there is any flaw in the conduct of my duty. *But you have no right to criticize Sri Ramakrishna.*” Saying thus he resigned from his job. Such was his devotion.

**‘You have become my clothes and I have
become your clothes’.**



Once in a while Sri Ramakrishna used to sit naked while he was all alone. If anyone came to visit Him, he dressed himself and came out. Once M. visited Sri Ramakrishna when he was all alone. He called M. to come inside and sit beside him. M. was hesitant as Sri Ramakrishna was naked. When M. asked Sri Ramakrishna: "Won't you dress up?", Sri Ramakrishna



replied: " *You have become my clothes and I have become your clothes.* Are the clothes an obstacle between us? You are very close to me. You are my M. and I am your Ramakrishna. You need not differentiate between us. You can sit equally with me." When there is unison of two Hearts, what exists is sweetness alone. The body consciousness doesn't exist there. Thus M. entered the inner circle. He will not be allowed to come again unto earth. Only M. attained such a place and not anyone else (not even Naren).

‘You seem to be greater than Rama and Krishna as you are not killing wicked people but killing their wickedness’.



Once Sri Ramakrishna asked M.: "Mr. M., you seem to be well educated and also well settled in a job. Then why do you come to me frequently?" M. replied: "Oh! Ramakrishna deva, I may seem to be educated. But the Love, Knowledge, Compassion and broad feelings that I see in you cannot be found in anyone



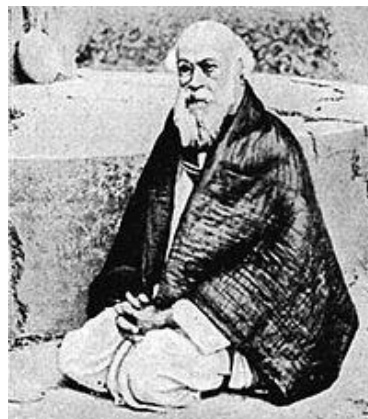
else. I come to you being attracted by them. I did not see Rama or Krishna. They killed the wicked people. Though I did not see them, You seem to me to be greater than them. *You are not killing the wicked people but killing the wickedness within them.* Wicked people are not your enemies. It is only their wickedness which constitutes your enemies. I did not see you possessing any hatred for anyone. Therefore I come to you frequently."

‘I like only the God existing in the form of a man’.



Once Sri Ramakrishna asked M.:" Mr. M., Which form of God do you like most?" M. replied: "Oh! Ramakrishna deva, I don't like God existing in the form of a stone living in a temple. *I like only the God existing in the form of a man.*" Then Sri Ramakrishna replied: "You are able to recognize me. You are able to identify me. You are able to catch hold of me." Sri Ramakrishna said that M. was reminded of his past births at that point of time which enabled M. to recognize Him.

'It is Mother who retained the ego here'.



Once Sri Ramakrishna asked M.: "Mr. M, do you find any egoistic tendency within me?" M. replied: "Yes, I find a very tiny and little egoistic tendency within you. But I even realize that You retained it graciously in order to preach us." Sri Ramakrishna replied: "*I did not retain it Mr. M. It is Mother who retained it.*"

**It is only to warn myself that I should not be
careless anymore that I am eating these ashes**

When Sri Ramakrishna left his mortal frame, his sanyasin disciples stole the bones and ashes of their Guru and brought them. Then M. took some ashes and put them into his mouth. The other disciples were surprised with his act. Then M. said: "Till now we have been considering Guru to be external. It was OK even if we were careless. But now onwards we have to view him internally. It is only to warn myself that I should not be careless anymore that I am eating these ashes of Gurudev. I am eating these ashes only to pray Him to grant me the strength to abide by His words and thereby attain Purity."

M. left his mortal frame on the day when final page of 'The Gospel' was printed.



When Naren tried to write down everything that Sri Ramakrishna spoke, Sri Ramakrishna stopped him saying: "There is someone else to do this work." M. used to write down a diary on a daily basis all that Sri Ramakrishna preached him. Later the same diary became 'The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna'. 'The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna' is equivalent to 'The Bible'. It is the Modern Bhagavad Gita. There are many

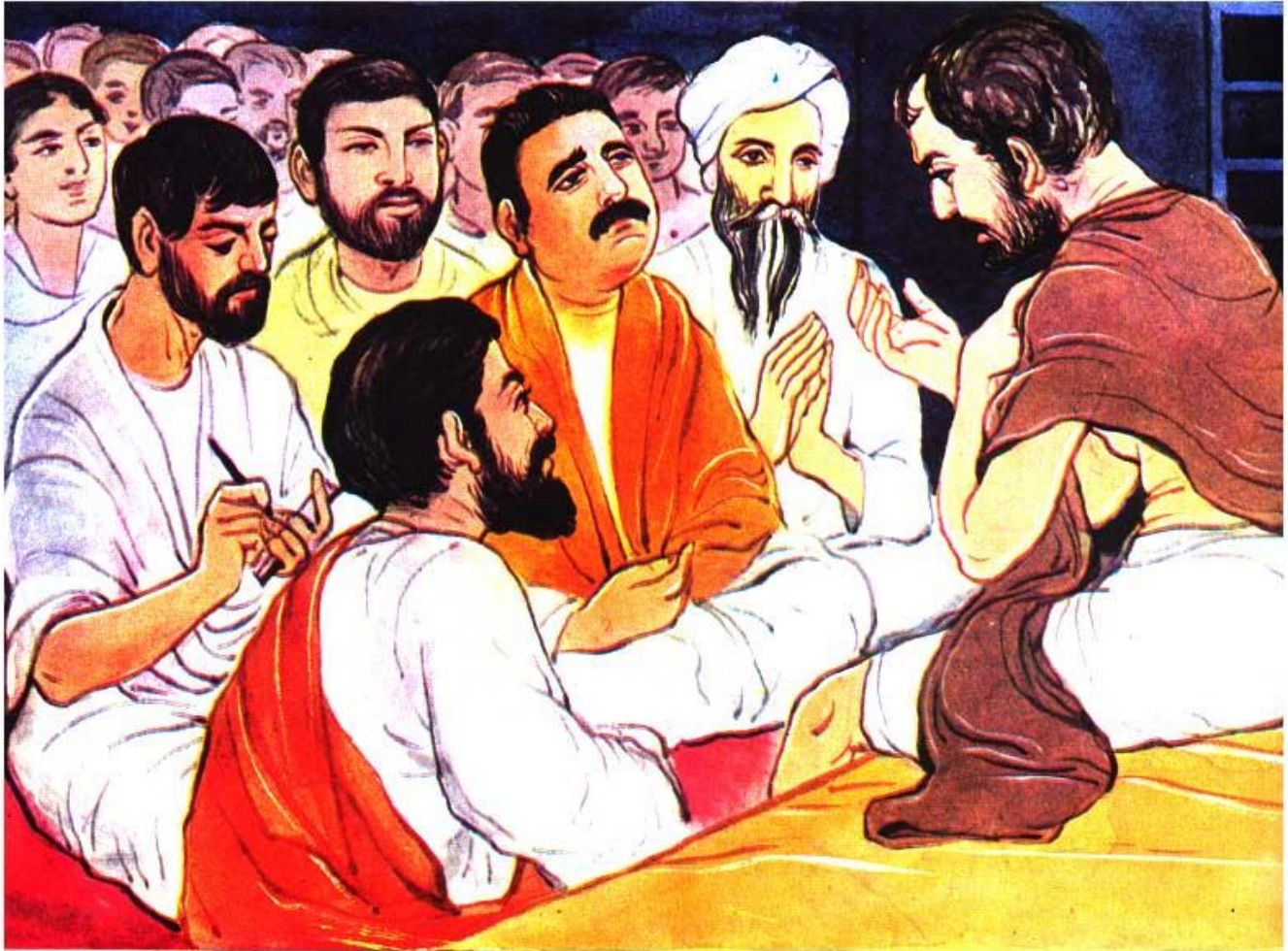
people who got reformed after reading 'The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna'. Initially M. did not accept for the printing of 'The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna'. M. said: "I wrote them only for my spiritual progress. You can print it after my death." However when the other disciples insisted that these words of Sri Ramakrishna will be useful to many people, he finally consented for their print. *M. left his mortal frame on the day when the final page of 'The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna' got printed.* That body came only for the purpose of bringing that book unto earth. Once the work was finished, the body vanished.

M. said: "Sri Ramakrishna's very name is music to my ears."



On his visit to M., Paul Brunton said:
"His words are very pure. But after
seeing Him, I felt in His presence that His
purity is much greater than his words."

Preachings of Sri Ramakrishna



Miracles are equivalent to shit

Once Sri Ramakrishna came across a sadhu who could perform miracles. When Sri Ramakrishna was boarding a boat, he said: "You need a boat to cross the river. But I don't need any. I can cross this river on foot." He thought that Sri Ramakrishna would praise his powers. But Sri Ramakrishna replied: "Oh! So you learnt only that which is 10 paisa worth?" When asked why he concluded thus, Sri Ramakrishna replied: "It costs me 10 paisa to cross this river by boarding a boat. You are saving only 10 paisa by crossing the river on foot. There is nothing more than this. Whatever you learnt through hard work is not Jnana. You have not yet learnt as to how to transcend the ignorance."



'I am asking you to give charity so that you will become pure'.



Once a rich man was seated beside Sri Ramakrishna. There was also a poor man seated beside him. Sri Ramakrishna told the rich man: "Take out a rupee from your pocket and give it to the poor man." The rich man consented for the same. Sri Ramakrishna said: "Can he feed his family with that single rupee? I am asking you to do thus so that your riches will become a sacrifice, you will become blessed and thereby *you will become pure.*"

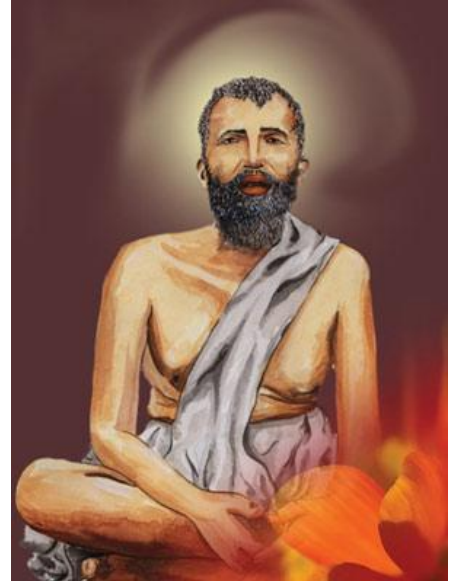
‘It is because of the application of collyrium called Krishna’.



Once Sri Ramakrishna was asked: "How is it that Sri Radha devi is able to view Lord Krishna in everything and everywhere and we are not able to view thus?" Sri Ramakrishna replied: "*It is because of the application of collyrium called Krishna* to her eyes that enabled her to view Sri Krishna in everything and everywhere."

You get the merit as well as demerit of building the ghat.

Once in Varanasi, Sri Ramakrishna was seated in a ghat along with his devotees. Sri Ramakrishna then asked: "Who built this ghat?" The lady who built that ghat was present there itself. Initially she did not



respond. When Sri Ramakrishna asked again and again, unable to stop herself, she stood up and said: "I built that ghat." Sri Ramakrishna said: "Yeah! That i should be lost. Your tail is not yet cut. When you say that you built the ghat, you get all the merit of building it. However if anyone slips and falls down, *you also get the sin pertaining to it.*

**Sex consciousness is part of body
consciousness.**



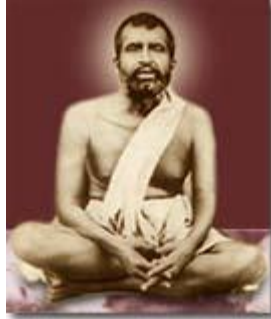
Once when all ladies were seated, Sri Ramakrishna went and sat in between them. They moved a little and sat again. Sri Ramakrishna said: "Why do you move like that? You have not yet transcended the feeling of being a woman. Only when you lose body consciousness, you lose the feeling of sex. *Sex consciousness is part of body consciousness.*"

It is not enough if you see Rama; You should be seen by Rama.



Sri Ramakrishna asked one of the devotees: "How is it that you are not visible these days?" The devotee replied: "Very recently You visited our street where I saw You. Hence I did not come again." Then Sri Ramakrishna quoted the following from Valmiki Ramayana: *"It is not enough if you see Rama. You should be seen by Rama."* Sri Ramakrishna further added: "Is it enough if you see me? Shouldn't you hear something about Truth?"

It is his inherited wealth that makes him talk thus



Once Sri Ramakrishna was travelling by a boat in Ganges along with his disciples. They were faced by a devotee who sometimes came to Dakshineswar to get the blessing of Sri Ramakrishna. He said: "Hey! Pandit, are you doing well?" The disciples of Sri Ramakrishna got angry when Paramahansa was called as Pandit. When they tried to reply back, Sri Ramakrishna said: "It is not he who has talked now. He recently inherited a lot of wealth on the death of one of his relatives. *It is that money which made him talk thus.*"



Sri Ramakrishna said: "It is very difficult to remain humble when we possess scholarship, wealth and fame. Isn't it true that God showers His Grace upon them who remain humble in spite of possessing scholarship, wealth and fame?"

Do you have the devotees of Govinda in your village?



Once Bankim Chandra Chatterjee invited Sri Ramakrishna to his house. Sri Ramakrishna asked him: "*Do you have the devotees of Govinda in your village?*" Unable to understand, when Bankim asked Sri Ramakrishna to clarify, Sri Ramakrishna narrated the following story:



"When customers enter a jeweler shop, the owner of the shop chants Govinda, Govinda in order to impress them that he is a devotee. If customer seems to be intelligent and cannot be deceived, he would chant, 'Hari, Hari'. However if the customer seems to be foolish and can be deceived, he would chant 'Hara, Hara'. But the customers feel that the owners of jeweler shop are devotees of Govinda who don't speak anything else other than the name of Govinda. But this is their code language. *Do you have such devotees of Govinda in your village?*"

Fill your mind with God and do your work



Sri Ramakrishna narrated the following story: There was a pandit who preached Bhagavata on a daily basis in a temple. There was also a prostitute who resided in the same street. Many big people visited her house. But she had a lot of devotion. Every evening she used to think: " How blessed is that pandit. He spends

his entire day in the service and remembrance of the Lord." Her maid used to inform her that today the pandit is going to preach Ramayana and tomorrow he is going to preach Bhagavata. Thus her mind constantly contemplated upon God. However the pandit used to think thus about the prostitute: "Many big people visit her. How wealthy she should have become by now. How lucky she is in having such rich and influential friends. Though I toil hard throughout the day I am left only with these dribblets (small amounts of money offered to him)." Thus the pandit's mind constantly contemplated upon money and influence. It happened that both of them died on the same day. Many people attended the funeral procession of the pandit and his funeral rites were conducted with a great honor. However nobody came forward to conduct the funeral

rites to the prostitute's dead body. Finally the municipality people conducted the same. However the prostitute was granted heaven and the pandit was bestowed with hell. When the pandit questioned for this differentiation, he was answered thus: "Your mind always contemplated upon wealth and influence. All the merit that you earned by preaching puranas ended in the funeral procession of your dead body. Whatever might be the work the prostitute has done with her body, her mind constantly contemplated upon God. Therefore she gained a greater merit than you." The work done by the body is not relevant. It happens as per the body's destiny. What is more important is the dwelling place of your mind. *Therefore fill your mind with God and do your work.*

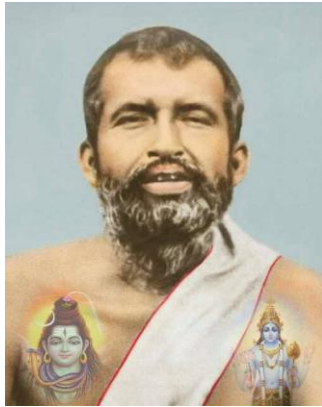
Live like the ants

Sri Ramakrishna said: "We should live like the ants. When there is a mixture of mud and sugar, the ants take up the sugar leaving out the mud. Similarly this world is a mixture of good and bad people. Therefore we need to accept the good and reject the bad."

God laughs at us in two instances

God laughs at us in two instances: Firstly when a doctor says that he will save the patient. Secondly when the brothers who have been loving each other since their childhood fight for the sake of property .

Even You have started Preaching!



If you preach without the experience of Self (Realization), it will only spoil others. If anyone tried to preach without Self Realization, Sri Ramakrishna never stopped them. Rather He used to say: "Even you have started preaching! You don't possess Peace and Bliss. So you have stopped crying at home and have started crying on the road? Do you understand the essence of the words that you speak? You read some books and are trying to vomit out here! So have you started teaching so early? Who gave you the authority to speak? Who asked you to open this shop?"

First attain God

Sri Ramakrishna said," First GOD, then world and then you." But we always do it otherwise ie., First ourselves, then world and then GOD.

If anyone boasted near Sri Ramakrishna for having built a temple or for performing any charity, Sri Ramakrishna used to say:" Do you consider these acts to be greater than attaining God? First perform the act of attaining God then you can start building temples or giving charities."

The Inscrutable Maya

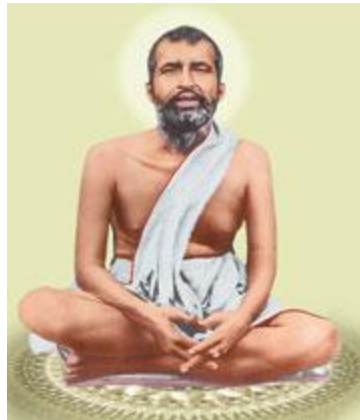
Sri Ramakrishna said: "Suppose a lake is full of lotus flowers, we push aside the lotus leaves and take out the water from the lake. Once we leave the lotus leaves, they immediately fill up the lake. Similarly even Maya is so powerful that it takes hold of us within a short period of time."

Sri Ramakrishna said: "Wear a sari worth 10000rs. You will then understand how arrogant you are. There exists some arrogance inherent within you. The expensive sari brings out that arrogance hidden within you. You consider yourselves to be a billionaire and lose all the devotion that you previously possessed. When a sari itself can contain so much Maya (delusion), how much Maya/Delusion should exist in this world? "

We represent the fish caught in a net



As long as we consider that all our people are doing well, our family is doing well and we have no problems in hand, *we resemble the fish caught in a net*. Such fish think: "It doesn't matter even if we are caught in the net. We are still in the water and are able to swim. How does it matter even if we are caught in the net? But they are not aware that within an hour the



net will be pulled out and they will have to struggle for their breath. When we proclaim that we are having a good time on hand, what should we become proud about? Is there anything worthy of being proud in this creation? Whether your work is good or bad, it all represents a dream. We are not aware as to when we get the call from the god of death. You can remain happy as long as you get the call from the god of death. I will not disturb the same."

You will attain God only if you possess an intense yearning to attain Him

Once Sri Ramakrishna narrated the following story: A disciple approached his preceptor and asked him: "How can I attain God?" The preceptor did not speak. He took the disciple to the river Ganges and asked him to take three dips. The disciple did accordingly for twice. But the third time, the preceptor forcibly held him in the water so that the disciple struggles for his breath for a while. Once the disciple came out of water, the preceptor asked him: "Isn't it true that you had no other thought other than getting out of water when I held you forcibly? Similarly *if you possess such an intense yearning to attain God immediately (not some point of time), you will realize God.*"

Sri Ramakrishna said: "One must have such an intense yearning to attain God as a thief possesses to make a theft. Suppose there exists thousands of crores of rupees in the next room, can a thief remain peaceful? He will have an intense yearning to steal them. He keeps waiting for everyone to fall asleep. He keeps awake naturally and he need not try to stop his sleep. He waits for the opportunity to steal the money. Similarly if you have such an intense yearning to attain God, you will attain Him."

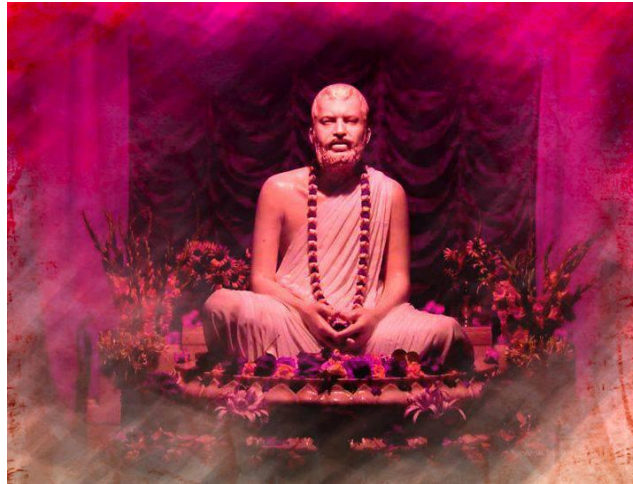
Sri Ramakrishna said: "You must Love God as much as You Love Yourself."

Sri Ramakrishna said: "Weeping has become your prime task. Anyway you will not stop crying; then why don't you cry for the sake of GOD? Why don't you cry for the sake of Truth realization? "

Sri Ramakrishna said: "If you sincerely take one step for attaining Truth, God takes the further nine steps and reveals Himself to you."

Sri Ramakrishna said: "Mother provides her children some toys to play with. Once the children are fed up with their toys, they start crying for the sake of their Mother. Only then the Mother comes and takes them into her shoulder. Similarly it is only after enjoying all the pleasures and enjoyments in the world that we renounce everything and cry for God. We understand all this to be 'The Play of God'. Only then God arrives and takes us into His lap."

Utilize the Holy Company



When there is a natural breeze, there is no necessity of having a ceiling fan. Similarly when you have Holy company, there is no necessity of making self effort.

It is very easy to befriend worldly people but difficult to get rid of them. Therefore don't be-friend worldly people.

Sri Ramakrishna said: "Though a stone stays in water for 10 years, it cannot suck even a drop of water. Then what is the purpose of its stay within water? Similarly some people may listen throughout their life but cannot grasp and practice at least one sentence. Then what is the purpose of such listening?"

Sri Ramakrishna said: "Though a frog resides under a lotus, it is only the honey bees which come from a far place that drink the nectar. Similarly even if you get Holy Company for a long period, it is of no use if your mind is not introverted. There may exist devotees who come from far places, get their mind introverted with His Grace and thereby attain Self Knowledge."

By developing Bhajanananda one jumps into Brahmananda



Sri Ramakrishna said: "If you want a person to transcend the sensory enjoyments, habituate him to Bhajanananda (the happiness derived from chanting the name of Lord). *Then the devotee will jump from Bhajanananda to Brahmananda (the eternal Bliss).* A person habituated to a tendency at a particular level of consciousness cannot transcend that tendency by remaining at the same level of



consciousness. He has to do something in order to increase his level of consciousness. It can be in the form of Holy Company, reading the scriptures, japa, meditation, visiting the temple or going on a pilgrimage, chanting the name of Lord etc., By doing any of the above, one can increase their level of consciousness. Then one need not get rid of their weaknesses. The weaknesses themselves leave him on their own. He then develops the intense desire to attain Self Realization. *Thus by developing Bhajanananda one jumps into Brahmananda."*

The work must leave you but you must not leave the work



Sri Ramakrishna said: "*The work must leave you but you must not leave the work.* If you hold the feet of God with one hand and perform your duty with the other hand, God will bestow you with the situation where the work itself will leave you. Then you can offer even the second hand for the sake of God."

Mother should work like a maid in looking after her children



Sri Ramakrishna said: "*Mother should work like a maid in looking after her children.* The maid caresses the children very carefully. She enables the children to take their bath, gives them their food, drops them in the school and brings them back etc., She performs all these works perfectly. But in the heart of hearts, she is aware that they are not her children. Similarly even Mother should perform her duty towards her children. God is the Father of all the Jivas. We must consciously remember this forever and perform our duty: They are our children only in this birth. We gave birth to our children but not to their destinies."

Beware of the intake of your food



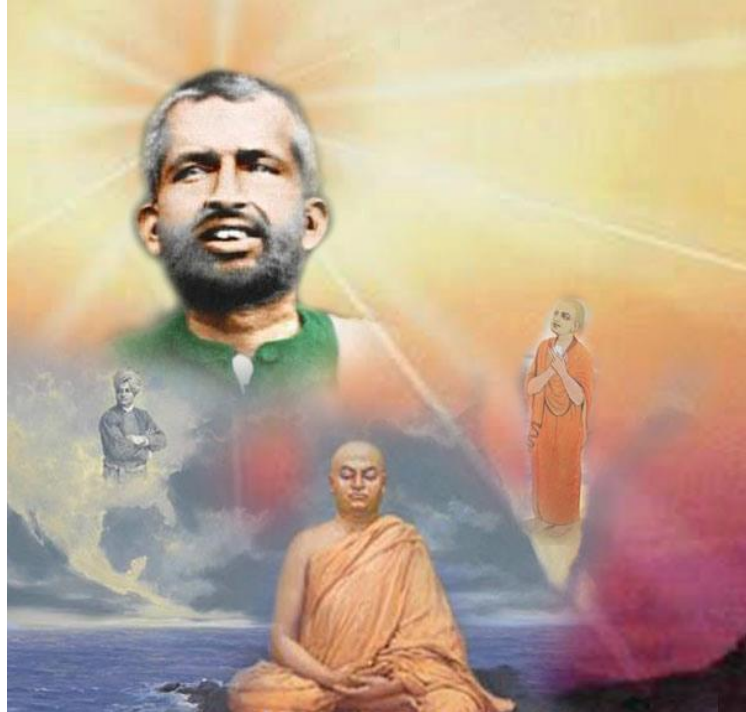
Sri Ramakrishna often used to say: "Remember this while doing sadhana. *Be very careful with respect to the intake of your food.* The mind is formed based upon the food that you consume. If you are careless with respect to your food, any amount of sadhana will not be fruitful."

Possess desireless devotion



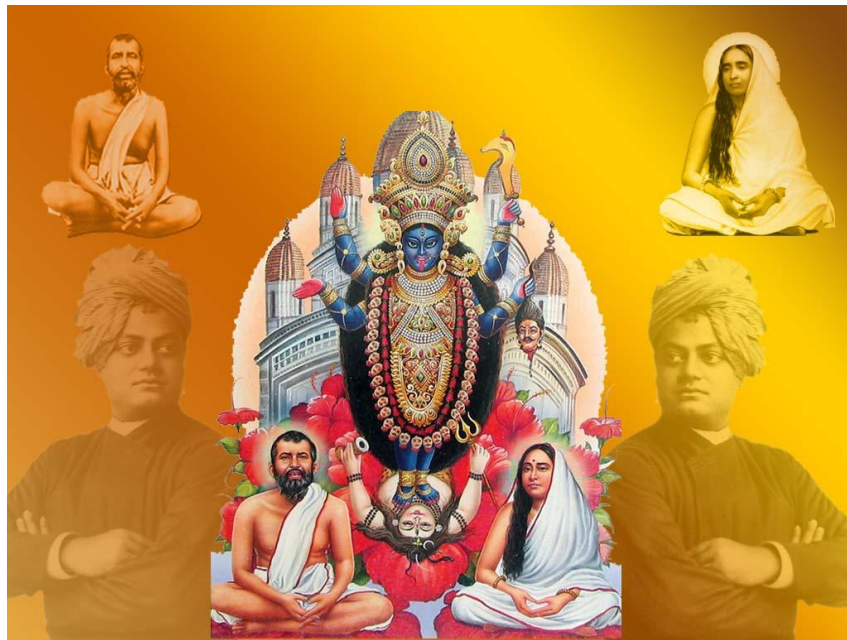
Sri Ramakrishna said: "Those who list their desires not on a paper but in their minds and circumambulate around the temple are also devotees but belong to a lower cadre."

Love God as well as His Creation



Sri Ramakrishna said: "If you adore, love and worship God but don't love His creation, you lose your weight (spiritual status). The weight of a mango is increased only with the combination of fiber, juice, nut and skin. Isn't it true that the weight is reduced when you try to weigh only the juice?"

We are all part of His Leela



Sri Ramakrishna said: "I am a Machine and You are its operator. Whether we like it or not, we have to tread the path as decided by Him. God makes it possible whatever we consider as impossible. When we consider something possible, God makes it impossible. Don't get surprised with that. God is the Master of this Universe. All this creation is but His Play, His Leela and His Maya. *We are all part of His Leela.*"

Only when you enact your role perfectly in Leela, you will attain the perfection in Nithya.



God has two aspects ie Leela and Nithya. There is a changeless thing (Self) that pervades the entire Universe. It is called as Nithya. That which is ever changing is Maya. For instance our body keeps changing from our childhood. The rich become the poor and the poor become rich. The friends become foes and the foes become friends. Therefore the world, the five elements, God and his administration, births,

deaths, marriages, freinds, foes etc., are part of Maya. Adi Shankara called it as Maya; however Sri Ramakrishna called it as Leela (The Play of God). Having Nithya as your goal, enact your role in Leela. The spiritual practices to attain Nithya has to be performed in Leela only. You will attain Nithya by mind control and sense control. Inspite of possessing everything (education, power, wealth, fame etc), you have to remain humble to attain Nithya. We have to get trained in Leela. Do not think that Nithya and Leela are not related. Only when you enact your role perfectly in Leela, you will attain the perfection in Nithya. If you leave Leela for the sake of attaining Nithya, you will lose both the material life as well as spiritual life.

Therefore do not escape from your duty. Do your duty and get liberated accordingly.

Don't forget that you are the servant of God



Sri Ramakrishna said: "Oh! Madman, Are you still considering yourselves to be God? *You are not God but you are servant of God.* You have to sit wherever God commands you to sit. Don't behave crazily considering yourselves to be God. You are merely a servant. Doing the work allotted for your body, try to merge within God. Don't get involved in other crazy affairs. Forgetting yourself to be servant, You are thinking that the entire creation is in your hands and You are God Himself. Don't think so crazily. Don't forget that you are the servant."

Self Knowledge is the goal of human life

Though Sri Ramakrishna preached about duality, His goal is Non duality.

Sri Ramakrishna said: "Tie the Advaitic preaching to your sari and work with your body." (ie., It has to remain with you forever)

Sri Ramakrishna said: "To experience that God alone exists and I don't exist is Self Knowledge."

Every man utters 'I', 'I'. To understand that You are not that 'I' is Self Knowledge. Hence Sri Ramakrishna defined Jnana in a single sentence which Bhagavan defined in the 16 pages of 'WHO AM I?' Bhagavan Ramana said: "The body doesn't exist even now. Considering the body to be existent is merely a thought. In deep sleep, there is no thought relating to the existence of God. The person in deep sleep and

the person in waking state is one and same. We are happy in deep sleep. Then why aren't we happy in waking state? The entire teaching of Bhagavan is contained here. When we are awake, we get the body consciousness (ie., i am the body) which in turn brings in disturbance. In deep sleep, we don't have the body consciousness. Therefore we are peaceful. The other thoughts arise only after the advent of 'i' thought.

Sri Ramakrishna said: "Earn the 'one' called Self Knowledge at first. Later whatever you earn externally resemble the zeroes beside that 'one' (to the right hand side which increase its value). You become blessed. Without the 'one' called Self Knowledge, even if you earn wealth, power, fame or education externally, all of them resemble the zeroes without one."

If the stars are invisible in daylight, does it indicate that they don't exist?



Sri Ramakrishna said: "Only because the Truth within your Heart is not in your experience, do you think that Truth doesn't exist? *If the stars are invisible in the daylight, does it mean that they don't exist?* If I consider myself to be body, this cancer will kill me within 6 months. If I am body itself, even I should disappear along with the body. The Truth within the Heart is deathless and YOU ARE THAT. There is no relationship between the death of the body and the Truth within the Heart. To experience this is Self Knowledge."

The ego needs to be annihilated

Sri Ramakrishna said:" If you peel off the skin of an onion, layer by layer, is there any onion left over? No. Similarly if you reject each and every thought that you get, then the ego is totally annihilated. The 'i' that we are currently referring to is a bunch of thoughts. When these thoughts are rejected, the 'i' doesn't exist."

Sri Ramakrishna said: "When the skin of the paddy is peeled off in a rice mill, it is converted into rice. Similarly when the layer called ego is peeled off through your sadhana, the Self within is revealed."

It is not easy to annihilate the 'i' thought

Sri Ramakrishna said: "You may think that getting rid of ego is easy but it is not as easy as you think so. It is as difficult as straightening a dog's tail."

Sri Ramakrishna said: "This 'i' thought will not perish even if you try to cut it using a saw. Only when you are 100% stabilized in God Experience, the 'i' thought will perish. Till then it will not vanish."

Sri Ramakrishna said: "You call i, i. How will you leave it when you identify yourselves with it? When a wall stands in between two people, they cannot see each other. Similarly this 'i' resembles a wall in between you and God."

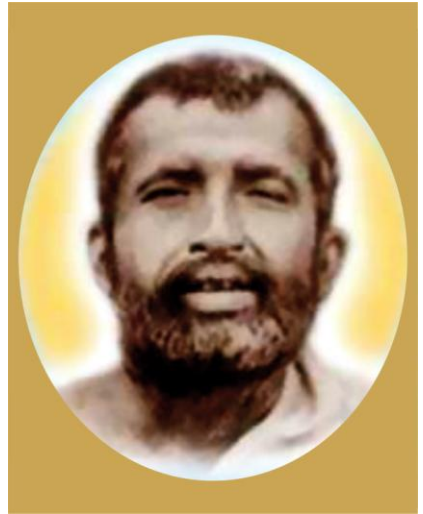
One cannot attain Self Knowledge without **God's Grace**

Sri Ramakrishna said: Self Knowledge is not attained by external activities like reading books etc., Ignorance exists in the form of the feeling 'i am the body' and 'i am the mind'. Grace of Narayana is the only medicine. Ignorance cannot be cured with the external medicines brought from any shop.

Sri Ramakrishna said: "How little are you! How little is your mind or intellect? Can you attain God using them? Can you gauge God using your intellect? How long can you meditate using your mind? How long can you perform self enquiry using your intellect? God's Grace must exist. How do you get God's Grace? It is only by your right behaviour pattern in your day to day life. You cannot attain Self Realization without Grace of God.

Don't become a hypocrite

Sri Ramakrishna said: "When the mind exists, how can you consider the world, jiva and god to be fictitious? Only when the mind doesn't exist, they are fictitious. But when mind exists, does it make sense in uttering with your mouth that the body is false? When you possess Self Knowledge, you don't consider the body's death to be your death. You are deceiving yourself when you consider them to be false even when the mind exists. How can you stand when you are groundless? *Don't become a hypocrite.* How long will you deceive yourself? When you are not stabilized in Truth, don't consider yourselves to be stabilized in Truth and thereby deceive yourself. Rather make an effort to realize Truth."



The essence of Gita is Tyaga ie Sacrifice



In the Gita, it is mentioned that a Jnani does not differentiate between stone, mud and gold. Sri Ramakrishna used to test himself if he possessed any attachment for gold.

Sri Ramakrishna said: "Nothing can be changed in the Gita. It is because God Himself preached it. If it is not understood, we need to introspect as to why we are unable to understand it but we should not criticize it. If you are criticizing the Gita, it implies you have not understood the same. When you understand it, you can grasp its depth, weight and wideness."

Sri Ramakrishna said: "Reverse the word Gita. It becomes Tyagi ie., one who sacrifices. Until and unless a person becomes a Tyagi, he cannot understand Gita. Gita will not share its heart with him."

The Song of Sri Ramakrishna

Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa used to sing a few songs when he was young. Here is a song that he used to sing:



Listen O son, repeat O son!
Govinda is guru, guru is
Govinda!

Listen O son, repeat O son!
This body, mind and world are Govinda!
Realize this O son!
Even life is Govinda.

I (Ramakrishna) am not bound by the world
I am not a part of this world.
I have a body like you but I am not a part of
the world
Even when I am in this world, I am equal to
not being in this world.
You realize what you are,

Stay in the company of good and leave bad people

Leave your bad thoughts and embrace good thoughts

Listen O son, repeat O son!

Govinda is guru, guru is Govinda!

Do not be afraid,

All fear is lost in satsang (company of the holy)

Follow the path of devotion to become good.

Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa used to sing this song in his village, Kamarpukur. I remembered this song and sang here. His songs had no music directors to set music. He used to keep singing such songs.

-Sadguru Sri Nannagaru

We suit each other



Once a devotee told Sri Nannagaru: "You are our Ramakrishna". Sri Nannagaru replied: "Yes, we (referring to himself and Sri Ramakrishna) form a good pair. We suit each other. The doors of Sri Ramakrishna were never closed for devotees. No prior appointments were required."



I love that mad man (ie., Sri Ramakrishna who is mad of God). It is dangerous to think of Him before going to sleep. I will not be able to sleep anymore.

- Sadguru Sri Nannagaru

