

Celebrating the birthday of our Sadguru Shri Lahiri Mahasaya - 30 September

Divine Glimpses

Autopilot

In late 2002, I received a call from Satya Baba, the centre leader in Sydney. Satya Baba told me Prajnanananda Baba wanted to visit New Zealand that February, 2003. I was surprised to say the least. While I was initiated a few years ago in India, I had not met Prajnanandaji until 1999. During my stint in India, I had only heard from a close friend and fellow Kriyavan that there was a very advanced disciple of Gurudev Hariharanandaji living in Vienna who had previously been a Professor of Economics.

Many questions ran through my mind. "Why does Baba want to come to Auckland, there are no disciples here? How can I look after a monk? What does he want from me...?"

I finally told Satya Baba that it would be difficult to organise a programme as I am was to India that December

Kriya Yoga

Association of New Zealand



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Hari Om Tat Sat

Divine members of the New Zealand Kriya family. I have recently taken over the editorial role. We will endeavour to bring articles of interest, news and information regarding Kriya activities. The newsletter is of our members, for our members but also should be by our members. If you have any interesting articles, poems, experiences to share, please get in touch with me. I hope you will enjoy this. Please contact me with your feedback if we can improve any aspect of how we communicate with you through this medium.

Partha Roop

and wouldn't be back in Auckland in the first week of February. Who would do the organising?

He calmly replied, "Don't worry, Baba wants to come to meet you. There is another Kriya family and I will put you in touch with them. They will assist you."

We returned to Auckland on 7th February 2003 and Baba was due to arrive on the 9th. A few weeks before this, some friends who were not Kriyavans had printed a few black and white posters regarding a public discourse by Baba in a church in Parnell. We had no knowledge of any protocols, no experience in organising spiritual events and no skills in properly advertising events. Most interestingly, the main organiser was missing from the scene just two days prior to Guruji's arrival!

We had an informal meeting on the 8th to decide on a rough plan of action that included airport pickup, some elaborate arrangements for sight-seeing and organising the discourse and possibly initiations of interested people.

Baba was to arrive from Sydney around 1pm. I left from Devonport to pick him with two other friends. Due to my excellent sense of direction and map reading ability, we got lost on the way twice and reached the airport half an hour past the flight arrival time! My

friends assured me that though we were late, Baba would require some time to collect his baggage and complete the checkout procedure. By the time we arrived in the arrival hall, Baba was sitting calmly and there were no one around!

I flushed in shame and when I apologised to Baba, he just patted me lovingly saying "Why are you worried? I am just waiting for you to come." His love and grace were palpable. Baba's belongings were minimal; just a small cabin bag is all he had.

We came back to the car to begin our journey from the airport back to the suburb of Devonport. Baba sat beside me on the front seat, with legs folded on the seat, in a yogic posture. The drive would be about three quarters of an hour. This was the first time I was sitting so close to a Monk for such a long period. On the way, in those days, there was a tricky section near Gilles avenue, where you had to change three lanes in quick succession. While changing my lane from left to right, I suddenly noticed that a car from the far right lane was also changing exactly to the same spot and would shortly collide with us side on. This would be a massive collision unless one of us moved away. The big dilemma was that there was a very fast

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car behind me on my lane that would hit me from the back, if I reversed my decision. Baba, while looking all the time ahead commanded, "Continue to change. A Yogi is sitting, nothing will happen." Even before Baba had finished speaking, the car from the far right lane had moved away making space for us! Speechless, breathless and in a trance like state, we reached home.

After the late lunch and listening to some beautiful stories from Baba, we briefed him regarding the programme that included the public discourse, followed by possible initiation to be completed on the 10th. On the 11th there would be a

radio interview on Tarana, a local Indian station. After this, we would take Baba for sightseeing to several places. Baba smiled and said, "Don't worry about the programme this year. Whatever you have done is fine. I have come to see you all. However, I don't do any sightseeing." After this, he laughed heartily.

In spite of a lack of proper advertisement regarding the programme, we were very surprised to find a packed hall in Parnell on the discourse night. Following this, eleven people gave their name for initiation. In the evening my wife heard Baba speaking to his secretary in Vienna. He mentioned that eight people would be initiated the next day. After the call, she went to Baba and said, "Baba, actually the number of people registered for initiation is eleven and not eight as you stated." Baba remained silent. In following, we had two lovely initiation ceremonies, where exactly eight people got initiated.

The last part of the programme was the interview on radio Tarana. This station

is located right in the heart of the city, just off New North Road. By now, you will be already aware of my navigation skills. I am especially afraid of driving in the city since parking is so hard to find. I am well known for getting lost in the same place and even circling around streets that I have visited many times before. Considering all this, I requested a colleague to navigate me while we searched for our destination and suitable parking.



Prajnananandaji at Radio Tarana, Auckland 2003

Keeping in view my great skills, we started from home 1 ½ hours prior to the programme, a distance of just half an hour. Baba said nothing and just followed us to the car, while my wife kept saying, "Why

are you leaving so early?"

We crossed the Auckland harbour bridge and as the city was approaching, my heart was racing in anticipation. My colleague, however, was calm and navigating nicely. We finally reached New North Road in the centre of town. The destination was not far away and the traffic was heavy with no scope of turning back quickly. So, I made some silent prayers. "Oh Lord, please save my face this time!" My colleague warned me that we were not far away and I should be prepared to take the next left. I nodded in agreement and as the next intersection was approaching, I had someone from within telling me NOT to turn. I wanted to turn and my colleague was now shouting out loud, "you missed the street, it will be very difficult to come back as there are road dividers and we have to come back a long way." I wanted to listen to him but could not. I was completely mesmerized and definitely on auto pilot. After crossing this intersection and going a little further, I just turned to the next left.

Thankfully, we saw a large car park with many empty spots immediately. I happily turned there and parked to check if there was a way to walk back to the next intersection. I told Guruji and my friend to wait in the car. As I got out of the car and started walking towards the street, the number of the building in front surprised me; it was the same address of Radio Tarana. However, this could not be the right street, since my colleague insisted on the previous left. When I looked at the street name this time, bingo, this was the correct address. We were right in front of our destination!

After a very beautiful interview, we returned home. When my wife enquired regarding the interview Baba replied, "Why your husband does always takes us to appointments so early?" He was looking at me and smiling. I had not mentioned about my invisible guide, but I was not now surprised. After all, a Guru is the one who navigates his disciples through many lives, so why shouldn't panicky drivers be given some help when needed!

Dates to Diary

30th September

Birthday of Lahiri Mahasaya

17th November

Birthday of Swami Satyananda Giri

3rd December

Mahasamadhi of
Paramahansa Hariharanandaji

25th December

Birthday of Lord Jesus Christ

Meditation Schedule

16 December 2009

Last Wednesday meditation

19 December 2009

Last Saturday meditation

13 January 2010

First Wednesday meditation

16 January 2010

First Saturday meditation

"May God, Christ and
Masters bless us all"

Isha Upanishad

by Paramahansa Hariharananda



Among the Upanishads, the Isha Upanishad, although small in size, has become a very important one, as it speaks of the direct spiritual experience of manifesting divinity. It is one of the major Upanishads in which Shri Adi Shankara wrote his beautiful commentary. Its spiritual fervor excels its size. This beautiful Upanishad speaks only about Isha. Isha means Ishwara, the power of God. God was alone and desired to be many. So God made men and women in His own image, and breathed into their nostrils the breath of His life. God

became the living Soul in the whole universe. So everything you see in the whole universe is the manifestation of the power of God.

Summary of the Isha Upanishad

In the Isha Upanishad, there are only eighteen mantras, or verses. There is a nice connected link in the meaning of the mantras of the Isha Upanishad, from the first to the eighteenth mantra. A brief summary of the mantras follows in this section; full explanations of each mantra are in the subsequent sections.

The **first** mantra says that only Isha is abiding in the whole universe and in the human being, and that seer and seen are one. God gives you evidence in anything and everything that comes to you that you are a living God. Matter, man, or even any living being has come to give you the living evidence of God.

The **second** mantra states that you are always in delusion, so for soul culture you require:

- 1 A hundred years of life,
- 2 Good company, the direct guidance of a realised yogi, and
- 3 To perceive every work as worship so that actions do not bind you. Without good actions, you cannot be self-realized.

The **third** mantra indicates that if you remain in the non-God stage, you are in darkness and you will go to a lower plane of existence. It is like committing spiritual suicide.

The **fourth** mantra says that God is omnipresent and in the form of tranquility and peace, but the

power of God in creation moves more speedily than the air. He is unknown, untouchable. He is one, He is unseen, remaining detached, and conducting and evolving creation.

In the **fifth** mantra, the rishi (person of right vision) says God taught us that He is active, but He is beyond action. He is very far. He is very near. He is in everyone, but if you seek Him in everyone, you cannot see Him.

The **sixth** mantra narrates that every person should see the whole world in their soul and the Soul in the whole world.

The **seventh** mantra highlights that when you feel that the whole world is the Soul, you do not feel sorrow nor are you absorbed in delusion.

The **eighth** mantra describes the qualities of the soul.

The **ninth** mantra says that those who worship the formless God, but without good guidance, also enter into the deepest darkness.

The **tenth** mantra says that we have learned the explanation of the ninth mantra from the rishi.

The **eleventh** mantra maintains that if we meditate on vidya and avidya jointly, then we become immortal and enjoy nectar.

In the **twelfth** mantra, the rishi says that those who only imagine God are worshipping sambhuti. They are in darkness. And those who worship Lshwma (the power of God), but not God, are also in darkness.

The **thirteenth** mantra states that the results of sambhuti and the results of asambhuti are different. We heard this from honest people.

In the **fourteenth** mantra, the rishi says that those who know clearly about sambhuti and vinasha overcome death, and by the help of sambhuti, they get salvation.

In the **fifteenth** mantra, the rishi offers this prayer, "The world is full of delusion. O Lord, please remove it and allow me to see the Truth."

In the **sixteenth** mantra, the rishi prays, "O Lord, please remove Your delusive power. I want to see Your divine form. You are always with me. Please open my third eye and lead me on the royal road."

In the **seventeenth** mantra, the rishi describes clearly the technique of esoteric meditation like Kriya Yoga.

In the **eighteenth** mantra, the rishi says, "O Lord, You are all-knowing and You are the Savior. So we pray that you please forgive us our sins and

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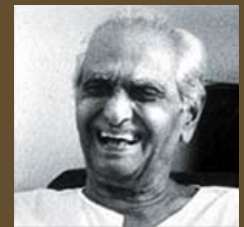
The passing of Sage Ramesh Balsekar

It is with the heaviest of hearts we inform you of the passing of a pre-eminent Advaita sage Ramesh Balsekar, on 27 September 2009 at 9am in his home in Mumbai.

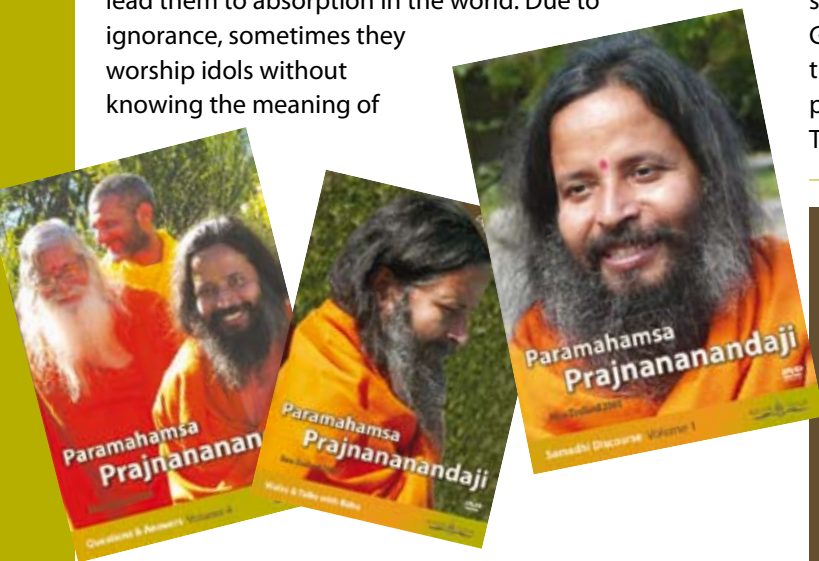
Ramesh Baba (b. 25 May 1917) was truly an extraordinary being. His life as a successful banker, author and spiritual teacher directly enriched the

lives of tens of thousands of people.

Those wanting to read Ramesh Baba's publications, please contact zenpublications@gmail.com. DVD's of His daily talks are available by contacting Suresh Makhija at nondoerego@yahoo.co.in.



faults. I bow to Thee a thousand times. O Lord, You know our delusion and our many negative karmas. Please make us free from our delusion, from our crookedness, and sins. It is only You who can save us." From their infancy, people are not conscious of their indwelling Self. They are constantly absorbed with the worldly sense, and their five sense organs lead them to absorption in the world. Due to ignorance, sometimes they worship idols without knowing the meaning of



DVDs of NZ retreat near completion

We are delighted to announce that the DVD's documenting the Kriya Yoga NZ Retreat in March 2009 are being printed.

The series consists of the following:

- Samadhi Discourse Series 1 – 5
- Question & Answer Series 1 – 4
- Walks and Talks with Baba - Bonus DVD for New Zealand release only.

The full set of DVDs will be available for purchase very soon. Details will be emailed out to all Kriyavans.

Thanks to all those who lovingly gave their time to complete this project for our beloved Baba, and to friends who offered their professional services at a reduced rate - without whom this project would not have been possible.

We are grateful to God and Gurus for this opportunity to spread the Word of our Beloved Prajnananandaji, and to raise funds for Kriya Yoga New Zealand.

it. Any person, even without reading any other Upanishad, who reads the Isha Upanishad, follows each mantra, and applies them in his or her daily life, will get God-realization. If you essentially know yourself, then you will be the Self. Knowing means being. So if you know that Isha, the power of God, is within you, you will even attain the nirvikalpa samadhi stage. This is the ultimate stage of immersion in God consciousness. You will get peace, bliss, and joy. And through this you can perceive that you are not an ordinary person. You are God in human being, human being in God. This is Isha.

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YouTube listings of interest

http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=paramahamsa+hariharaananda&search_type=&aq=f

http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=paramahamsa+prajnanananda&search_type=&aq=f

http://www.youtube...com/results?search_query=ramesh+balsekar&search_type=&aq=0&oq=Ramesh+Bal

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