Parents are handcuffed, clouds of sorrow are hovering, there’s nothing but trouble all around; yet, Shri Krishna, smilingly incarnating amidst all this, is exemplifying to the world that despite facing troubles from all sides, you are such an Atman of the consciousness nature that is immune to troubles.

– Pujya Sant Shri Asharamji Bapu
Six roles assumed by SatGuru, who showers the Bliss of Salvation

‘SatGuru has assumed the roles of Death, Varuna, Soma, medicinal plants, water and the clouds. It is He who has brought about the Bliss of Liberation, meaning He has instilled in the sadhaka that new Self-knowledge.’

(Atharva Veda: 11th Book, 7th Hymn, 14th Verse)

In this verse, Veda Bhagavan has expounded 6 roles of SatGuru: (1) The role of death: Satisfaction of desires and collecting objects of physical pleasures and comforts is the only objective of common people. Hence, in the initial stage, the disciple lives on the physical and mental planes. SatGuru gives new life divine based on Dharma to his disciple by gradually destroying his life which is based on physical and mental planes.

(2) The role of Varuna: It’s only when the disciple consents to his elevation from the life on physical and mental planes, that it becomes possible for him to see the second role of SatGuru. What was termed as ‘Varun Pasha’ by Vedic Rishis, has been referred to as ‘Janeu’ (or the sacred thread) by the authors of Smriti Shastras. The three sacred threads of Janeu symbolize the three nooses of Varuna. SatGuru, assuming the role of Varuna, for the sole purpose of all-round development of the disciple; restrains the intellect, heart and stomach of the latter by these three reins. How?

SatGuru washes out the evil tendencies of the sense of reality of the world and the sense of ‘I-ness’ in the body from the disciple’s intellect with the shower of ambrosial knowledge of Vedanta. SatGuru uproots and washes away the evils of duality, attachment, aversion, fear, and delusion from the disciple’s heart with the strong current of the flood of His undivided, and infinite non-dual love. SatGuru releases his disciple laughingly and playfully, while giving him the joy of divine love and bliss of the inner self, from the clutches of the narrow, self-limiting notions from which the disciple was unable to extricate himself. By teaching the disciple the rational middle path (of moderation) regarding food and mode of living, He curbs his unrestrained food habits, thereby leading the latter towards the path of a healthy-life. Thus, by means of these three reins of SatGuru, the life of the disciple proceeds on the Path of self-restraint which is essential for spiritual unfolding.

While being invested with the three sacred threads, the disciple makes the following 3 resolves – “I shall nourish my intellect with Vedantic Knowledge, my heart with nondual-love, and my stomach with wholesome food, in moderation, prescribed according to the season.”

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Bapuji's message on the pious occasion of Guru-Purnima

Date: 15-07-2019

Hari Om…

Everyone should contemplate and reflect on the significance of Guru Purnima festival. Guru Purnima marks the incarnation day of Bhagavan Veda Vyasa ji. Veda Vyasa ji wrote the world’s foremost and best text on philosophy entitled ‘Brahma Sutra’. He started to write it on the full moon day in the month of Ashadh. This day also marks the conclusion of the writing of the great epic, Mahabharata. ‘Vyasa Purnima’ is celebrated in memory of the great man who performed unforgettable service to mankind in its deliverance. His memory is so pleasant, enlightening, and gracious that even Lord Krishna and Lord Rama heard and instructed respectfully, his books, scriptures and commentaries and considered them authentic. Celebrating Vyasa Purnima gives religious merit equivalent to celebrating all the Purnimas in a year. It also bestows sublime understanding! Brother! Even if you make material progress to any extent, or even get a golden city like Lanka, but if you do not get repose in the Self by eradicating desires, what is the use? Adi Shankaracharya said, “What purpose does it serve?” How miserable was the state of Ravana? Hiranyakashyapu practiced such a terrible penance and so intelligent was he that he made Hiranyakapur. His name was Hiranyakashyapu. ‘Hiranya’ means ‘gold’. He constructed a city of gold. Finally he got involved in it so deeply that he could not attain the bliss of inner Self, the omnipresent Narayana. Lord Vishnu blessed him with a son named Prahlada. In the end, Hiranyakashyapu, tired of worldly riches, was defeated and Prahlada emerged victorious. History is replete with such examples. King Nriga was born as a chameleon in his next life. He was a very renowned king. King Aja became a python in his next life. Sant Kabir ji said:

“What should we do and accumulate for this short life? Everyone is departing this life leaving his body, house, wealth and kingdom.”

When you must have to leave your body, house, wealth, and kingdom, do something which will ensure that you get eternal happiness.

Sisters and brothers! Eternal bliss is not far from you. Dear children! It is not rare dear sons! It is not beyond your reach, it is your own Self-God; that is called ‘Self-knowledge.’

आत्मज्ञानात् परं ज्ञानं न विद्यते ।

No knowledge is higher than Self-knowledge.

आत्मसुखात् परं सुखं न विद्यते ।

Brothers and sisters, Sadhaka, No bliss is greater than Self-Bliss.

आत्माभावत् परं लाभं न विद्यते ।
When do we develop love for God? – Pujya Bapuji

Sant Lalji Maharaj once told me, “A grandfather and grandmother were amusing their grandson on the veranda of their house. As I passed by I heard the old woman saying: “Oh My child! Oh, my lord! Oh, my King! Oh, My darling!”

The child is unaware how rhetorically and emotionally you call him. Lalji Maharaj started gazing vacantly. Then the old man and woman asked him: “Maharaj! What is the matter? Do you want to go anywhere?”

Maharaj: “No... – I don’t have to go anywhere.”

“Whom do you have to meet?”

“I don’t have to meet anyone. I’m just watching you loving this child. You are addressing him – ‘King! My diamond! My gold! My dear child!’ and you are using so many rhetorical words to him, but does he know this?”

The old lady continued loving the child, and said, “Maharaj! Interest is dearer than the capital. Similarly, a grandson is dearer than the son.”

Humility incarnate Lalji Maharaj asked, “May I ask a question?”

“Yes! Please ask.”

“When your grandson was in his mother’s womb, you knew that he was your grandson. Did you feel love for him as you feel now?”

“He was our grandson even in his mother’s womb, but how can there be affection without seeing and knowing his name and form?”

Lalji Maharaj then said to me, “See, how nicely she answered the question!”

Similarly, without hearing about the name and form of God, without hearing His glories, how can love for God be kindled? The way a child is only visible once he comes out of the womb and only then love arises, similarly when we hear the speech of saints originating from their heart describing God’s name, form, qualities, nature, lila and lordship, etc., only then we develop love for God. Hence, we should hear satsang repeatedly and sing His glory.

(You must read the book ‘Shri Narayan Stuti’ available at stalls and service centres of the ashram)

(Continued from page: 07...)

Your ideal. If one is firmly determined, with single-minded devotion to realise God or Paramatma fully, in this very birth; then that too could be attained. However, even the slightest slackening; or thinking about the option that, ‘I shall realise God in my next birth’ will postpone things for so many births to come that one can’t even imagine. As an analogy, if a small, round metal pot, placed on the topmost rung of a ladder, tumbles down even a single rung; it automatically rolls down and falls down all the rungs of the ladder one after the other with a noise sounding like – thann, thann, thann...; and thus, rolls down to the very bottom. (To be continued...)
The day for worshipping the Lord of Wisdom

(Ganesh Chaturthi: 2nd September) – Pujya Bapuji

The five forms of God are well-known to sadhakas of Sanatana Dharma, viz. Sun god, Shiva, Vishnu, Shakti (Jagdamba) and Shri Ganesh. Ganapati is worshipped in our country and also in other countries dominated by the Sanatan Dharma like Burma, China, Japan, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Nepal where the festival of Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated grandly.

Lord Ganesh is worshipped at the very commencement of any auspicious action, be it a marriage ceremony, birth of a baby, laying of foundation for construction of a house, Vastu pujan, inauguration of factory, etc. Paying respects or reverence to influential men of excellence removes the obstacles and hindrances in the path of anything being done. Bhagavan Ganapati is the most excellent and powerful God. So, it has been said that by remembering Lord Ganesh and worshipping Him, the action is completed without any hitch or hindrance.

If a mother observes Vrata and keeps fast on Ganesh Chaturthi, and does Japa, her child will become intelligent and brilliant.

गणान्तः पति इति गणपति। The word ‘Gana’ refers to the senses. The One who is the master of the senses is known as ‘Ganapati’. The Brahma Vaivarta Purana mentions that there is no other god more self-controlled than Ganesh.

Lord Ganesha’s vehicle, a mouse, is very small. However, the Lord’s body is that of a human with a huge head. Wise men interpret this that the petty jiva should evolve into a human being and human beings should become broad-minded (Knower of absolute Truth).

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If by mistake someone happens to look at the moon...

If someone happens to look at the moon on the fourth day of the bright fortnight of the month Bhadrapada, one earns censure or ill-repute. The moon will set at 9.26 p.m. on 2nd September. So, don’t look at the moon until this time. If by mistake someone does happen to look at the moon, he should read or listen with deep respect the story of how Lord Krishna cleared his character regarding ‘the theft of Syamantak jewel’ quoted in the Shrimad Bhagavatam in the 56th and 57th chapters of the tenth canto. This will completely save the person from the curse. Look at the moon on the third lunar day (1st September) and fifth lunar day (3rd September). This helps in removal of the censure.

(For further information, please read page 49 of the book ‘Kya Karein Kya Na Karein’ available at the service centres of the Samiti.)
You may not like this fact, but it is 100% true

The fruit of human birth is to attain the knowledge of the Supreme Self. "I got the job; I got the promotion!" this is nothing but self-deception. If you set your heart on anything or any person other than God, you will regret it in the end! Everyone will deceive you, you will see it yourself. You may not like what I am saying now, but it is 100% true. If you set your heart on anything other than God, then you must weep in the end! Make use of the things of the world, but love God. The material world is not lovable; objects and things are not lovable. God is lovable. If you wish to love, love God; if you want to fight, fight with God; if you want to reproach, reproach God. God should be everything to you.

"Should we reproach God?"

Yes, even on this pretext if you remember Him, you will cross the ocean of metempsychosis. "You are hidden in the heart of everyone but, you are not revealing Yourself. I do not have that much intellect. Then, O ocean of compassion! If you do not shower your compassion and grace, what will become of me? I will continue to wander in the cycle of 84 lakh species. Let me not misuse human intellect and meet with destruction.

"Recalling your vow of kindness to the afflicted, O Master, relieve my delusion."

You are Truth, Consciousness, Bliss absolute. My inner self and the Lord of the Universe Supreme Self are one and the same. O Master, not treading the path to You, I am blindly attracted towards the unreal, inert and five types of painful sense pleasures. The moth blindly attracted to a lamp is burnt to death. The bumble-bee attracted by the fragrance of a lotus is killed by a wild animal like an elephant who tramples on the lotus flower, the fish attracted to tasty food (bait) is trapped by the hook, an elephant attracted blindly by lust to the female elephant is trapped by poachers and remains shackled throughout its life. The deer attracted to music becomes a victim of hunters.

"The, deer, the fish, the bumble-bee, the moth and the elephant are destroyed; each because of a single defect. So for the one who is consumed with five incurable vices- what hope is there for him?"

My mind is deluded by the five types of sense pleasures even after hearing and understanding the above-mentioned words of Tulsidas.

"Recalling your vow of kindness to the afflicted, O Master, relieve my delusion."

Leaving satsang, meditation, Self-bliss, and knowledge of Supreme Self, we are ruining our life in petty carnal pleasures.

"There is no knowledge higher than Self-knowledge. There is no attainment superior to that of Atman. There is no joy greater than Self-bliss."

Despite having these words of scriptures, saints and the knowledge of Gita and the nectar of the Upanishads we are hankering blindly after sense pleasures. We are being scorched by the worldly fire of unrest, dejection, fear, anxiety, and grief, and we know that Yoga is the best medicine for those tormented by afflictions of samsara. Despite hearing and understanding this we are not
How did Bhakta Prahlada defeat Bhagavan?

There is an interesting and enlightening story in the Yamana Purana.

Prahlada visited Naimisharanya where he saw the two hermits, Nara and Narayana, engrossed deep in penance. At their sides were divine bows and arrow-holders. Deeming them pomp and egoistic, he said to them, “Why are you both so ostentatious? One side you are immersed in penance and have long matted hair; but you have kept these divine weapons on the other.”

Hermit Nara replied, “O demon king! Why are you so worried about our possession? If someone is competent enough to execute anything particular, he would naturally have the appropriate equipment. We possess supreme powers. Nobody dares battle with us.”

Enraged, Prahlada promised them, “I will defeat both of you (Nara and Narayana) in battle by all means.”

Prahlada fought fiercely with Nara in the beginning. Prahlada then took a supreme weapon into his hand and put the Brahmastra on his bow while Nara exercised Maheshwarastra. Both these weapons collided and were destroyed simultaneously. Having seen the Brahmastra fail its target, Prahlada was infuriated. He picked up his mace and jumped down from his chariot. When Narayana saw Prahlada advancing with his mace, he pulled back Nara and came in front for coupling with his attack. A tremendous battle ensued between the demon king Prahlada and Narayana. They would stop fighting at sandhya time and start again the next day.

When Prahlada was unable to beat Narayana, despite fighting for a long time, he went to Lord Vishnu to ask why he could not beat Narayana.

Narayana replied, “O Prahlada, Narayana is beyond your powers and you cannot defeat him. He is invincible and undefeatable even by all the gods and demons.”

When Prahlada knew that it was impossible to keep his promise, he set his life-force in his head to give up breathing and started chanting the hymns relating to everlasting Brahman. Lord Vishnu then said to Prahlada, “Remember, you can win them only with devotion and not battle. Narayana is nobody else but I myself, and busy there on penance in order to establish Dharma above all so that it may render peace to all. Hence, do their worship if you want to win them.”

Prahlada abandoned and assigned the state and all stately affairs to Andhaka, a son of Hiranyaksha, and went to Badrikashrama. He saluted Nara and Narayana’s feet.

Narayana said, “Prahlada, why have you decided to salute instead of defeating me in battle?”

Prahlada replied, “O Lord! Who can conquer you? Scholars worship you; masters of the Vedas do Japa of your name and Yajnikas perform Yajna. You are Brahma, Shiva, Indra, Agni, Yama, Varuna and you are wind. You are the cause of the sun, moon, the immovable and the movable living beings. You are the earth, fire, sky and
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Guru-worship done on Vyasa Purnima (Photos, in addition to those on cover-page 4)
Countless hearts, filled with faith, love, gratitude and reverence arrived at Guru’s door on Vyasa Purnima and worshipped their Guru

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