

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Traditionally speaking this is the season of giving and receiving of gift-making and gift-enjoying. We Satsangis have to realise and be grateful for the most extraordinary and tremendous gifts we enjoy from the Divine Master and we should appreciate how little is really asked from us in return.

An old saying is, 'if you want furniture then bring home the carpenter'. Thus, if we want gifts we have to bring the giver to mind. The spiritual meaning of this saying is that if you want the Creator then you have to make a place for Him in your heart. Then He can live within you and, through this human body, shower you with his Divine Love.

You see, God **IS** inconceivable. How then can you feel love for such a great and distant being? It is in this human form, at a human level, at our level, that we can, by His Grace, come face to face and feel Him, talk to Him and love Him. But he is not confined to this level or plane because He **IS** all-pervasive. The Master is always here and there. Wherever you turn, He **IS** – if only you have the eye to see and care to listen.

He comes with his message of love as a human messenger. In fact he is the message. His love just draws you. His love is a powerful magnet, a magnet that never leaves you.

Why does he come? He comes to show you the way to his abode by connecting you to His Light and His Music, within you.

Now just think about this: it is our greatest good fortune to have this human birth. The Vedas or ancient scriptures say that this creation is made up of 8 400 000 species of life forms and countless trillions of individual souls. These souls inhabit the three worlds: physical, astral and causal.

To be more specific, the species are distributed among the life forms as follows:

Life Forms	Number of Species*
Plants	3 000 000
Birds	1 400 000
Insects	2 700 000
Aquatic life	900 000
Humans, animals, gods and spirits	400 000

*Note: numbers of species not numbers of individuals.

These 8.4 million species of embodied beings are constantly coming and going through death to rebirth into one form or another. And out of all these vast numbers of species, the human birth is the most auspicious, the most fortunate.

Why is this so? Why is the human birth the most fortunate? You see, all the scriptures explain that Man is made in the image of God. Now, to me, this means that **only** in the form of Man, the human form, can the Creator be realised in all his glory. Don't you see? You are the darling of this universe, the jewel or crown of creation. You **ARE** the temple of the **LIVING GOD**.

It means that, of all life-forms on Earth, Man alone has all of the five elements (Earth, Water, Fire, Air & Ether**). Of these five, the most decisive one is Ether, also called Akash or Discrimination. Ether gives man the ability to be aware of the spiritual dimension. It is this spiritual dimension that Man alone possesses as an active attribute.

Ether allows human beings to have aspiration and intellect, to express themselves through art and through the finer realms of the mind. It is also through this element that the soul can echo its yearning to join or reunite with its source: Love, a yearning that makes it possible for us to be loved and "pulled up" when woken by a Living Master.

It is the Law of this Creation that, if we are to return to Him, we must be in human form and turned-on or switched-on or initiated by a living being – God in human form living in our time. How else could we escape the cycle of birth-death-rebirth? Thus, having the great good fortune to be born as a human is the first sign of His Great Mercy and Grace towards us.

The Mahatmas, Saints, Guides and Messengers are concerned little with material things, their prime purpose being to liberate Man from this cycle of 84 Laks (8.4 million species). We have to merge with a Living Master. We have to surrender mind, body and soul to win a Living Master's favour and receive another gift: initiation into the Light, into the Name, into the Sound and into the Nectar.

Initiation heralds a new beginning, a second birth, a re-birth. It is a major turning point in our lives, the most significant after earning birth in human form.

Maybe good actions can earn us the right to human birth but how can we possibly earn the right to escape from this earthly prison and not come back? The fact is that WE (of our own accord) cannot. It is simply God's Grace.

I don't know if any one of us will fully understand why we have been chosen for initiation. That is certainly a process beyond our control and understanding. Why then waste precious time and energy trying to understand it? Just surrender to that Grace and let It do what It must, in whatever manner It chooses, in whatever place or time. With this initiation and with His Grace, we are certain to return to the Source from whence we came.

*** The elements referred to in the scriptures are not the elements of the mediaeval period nor of modern science. The scriptural elements predate these by thousands of years, originating at a time when mankind, through the

Masters, were aware of the existence of groups of subatomic energies underpinning all matter in creation.)

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