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SANT KIRPAL SINGH JI

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Birth Anniversary Message
in Remembrance of
HAZUR MAHARAJ BABA SAWAN SINGH JI
(1858 - 1948)



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Dear Ones,

Humility and Simplicity

On this auspicious day of the Birth Anniversary of Hazur Maharaj Baba Sawan Singh Ji, I send to you, one and all, my heartiest wishes for your progress on the Spiritual Way back to the Home of our Father--through the Natural Yoga of Light, Life, and Love--the Surat Shabd Yoga.

In my previous years' messages, I have been mostly dwelling on rising above body-consciousness, to be reborn, and to learn to die while alive, et cetera, so as to enable one to enter the Kingdom of God, Which is within us--as prescribed by all of the Past Masters--now come to us through the Benign Grace of Hazur Baba Sawan Singh Ji. There are many aspects of His Divine Life, but I will now dwell on the two most important ones of His Life, viz., humility and simplicity--the most needed at this hour, which, if followed, will set our lives in the right direction and enable us to achieve perfection.

All Masters, such as Jesus, Mahavira, Budha, Kabir, Nanak, et al, of the past, and Rama Krishna, Hazur Baba Sawan Singh, Sadhu Vaswani, et al, of the recent days, radiated this divine lustre from their personalities.

Man knows so many things, but he does not know himself. A man has so many sheaths in himself, covering the depths of his heart. Man learns and unlearns all through life. It is wiser to remain a student than to be a teacher--a student of the Mystery of Life.

A parable goes on to say that a seeker of God, in the quest of Heaven, wandering here

and there

and there, found himself perchance at the Gate of Heaven. The gatekeeper asked him, "Who are you?" and the seeker answered, "A teacher." The gatekeeper asked him to wait and went in to report. After a while, he returned and said that he could not let him in, as there was no place for teachers in the Heaven-world. He was told to go back and wash away in the Waters of Silence the dust of dead words clinging to him.

So many teachers are vain--they parade their learning. How can there be a place in there for anyone who lives in a world of vanity?

Everyday the seeker sat in silence and listened to the words of Saints. His self-consciousness began to develop, he became humble, and he prayed to be the servant of all men, the lonely and the lowly ones, and the animals--a servant of all God's creation. When the portals of Heaven were opened, he entered in and beheld the Master's Face--Pure and Fair--beyond compare.

All of the Masters, of the past and of the present, say that:

"The Kingdom of God is for the humble of heart. So many of us, alas, are proud, vain, in ego lost; and, blind to Wisdom, we do but wander from darkness to darkness.

"The God that rules millions is the ego; enthrone on your heart the God of Love, and cease to wander; and 'What should be done to do so?'--Become humble as ashes and dust.

"The world is full of the proud of purse or power or learning. Whereas, we should be humble and simple, and empty ourselves of all 'self' that the Lord might do with us what He would.

"The life

"The life worth living is life in the Spirit. Its basis is humility. Ego should be reduced to a cipher and God becomes all. 'Let us be perfect as our Father is in Heaven.'"

The truly humble are the truly happy. For want of humility, men and women are leading an unbearable, miserable life. All of this misery comes from within. It is not a change in our circumstances, but delivery from the thraldom of the self, the petty 'ego' that sits as a tyrant, robbing us of the bliss, that is our heritage as children of God. We are, as it were, in a cage of self-centeredness, and until this prison is opened by the key of humility, the swan-bird of the soul is not free and cannot swim to the regions of radiance and joy.

The way to true blessedness is the way of humility and love. He who is humble has no problems--he has God as his Guide. Significant are the words of the shepherd boy singing in John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress:

He that is down needs fear no fall,
He that is low, no pride;
He that is humble ever shall
Have God to be his guide.
I am content with what I have,
Little be it, or much;
And Lord, contentment still I crave,
Because, Thou savest such.

Rightly has it been said that if there were no humility in the world, everybody would long ago have committed suicide.

When the light of humility dawns on the soul, the darkness of selfishness disappears, and the soul no longer lives for itself but for

 God.

God. The soul loses itself in God, lives in God and is transformed into Him. This is the alchemy of humility. It transforms the lowest into the Highest. The great Chinese sage, Lao Tse, expressed the thought in beautiful words:

> "How does the sea become the king of all rivers and streams? Because it lies lower than they."

St. Augustine said,

> "The way to God is first, humility; second, humility; and third, humility."

Those proud of pelf or of learning or of authority would not go to any Saint unless they were humble. Even if they go to Him, but consider themselves superior to Him, they would not listen to Him--the Saint. A drinking glass which is kept above a container of water will remain empty, unless it is put below the container. You know what you know; just listen to what the other says. Perhaps we can learn something from him.

> "Yes, the branches of a fruit-laden tree bend of their own accord. Even so, the man who, losing himself, finds God--finds Him everywhere and in everyone--bends before all, offers homage in his heart to all. This is true humility. It is not a forced sense of lowliness. Such a one lives in unity with all. He is in others and others are in him."

> "It is the fake ego-self that gives rise to the sense of discord and separation. When the illusion of ego is broken, one feels 'I am not apart from others...the others

are parts

are parts of the One-God--The Master--and all of us are engaged in the same service of God."

Each one of us is unique in his own way. There is a divine purpose behind the life of everyone who comes into the world, no one has been created for nothing. We have something to learn from everyone. This is the mystery of humility.

The truly humble person does not compare himself with others. He knows that none of us, however evolved, is perfect; none of us is complete in himself. The humble person does not regard one as better than the other; he believes in the divinity of each. If one says and asserts that he is better than the others, then he is not perfect as yet.

It is only when one realizes his nothingness that God comes and fills him with Himself. Where man is, God is not; where man is not, God is. God cannot enter the heart of the self-seeking person. He, who is full of himself, considers himself as above others, and so he puts a limit on himself. God is without limit. How can the limitless enter the limited?

"O, ye who seek God, see that you do not set yourself above others. Give up all you are and all you have, empty yourself of all 'self', cast the ego out, and you stand face to face with God."

Wondrous are the words of the Sufi Saint, Abu Hassan:

"Brother! This is the Law:-

"He who

"He who cometh nigh to God
Loseth what he hath,
Aye, he loseth himself,
But gains instead the Gift Supreme,
The gift of humility!"

A man may strive to be humble, but, for all of his efforts, may become all the more proud. There is such a thing as the pride of humility; it is a very dangerous thing, for it is too subtle to be discerned by the inexperienced. There are some who will take great pains to be humble--they make humility impossible. How can a man be humble who is all the time thinking of how best he can be humble? Such a man is all of the time occupied with himself. But true humility is freedom from all consciousness of self, which includes freedom from the consciousness of humility. The truly humble person never knows that he is humble.

The truly humble man accepts everything as coming from the hands of God. He knows that in him there is nothing praiseworthy. All of the good that is in him is from God, and the praise that men give him belongs to God. When the young man called Jesus, "Good Teacher," Jesus quietly said,

"Why call me 'good'? There is none
good but God."

"Humility," says Lacordaire, "does not consist in hiding our talents and virtues, in thinking ourselves worse and more ordinary than we are, but in possessing a clear knowledge of all that is lacking in us and not exalting ourselves for that which we have, seeing that God has freely given it to us and that, with

all of

all of His gifts, we are still infinitely of little importance."

So the truly humble man may accept sometimes the praise which men give him and quietly pass it on to God, keeping nothing for himself.

The man who is not truly humble behaves in a very unnatural manner when he is not praised by men. He becomes upset, loses his patience, and even becomes angry. He repulses others with his irritation and creates for them an awkward situation. Sometimes he suppresses his feelings and remains silent. But he cannot forget the things which are said about him--they haunt him again and again, and do not give him peace of mind.

The humble man makes no fuss. He is at harmony with himself and others. He is gifted with a wondrous feeling of peace. He feels safe and secure like a ship in a harbor, unaffected by howling storms and lashing waves. He has found refuge at the Lotus Feet of the Lord, and the storms of changing circumstances have no power over him. He feels light as air. The burdens which we carry all of our life--the burden of self and its desires--he has laid aside, and he is calm and serene. Having given up everything, he has nothing to lose, and yet everything belongs to him, for he is of God, and God is in him. Having broken the bondage of desire, he is as happy with a piece of dry bread as with a sumptuous meal. In every situation and circumstance of life, he blesses the Name of God.

He who would be happy regards himself as a student. He learns many new things but, what is more difficult, he unlearns many things that he has learned. A scholar came

 to a

to a Saint and asked,

"O Seer of the Secret, tell me what
I may do to live the Life Divine."

The Saint replied:

"Go and unlearn what thou hast learned
and then return and sit before me."

He who would walk the Way of humility must renounce his earlier ways of living. He must give up the opinions that he has formed, the standards to which he is accustomed. He must have a new outlook on life. The things the world worships are, to him, of no value. His values are so different from those of other men. Rich food, fine houses, costly dresses, positions of power and authority, the applause of man, honors, and titles no longer attract him. He feels drawn to a life of simplicity. He is happy living a hidden life in the Hidden Lord.

He is dead to the world--he is alive in God. At times, he actually behaves like one dead.

Yes, the truly humble man is, in that sense, the "dead" man. He has "died." Alone, God lives in him. His self has been annihilated. His self has vanished into God, and only God remains--God works in him and through him. God emits from his eyes. God speaks in his words. On his feet, God walks the earth. And through his hands, God gives His Benedictions to all.

Such men are the real strength of the world--its illumination and inspiration. To see them is to commune with God, for God dwells

 in them.

in them. They are the Living moving Temples of the Lord. They are the ones who keep the world intact, though they do not know it themselves. The whole earth depends on them without anyone being aware of it. Their hearts and minds are in tune with the Great Heart and mind of humanity. They are in complete accord with all that lives. They give their love to all living beings, as though they were the sons of the one sweet Mother. They have broken all fetters and entered into the freedom of the children of God. God does their will because they have merged their wills in His. God fulfills their least desire, for it is He Who desires all of their desires. They are the little saviours of humanity.

I wish each one of you to follow the lesson of humility, born of love and simplicity.

Yours affectionately,

Kirpal Singh