



Divine Discourses of Sant Bhagwant Sahebji

Spiritual Essence

Sant Bhagwant Sahebji's Ashirwad at Shri Yogi Yuva Grishma Shibir
25 May 2023, Pragnan Tirth, Mogri

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The shibir is going so well and today's theme is 'samagam'. Param Pujya Yogi Bapa used to say, 'the one who likes the *samagam* of God's Santo and devotees, who likes to engage in conversation with them, and who likes to participate in shibirs such as these, is an *Aksharmukt!*' From that standpoint, you are all *aksharmukto*. The distinctive thing about this shibir is that there has been a theme for each day. On the first day, 21st May – was the opening sabha. On the 22nd, it was 'Upasana' day, on the 23rd it was 'Aagna-paalan' day, yesterday on the 24th it was 'Seva-bhakti' day and today on the 25th, it is 'Samagam' day.

What does *samagam* mean? 'Sama' means time. What is the one thing on earth which once gone can never be retrieved? It is time. Money will come and go, food will come and go, clothes will come and go; but time, once gone, never comes back. While those of us sitting here right now think, what if we were to get our youth back? Would our youth come back to us? Even if we were to spend two to four crores, we would never get that back – once it is gone, it's gone. Therefore, the one who knows how to make the very best use of time – can be described as having '*samagam*'. The one who is able to make the best use of one's time, is one who can attain the unimaginable in his life. All of you who have come here are making the best use of your time, so you

are geniuses. You may not even be aware of what you are doing right now.

In our time, during our vacation, when Yogi Bapa would call us – us friends would go and stay in Bapa's seva. In the same way that you have come here, we used to go there and spend our whole vacation with Bapa. Many would laugh at us and say, 'the vacation is to enjoy yourself and you are all going to satsang!'

Then, as time passed, they got married, had children, became fathers. After many years, we met them in England and America, and they said to us, 'You were intelligent and we got the short end of the stick. We didn't do satsang while we were young, and regardless of us coming to America and making money, we did not attain real happiness or fulfilment.'

I went to America for the first time in 1973 with Dadu Kaka. At that time, Vallabh Vidyanagar was a very small town. There were only five colleges – Commerce, Engineering, Arts, Science and a Polytechnic. But we would always do all our events together; we would fight student elections etc. and so our group of friends was very large – and the majority of them went and settled in America. When I got to New York, I phoned up to fifty of them and let them know that there would be a sabha on Sunday in the 'Gita Mandir' and invited them to come. At that time, there were not that many Gujaratis there –

there were only the youths who had gone to study there. My friends said to me, 'O Jashbhai! We have come to America to earn money. If it was satsang we wanted to do, then what was lacking in India that we would have to come here?! If you are going to show us some means or magic by which to get more dollars, then we will come to your sabha.' Because of our friendship, they would come to see me, but they would not come to the sabha.

My trips to the USA would happen once every two to three years. Once after about ten to twelve years, when we were in New York, I received a call and they asked, 'where is the sabha going to be held? And at what time?' Wouldn't this change seem so surprising? They came to the sabha and then told me what happened. They said, 'Jashu! When you first came here, all of us were bachelors, we were studying and working hard to earn some money. Then we got married and had children. Now to look after them and keep them on the straight and narrow has been excruciatingly difficult. That is why we thought, the satsang is one medium, through which they will all walk the right path, and so we wish to do satsang.' Just think about this! Two engineers from Germany had come to India and they visited Brahmajyoti. They sat in one of our youth sabhas and then said, 'these youths are a miracle!' So I asked, 'why?' They said, 'In Germany, no youths would sit like this for two hours. It is amazing that here they are sitting so peacefully.' I said to them, 'the credit for this lies in *samagam*.' To have the '*sang*' or the association of God and Satpurush is *samagam*!

If someone were to ask, 'what does it mean to have *samagam*?' Then you should say, 'to be connected to the mandir, to Sadhu and Santo is *samagam*! To pray to God is *samagam*! To go to weekly satsang-sabha is *samagam*!' But one needs to take training for this. That training – to sit peacefully, to listen to discourse, is what you have gained over these five days. Here there is discourse, *samagam*, the opportunity to do seva with

team-spirit, serve food, clean etc. – you get all of these types of training.

Our whole body – consists of parts – our head, eyes, ears, legs; what harmony there is between them! Right now, if someone senior was to come, we would place a garland around their neck, and honour them by performing *poojan* to their forehead with sandalwood paste. So do the legs ever say, 'It is me that has brought you all this way, and you are wearing the garland?' Do the legs ever quarrel with the neck? The hands and legs carry out whichever work is assigned to them with such team-spirit, and so we are able to live peacefully. Otherwise, what state would we be reduced to if the eyes, ears, legs etc. were always fighting with each other? But there is a harmony. That is why Yogi Bapa used to say, 'According to time and circumstance, to work together in a spirit of oneness, can also be called *samagam*.'

You are all so very fortunate! Special congratulations to your parents, that you were born in that home and that they joined you to satsang! Congratulations to those friends who have brought you here! You have received wonderful training here, and we want to safeguard this even when we return home. Make the resolution that once you return home, you will not engage with any negative company. If your friends are engaging in vice, then tell them clearly, 'if you want my friendship, then let go of your vice.' So do not engage with bad company. If we engage with negative company, then it is our boat that sinks. When a rocket is launched and it leaves the earth's atmosphere, it travels at a speed of 25,000 km. In such a short space of time, it travels so far. If that very rocket were to be launched but its angle was changed by just a hair's breadth, then where would it reach? A rocket that were to land on the moon would be deviated by thousands of miles. Similarly, the smallest '*kusang*' or bad company, can become huge and can change your life completely.

When your parents want to buy you some clothes, you want the best; when it comes to shoes – you want the best, when it comes to your hairstyle, it has to be the best; your tailor – the best, jewelry – you want the best, and yet when it comes to food and drink – third class; your friends – third class; how is this ok? If we go somewhere and we see a *pani-puri* stall, or *pau-bhajee* stall, a *dabeli* stall – we simply smell it and we immediately stand there to eat it. Do you know? The water used by the *pani-puri* stall is unfiltered, has all sorts of masala, additives and colour added to it, and you think that is tasty. But it is poison you are drinking. They use that which is going off or which is stale. The best food is that which is made at home. I say this especially to our daughters – our girls. Your tongue may want such tasty, spicy food... *pani puri*, *bhel-puri*, *pau-bhajee*, *dabeli* – and you can see them all standing by the *laari-vala* (street vending carts)! Do not do this. One should not eat from anywhere that is not a known and trusted source – so one should not eat anything from the bazaar.

This body is an invaluable gift from God! Once the body passes away, even if you were to ask for it back, would you get it? No, you would not be able to get it back. Therefore, to keep the body healthy and well is itself an offering of devotion to God! Imagine you were to get the best model motorcycle. The motorcycle takes petrol, but instead you put diesel; the motorcycle would work for a while, but after a short time the piston would get jammed, then you would not be able to repair it and would have to throw it in the rubbish heap. Similarly, our Lord has said no to stuffing this body with tobacco, alcohol, wrong foods. One must not eat *dabeli* etc. from the bazaar, rather make it at home and eat it. If you stuff your body with rubbish, the doctor will say, 'Now your body cannot be repaired, please take it home and lay it on a bed.' That would become the state of the body. Therefore, to look after the body is also an offering of devotion.

My dear sons and daughters, you are in your youth and therefore even if you were to eat stones, you would be able to digest them. God has placed such an amazing machine inside, that you are able to digest anything. However, after the age of forty years, you will feel the effects of what you do now and understand the importance of eating well. Then you will feel, we stuffed ourselves with anything and everything and have damaged the amazing body that God has given us. But what is the use of crying then?

Many boys say, we didn't read at the time of our exams, so we failed. Therefore, recognize time. This is the time of your youth; it is the golden period of your life. Golden means, 'no *dharaal* at the front and no *ulaad* at the back.' In the language of farmers in the villages, when sitting in an ox-cart if there is too much weight at the front, the oxen would buckle to the ground (that is called *dharaal*) and if there is too much weight at the back then the cart would overturn (that is called *ulaad*). That means, right now you have no responsibilities as such – you do not have to earn money, you do not have a wife/ husband or children, you do not have to educate anybody, you are not responsible for anybody and you are free to go and do as you please, there is no one to stop you. So there is nothing in front of you or behind you to hold you back. For that reason, if you waste those fifteen to thirty years and do not make the best use of them, then you will never get that time back and you will ultimately suffer. That is especially why we do satsang, so that we may draw strength from God, take guidance of Santo; but recognize time and live accordingly – that is true satsang! To use time in the best way possible is true '*samagam*'! That is why we need to learn how to use time in the best way possible and it is Santo that will teach you this. ◆

...to be continued in next issue