

the true alchemist... a presence called Gurudev

After 40 days of disappearance in Goa - of personality, of being somewhere, something, someone - memory is trying it's best to recall, to reveal what was. But to be very truthful, it is as though a complete 40 days had just been pulled out from the calendar - of memory, of existence, of everything explainable... and flung into an amnesia called "NOW."

After returning from the retreat, the after effect of the *power dose* called Gurudev is still present. There is no struggle to be, to do... things are just happening and I am sitting here at my desk still reveling in His Presence, in His silence.

The silence is spread all over - in my driving, in my writing, in my working and most of all in my talking. There is just no effort. It's like a feeling to just do nothing... but at the same time, still the activity is taking place with an intense feeling of just *being*, one might say, with 'one's-self.'

The incredible magic started the minute we left Pune with Gurudev on the overnight bus to Goa. When we landed in Mandrem Beach the weather was bad and we were very tired from our journey. But within two hours, things just began to happen. And that very same evening, I began to feel my complete past was erased. Otherwise I had so many lists of 'things-to-do' and 'things-still-not-done' and their ghosts were hanging in my mind. But it was like so subtle that I felt that there was nothing... as though I had always been Here and Now - at home - totally relaxed, very slow, very inactive, in-spite of doing so much work.

As the retreat progressed Gurudev would radiate simple analogies, anecdotes and stories. And although His talks were, on the surface, really quite simple - nothing esoteric, nothing mysterious - He was transporting us to unknown realms. While talking He would say, "just be," and we would be.

And he delivered the magic mantra of passivity with utmost love, presence and simplicity, weaving it around various very day-to-day analogies.

Glimpses, peaks and experiences began to be like a common occurrence - not so important and yet being realized by nearly all.

It was only when the participants of the first 10 days began to hug us and were tearful of their farewell that the fact hit us that... yes, my God, 10 days are over as though we had just began the retreat the same day! And in this jolt of realizing time again, all the '40-dayers' were glad that they were not the 10-dayers and still had 30 days to go!

The 21 days of silence that then followed these first 10 days were the greatest; it was as though there was only silence and nothing else. In the beach meditation we experienced various states and could glimpse choice-less awareness, passivity, observing the observer and becoming one with nature and all that there was.

There were thoughts, but at the same time, an experience of thought-less-ness; there were desires but at the same time, an experience of desire-less-ness. Everything was just perfect.

And so in this unanimous, universal timelessness, which was felt by all the participants, the retreat continued... There was only presence, no personalities. Gurudev's enchantment and vastness was encompassing everything and everyone. It was like catching a wonderful dose of the plague and the few who were still 'present', started becoming absent and gradually there was only absence, stillness as if nothing was.

Yet the peak came on *Mahapariniravana* day...

Watching Gurudev personally prepare the flowers and place them in the big casket... there was something ritually significant in all that was happening. And when Gurudev actually blew the light that had been burning since the retreat began 40 days before on Osho's birthday, there was a big thud in the heart... like experiencing a terrible loss.

And when He announced about Osho's departure from this body... his tone was different... a heavenly silence suddenly filled the whole room, and when Gurudev lifted the casket it was too much to bear and there were only tears...

He raised the body of his Master and carried it to the ocean all alone. And there was something very esoteric about everything, something unexplainable. Deep inside there was a feeling of... now the planet is healed, what was left undone then, when Osho left his body, was now done and complete, and there is peace everywhere.

The horizon was brightly lit like a *Diya*, a peaceful, blissful radiation of joyful light... and everywhere, Osho could actually be felt... with a very contented smile....

The contentment of the greatest *Sadguru* on seeing the glory of his true disciple, the contentment of his legacy being still alive in so many hearts... and all this seen with our eyes only Osho, Osho, Osho... There is only Osho...

The importance of a living Guru, the role and behaviour of a disciple, and the patience required, as Gurudev very aptly puts it, may take 10 years, 20 years, 100 years - or even 108 lives! But one should be patient and ready... and Ajay is ready for that.

I don't wish enlightenment, but yes Ajay wishes to be in the shadow of Gurudev's presence all the time at his beautiful lotus feet, emanating the power of now.

*Jai guru, Jai guru, Jai guru;
Gurubhakti, Gurubhakti, Gurubhakti; Gurushakti,
Gurushakti, Gurushakti; Gurukripa, Gurukripa, Gurukripa...*

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