

AVATAR

**NEEM KAROLI BABA
FOR THE NEW AGE**

Neem Das



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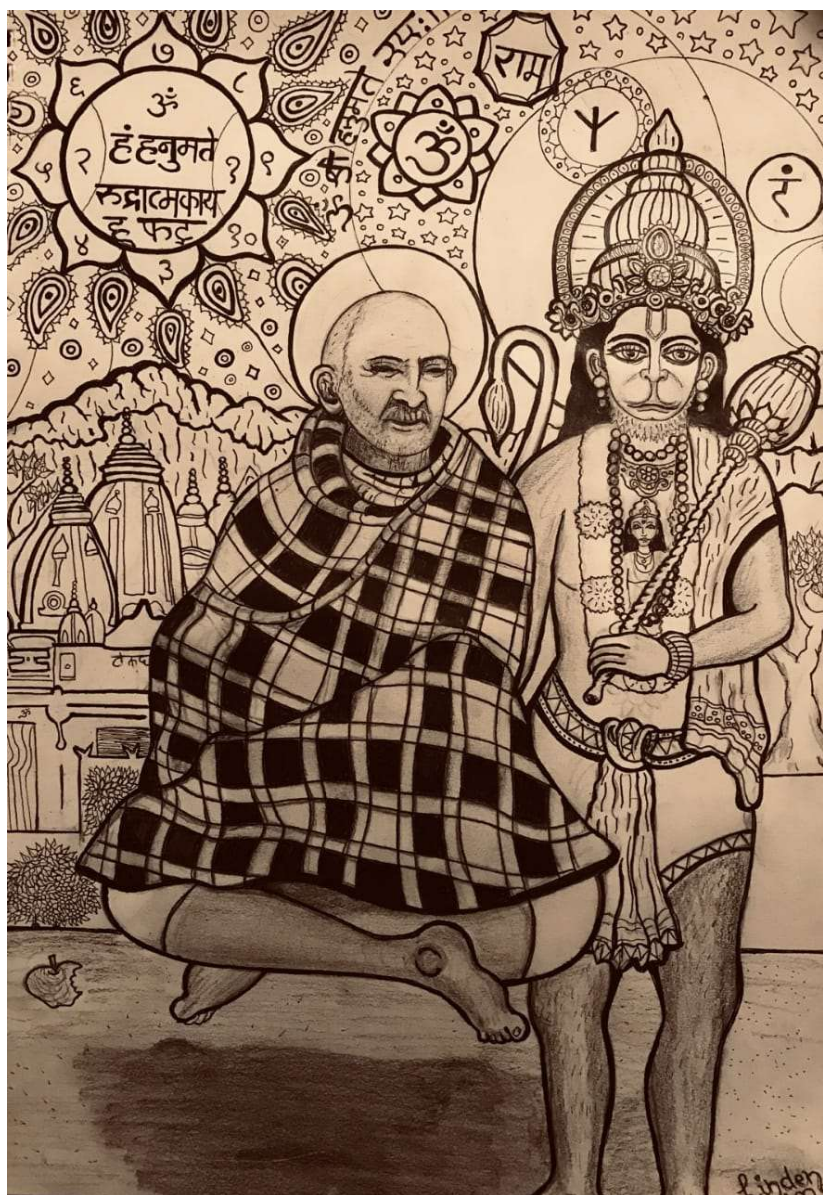
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Foreword

"ONCE I CATCH HOLD OF YOU, I DON'T LET GO!"

Maharajji caught me about 6 years ago in Los Angeles and nothing in my life has been the same since that moment. Reading a couple dozen spiritual books, watching hours of YouTube videos, listening to lectures and chanting Ram's name during my daily commute, picking up photo and video editing skills, as well as figuring out how to rebuild a quite massive website from scratch... those are just a few of the exercises and tasks that Maharajji has guided me through over these past years, and I cannot wait to see how his Lila (Divine Play) continues playing out in the future.

I first met Neem Das via Facebook in early 2021 during the pandemic. I was deeply moved by the purity of his work and his true devotion to Maharajji. When I saw him recording an audio version of Jai Ram Ransom's "It All Abides in Love", it became 100% clear to me that this guy is not fooling around... In retrospect, reading Jai Ram's book was a big turning point on my path towards Maharajji. So I knew there's something special happening with Neem Das.

In the introduction of his book, Jai Ram writes: "The kids of the new millennium are evolved beyond the previous generations. It is actually a new world and the consciousness of so many of the young ones is much more spiritually conscious. They are way more open to understanding that you can just call Maharajji, just focus on Maharajji within you and look for the Lilas of Maharajji to appear on the outside. Not all people are capable of that."

After reading "Avatar - Neem Karoli Baba for the New Age" I strongly believe that Neem Das is part of this new generation of devotees that Jai Ram refers to. This book offers a fearless demonstration of Neem Das' intimate relationship with Neem Karoli Baba. Some readers will love it and agree with it, others might relate to Maharajji differently, and that's OK. Whatever the case might be for you personally, that's also part of Maharajji's Lila! I simply hope that reading this book empowers you to strengthen and evolve your own personal relationship with The Boss. That being said, please buckle up, turn off your thinking mind and enjoy the ride! :)

Ram Ram

Sri Sri Sri Neem Karoli Baba Sant Maharaj Ki Jai!

Nit Ram
Sevak at maharajji. love

Introduction

Namaste. I am Neem Das. The Literal translation of that is ‘servant of Neem Karoli Baba Maharaj’ or simply put ‘he who serves Maharajji’. Before I venture into my story, I want to speak a little bit about why this book is being written. As you may know, Neem Karoli Baba (Maharajji) is quite a significant being in our time.

He’s most famous in the world for a few things. Firstly for being Baba Ram Dass’s Guru, the benevolent teacher and social activist that wrote the smash hit spiritual classic “Remember Be Here Now” and several books after that. Ram Dass is credited in the west for having started a spiritual revolution during the 60s that forever changed the way the world perceives the word ‘spirituality’. Him and the early Satsang (fellow devotees of Maharajji) were responsible for bringing the message of Love, Service, Remembrance and Devotion to millions of people.

Some of you may know him as the saint that blessed Steve Jobs to start his company Apple which changed the destiny of planet earth as we know it. Steve in turn suggested to Mark Zuckerberg that he come to India to seek Baba’s blessing from the Kainchi Dham temple, as a result of which Facebook became a phenomenal success globally. Both these companies have been instrumental in extending Maharajji’s will on the planet - which is to “help people”. Apple brought personal computing to the masses, Facebook is helping us (especially Maharajji’s Satsang) connect with each other and has made the world a smaller place and a more accessible place. These are just the mainstream headlines of some of Maharajji’s manifestations but millions of others have been blessed by this extraordinary being and it continues to this day.

For those who thrive to know him deeper, several books have been written in the English and the Hindi language. In the English language the most significant books about him are Miracle of Love - Compiled by Baba Ram Dass, Journey Maharaj to Ma - Manul Joshi, The Near and the Dear and By his Grace by Dada Mukherjee, Divine Reality by Rajida, I and my Father are One by Rabboo Joshi and my personal favourite It all Abides in Love by Jai Ram Ransom who also put together the maharajji.love website.. in the Hindi language there is ‘Alokik Yatharth’, ‘Smriti Sudha’ and others.

During my travels, I have noticed that in certain parts of north India, they have Temples and Ashrams and Murtis (idols) of Neem Karoli Baba. In

Nainital almost every car has a sticker of him and every house has a picture of him. Even those who don't belong to the Hindu religion have photographs of Maharajji in their wallets or altars. I've noticed through my travels that he plays many different roles to many different people. Almost no one who truly knows Maharajji refers to him in the past tense. For example, when referring to Gandhi, one refers to him as "he was a great mahatma and a compassionate soul" but simply no one who knows Neem Karoli Baba refers to him in the past tense. It's always in the present tense with Maharajji. Whether it's the head priest in the Kainchi temple, or sadhus roaming around, or beggars sitting outside, they all refer to him in the present tense. "Maharajji 'is' this or Maharajji 'is' that". That's because even though he left his body in 1973, he's more alive than he's ever been now in this present moment. The intricacies of that and how that's possible I will explain in the chapters to come...

For some, Maharajji is like a lucky charm, a picture of his or his memory brings them good luck and a good feeling. For some he is like a wise grandfather, the term for that is 'baba', always looking after everyone and being a friendly source of wisdom and guidance. For many he is GuruDev (divine guru) or SatGuru (ultimate guru/true guru). Yet for many more, they refer to him and treat him as though he is God himself. On several occasions, I have heard people of all ages and nationalities and social groups refer to him as "Bhagwan", which is the highest formless mention for God in the Sanskrit language.

You see Neem Karoli Baba is a living, breathing, immortal, deathless, ever-present, ever loving and ever watchful deity. That's right he's a living Deity amongst us. All that needs to be done to get his attention is to call for him, and he's here. Radiant, Benevolent, all powerful Spirit, with a great personality, a fantastic sense of humour, and unmatched 'Siddhis' or spiritual powers. Almost everyone who knows him will say that his capacity to LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY is his greatest power, something he passes on to us gently but surely..

Even though I've read most of his books in the English language, spent quite some time with both his English and Hindi speaking devotees, I believe I have a very peculiar and unique relationship with Maharajji. Each devotee experiences him in a completely unique way, and this book is an attempt from my side to express and explain how I experience him and also to provide a logical platform for the reader to understand him.

For me, he is the only proof I have of a living God, besides being my SatGuru, Gurudev, Omniscient, Omnipotent and Omnipresent Bhagwan and Baba, he's also my best friend, my child and sometimes (just for fun) even my rival. I trust him more than anyone else that I know, in fact it wouldn't be an exaggeration if I told you that he is truly the only one I completely trust in all of the cosmos, also he's the only authority in all of existence that I bow down to in all humility and with all my heart and absolute conviction - hence the name Neem Das. I spend the whole day having conversations with him, sometimes we laugh together, sometimes weary together and sometimes we even have friendly fights. If I didn't know hundreds of others personally who have a lively symbiotic relationship with him, my behaviour would be considered leaning on the borderline of insanity or psychosis. Thankfully, in our tradition it's known as 'Guru Bhakti' and not psychosis.

To be very truthfully speaking, this is not the first time me and Maharajji are dancing together in this spiral of 'samsara' (the cycle of death and rebirth to which life in the material world is bound). I've known him through several lifetimes, our 'rupas' (forms) may have been different, but our 'Atma/Jivatma' (universal being / individual soul) have known each other through frames of measurement not yet conceived in this dimension. Due to the forgetful nature of reincarnation, I had to receive a few electric jolts from him to bring back remembrance of our relationship, all I can say now is that "I Remember".

About this book, it's not being written to 'Market' Maharajji, it's most likely not going to end up on any best seller list, it is in no way an attempt to bring or propagate religion of any kind, it's not any form of evangelism in the name of Neem Karoli Baba. In fact, Maharajji, although he was born into a Hindu family, better known as Sanatana Dharma, is loved by and loves all people from all religions and walks of life. In fact the only religion that Maharajji preached and his devotees follow till this day is Love and mutual respect, although devotional songs are sung with the backdrop of Hinduism. In the world of Maharajji - There is no cult, there are no entry fees, there's no institutions to sign up and pay a yearly fee to, there's no priests, there's no 'one holy book', no doctrines, no rules, no middlemen etc.. There's just Maharajji - the immortal loving captain of the ship, us his devotees sailing in an infinite sea of samsara and his 'Lilas' (divine plays) singing and riding through the weather however pleasant or rough it might be.

In fact, it could be said that the only association one can have with Maharajji is through his love and his direct invitation. Prior to Maharajji I was

an Atheist for almost 15 years and didn't use the word 'God' because of how tainted it has become in our present society. By his grace, now I can easily say the words "God Bless You" and mean it.



Furthermore, this book is being written to clarify a few things about Maharajji. It is an attempt to describe the indescribable and extend the grace of this blessing I have found in my life called Neem Karoli Baba. It's aimed at reaching out to the younger generations and older generations alike in these turbulent times. As I'm typing this, it's the 19th of April 2021, A pandemic is sweeping across the globe and just today my father is recovering from an illness and is resting in the other room while I write this here. Nothing is as it was and the world seems to be more confusing than it ever was with its restrictions and rapidly changing rules and a general sense of fear and angst running viral in the minds of the masses.

Now more than ever, the people of the world need strength and hope and pure universal guides who can strengthen our resolve, purify our hearts, cleanse our minds of fear and shower us with unconditional love and protection with no strings attached.

Maharaj-ji Neem Karoli Baba is one such guide. His quotes will be written in bold capital letters in hopes that you can hear him and feel his heart.

**"I DON'T WANT ANYTHING
I EXIST ONLY TO SERVE OTHERS"**

"I AM EVERYBODY'S GURU"



I just wanted to bring to your notice that this book is in fact, being co-authored by Maharaj-ji himself. I am just his limbs and a physical extension to his non-physical spirit. My prayer to him almost every day is "Make me a vehicle of your will Maharajji" having said that I would like to

say that Maharajji has a very strict “absolute truth” policy he is known to have said

“TOTAL TRUTH IS NECESSARY
YOU MUST LIVE BY WHAT YOU SAY”

So, I wanted to tell you in this book that I will try my absolute best to speak the “Total Truth” as far as I can with my intention. If there are errors in facts due to contradictions in different methods of research, I ask you and Maharajji to forgive me in advance. Also, it is nearly impossible to recall the activities of the dream plane without messing up a detail or two. These are the only probable ‘little lies’ that may go on print. Everything else I will intentionally try my human best to speak the “total truth”.

॥॥॥॥

My Story

I was born as Ajit Gopal Singh in a middle class family in the city of Bangalore in southern India, later took my grandmother’s name as ‘Sheil’. At the time of my birth, my dad was a professor of English and my mom was a homemaker. Soon after my younger brother was born, my parents split up due to circumstance, as did the rest of the family.

Thanks to my dad’s government job and my grandmother’s help in raising us, childhood was fairly good for me and my brother even in the absence of my mother. We enjoyed the simple pleasures in life like good TV and good meals and also went out on short vacations whenever my dad had days off from his job.

I was born into a Hindu (Kshatriya) family. The Deity that was worshipped in the house was Ganesh but my dad also had a soft spot for infant Jesus and hence we went to church every Christmas and till date have a picture of infant Jesus. Although there was a basic element of religion in the household, it was never forced or a heavily practised thing. The Hindu idols and pictures were present, but we as kids mostly looked forward to the festivals for sweets and firecrackers. Even though my dad went through atheistic phases every now and then, we all had the habit of praying to Ganesh and bowing to him every time we woke up. I also got into the habit of having long mental conversations with the Deity and the typical ‘asking God for stuff’ when I needed it. My uncle however was the more religious one in the

family and was a devotee of 'Shanidev' - a name given for Saturn as a God in Hinduism.

However in 2006, when I was 17, tragedy struck and my grandmother fell gravely ill. I prayed and prayed to Ganesh to fix her, but nothing happened. She kept getting worse. Due to poverty, negligence on all our parts, her worsening condition and what I claimed was 'the inefficiency of the Gods' she died. It was a huge blow for the family as she was the one who held us all together.

Parallel to this, it was also the end of my dialogue with God. I remember going to the Ganesh temple that the family frequented one last time after she died and looking at the Murti (idol) I said "you're a bunch of fabricated lies aren't you?" And walked away having never looked back. That was the end of God / Religion for me back then.

The next phase of my life included lots of marijuana, being a singer-songwriter- guitarist in a heavy metal band, teenage angst, conversing with my mother for the first time since their separation and somehow graduating high school with the help of coffee and cigarettes.

My first ever spiritual awakening happened at the age of 19 when I ingested a Tab of LSD along with a pill of Ecstasy with my friend. I had the experience of total ego death, connectivity with my soul or jivatma (inner God Force) and for a little while experienced what people referred to as 'enlightenment', all whilst hallucinating in my dad's 3ft by 6ft bathroom. Of course, I came down and the enlightenment was gone.

It attempts to chase this high, I tried substituting the LSD with other substances because I couldn't afford it and ended up in rehab a couple of times. My affordable combination was smoking weed, sniffing glue and alcohol. No good.

Soon after the rehab phase (which lasted a long while), I had another genuine spiritual awakening through a sequence of divine serendipitous circumstances. I happened to find Eckhart Tolle's book - 'The Power of Now', that changed everything. I left home in the middle of the night and carried the message of the book and wandered like a sadhu with no money throughout India, living on the kindness of people. At this time Eckhart was like my guru, and that teaching was all that I followed. Eventually I settled in Goa to live as a musician with a few side activities to support my living

expenses. There's a pseudo-spirituality scene in Goa and I was living with a few hearty Osho sannyasins and my thirst for spiritual knowledge grew. I explored Eckhart, Adyashanti, Osho, Deepak Chopra, Don Miguel Ruiz and even stumbled upon Ram Dass for a short while and listened to a few episodes of his podcast. I'd heard of Neem Karoli Baba, but as his guru from the Be Here Now book. I also was using hashish and LSD occasionally and built a simultaneous career as a psytrance DJ.

My next big spiritual teacher who had the biggest influence on my life was Abraham-hicks. I spent a good 5 years living and breathing this teaching, reaping the benefits of the law of attraction, experiencing deep success in all walks of life until the age of 27. I fell in love many times, was earning reasonably and was well known in my community as a successful musician and a good human being. But this time I'd somehow made peace with my family and had discovered the next level of my psychedelic evolution with ayahuasca and DMT also known as the spirit molecule. I enrolled in many new age courses in spirituality, the most significant being Theta Healing which I got certified with. I was holding space and guiding people through DMT ceremonies and was singing in ayahuasca ceremonies. Have seen a lot of interesting things through these days.

I was a fully 'New Age' guy, with tattoos and piercings and all the up-to-date knowledge of the newest lingo in psychedelic and spiritual trends. No religion for more than a decade, I would consider religious people delusional and brainwashed and had an allergy towards mantras and all things religious as I held the concept of religion itself responsible for most of the wars and the insanity of the last few millenniums. However, I was still very respectful on the outside and didn't let my dislike for the whole idea of religion show.

At the age of 27, tragedy struck again and through a medical accident, I experienced a relative multiple organ system failure, and couldn't walk properly for a few months and was depressed beyond recognition. I resorted to alcohol and overeating as a sort of solace and ended up becoming obese through this process. It took me two years to recover from this. However at the age of 29, I found the love of my life and things started taking a pleasant turn again. I continued with the recreational use of psychedelics and alcohol but through her had found some kind of balance. We were a very happy couple, but we had a weakness, we liked to experiment too much.

Through a bizarre twist of events we started to take ketamine together, me more than her and through a sequence of unfortunate events I ended up getting hopelessly addicted to the substance, little did I know the dangers of

it. It so happened that my behaviour became so irrational through the use of this substance that she ended up leaving me at the time. This made matters worse... However, prior to this episode, I had made a friend just before who claimed to be a devotee of Neem Karoli Baba which I found peculiar because the PDF version of the Be Here Now book which I had on my smartphone said that he had died in 1973.

I still remember the photograph of Neem Karoli Baba with the warning finger from the book although I knew nothing about him.

Slowly my addiction fuelled with grief started getting worse and my cousin came to see me in Dharamshala in north India (where the episode happened) from Bangalore and told me he'd lend me some money if I went with him to the city. I was heartbroken, psychotic and running out of money, so I agreed. All my spiritual knowledge from my past teachers was working against me and I developed a strong sense of spiritual ego and ended up with an unnatural downward spiral of rage and insanity. Anyway, I got on the flight with my cousin. As soon as I got off the flight, some strange man escorted me away from the airport and I landed up in a dark, dingy rehab for two months. My whole family had conspired to do this. I spent two months in the most terrible rehab withdrawing cold turkey from the substance and missing my girlfriend then feeling total misery.

However, one mysterious thing happened every single day. As soon as I woke up, I wrote down the words 'Neem Karoli Baba' every single day in my journal. Sometimes I had visions of an old man in a blanket and heard his high-pitched voice in my head saying in Hindi "go back to your father, papa ke pass JAO" and other things. Throughout my two month stay there I wrote 'Neem Karoli Baba' in my diary almost every day, sometimes I would have dreams of him. I had no clue of who he was or why I was writing his name except some part of me believed that he had sent me to this rehab. I tried explaining this to the psychiatrists and counsellors there and they called it "delusions of grandeur" and increased the dose of antipsychotic medication totally invalidating my experience. Now I realise that it was in fact Maharajji who sent me to rehab as a form of disciplinary measure, perhaps to teach me a lesson for disrespecting my parents or to give me the remembrance of my past lives with him. The term used for this is "fierce grace" that baba Ram Dass came up with.

Anyhow after two months of slaving away there at the whims of the people who ran the rehab and sweeping toilets and floors and having no

sunlight and sharing a dorm with 30 people, my dad finally got a lawyer and got me out of rehab in two months. My mother wanted me to stay there longer due to the manipulative nature of the owners of these institutions, but thankfully I got out.

The first thing I did when I got out of rehab and into the taxi with my dad was google ‘Neem Karoli Baba’. All I saw was pictures of an old dead man and some cliched information about him and Steve Jobs and Ram Dass etc. simultaneously I was devastated by the traumatic experience in rehab and the separation with my beloved and I was financially broke and emotionally broken and didn’t pursue nor understand baba. I just forgot about the whole thing and decided to move on and moved into my dad’s place.

I had two extraordinary dreams with Maharajji in it shortly after I came out of rehab. First, I dreamt that I was following him in a very beautiful temple and only saw his back, but as I kept following him and we reached an empty water well he disappeared and I woke up. A few days after that I dreamt that he and a murti of Hanuman made me get off a train between Bangalore and Mysore and he was fully animated and smiling and asked me to build a Hanuman temple. I replied to him saying that I didn’t know how to build Hanuman temples and that I was a DJ and he laughed and turned around and suddenly on the platform was a Hanuman Temple and me sitting and offering him some food. I still remember the dream very clearly. Once the murti of Hanuman was built with him sitting by the Hanuman he reached over to my plate of food and ate all the meat (and other things if I’m not mistaken) from the plate. As soon as that was done the train was back and he asked me to get back on the train and I woke up. You have to understand that I hardly knew anything about him or Hanuman except that he was Ram Dass’s guru and that Hanuman is a monkey God from Hindu mythology. I was utterly confused. Luckily I was into the habit of making audio recordings of my dreams and recorded it. This was the last dream visitation I had of him for a few years until I knew what was going on.

About a year after that incident, I was back in Goa, had gotten back together with my then girlfriend and my dear friend from Delhi had visited and he got me the book “Miracle of Love” as a gift from Kainchi. Even though it was on my shelf for a little while, I never ended up reading it because I was too busy being happy with my girlfriend and playing video games and lazing around.

In September 2020 again the unthinkable happened, I broke up with my beloved in the worst possible way. The suffering was immense. Around the

same time, a snake (probably a cobra) entered my kitchen in my house in Goa and I was terrified beyond recognition. I immediately called the landlord who arrived within a few minutes while I locked myself in my room and he looked everywhere for the snake which had disappeared without a trace. Somehow I had this feeling that I needed to reach for the book ‘The miracle of love’ and I opened it and the first thing I read about was something about Maharajji and a snake. I had shivers down my spine and my whole body was vibrating with the knowledge that the snake was him trying to wake me up. Later in my conversations with devotees and reading about him from close to 10 different books I understood that it’s something he’s easily capable of.

The next day onwards I started doing Pooja to the pictures of him from the book “Miracle of Love”. The more I read the book, the more I understood that he was my SatGuru and he has been since before I knew it.

Eventually my faith got so strong that I got a tattoo of his signature from the book, bold and proud in the centre of my chest that said ‘Ram’. A few days later a stranger with Maharaj Ji's picture as his profile picture just called me and added me as a friend and asked me to book a ticket to Delhi from Goa. He said that I was supposed to go to Kainchi Dham (Maharajji and Siddhi Ma's famous Ashram) with him on Tuesday (a day auspicious for Hanuman in the Hindu week). It was Sunday when he told me that I booked a flight ticket on Monday and met him early Tuesday morning in Delhi and we drove up to Kainchi.

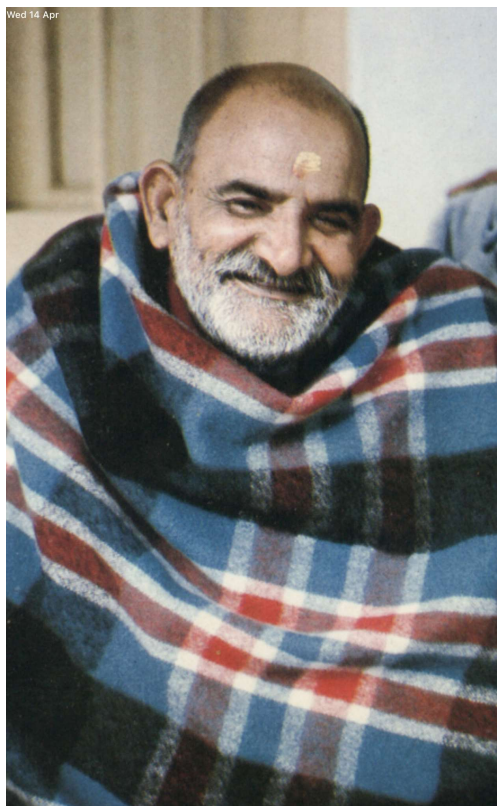
As soon as we entered the temple, I understood that the Kainchi temple was the exact same temple I had seen in my dream two years ago when I got out of rehab. 100% of the details intact. Blew my mind. All my beliefs and understandings of the nature of reality shattered. As soon as I entered the temple, I knew that I had come home. My search was over. I had never experienced a peace so profound and familiar. Maharaj-ji was my destiny and had been for many lifetimes. The frequency of the temple is so high that the living presence of Spirit or what one may call God is several hundred times louder than the chatter of the collective human mind. It's incomprehensible.

In the guest house that I resided in, I kept turning the pages from “Miracle Of Love” and noticed something else that shattered my perception of reality. The picture of the Hanuman from the book was the same Hanuman from my dream with the train except it was with an older, more smiling version of Maharaj-ji.

Since then I've had about 13 or more dream visitations of him and one with Sri Siddhi Ma and one with Baba Ram Dass. I'll talk about them as and when they come up in the chapters to come.

I've learned things about Maharaj-ji and continue to experience him on a daily basis that transcend science, logic and intellect. Truly a play of the Gods. I am now a fully dedicated devotee of Maharajji and through this book I hope to convey to the world these tales of the inexpressible, the unfathomable love and miraculous grace that has fallen upon me and several who are near and dear to me, through him.

Thanks to Neem Karoli Baba (I call him 'boss' in short), my life is a continuous stream of miracles, and ever since I accepted into my heart as my SatGuru, I have never experienced a moment of loneliness or loss of direction, through the ups and downs of this life experience. Every moment is filled with Divine Purpose and he always has my highest interest at heart.



Jai Gurudev Mahadev Shri Neem Karoli Baba Maharaj!!

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Acknowledgements

You the seeker

Maharajji Neem Karoli Baba himself, whose blessing made this possible

Maharajji's Satsang and Global Family

My dad Anoop Gopal Singh

My Grandmother Susheela Singh

My late uncle Suchet Singh

My mother Bharathi Singh and
My two brothers Amit and Bittu

My dear Friends from all over the world

For my patrons who've also ended up becoming like my family at
Patreon.com/NeemDas

[Margot, Daniel, Jessica, Sinead, Dain, Nit Ram, Urvashi, Meghan, Linden,
Herb and Anuj]

Sri Siddhi Ma

Baba Ram Dass

Jai Ram Ransom

And finally,

the bond between Hanuman and Ram

May their friendship, love and
brotherhood inspire us all



Preface

Originally the idea for this book was that I travel across all the Maharajji spots in India and interview 108 devotees of his and interview them their experiences with Maharajji and compile it into a book called “Immortal : Neem Karoli Baba - Life After Death” but that’s next in line.

Due to circumstances and a divine intervention by a monkey that sat on my right shoulder and blessed me and my guitar while I was singing the Hanuman Chalisa at the temple where Hanuman was born in Anjanadri hill in Karnataka India, I was intuitively given the signal that I need to write a small book of my own about Maharaj-ji. The feeling that I experienced while this monkey sat on me and touched my guitar was a feeling that I have never had before. It was truly like being touched by God. Unending streams of bliss and ecstasy. It reminded me of how Baba Ram Dass said it felt when Maharajji would pat them on the forehead or shoulder in his book “Remember, Be Here Now”



Me At the Anjanadri Temple in Hampi Karnataka- Historic Birthplace of Anjaneya (Hanuman)

I later met a wonderful baba named ‘Hanuman Das’ who’s also a devotee of Hanuman and lives in the ‘Bala Hanuman Temple’ nearby. He also experienced the same phenomena of a monkey climbing on his right shoulder during ‘Aarti’. He explained to me that without a doubt it was the

blessing of Lord Hanuman, as he is immortal and can assume any form and appear anywhere.



Bala Hanuman Murti

(Translates into “Young Hanuman Idol”)

(Built at the site where Jatayu fought Ravana in kishkindha from the
Ramayana)

(Could be Thousands of years old, even 10000 years old, according to the
Baba)

Coming back to the reason behind this book, I needed to clarify a lot of things to the world and say them “as they are” or “as I experience them to be”. Other than attempting to provide a poetic and scientific explanation to a phenomenon which is far beyond the grasp of the logical and rational mind, the aim of this book is to extend an arm of knowledge and grace to he or she who is a seeker.

For the individual who knows nothing and is new to Neem Karoli Baba, it will play the role of a new wave biography - A biography of living spirit. Also, it will act as an introduction to Maharajji himself and bring him into context in the present decade of the 2020s.

For the older devotees of Maharajji this book will act as an exciting refresher from a fresh new perspective and the shared love for him will be felt immensely.

For someone who's not looking for a guru or a guide but is a seeker of knowledge, this book will provide a lot of exciting and interesting stories, facts and concepts that challenge the scope of regular thinking and life experience.

For other purposes, whether or not Maharajji will reveal himself and give his 'Darshan' (glimpse or presence of a deity) through this book is up to him and him alone... To invite him into the experience of this book, after every significant cluster of information, I will draw inspiration from the "miracle of love" and print a 'ram ram' with his handwriting.



As I've mentioned before, Maharajji is more alive now than ever, in this present moment he is onlooking and pre-editing this labor of love, passion and enthusiasm that is this book. The majority of this book is a humble attempt to compile and dig for and share Maharajji's grace, another aspect of this book is a form of metaphysical investigative journalism inquiring through various methods to convey and explore life and the mystery that is Maharajji, but a tiny aspect of this book is a benevolent, good intentioned, heart centric act of rebellion against Maharajji himself!

All this of course is his Lila, or divine play. You see this book is a product of the revelation that I had when I trekked up to the top of the hill and had the darshan of the Hanuman murti thrice on Yogi Medicine and sang lots of Hanuman Chalisas in alleged the birthplace of the Monkey God.....

The Revelation was - FREE WILL EXISTS.

This book is a celebration of the combination of my revelation of free will and my love for Maharajji...

*Om Jaya Jagadeesha Hare
Swami Jaya Jagadeesh Hare
Bhakta Janaka ke Sankata
Deena Janaka ke Sankata
Kshana Mei Dura Kare*

Om Jaya Jagadeesha Hare

*Om glory to the lord of the Universe
Who removes in a moment the troubles
Of devotees and the sufferings of the poor
Om Glory to the Lord of the Universe*

- taken from “Miracle of Love: stories about Neem Karoli Baba- by Ram Dass”



A Psychedelic Atheist Humbled

In the beginning there was the void. A pure void of infinite holy nothingness. There were no distances to be covered, no matter, no objects, no trajectories of planets or celestial orbits. There wasn't even light. There was a pure void of empty luscious potentiality. Pregnant with the possibility of all things in creation. And through the mystery of the word, and the poetry that comes with it - all of what we know came into being. Before I dive deeper into this matter, I'd like to say that this book is a more a poetic adventure than it is a scientific or a religious inquiry. I'm not sure if the Big Bang was accurate, or the Genesis theory of creation is real, if Darwin was right or will be deemed obsolete in the 2200s, if aliens gave birth to human intelligence, if Terrance McKenna's stoned ape theory was right or if in fact it was the creator God Brahma from Hindu mythology who created the universe. How can I know if any of these things are true? I wasn't there! It would be arrogant of me to claim any theory to be the only truth.

You see, the only truth that I believe in is that all human beings can agree upon the fact that *all of existence is a grand expanding mystery*. And there's great beauty in having an open mind about these mysteries. Every 100 years or so the beliefs of the last hundred years are deemed obsolete and a new generation appears with new sciences and new research that proves everything that was called 'fact' before is 'fiction'. Just a few hundred years ago if we had carried these little smart phones that we have in our pockets with access to all the world's information and conveniences now, they would have burnt us at the stake for witchcraft. The irony is that the concept of time isn't always progressively linear either. In today's world if we talk about 10000-year-old humans who could fly, teleport and levitate, it would be called fiction and fabrication. The individual who claims to have seen such things would be considered delusional and most probably end up in a psychiatric institution. Trust me, I've been there. Literally. But these beings exist!

But the beauty of this whole thing is that we do not comprise a general 'reality' where the rules and the norms are the same for everyone. By the grace of all that's holy, we live in a RELATIVE reality.

Now, what does a 'RELATIVE' reality mean? The words that I'm typing now, are a product of the absolutely unique life experience that I have lived in this body and many others and it is only my perspective that I wish

to and can communicate. And you, as a reader, have your own relative reality. And through this common means of communication known as language, my imagination can tickle your imagination for a 'Salsa dance' of concepts so to speak and if we're in similar frequency ranges, as in mindsets, then we can experience an agreement of sorts, or disagreement, based on where we're coming from.

For example, the concept of reincarnation is an experiential reality in my life. I have taken many births before with this soul or Jivatma, the specifics of the memories from those lives I do not have, but a general sense of familiarity with this cycle of birth and rebirth and the whole drama involved it, I can tell you that I've done it several times. This is my relative reality. If I was born in the west, probably in an atheistic family and I told them this, they would consider me insane and give me medication for 'delusions of grandeur' because it doesn't fit into their model of reality. And also most societies don't accommodate the concept of relative realities. They fixate on large groups in chosen geographic zones to an 'absolute reality' and make that the law. This is the true definition of insanity if you ask me. The enforcing of realities on others, is in my opinion 'original sin'.

For example, when I was travelling in my younger days I met a girl who spoke to trees. She would have long deep conversations with trees and nature spirits. In the beginning, all that I learnt through my years of school and all the information that I had gathered from my books of spirituality made no room for something like this. Although I didn't openly do it, I was internally ridiculing this person. How ignorant of me. About 10 years later, I understood that she was in fact communicating with nature spirits and trees have consciousness that can be communicated with if one tunes his or her vibrational frequency to what they're whispering. This keeps happening to me. My scepticism disregards something as a possibility, but a few years later an experiential event shatters my scepticism and makes way for something new.

However, in this age of mass marketing, organised religion, intense media manipulation and ridiculous financial greed from almost every corner of the planet, I hold my scepticism very dear to me still. It is my shield of protection against the various scams and inauthentic operations and individuals in the world. I know all beings are born sacred as children, and the entire world is innocent in a way, but let's just say when it comes to the majority of the stuff they're selling - I ain't buying it.

I don't believe what they're saying in the news, I don't believe priests of any religions who claim to bring me the word of God, I don't believe anyway is "the only way". I ain't buying it. However, I have an open ear and an open heart and I'm willing to listen. More than concepts, it is direct experience that speaks to me.

That's why for more than a decade now, psychedelics were my portal to the divine. My first experience of LSD showed me a more real God than all the religions together theorised. I was born in a Hindu family, and all the Gods and Goddesses as beautiful as they appeared in terms of art and mythology, as wonderful as the morals of the stories they suggested, I believed were just that - a bunch of stories to teach certain principles to children and adults alike. And in my decade and a half of psychedelic exploration I was sure that they were just clutches that mankind had - something to believe in to make a rather meaningless life find meaning. I believed that tradition and culture were just things to fill up man's imagination and time with concepts that were passed on from generation to generation.

You see the thing about psychedelics is that it lets you see things. You can see things with them that you wouldn't otherwise see, and with all the psychedelics that I experimented with this is what I saw - The universe is one great mystery, we are all divine, we are all connected, coming from the same 'source energy' and God was a man-made creation to give himself solace. That and the discovery of multiplicities of alternate realms of existence.

That's what I knew with absolute conviction.
Until I came across Maharajji - Neem Karoli Baba...

The kind looking little old man in a blanket shattered all my perceptions of reality and rearranged them in a way that I'll never really know what's going on or sure, and all that I can do through this life experience is praise God in his and her many forms and accept that I am a little fragment in a vast universe that has much to learn.

God is real. The theories are many, the names are many, the mysteries are many but thanks to Maharajji, my doubts are few.

Let me say that again

God is Real. And the only thing that I do know for sure is that I DON'T KNOW.

I know that really well though, which makes this ride fun, exciting and lusciously rich...



Unlike Terrance McKenna and many other modern day and old school enthusiasts like Sadhus who worship the deity Shiva - I DON'T RECOMMEND PSYCHEDELICS.

I just speak about them a lot, because they have shaped me into the person that I am now. The reason why I don't recommend psychedelics is because all the best times I have had in my life have been on them and the worst times I have had in my life have been on them too. And if I recommend them to you, then by the law of cause and effect (new age term for karma) I'm somehow responsible for whatever happens to you during the experience. And there're so many parameters to consider while determining whether or not you have a 'good trip'.

For example, Let me explain to you what happened to me the first time I smoked DMT. I was sitting in my friend's balcony and she was older and more experienced and filled up the pipe with this tiny amount of yellow powder. She chanted some incantations and prepared me for the journey in a ritualistic fashion. She claimed it would be the most intense experience in my life. I was sceptical as I had already taken so much LSD in the last decade that I had thought I'd seen it all. Anyway, I was sitting down comfortably, and she made me smoke it and asked me to take three tokes. The first time around I took them and a strange buzzing sound happened and my vision blurred for a while, but in a few minutes I was back to normal. I ridiculed her in a friendly way and asked her "is that it". She said, "ok you didn't do it right, this time take three long tokes and hold it in". I followed her advice. What happened to me then, is a tale worth telling.

As soon as I took the third toke from the pipe, I couldn't see the pipe anymore, but somehow she'd taken it away from my hand. If I recall the experience correctly, my body was delightfully thunderstruck by some kind of a sacred Godlike force and modulated into an alternate reality. I had no free will in this realm. My hands started performing Mudras (symbolic

ritualistic gestures of Hindu and Buddhist origin) that I Had never seen before. It wasn't a hallucination, my hands moved. Soon my whole body was dancing to some form of sacred geometric clicking sound that seemed to have originated from beyond this dimension. It felt guided, like there were other beings there, non-physical beings who were upgrading my body with this new intelligence. Soon after that, my jivatma, or Individual soul consciousness shot out of my heart as a green energy ball and I could see my body dancing from behind it. This soul of mine keep ascending higher, soon I left my body and started moving towards the clouds, in a matter of seconds I left the earth and the solar systems long behind and I kept catapulting higher and higher and higher until I believe I reached some realm of unlimited intelligence in the centre of the multiverse, what I saw then, with High Definition visual clarity were symbols from languages that I knew and didn't know. There was Sanskrit, Hebrew and innumerable languages all moving in straight lines upwards downwards and sideways. This place was inhabited by beings of unexplained origins. They seemed benevolent, but nothing was familiar here, everything was new and really fast. I felt like I got an upgrade and sort and someone or something demanded that I return to my body. So within a second I zapped down to earth at light speed and was slammed back into my body which was still dancing and everything around me was fractal art. A lot more happened but most of this is really beyond the grasp of linguistics. A billion bits of information processing through my body and mind per nano second. Now that I was back in my body, I was really glad that it was over. And then with a sigh of relief I turned to look at my friend. As soon as I saw her, her face shape-shifted into every face that ever was and will be and her physical form kept teleporting in accordance to the clicks that I heard from another dimension. He turned from a silver winged angel to a metallic chrome elf and kept changing form, all this I saw with utmost clarity until finally the clicking stopped and I closed my eyes. When I opened them again, it felt like the journey was at least 7 hours long. When I came back to my 'regular human senses' the first thing that I asked her was "how long was I gone" and she said "14 minutes". I couldn't believe it.

After that I had hundreds of journeys with this and many other plant medicines, some of them were extremely beautiful, yet some of them were so horrifying that I wouldn't wish that experience on my worst enemy. That's why I don't recommend substances or drugs of any sort. They're a double-edged sword. Bhakti or devotion is the greatest drug, that's what this book is intended to convey.

As I mentioned before, Maharajji's philosophy about life and his main instructions to me through the process of writing this book is "SPEAK TRUTH" so I'll be speaking a lot of my truth, some you may be able to relate to it, some of you may not have any frame of reference to compare some of the things I speak of, but in the larger scale of things through this book they will all make sense.

I have a great deal of respect for beings that use them for the upliftment of humanity though. Like Steve Jobs who was also a devotee of Maharajji as well. His use of psychedelics ended up in creating high-quality computing and giving it to the masses as opposed to using it in just military technology, changed the way we communicated and altered the course of the planet. Through Maharajji's blessing, Steve was able to give the common man unimaginable power. I'll go into the details of Steve and Maharajji a bit later.

Terrance McKenna that inspired the psychedelic subculture, the trance music movement and thousands of musicians and creative people I have a lot of respect for as well. But his method came at a heavy price. I've been in rehabs and seen the damage it can do and the degrees of irreversible psychosis it can lead to if one is not ready for the 'psychedelic path' more often than not, even great artists like Jim Morrison and Jimi Hendrix deviate from the psychedelics and end up using more dangerous drugs like cocaine and alcohol and end up losing their lives in unfortunate manners. Very rare beings can master this path.

However, the reason why I bring them up is because the degree of power and clarity and self-sovereignty that one experiences in certain psychedelic states makes little or no room for the idea of a theoretical external or vengeful God. The reason is because we get to have direct experience. And in some of these substances like DMT and Psilocybin mushrooms, you get to have direct contact with a variety of nonphysical extra-dimensional entities, but it's hard to say exactly who or what they are. Ayahuasca is another such plant medicine. In the plant ceremony, all theories of spirits and extra dimensional entities and things we hear about in fairy tales become a reality. It 'opens the doors of perception' as Huxley said.

The thing about these experiences is that they are valid. They are real but they are like gambling. If one is not ready for such an experience and doesn't take the medicine under a trained shaman, things can go very wrong. In many of these ceremonies and experiences, I've experienced what they call God, only glimpses of it but very very real. And usually the next day I forget

about it and have to wait for the next ceremony or trip to glimpse it again. Which would be worth it if it was sustainable, but unfortunately for me personally it's not sustainable.

Thanks to Maharajji, now I have a very sustained, balanced, unwavering yet powerful relationship with that which is called God. Before him I was an alcoholic for two years, now I have a drink once in a while with friends and call it a day. I used to use heavy substances and get lost in them like a mad man, but now I rarely use any substances, and if I do it's with deep intention and devotion. He basically "fixed" me. There's still many aspects of me that need attention but I trust him and he'll take care of it. How all these happened I will narrate slowly as I recall his Lilas (divine plays) throughout the rest of the book.

You see, in terms of clock time and number of days, I'm fairly new to him, but in terms of soul time and cosmic time I've known him for many Kalpas (a unit of measuring time in Hinduism that considers cycles of all four yugas)

Fact is, I could have waited another 30 years or so to see if my sense of worthiness increases to be able to write a book about Maharajji - the Supreme Soul in my reality, but I figured considering the state of the world and the uncertainty of the times we live in and the sheer fact that 30 years from now I'm quite certain that I still won't find myself worthy to write about him, I figured I'll just go for it.

I mean what's the worst thing that can happen? No one gonna read my book? That's ok. He's gonna read it. He kind of already has, even though I'm just 20 pages into the book. He knows exactly how long the book will be, when it'll be published and how many people are gonna read it and how many times I'll hit writer's block in the absence of self-worth and how many times I'll bounce back in. How does he know that? God only knows.

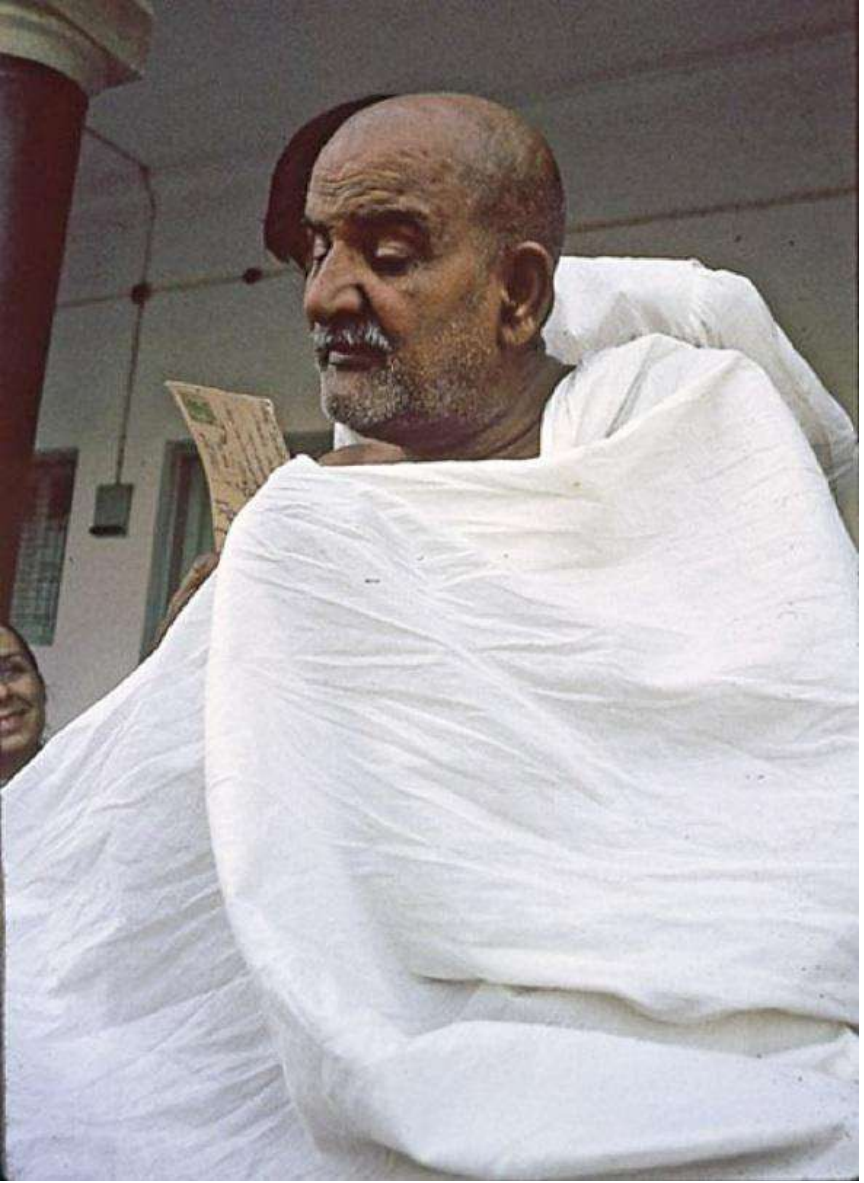


See that's the thing while writing about Maharajji. A lot of things are going to sound like fiction or plain insanity, but I can tell you this much about Neem Karoli Baba -

[Fact is Stranger than Fiction]

Never before have I encountered a being of such power and such mystery, all wrapped up in little pockets of smiles and grace, but quintessentially rooted in love. Oh Maharajji. Where do I begin? And how will I find words to describe you? I pray to the muses that they assist me with the poetry that's needed to sing the song of this book.

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The Nature of God

God is real. God is Truth. God is Love. God is Here.
God is Now. God is you. God is me.
God is Hunger. God is Food.
God is Sorrow. God is Joy.
God is a Woman. God is a Man.
God is a leaf. God is a Flower.
God is an animal Yet God is without form.
God is one. God is many.
God is none. God is All.

God is Longing. God is Pain.
God is Healing. God is Trust.
God is Guru. Guru is in You.
God is Alive. God is Death.
Death is Life. Life is Beautiful.
Beauty is an Illusion. Illusions are Real.
Reality is relative. Relativity is a Gamble.
Gamblers lose, Losers Win.

(Deep breath)

God is the Heart, God is the Mind,
God is the question to the answers we'll find
God is in the quiver, God is the Bow
God is the tension while pulling the arrow

God is the law, God is the Thief
God is the sanctity of Grief
God is a Hero, God is a Cook
Please God help me describe you in this book.....

Phew, that felt good.
Jai Gurudev
(Glory to the Divine Guru)

In Theistic thought - God is supposed to be the Supreme Being, creator of all that is and the object of Faith. In Deism (derived from the Latin word 'deus') reason and observation of the natural world is sufficient to establish the existence of the Supreme Being. In 'Pantheism' God is the universe itself. Fair enough. In Atheism, there's simply no *need* for God, amongst agnostics there's simply no *time* for God. Many millennia have passed on earth with people arguing about whose concept of God is the right one, and millions of people have died in what's known as 'holy wars'. Till this day, it's probably the most sensitive topic on the planet. Even though we all live on the same land, we all breathe the same air, get the same blood flowing through our veins, somehow there are different concepts of God.

Some of the stories that they speak of with absolute certainty in certain religious backgrounds seem so far out that it's a lot less stressful and far more convenient to be an atheist honestly, or agnostic even. The earliest monotheistic religion was the ancient Egyptian religion Atenism which far predates the post Abrahamic monotheistic religions of the world such as Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Aten or Aton is the sun God which was worshipped by the ancient Egyptians. They kept it simple and pointed to the sun, simultaneously the earliest Polytheistic religion Hinduism has been known to have approximately 33 million Gods or deities each one with his or her own form plus a formless predecessor called 'Bhagwan' (equivalent to The Almighty). The Buddha denied God and focused on meditation, self and consciousness.

So with all these religions and all these beliefs and all these faiths - which God is real? And what theory of the universe is the correct theory?

Surprisingly I have an answer.

ALL OF THEM.

That's right. All of them are real.

We spoke earlier of relative reality. And frankly, what we believe in is true. The Judaist faith believes in Yahweh or Elohim. True. Christians believe in Jesus and the Father God and Holy Spirit. True. Muslims believe in Allah. True. Hindus believe in the Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva triad with their innumerable incarnations and rituals. True. Buddhists believe in the 8 fold path to self - realisation amongst other things. True. The atheists believe there

is no God. True. Agnostics feel there may or may not be a God. True and extremely convenient.

This is how it works, belief creates reality. The capacity to believe innately exists in nature. Nature just is, whether it was created by a Supreme Being, or came to be through the Big Bang and genetic mutation - it's all the same. What people believe in is precious, and I believe that we as individuals have to honour not only what we believe in but also respect and honour what others believe. And that way there's a possibility of peaceful balance on earth. This is the meaning of Dharma or Universal Law according to me.

If I have to ponder a bit deeper into the nature of God, I like to look at the Macrocosmic level as well as the microcosmic level. Let's bring science into the picture for a little while. According to Stephen Hawking, the Big Bang happened around 13.8 billion years ago. That's the estimated age of the universe we know and live in apparently. So in the beginning there was nothing and then a small ball of heat and density called a singularity started expanding. After the initial bang the universe cooled down sufficiently to allow the formation of subatomic particles and later atoms. This is where I want to squeeze God in. Now why did a seemingly empty void decide to explode? Isn't there a sense of meaning and reason there? Why did this absolute hollow deem itself manifest into a singularity? You see, that's where I'd like to begin with the whole idea of God (Through this book the word 'God' will take many meanings based on the context that it's spoken in).

Even if these are all just a sequence of random mechanical acts with no sentience (the atheist's argument) the process of expansion and evolution itself is divine. You got to really feel this with me. The way I see it, there's four levels of God.

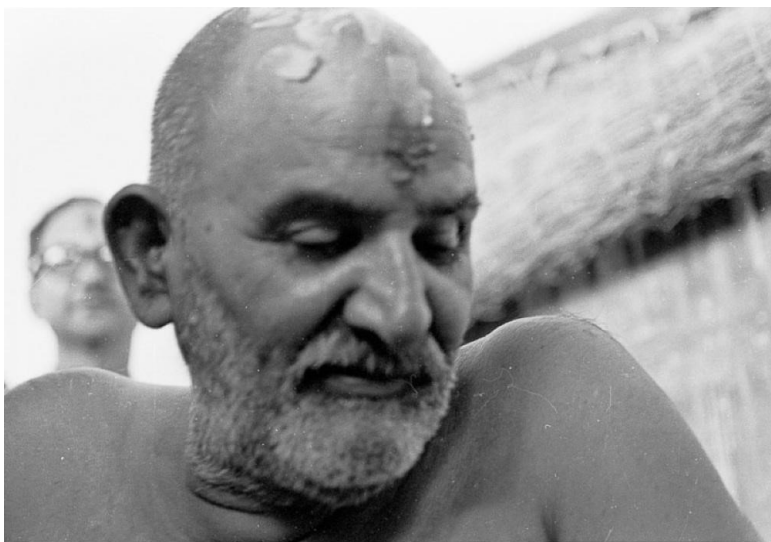
1. The Formless essence beyond polarity and before manifestation, the very fabric of existence itself, the space beneath yet encompassing awareness and consciousness. Beyond space and time, yet accommodating of it, the emptiness which is really empty, and the silence before and predating the primordial vibration through which all of existence came to be.
2. The God that is vibration. The melody of the universe. The source of all existence which is breathing, the radiance of every molecule of that which is manifest. The Hindus call this sacred vibration 'AUM' and the monotheistic approach may be referring to this as the ultimate one God, the omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent

vibration that is the nameless ruler of all the galaxies in the universe, perhaps even all the dimensions of the multiverse. Source Energy is another word for this. I'd like to emphasise that this is the level of God that is known as 'The creator' in practically all religions. Science should have a word for this. It simply hasn't been formulated yet. Perhaps in the future.

3. Gods of Celestial Form or Deities. These are all the celestial and higher dimensional Gods that we as a species have come across in varying religious texts. In ancient Egypt there are Osiris, Isis, Horus, Ra, Anubis etc. in Sumerians there are An, Enlil Enki, amongst the Hindus there are Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva and their consorts Saraswathi, Lakshmi and Parvati (it is said these celestial beings have taken earthly form for a while in earlier 'yugas' which I will discuss later). Now the thing about these Gods of celestial form are that they're real (I've experienced some of them and had glimpses through varying methods) but they exist on a level of existence that's higher and far beyond the dimensions that us humans can perceive with our general senses unless one performs 'Tapasya' or penance to get a glimpse or to commune with these beings. The examples were just a few, but the Gods or Deities of celestial form are many.
4. Gods of Earthly form. Gods that take form and incarnate or manifest on planet earth and have extraordinary powers that seem unnatural or impossible and have a huge message for humanity. Often the prophets of the various monotheistic religions are in a sense Gods of Earthly form. Jesus Christ is an example among other. These beings may also be known as SatGurus in Hinduism. Because they have access and mastery over all the above levels of God. And through them, one may commune with the Celestial, Vibrational and Formless God.

All in all - Glory to God, in all his or her form and Formlessness!

Since this is a book about Maharaj-ji I'd like to mention that Neem Karoli Baba is one such God or Deity of Earthly form. He is an immortal 'Avatar' who descended from Celestial form.



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Why is God Worshipped?

Even before the word God was framed in any language, somehow there seemed to be a tendency to worship something greater than oneself by the human species. The roots of the word derived from old English comes from “worth-ship or worthiness” simply put it is “to give worth to something” so that's what worship is.

Now this means several different things in several different schools of thought or religions. In Hinduism there is mostly a worship of the 3rd and 4th level of God that we discussed in the previous chapter which is the celestial forms (33 million approximately) and the earthly forms, also a method of union with the divine known as ‘Yoga’... In Christianity there is a worship of the combination of the formless father God and son Jesus Christ who’s an earthly incarnation. They don't seem to have any celestial forms like Egyptians or Hindus, angels perhaps. In Judaism and Islam there is deep reverence for the prophets but the worship seems to be mostly to the

formless. In Buddhism there is guru yoga, mandala, thanka, yantra yoga and samadhi (meditation path).

All in all, it wouldn't be unfair to say that all types of worship lead to the same source, although some may disagree.

For many, worship is a frequency of emotion that is felt during the ritual. For others, worship is not an emotion, it is about the recognition and whole-hearted pouring of love and 'worth-ship' to God or the deity they revere. This worship can be performed individually, in a group ('Satsang' is the word for that group in the Hindi/Sanskrit language) or designated by a leader or a priest. It's all valid and all beautiful.

There are so many styles of worship in all the many religions in the world. Each unique and worthy of study and observation.

To put it simply, one can say that the entire process of worship is to commune with all the Levels of God. If you zero in on it, it's all happening on the level of self. Cause whatever God or deity we worship, whatever ritual we follow - the entire experience of that is felt within the self, in this present moment, in this body we occupy temporarily.

Ramana Maharshi - a great Indian saint made the unforgettable statement –

“GOD, GURU AND SELF ARE ONE”.

Based on the above statement - the question remains who's worshipping who exactly?



Although I will reference other religions occasionally for inspirational purposes, the primordial framework of this book will remain between a universal experiential narrative but with Hindu terminology. Even though Neem Karoli Baba transcends the idea of religion, both me and him were born into families that follow Sanatana Dharma (also known as Hinduism). Also, Maharajji is considered by many to be a human incarnation of the celestial deity Lord Hanuman in the present times (which we will thoroughly investigate in the later chapters) That exponentially increases the necessity for the Hindu references. However, I will try to simplify these broad

concepts so that the message may reach as many people as possible (or as chosen by Maharajji) in these times.



As I am typing these words right now, it is the full moon on Tuesday the 27th of April 2021. Also, it is Hanuman Jayanti - The Celebration of the birthday of Lord Hanuman according to the Hindu calendar. The benevolent monkey God that is the focus of all devotees of Maharajji, and also a highly celebrated and revered God in Hinduism generally. Since we're on the topic of worship let me explain how I am celebrating this auspicious and exciting event. (It is the first Hindu festival that I'm celebrating after 15 years of atheism and indifference)

There is a beautiful table altar where I'm sitting, a huge cloth painting of the Deities Sri Ram, his wife Sita, and his brother Lakshman with Hanuman bowing at his feet is hanging at the altar with. A bronze panchmukhi (five faced) sitting Hanuman Murti (idol) is the centre of the altar. There's also a murti of the elephant God Ganesh sitting next to Hanuman. There's pictures of various gods like Shiva, Parvati, Lakshmi and Hanuman's mother Anjani. Behind the five faced Hanuman is the picture of the murti from the birth temple at Anjanadri. To the left are two small pictures of Maharajji and Sri Siddhi Ma (his great devotee and celebrated as goddess Durga in human form) a lovely salt lamp and an oil lamp, apples as offerings to the Gods and of course a postcard size picture of Neem Karoli Baba staring directly at me, faced on top of the five faced Hanuman. This is my altar in my dad's house in Bangalore. Ceremony was inaugurated by me garlanding the murti of Hanuman with Jasmine flowers, chanting the Hanuman Chalisa in rap style seven times and singing once with my guitar along with some basic mantras. A vast majority of Hinduism lies a mystery to me, but the deity that's the focus of my worship is Hanuman / Neem Karoli Baba. Plus I got bells and a little bronze tray where I light a camphor piece to perform a very simple 'Aarti' or invocation of the deity. That's how I did my worship today. Happy Birthday Hanuman!!!



Devotion and True Darshan

Now that we've touched upon the nature of God and why he/she is worshipped, I'd like to talk a little bit about the miraculous nature of devotion or Bhakti as we call it in Hinduism. The funny thing about devotion is that you don't have to believe in any concept of God to experience it. I just realised I've been a devotee all my life, but just happened to stumble upon the deity to focus my devotion on recently. It's a beautiful thing. Before Maharajji in my life, I was devoted to a variety of things. I was quite a devout follower of music, I would put lots of emotion and devotion into the songs I was singing. I was and still am a devotee of several bands and the art DJing. I was a very devoted partner in my relationship.

Just to bring the polarity into this, I was also very devoted to my addictions. A devoted smoker, a devoted drinker and an extremely devoted junkie. It's just my curse and gift at the same time. In fact, I coined a phrase for my future book '13th Step' - "Addiction is nothing but devotion in the absence of true Darshan"

What is 'true darshan'?

Let me try to explain. The literal translation of the noun 'Darshan' in Hinduism is 'an opportunity to see or an occasion of seeing a holy person or the image of a deity'. So literally it means to see or witness with the eyes a deity, murti or a saint or holy person. 'True Darshan' is a level beyond that.

'True Darshan' is to know without an element of doubt, or to see and be graced by the presence of, to feel and bathe in the unmistakable grace of a Deity, Guru or God. I had seen pictures of Neem Karoli Baba several hundred times in Ram Dass lectures, in the book *Be Here Now* and on Facebook. So in a sense I had 'Darshan' of him. But nothing really happened. I just saw pictures of an old man, that's it. But when I was reading the book 'miracle of love' and the circumstances of my life were ripe, I had 'True Darshan'. I saw beyond the black and white pictures into the divinity that is him. I felt the presence of the Deity that is Maharajji. Furthermore, when I went to the Kainchi Temple, I felt like he saw me, and embraced me in a cradle of divine unconditional love. There were no doubts anymore of his

existence or sovereignty. I knew it. That he was my SatGuru. He was my doorway to that which we call God. In fact for me he is God.

I have many friends who follow many different religions and have a deity that they worship, but haven't really had 'true darshan'. They speak to and pray to God but on some level there is a subconscious fragment of doubt in them. Probably because they are simply being forced to follow their religion since childhood (happens a lot in religious families everywhere) and it becomes routine for them to do the rituals or the prayers without truly believing in what they're doing. In fact I believe that a majority of the population on earth who claim to be devoted to a certain deity haven't really had 'true darshan' of the deity. (I could be wrong)

Faith is a wonderful thing and can sometimes bridge the gap, but if faith becomes a matter of effort, then 'true darshan' hasn't happened.

You see, when you are graced by the presence of a deity, you know each other. The deity knows you and you know the deity. There is no room for doubt. There can be no doubt. I have met many beautiful souls who have genuine contact with the God they worship and it's beautiful to see. But several people do the rituals yet feel or see nothing.

In my experience I've seen several priests from several religious structures that know all the scripture and all the materials the rituals need, they know all the prayers and live for decades with murtis or in the places of worship, but simply have not had 'true darshan'. In the sense that they have not been graced by that particular deity and carry with them some level of very subconscious doubt. More often than not, these are the beings that use fanaticism to cover up their sense of doubt by showing a display of their faith externally to the world in such strong ways, sometimes even with violence.

Those who have had 'true darshan' or have been touched by a deity or God always have a sense of grace around them. It doesn't matter to them what people say about the deity or their experiences or how much they question their faith. They know beyond the senses and their mind that the deity is real. Even in their sleep and even in their darkest moments. There simply will not be an element of doubt.

This deity then becomes a living breathing reality for them. I have rapper friends who are born again Christians who emanate this frequency of absolute conviction and certainty. Because this time they met their Lord.

They can see beyond the books and the institutions and the inscriptions. In fact they have a very personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It's beautiful to see. They've had 'true Darshan'. Christ has revealed himself to them and is a living presence in their lives. Many friends from many other religions too!

Similarly, I'm a born again devotee of Hanuman / Neem Karoli Baba. There's no doubt here. There's no question. There's no need for a priest or any literature. I just know he's real. I feel him 24/7. Even in my sleep. I may get offended if anyone insults him (because of my heavy metal past) but my faith is unshakable. The slash (/) between Neem Karoli Baba and Hanuman will be investigated thoroughly in the coming chapters, but as of now I more or less treat them like they're the same being. Although the conversations that I have in my head are with the Human version that is Maharajji, the majority of the rituals and prayers and mantras are in the name of Hanuman and in Hanuman temples.

Coming back to devotion, it is my observation that the beautiful thing about devotion or Bhakti is not the object of it, but the subject of it. The object of devotion may well be adorned and praised and loved and made altars of, but like Ram Dass says in *Be Here Now*, Bhakti is where you 'just love until you and the beloved become one'. That's one way of putting it.

Another way of seeing it is on the level of frequencies and vibration. Devotion to God (in any or no form) holds a very specific frequency. One could say that it also transcends emotion, because when it comes to the grand scheme of things emotion is a surface level phenomenon that emanates on the level of individuality. Devotion transcends the boundaries of individuality and duality itself and reaches into true oneness. This is an extremely beautiful thing.

Through devotion the gap between Human and God is bridged, and we align ourselves with our quintessential divine nature. You see, we are essentially God, stepping out of himself, to reach back and reach out into the same!

That's right - Underneath It All: You Are God!



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Neem Karoli Baba - A brief biography

The intention of this book is not to write a biography or a memoir of the 'Neem Karoli Baba' who lived and died, but to invite, convey and communicate his living essence, infinite grace and miraculous power from his non-physical perspective here and now in this present moment.

The biographical books that I recommend are "The Divine Reality" by Ravi Prakash Pande "Rajida" and the wonderful "I and my Father Are One" by Rabboo Joshi where you can learn about his life from close devotees who lived with him when he was still in his body. Having said that, it's nice to have a few facts down about Maharajji and stroll down memory lane.

Maharajji was born in a well-to-do Brahmin family in the winter of 1900 and was named "Lakshmi Narayan Sharma" (Lakshmi Narayan is the combined name of Vishnu and his Spouse Lakshmi) He was married off at the tender age of 11. Legend says that his mother passed away and his dad remarried and he didn't get along with his stepmother hence he left home, but nothing can be known for certain when it came to Maharajji and his intentions. His incarnation on this planet was very deliberately and divinely planned. Throughout his life all his actions seemed to indicate so. At a young age, he left his home and went to Gujarat for seven years. He stayed in the Ashram of a Vaishnav (the sect that comprises of followers of the deity Vishnu) saint who gave him the name Lakshman Das (Lakshman was the younger brother of Sri Ram in the Ramayana, Das means servant) He wore very simple clothes and lived the life of an ascetic, his sole possession was a 'kamandal' or a pot made of Gourd. It is known that he also stayed for some time in Babania where he practised spiritual and yogic austerities which included immersing himself in the lake for long periods of time. From Babania his next stop was the village of Neeb Karori in the district of Farrukhabad. Even though he had originally planned on just staying there for a rest, the residents of Neeb Karori were mesmerised by his divine qualities and requested him to stay there.

They built an underground cave for him where he immersed himself in spiritual practise day in and day out. Hardly anyone saw him come out of the cave, even for basic necessities or to relieve himself. He was known to

have come out only in the darkness. I even heard some stories through an acquaintance while I was travelling that baba used to transform into a gigantic monkey at night and has been spotted leaping from place to place. I can't say if this is true or just a rumour, but knowing Maharajji anything is possible. After all, a majority of his devotees do consider him Hanuman and he did get 108 Hanuman temples constructed in his lifetime. Later he moved to a different cave (which exists till this day) and got a Hanuman temple built on the roof of his cave. On the day of consecration of the Murti (idol) he shaved his long matted hair and started wearing a long cotton dhoti (traditional Indian male dress). The consecration of murtis have a very distinct process where the idol is given life with the help of mantras, incantations and rituals connected with the specific deity.

After moving into the new cave baba, he started to get more friendly with the villagers and people of his age. It is said that he used to play hide and seek and climb trees. Except when he played hide and seek, he could find anyone easily and when his turn came to being found he simply disappeared. He was known to have climbed one tree and then ended up being spotted on another tree far away. The villagers were amazed.

There was an instance when he was meditating in the cave when a friend of his came to see him and found him wrapped head to toe with serpents around him! The person who saw him was so shocked that he fainted and then baba had to bring him back to consciousness saying "who told you to enter the cave without permission".

Several miraculous occurrences probably happened in those times that haven't been recorded by people. But the most famous one, the one that got his present name from is that of the train in Neeb Karori village. Story goes that Maharajji was hungry while wandering as a travelling sadhu and hadn't eaten in many days, and got on a train wishing to move to the next destination. The ticket collector of this train was rude and disrespectful and asked maharajji to get off the train, which wouldn't move for hours together. However, some of the passengers requested the officials to ask Maharajji to get back on and two conditions were made by him before. One that the officials treat sadhus with more respect and the other to build a train station at the Neeb Karori village which was close to his heart. The officials agreed and the train magically started to move again after Maharajji got on. A station was built that exists till this day called Baba Lakshman Das Puri Station. After this baba wandered around doing his Lila, healing and helping people, performing his miracles in places such as Bareilly, Haldwani, Almora,

Nainital, Kanpur, Lucknow, Vrindavan, Allahabad, Delhi, Shimla and Madras.

Everywhere he went we made devotees of all religions and all divisions of society. All the way from the poorest people to Ex-Prime Ministers and chiefs of justice in India. During the 1940s baba started spending most of his time in Nainital and almost the whole place was devoted to him (it still is) In the 1950's Maharajji started building temples and ashrams primarily dedicated to the Deity Hanuman in Kainchi, Bhumiadar, Kakrighat, Kanpur, Lucknow, Vrindavan, Shimla and other places. He lived as a miracle saint who blessed millions including beloved Ram Dass and Satsang and left his body on the 11th of September 1973. This in my perspective however was also one of his Lilas. He is more alive today than ever before. Avatars don't really die. They pretend to because they don't really like the attention.



Who is an Avatar?

The word Avatar (pronounced Avataara in Sanskrit) is a neo-Vedic word which appears in the sacred texts of the Hindus known as the Puranas. The earliest use of this word according to modern research dates back to the 6th century B.C. It's most popularly used in the 'Vishnu Puranas' to describe the 10 avatars of Vishnu on planet Earth. In modern days however the word has taken a broader context.

The literal translation of the word Avatar is "Descent" or "Material Appearance of a Deity on Earth". There are many schools of thought in Hinduism itself (Dvaita, Advaita, Vishishtadwaita, etc.) and many more paths from many other religions to that which we call the absolute or God. I don't intend to lose myself or pull you into the intricacies of philosophy, which can be interesting but also bears the risk of appearing as what Maharajji calls "Gymnastics of the Mind". So let me tell you a story about Dvaita, Advaita and Vishishtadwaita that I learnt from school so I can put it in words even a child can understand.

Advaita means Non-Dualism (All is one, there is no separation)

Dvaita means Dualism (there is two the individual self and the Supreme Self)

Vishishtadwaita means Multiplism (there are many realms of self and divinity)

My Sanskrit teacher in school (I wish I had paid more attention) came up with a very beautiful way of unifying these three schools of thought. He asked us kids to imagine a pomegranate fruit as all of existence. Those who follow Advaita or non-dualism were keen on viewing the whole as one single pomegranate. And then he asked us to break this pomegranate in two, and therein lies Dvaita or dualism. If we truly break the pomegranate apart into several more pieces, we can see the little individual units of fruit within it with its own seed, each belonging to a cluster and having different shapes and sizes. As you can see, there is an equilibrium and also a hierarchy in these seeds. This is Vishishtadwaita.

I'd like to further expand the pomegranate theory by saying that if each of these fruits is a Universe, then the other fruits on the tree comprise

the Multiverse (slight mental gymnastics here). Who is God then? God is the intelligence that predates the conception of the tree. God is the Oxygen that the tree needs, God is the formless luscious void where the tree resides. Essentially God is the Tree. An Avatar is a self-aware omnipotent being that rests in this place where the tree and origins of the tree and its fruits come from, but 'Descends' into a little pomegranate seed and appears to the other seeds as if it is one of them. With one foot in the roots of the tree, and another in the mundane activities of seed-life the Avatar is a master of disguise. At least this Neem Karoli Baba is one such master of disguise.



Many Avatars have come and gone throughout history. A recurring theme among them is mortality and relative humanness through their time on planet Earth. They are born, live and die like the rest of us, often leaving behind a massive legacy. Most of these Avatars have very simple human form, yet unnatural superhuman capabilities. Some of them are worshipped till this day. Sri Krishna and Sri Rama, Jesus Christ, Moses are said to come alive in spirit once you utter their names. Hanuman, is a slightly different story. He always is was and will be according to legend, and could predate Sri Rama himself in terms of chronological time and conception.

There's another phenomenon that we need to consider while speaking of Avatars and their descents. The pomegranate tree was one example, but I'd like to dig a little bit into the science of inter-dimensional existence. Fortunately or unfortunately for me, I've seen some things beyond the regular norms of Human perception, mostly through psychedelics. For example, the human eye can only see between 430-770Thz. Our ears can only detect sound between 20hz-20Khz. This is what comprises our 'reality' as an individual combined with the limited perception of the other sense. Aldous Huxley coined the phrase "the doors of perception" which is a great way of understanding this concept. You see, in a corridor of infinite doors, what the human being perceives in this reality is one single door. All that we see, hear and touch and dream is but a fragment of what's going on in the *mysterium tremendum* known as the Present Moment. It's All Here and Now. In psychiatric hospitals this knowledge is considered "delusions of grandeur", in the spirit world it's called 'insight'.

Our perception of time appears to be a constant through our limited frame of understanding as humans but for Avatars like Maharajji, it's a very

malleable thing that they can manipulate according to their will. The Time-Space Continuum as we know it and understand it from a scientific point of view is like a bunch of clay that these extraordinary beings can use and mould whatever they want out of it and present it to us so we perceive them as “Miracles”. From their perspective, however, it’s just a little cosmic giggle or a ‘Lila’ that they do playfully.

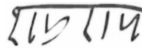
The Avatar has mastery over the entire range of all realities and the field of experience itself. This includes the many dimensions and the multiplicities of realms and entities that exist in all aspects of life, creation, sustenance, destruction and beyond. In my eyes, To speak of the unspeakable is not the task of a scientist because science by nature is limited. It cannot account for the spirit. Ironically, spirit is the matter of the moment. Religion can attempt to draw doctrines and rules and books full of knowledge to give the common man a glimpse, but it is limited by its exclusivity and bound by its own rules. Our only hope lies with the poets of the world, who with their acceptance of the unknowable sing the songs of their souls with truthful devotion in a manner that engages the heart and the mind of the reader in joyful union. However, with the help of Maharajji I hope to build a delicate bridge between the poetry and the science of the Avatar.

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The Birth of an Avatar

Maharajji was born as Lakshmi Narayan Sharma into a well-to-do Brahmin family of Mr. and Mrs. Durga Prasad Sharma. In “The Divine Reality”, Ravi Prakash Pande Rajida writes, ‘He (maharajji) exhibited spiritual powers from birth, and though he did not show an inclination for study as a child, he seemed to know everything. One night he told his family that there would be burglars in the house. Taking it to be a child’s imagination, no one heeded his warning, but his words turned out to be true. Burglars broke into the house the same night.’

There are many accounts of Baba's divine play from his childhood amongst the devotees, which makes one thing clear - he wasn't an ordinary child who was born and acquired his powers through penance and austerities alone. He is an incarnation of divinity itself. Jai Ram Ransom writes in his brilliant book ‘It all Abides in Love’, “Maharajji is not an incarnation, he is a manifestation. He didn't think like us, he didn't act like us, he wasn't like us” Those who were privileged to see him and have his darshan while he was still in his Neem Karoli Baba body will tell you that. Rabboo Joshi who spent close to 50 years with Maharajji and Ma in his magnificent book “I and my father are one” always refers to Maharajji as “Lord” pointing out to his divinity.



Every time a deity of Celestial form takes birth on the planet earth, it always takes place in a very interesting time and with fascinating circumstances. The Neem Karoli Baba that we know was born as Lakshmi Narayan Sharma on a Tuesday in 1900 on ‘Shukla Paksha Ashtami’ (8th lunar day in the waxing phase of the moon considered the perfect day accessing the energies of the divine feminine or Goddesses such as Durga, Prathyangira and Varahi) in the month of Margsheersh (the 9th month of the Hindu calendar).

Maharajji has been known to keep a lot of things secret. In fact, in Kainchi Dham he has earned quite the reputation for being a beloved liar.

Why he did so will be clearly explained in the coming chapters. The fact that he was married at the age of 11 and had three children did not come to surface until after he'd left his body in 1973. Maharajji kept his divinity concealed and hidden at most times. He was known to say things like

“ASK GOD OR HANUMAN,
I AM JUST AN ORDINARY BEING
I CAN DO NOTHING”



As you can see, That's a lie. Maharajji can do anything as we will discover later in the book. Things that are beyond the reach of human perception. So I went digging deeper into the origins of his birth to look for celestial significance and synchronicity, and what I found was astonishing to the bone. It shook me up and gave me shivers.

To explain that I'll have to dive a little deeper into the nature of time and the perception of existence itself. Time as we know it now from the western point of view is very linear. In today's world, they hold the birth of Jesus Christ as the fulcrum through which the Gregorian calendar functions. The earth revolves around the Sun and each revolution is known as a year. Furthermore, the 24 hour period in which we relatively experience each rotation in this axis is known as a day. So to measure time in western terms means to draw out a straight line since the beginning and count the number of years in reverse as BC (before Christ) and then count them in a straight line forwards as AD (after Death or Anno Domini).

Maharajji was born in 1900 and his birthday is usually calculated through the Hindu calendar but his 121'st birthday was celebrated on December 22nd 2020 AD (which coincided with the death anniversary of his beloved devotee Baba Ram Dass who took off his tight shoe on the same day a year before). This specific day in my understanding also falls upon what we know as 'winter solstice' in traditional western terms where the night is longest and the day is shortest. It is my suspicion that Maharajji was born on Winter Solstice Tuesday.

Let me share a few interesting things that I've discovered about Winter Solstice.

- The solstice not only happens on a specific day, but at a specific time when the North Pole is aimed farthest away from the Sun. Unlike other events which are clock time relative (for e.g. the new year) that can happen first in India and then in the United States, all Earthlings experience winter solstice at the same time.
- The winter solstice is celebrated as a time of death and rebirth since the ancient times of the Scandinavian and Germanic pagans who lit fires to welcome the light. The modern Druidic celebration 'Alban Arthar' reverses the death of the old sun and the birth of the new Sun.
- It is known in some cultures to open the doorway to new spirit realms (some even say that spirits of a malevolent nature could enter more easily into our dimension this day), hence the primary axis of the mysterious megalithic monument 'Stonehenge' is aligned to the sunset on winter solstice to focus the light in.
- The Romans celebrated this day as Saturnalia before Christ and it was to honor their agricultural God Saturn (who plays a massive role in Hindu mythology especially in relation to the deity Hanuman that Maharajji has been known to have been a devotee of and possibly an incarnation of) The traditions of Saturnalia were similar to the traditions of Christmas and could also have a link to the origins of Christian tradition...

So in conclusion, could it be said that Neem Karoli Baba who has been a beacon of light and love to all those who crossed his path and gave healing and love to millions and millions of people chose to enter the earth plane on the darkest night of the year to balance out the darkness and bring light? Perhaps. Or could it be that in devotion I'm losing myself in theories and drawing all this information through the law of attraction to justify my almost poetically divine experience of Maharajji on a daily basis? Very possible, but in the next section the rabbit hole gets much deeper.

In contrast to the western linear understanding of time, The Hindu understanding of creation and time follows cycles. In the sense that it doesn't just start at point A and theorise the end or infinity at point B, but it actually considers the universe (or multiverse with the different 'lokas' and astral realms) to exist eternally in cycles of four 'Yugas'. This makes the universe a living being that experiences birth, young age, middle age and old age that makes up a 'Kalpa' which then repeats itself. The closest word for 'yuga' in English is 'epoch'

The numerical specifics of this system is very complicated but there are two ways in which Yugas are measured. I'll try to simplify them to suit the context.

1. The Ancient long count system
2. The Recent short count system

The Ancient long count system of yugas comes from the earliest sacred Hindu texts of cosmology derived from the Vedas and Puranas. Each cycle lasts 4,320,000 years or 12000 divine years. (Each divine year is supposed to be 360 regular years). Furthermore, they say that there's 1000 yuga cycles that make up a 'Kalpa' which is also known as one day of Brahma - the creator God of Hinduism. Hence one day of Brahma is 4,320,000 multiplied by 1000 that equals a staggering 4.32 billion years. Did that give you a headache? It sure as hell gave me one.

The yugas are divided up into these four:

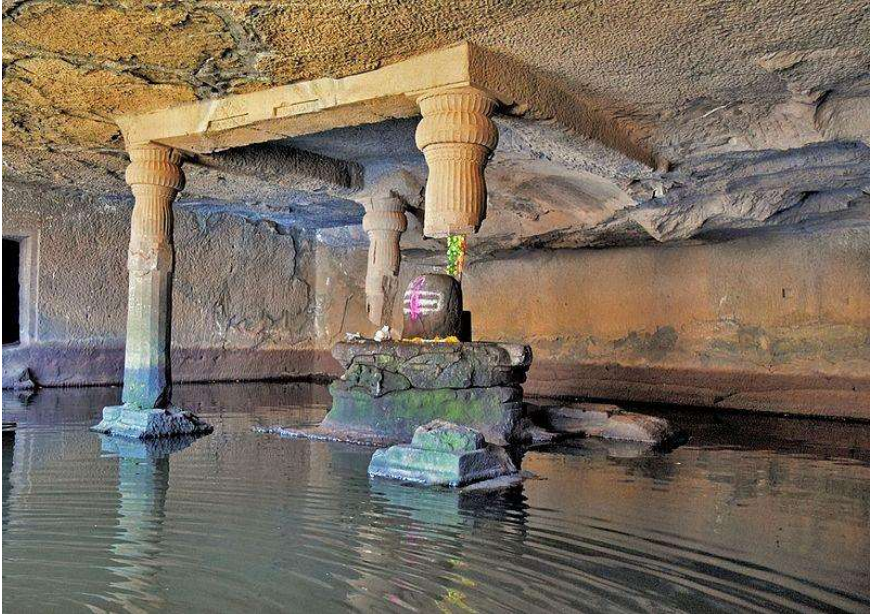
Satya yuga = 4800 divine years (Golden age / 1,728,000 human years)

Treat yuga = 3600 divine years (Silver age / 1,296,000 human years)

Dwapara Yuga = 2400 divine years (Bronze age / 864,000 human years)

Kali Yuga = 1200 divine years (Iron or Dark Age / 432,000 human years)



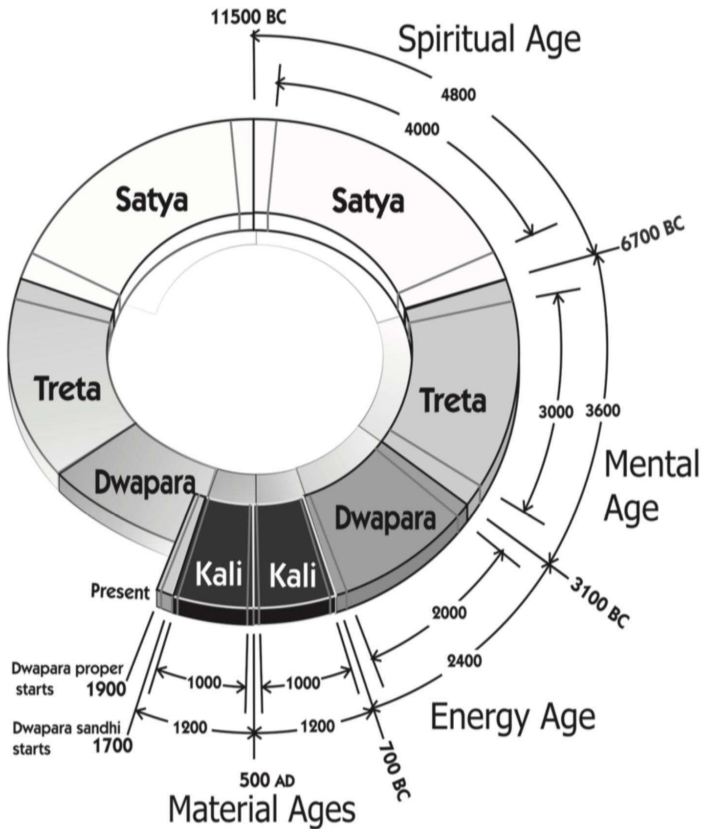


Kedareshwar Cave Temple - Harishchandragad, Ahmednagar,
Maharashtra

The above image of Kedareshwar temple has a Shiva Linga that is believed to be surrounded by four pillars signifying each yuga. Now it stands on one pillar signifying that we are in the Kali Yuga. It is also said that with each descending yuga the degree of Dharma or Virtue reduces. 'The four limbs of the bull of Dharma' is a statement that's used. Apparently, in the Satya yuga Dharma reigned supreme, humans lived long virtuous lives. In the Treta Yuga, the bull of Dharma stood on three limbs (also three avatars of Vishnu appeared). In the Dwapara yuga Dharma halved and stood on two limbs, in the Kali Yuga, Dharma is at its least, standing on one limb, or one pillar as seen in the picture. According to the long count system of Yugas, we are in the Kali Yuga or the Dark ages. I suppose that's one way of looking at it.

Anyway, thanks to the insight and the self-realised revelation of an extraordinary being by the name of Swami Shri Yukteshwar Giri (guru of Paramahansa Yogananda) and his ground-breaking book 'the holy science' we have a new and more humanly understandable system of counting yugas which has come to be known as 'the short count system' of these cycles. The book by Joseph Selbie and David Steinmetz called 'The Yugas' ventures deep

into Sri Yukteshwar's insight and provides significant knowledge and information about this. The book also contains a very relatable timeline of past events leading up to the present in relation to the Yugas. According to them, we are now in the Dwapara Yuga, or the energy age. Einstein discovered $E=MC^2$ in 1905, which made it common knowledge since.



The Short Count System as illustrated in the book 'The Yugas'

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Now if you observe this diagram closely, the math is a little different, yet somehow the same. If you observe the outer circle, the same numbers 4800, 3600, 2400 and 1200 apply to the four yugas, except the divine years are counted as human years. But one layer within this is a different set of numbers, 4000, 3000, 2000 and 1000, what's the difference? It's relative 800, 600, 400 and 200 years. This difference can be known as a 'Sandhi' or a

transition period between the two yugas. Let's just call it the twilight zone at sunrises and sunsets before one can call it day or night of the yugas.

Another thing to consider is that there is an ascent and descent in the cycling of these years. Yukteshwar claims our sun is orbiting a dual star. He called this center the 'Vishnunabhi' which is said to be the seat of the creative power 'Brahma'. The revolution of our sun around this elliptical dual orbit takes about 24000 years, 12000 in ascent, 12000 in descent.

Ascent:

Satya - 4800 years

Treta - 3600 years

Dwapara - 2400 years

Kali - 1200 years

Descent:

Kali - 1200 years

Dwapara - 2400 years

Treta - 3600 years

Satya - 4800 years

Two questions are probably running in your mind right now, one of them may be "how does one system relate to the other?" And the other "why is this still in the birth chapter of Neem Karoli Baba?"

Let me answer the first question first, considering I already mentioned my 'disclaimer of poetry' in the start of the book, I'd like to imagine the long count system as a 'large orbit' which exists and the short count system as 'a smaller orbit, orbiting around the larger orbit', something like the earth's orbit and the moon's orbit, I hope that gave out some sense of scientific relativity or poetic relief at least.

To answer the second question, I'll have to bring a few myths into the forefront to draw out my brilliant conclusion (or poetic conspiracy, whichever way you look at it).

- According to Hindu legend, the first four avatars of Vishnu (the preserver of the universe) came in the Satya yuga - Matsya, Kooram, Varaha, Narasimha. The next three came in the Treta Yuga - Vamana Parashurama and Sri Rama. The Next two happened in Dwapara yuga Balarama and Sri Krishna and the last and Final Avatar that is

supposed to appear in the Kali Yuga is supposed to end this maha yuga and make way to the golden age.. the Name given to this being is “Kalki”.

- Even though ‘Kalki’ is supposed to ride on a white horse with a sword, this doesn’t make sense in the present age. People don’t ride horses or carry swords. The white horse could be a metaphor for purity and the sword for unwavering devotion.
- In the Vedic literature for Rudra (later shiva) the epithet “Kalmallkinam” meaning brilliant ‘remover of darkness’ is mentioned. ‘Guru’ also means ‘remover of darkness’.
- Maharajji has been known to have said “I AM EVERYBODY’S GURU”.
- Hanuman is known to be immortal and exists all throughout the four Yugas.
- Could the tenth avatar of Vishnu actually be a superhuman whose guru is Hanuman?
- Could Maharajji’s superhuman powers as an Avatar, his unmatched devotion to Hanuman and extraordinary Tapasya pointed towards Sri Rama have given him the capacity to accommodate Shri Hanuman in his own being the way Shiva and Parvati Merged into one another?
- He always referred to himself as ‘Hum’ in Hindi which translates to ‘us’ and all the other human beings as ‘Tum’ which is ‘you’ but in a singular sense.

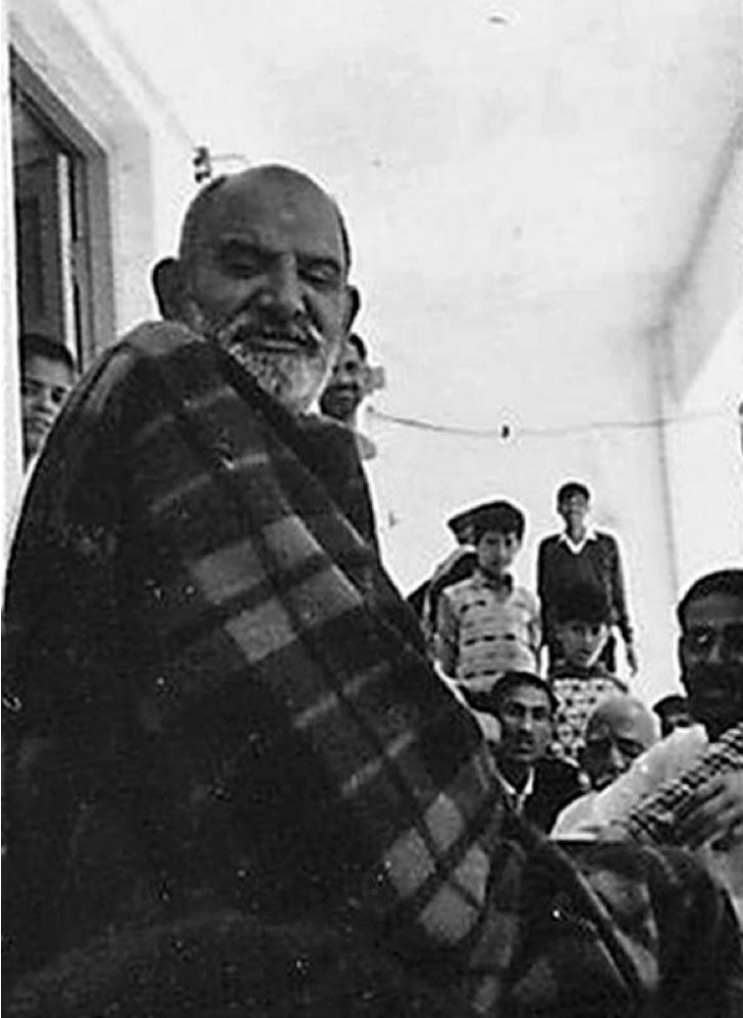
The 10th avatar of Vishnu is prophesied to be born in the ‘the darkest time’ of the beginning of the 21st century. Could it be the winter solstice of 1900? In the end of the Kaliyuga as per the short count system, in one moment a divine being was born and single- handedly changed the destiny of the planet as we know it. In his book the ‘holy science’, Yukteswar is rather realistic and describes the Dwapara Yuga as an ascending age of ‘energy consciousness’. It is the era where both Einstein formed the general theory of relativity and the atomic bomb was made. Both the world wars happened and the United Nations were formed and LSD was synthesized. Great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi were born and evil beings like Adolf Hitler existed. During these turbulent times, Maharajji was in Tapasya and later in service to humanity. Was he responsible for keeping the nation of India safe during the first and second World War? The following story may contain some answers. When the Chinese launched an attack on India in 1963, someone asked Maharajji why they did so and if they would succeed. He replied, “THEY HAVE ONLY COME TO AWAKEN YOU” and immediately the next day

they retreated. In the chapters to come we will discuss his enormous powers, far exceeding that of any human. Yet the question remains:

Is Neem Karoli Baba Maharaj the Avatar of our Age?

(Born Winter Solstice 1900,
the year where the Kali Yuga
gave way to the New Age
according to ‘The Holy Science’)





“IF PEOPLE GOT TO KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT ME,
THEY WOULD PINCH OFF EVERY HAIR OF MY BODY TO MAKE
TALISMANS”

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Maharajji and Hanuman

If I hadn't held onto a slight bit of scepticism in the spirit of Investigative Journalism, I would just tell you that Maharajji and Hanuman are the same beings. But in the spirit of inquiry, I want to dig a little deeper into the intricacies of this relationship between the two beings. Neem Karoli Baba the miracle saint of North India and Sri Hanuman the Beloved Monkey God who is in a way the Hero of the Ramayana. If you ask any of the devotees in North India they will tell you that Maharajji is the Reincarnation of Hanuman in a human body. Also, most of the world who are devotees of Neem Karoli Baba also have murtis of Hanuman and Sing and Chant the Hanuman Chalisa (a forty verse prayer invoking Hanuman) and some even narrate the Sunderkand, the story of the beautiful and bold deeds of Hanuman in the great Indian epic the Ramayana. Now before I draw any conclusions, I'd like to state a few observations.

The Ramayana is a poem composed by Sage Valmiki and is said to have taken place around 7000 BC. It contains 24000 verses and narrates the story of the benevolent prince Sri Rama who was also an Avatar. It is said to have been put down in text somewhere between 7th century and 4th century BC.

I'm 32 years old and born into a Kshatriya family (same clan as Sri Rama) but all my life I believed it was a bunch of fables to keep the masses entertained and pass on some virtues through stories. You see the things they speak of in this epic far exceed modern-day fiction and superhero comics. There are giants, monsters, deities, celestials, flying chariots, talking animals, shapeshifters, sages who are tens of thousands of years old, creatures that can expand their size at will, and jump across oceans to set fire to strange lands and return and build a bridge of floating rocks across the ocean to defeat a 10 headed demon king.

I may not have had esteemed degrees like Baba Ram Dass did, but with my intellectual understanding of the universe in combination with my psychedelic background, I was absolutely sure that it's just a bunch of stories. Even the mere thought that they could be slightly true would be treated by my mind as an object of ridicule.

Before Hanuman, however through my psychedelic experiences, I believe I have come into contact with two Deities from Hinduism. One was Lord Ganesha who appeared to me when I smoked DMT on LSD in my old house in Goa. There was a mural of him, on the wall outside my shared house. One sunrise, I decided to follow Terrance McKenna's advice and go for it. The painting popped out of the wall in all of its majestic glory and became a 4 dimensional dancing and alive Ganesh where all our surroundings disappeared and I was left breathless with the beauty of the realm we were in, amongst the billions of bits of information that this substance provides, one of the details I remember was that of Lord Ganesha taking my head and putting at his feet demanding that I Pranam (prostrate) to him. I remember crying a great deal of tears and feeling purified and having my faith restored, for a few days.

Another was when I smoked DMT in itself one August in the middle of a thunderstorm with a bong and came face to face with the deity Kali and saw her with her dark complexion and her tongue dripping blood and was terrified of what I saw, then in a flash it felt like she came closer to me and sucked all my fear away, and I felt free of fear.

Of course, they could be just Hallucinations or what Terrance calls 'True Hallucinations'. Now I don't recommend the use of this or any other substance, but felt compelled to share these experiences here. In one of my later experiments with DMT, I was catapulted into a very dark realm that was a terrifying experience. Not fun at all, not recommended. Anyway, besides these I had no frame of reference to accommodate the Ramayana into my life, other than in comic books or imagination.

Until I had Darshan of Maharaj-Ji. Then it was made evident to me that the Ramayana isn't a fairy tale. It's the History of the country I live in. Sri Rama and Hanuman are as real as you and me. And all this while being sober by the way, no psychedelics needed. Maharajji is the most potent drug in my universe right now. I'll go into the details later.



I took this picture of floating rock with the word ‘Ram’ written on it inside the Anjanadri Temple (the historic birthplace of Shri Hanuman in Kishkindha , Karnataka 2021)

The rock is meant to be a remnant from the great Ramayana war when the monkey army built the bridge to Lanka led by Hanuman.
A remnant from the Treta Yuga.

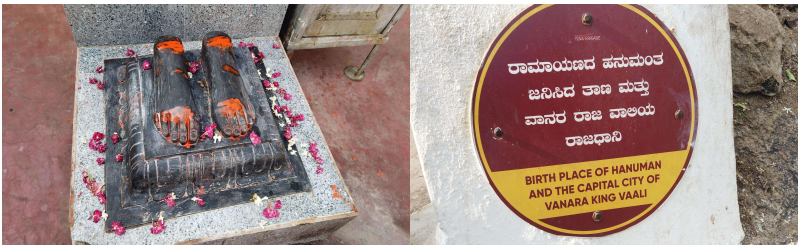
राम

Like all things, there were a variety of responses to this. When I first saw it, I was blown away. The rock was floating and the word ‘ram’ was written on it in the Sanskrit language. Exactly as they describe in the Ramayana. I looked quite close and it looked and felt very real. Some people believe it to be an actual relic from another yuga, but one baba told me it’s a man made invention to increase the “temple income” and attract more pilgrims. I honestly feel like Maharajji spoke to me through that baba just to twist my brain cells a little bit. He loves to do that with me. However, something happened in this visit of mine to in Kishkindha that strengthened my understanding of things. The most significant was the monkey that sat on my right shoulder from the beginning of the book and secondly there were tears that my eyes cried as soon as I saw this Murti of Anjani Ma (Hanuman’s Mother). The peculiar thing about these tears was that they were not mine. I felt no emotion, just astonishment and a lingering feeling that Maharajji was seeing this through my eyes and because of the frequency of emotion he felt,

my eyes started to cry on their own. I felt as though he was so happy to see a Murti of his mother. Anjani is of course, Hanuman's Mother.



Murti of Anjana Ma - Mother of Maruti also known as Anjaneya or Hanuman



Foot imprint of the Divine Mother and Signboard that says Kishkindha from the Ramayana

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The connection between Maharajji and Hanuman can be traced through a sequence of occurrences. In the Miracle of Love, there is a story where someone was reading from the Ramayana and Maharajji said

“RECITE THE PART WHERE I AM TALKING WITH VIBHISHAN”

In another instance, he said

“DO YOU THINK I'M COLLECTING PROPERTIES
AND BECOMING A LANDOWNER?
I COULD LEAVE EVERYTHING JUST I DID LANKA”

Of course, it was Hanuman that spoke to Vibhishana, and Hanuman that left Lanka burning.

Also there have been several instances of people seeing Maharaj-Ji as a large monkey, and people have seen living images of Ram and Sita in his chest. The stories concerning Maharaj-Ji and Hanuman are many,



Maharajji with famous blanket and paw in contemplation of Hanuman
In a lot of his pictures, his hands resemble a Paw



Exploring Possibilities:

Instead of closing the chapter with the statements that make it certain that Maharajji is a Reincarnation of Hanuman, I want to dig deeper into the significance of Hanuman, nature of Reincarnation itself, the mythical origins of Hanuman and the possibilities that could form the link in a rational way between Maharajji and Hanuman.



Hanuman Murti by the Banks of the Tungabhadra River in Hampi 2021
(Kishkinda)

Hanuman is one of the most celebrated and well-known Hindu deities in all of Hinduism. The stories regarding his conception are many, but the thing that I want to emphasise on most is the fact that THERE IS NO ACCOUNT OF HANUMAN'S DEATH IN ANY HINDU TEXT. This is the most fascinating aspect of Hanuman.

Hanuman is in my opinion the noblest and the most flawless of all deities in the whole pantheon of Hinduism. He is the God of wisdom, strength, courage, devotion, service, Selflessness and Self Discipline.

The origins of his birth are as beautiful as the legends of his life. According to one legend - Hanuman was born to Anjana and Kesari, the Vanara couple of Kishkindha and is also considered to contain the non-physical seed of the wind god Vayu. His birth name was Maruti, later he came to be known as Vayuputra (Son of the Wind), in another legend he contains the seed of Shiva himself considered the Mahadev (God of Gods) which came as he was taken aback by the breathtaking beauty of Mohini (the only female avatar of Vishnu) and was manoeuvred by the wind God into the womb of Anjana.



A recent picture of the Hanuman Murti that Maharajji himself made at Neeb Karori Villsage

Hanuman is often considered “the child of Destiny” as his conception did not come from sexual desire rather it came from his mother’s penance and devotion, in synchronicity with the combined seed of Shiva, Vayu and Vishnu. Furthermore, legend said he got the name ‘Hanuman’ which can translate into ‘disfigured jaw’ or ‘man without pride’ depending on context. In the former, Lord Indra, who’s known as the God of Gods, had to stop Hanuman from completely swallowing the Sun when he was a child and mistook it for a fruit hence he struck him which disfigured his jaw. This in turn angered Vayu the Wind God who sucked out all the air from the realms till Indra repented and gave Hanuman the boon of vajra of thunderbolt body. After that, he became a disciple of Surya the sun God and gained many more powers. He plays an extraordinary role in the Ramayana and as Sri Rama’s most trusted devotee and friend, seeks out Sita who had been kept hostage in Lanka by the demon king Ravana. Hanuman leapt across the ocean and ended up in Lanka offering Sita the hope she needed and providing a great service to Lord Ram and hence she decided to give him the boon of the Ashta Siddhi (8 Divine Powers) and Nava Nidhi (9 Divine Treasures) which makes him extremely powerful, in spite of his humble celibate nature.



First let me go into the Ashta Siddhis (8 Classical Supernatural Powers):

1. Aṇimā: the ability to become smaller than the smallest, reducing one's body to the size of an atom or even become invisible.
2. Mahimā: the ability to become infinitely large, expanding one's body to an infinitely large size.
3. Laghimā: the ability to become weightless or lighter than air.
4. Prāpti: the ability to instantaneously travel or be anywhere at will.
5. Prākāmya: the ability to achieve or realize whatever one desires.
6. Īśiṭva: the ability to control nature, individuals, organisms, etc. Supremacy over nature and ability to force influence upon anyone.
7. Vaśiṭva: the ability to control all material elements or natural forces.
8. Garimā : the ability to become infinitely heavy and be immovable by anyone or anything.

While most of the above stories about Hanuman sounds like folklore to any rational individual who reads them, and the powers mentioned here sound like fictional comic book stuff, Maharajji in his Neem Karoli Baba body from 1900 to 1973 showed adept mastery over all these 8 Supernatural Powers and more.

Here I will list one story each from various books pertaining to each of these Siddhis and how Maharajji effortlessly used them.

1. Aṇimā:
 - a. *Once at dada's, Maharajji was feigning sickness and had the doors of his room locked from outside. Later he was seen running down the street. When questioned about how he had gotten through the locked doors, he said "The Monkey became as small as a mosquito and flew out the window"*
2. Mahimā
 - a. *One day Maharajji was in the room while Dada was in the kitchen. Maharajji Yelled "dada" and dada ran to the hallway and found Maharaj Ji Standing outside his door with no blanket, his dhoti hanging down in the back like a tail. His body was of tremendous size,*

filling the ball. Dada fell at his feet and Maharajji went back into his room. (From Miracle of Love - Ram Dass)

3. Laghimā :

- a. *Maharaj Ji was in Prem Ballabh Pande's house when a Dandi (oarsmen) was arranged to carry him down the hill to Tallital. While the porters were carrying Baba down the slope, Baba unexpectedly said to the devotees, "Who will carry my Dandi on his shoulder?". Looking at his build and assuming his weight, no one dared to offer. Kehar Singh Ji also did not offer to carry Baba which he later regretted. When Kehar Singh mentioned this incident to other devotees who had actually carried him, they told him it was easy to carry Baba's Dandi because Baba would make himself weightless. Haridas baba said that Maharajji became as light as a flower. (The Divine Reality - Rajida)*

4. Prāpti:

- a. *After having Baba's darshan, I was driving my bus along the road when I saw Maharaj walking ahead of us. I was at my wit's end because I thought I was hallucinating. A man cannot walk faster than a bus. After having covered some distance, I saw him again. This time baba was climbing up a hill. Now there was no reason for doubt. After that I saw him several times at many many different places along the route. This confounded me and helped me accept Maharaj's divinity. I became his devoted servant and have been serving his ashram and the devotees since then. - Sardar Ranjeet Singh (The Divine Reality - Rajida)*

5. Prākāmya

- a. *One day a man named Gangadhar Padhalni from the Kumaon hills came to meet baba at Kainchi Ashram. He had a minor job with roadways and was concerned about his inability to meet his family's expenses. Although he did say anything about it to Baba, Baba asked a devotee to give Gangadhar five rupees. Then Baba said to him "Buy a lottery ticket in your wife's name". Gangadhar's wife was from Kerala. He followed Baba's instructions, and they won 500,000 rupees. His wife purchased property with the money, and they both lived comfortably for sometime. Later, the woman became emotionally upset with her husband's extravagance and returned to Kerala. Baba made sure she was provided for. (The Divine Reality - Rajida)*

6. Īśīṭva

- a. *At a certain mela (festival) a flood destroyed a bridge which kept collapsing every time they tried to rebuild it. The organiser of the mela came to Maharajji for help and Maharajji said he would bless the bridge, but the man insisted that he come to the site of the bridge itself. Maharajji stood there for a while and the flood waters began to recede. Soon the bridge was reconstructed and turned out to be one the most peaceful ever.*
- b. *Maharajji was in Varanasi with the police superintendent, a devotee. They were going over a sadhu camp on an island in the middle of the Ganga, and the superintendent said, "we'll take a boat" (in Benares, the Ganga is over a mile across). Maharajji countered "no, we'll go in the water". The superintendent couldn't swim and protested, "Maharajji, it's over our heads!". Maharajji replied, "Just put your hand on my shoulder". So they waded into the river and the next thing the superintendent knew, they were on the island. They returned the same way. (Miracle of Love - Ram Dass)*

7. *Vaśiṭva:*

- a. *I was visiting a saint in the south of India who was known for manifesting many things. As I was getting ready to leave he said to me "Do you want something, Ram Dass?", "No Babaji I don't want anything", "Here", he said and held out his hand palm-upward. And started to move it in a slow circular motion. I was still sitting at his feet so that my eyes were close to his hand, and I watched like a Hawk for the least trickery, careful not to blink. But much to my amazement there appeared to be a bluish light on his hand, which turned into a medallion! The whole business was so confusing to me. Why did he do this? I later heard that Maharajji said of such miracles "these are Siddhis, they shouldn't be used much. They reduce spirit to magic" and he said of such saints "let them play, Some saints of the south are very much after miracles" (Miracle of Love - Ram Dass)*

8. *Garimā:*

- a. *One evening in Kainchi, Shankar Prasad Vyas was walking with Baba along the road in front of the ashram. Baba seemed to be in a pensive mood, so when he put his hand on Vyas's shoulder, Vyas kept quiet. All of a sudden a thought flashed into his mind that people regard Baba as the incarnation of Hanuman. Then he thought 'but how can it be believed?' While he was thinking this, he felt the weight of Baba's hand slowly become so heavy that he could not bear it anymore. Baba's hand was placed on his shoulder in a natural way*

and its size was unchanged. Vyas was very perturbed and tried to remove the hand so lovingly placed on his shoulder. In this moment of uncertainty he silently prayed to Hanumanji and asked for forgiveness for his doubts. The situation immediately became normal, and his doubt was removed.

The examples given above are just a few in a universe of stories linking these Siddhis and Maharajji, hundreds more can be found in the printed literature and also the word of mouth of the devotees. Even after leaving his body, people have reported extraordinary synchronicities and miracles concerning Maharaj Ji and Hanuman. Some have seen shadows manifesting on the wall resembling Hanuman while doing Pooja to Maharajji, some have seen Neem Karoli Baba's face in a Hanuman murti. What could be the possibilities? I'm going to present a few theories that you might find interesting.



Channelling:

Even though Maharajji is practically synonymous to Hanuman amongst most of his devotees, he never admitted himself consciously saying "Yes, I am Hanuman". This could be because of two reasons, Firstly - Maharajji's reputation for being a liar. Maharajji tried very hard throughout his life to keep his divinity concealed, whatever was the truth behind his existence, he never stated it plainly. He probably did it to avoid attention and to keep his teaching 'pure to the spirit' Secondly, he could have been speaking the truth.

These divine beings of extraordinary power that manifest on the planet in the form of Humans are quintessentially different from the rest of us.

There is a widely popular and a very legitimate phenomenon that takes place between physical beings and non-physical beings known as channelling. To mention a few channelled beings of today's world there's Seth channelled by the late Jane Roberts, Abraham channelled by Esther Hicks and Bashar channelled by Darryl Anka. This is where physical beings tune their vibration with nonphysical beings through meditation and certain other practices and invite these nonphysical beings into the present moment

through their bodies. You can feel the difference of vibrations and the varying nature of these entities when they begin to speak.

Was the divine being born as Lakshmi Narayan Sharma some form of a “Super Channel”? If this theory adds up, then the relationship between Maharajji and Hanuman could be compared to the relationship between Hanuman and Ram.

“When I don’t know who I am, I serve you, when I know who I am, I am you” is a famous quote that Hanuman said to Ram.

Could Maharajji have attained through his Tapasya and his devotion and his purity, a friendship with the immortal and nonphysical spirit of Hanuman to a level where their beings could merge at will and Maharajji could ‘borrow’ Hanuman’s power through his devotion the same way Hanuman’s source of strength came from devotion to Ram? This story from the Miracle of Love could give us a clue. Maharajji often told this story which some devotees suspected was about himself.

In a small village there was a tiny Hanuman temple to which the local people would come. The practise is for a devotee to bring some sweets and offer them to the murti by giving them to the priest, who then takes the sweets to the room or alcove where the murti is and then draws the curtain. Then he offers the sweets to the murti with appropriate mantras. After this the priest usually takes a few of the sweets and sets them aside to be given later to the poor neighbourhood children. The rest he brings back to the devotee-donor as Prasad, which the devotee then eats as a blessing from Hanuman.

It so happened that the old priest in this village was called away by illness in his family, and he left a young neighborhood boy who loved to be around the temple to take care of the temple while he was away. Soon some devotees came and brought sweets, the boy took them as he had seen the priest do and went behind the curtain. Even though he had never been with Hanuman when the curtains were closed, he offered the sweets to the murti. But Hanuman wouldn’t take them. The boy became upset and demanded that Hanuman take the sweets. He even took a stick and began to beat the murti. Suddenly all the sweets disappeared from the dish. The boy returned from the devotees, joyfully explaining that Hanuman had accepted their offering. The devotees who were used to receiving back a portion of their gifts concluded that the boy had decided to keep all their gifts for himself, and beating the boy, they sent him away. When the old priest returned and was told about the incident, he said, “All my life I had hoped to become pure enough so that my offerings would be accepted by Hanuman. But I Never was. This young boy had that purity and was so blessed.”

Could the young boy from the story have been Maharajji? Was this his first contact with the Deity that is Hanuman, which then later through decades of devotion and penance became an inseparable bond? Could Maharajji then channel the Non-Physical Hanuman into his physical body and bring him into the world for its upliftment?

Legend says that the Hanuman Chalisa was written by Tulsidas so that Hanuman be reminded of his powers, glory and individuality, which he usually forgets during his devotion to Ram. Could the reading of the Hanuman Chalisa and Sunderkand be the ways in which the Neem Karoli Baba and Hanuman could stay tied together in the human body so that Sri Ram's benevolent work can be done on planet earth? Just a theory.

“NO SLEEP UNTIL RAM’S WORK IS DONE”

“I’M NOT HANUMAN, I CAN DO NOTHING...
I AM EVERYTHING, I CAN DO ANYTHING FOR ANYBODY”

“EVERYWHERE I LOOK I SEE ONLY RAM,
THAT’S WHY I’M HONORING EVERYTHING”

“I DO NOTHING....
GOD DOES EVERYTHING”



Cross-Yuga Hanuman:

From my understanding, all the descriptions and appearances of Hanuman as a Monkey God only appear during the Treta Yuga. First in the Ramayana, where he almost played the lead role, and then in the Mahabharata where he played a relatively smaller role.

From what I understand about the yugas, each one makes space for a certain level of possibilities. All the magical mystical things like they describe in the Ramayana, Mahabharata or even some Egyptian and Greek myths from this timeline, seem to be impossible in today's KaliYuga (according to the ancient long count system)

According to legend, Hanuman is a 'Chiranjeevi' or an immortal. And Tulsidas in his Hanuman Chalisa says "Across four Yugas, spans your glory, your fame radiates through the world." If this is mathematically accurate, then Hanuman predates Sri Ram in the chronological sense. He existed probably as a different form in the Satya Yuga than he did in the Treta Yuga, Dwapara Yuga and finally incarnate as Neem Karoli Baba in the Kaliyuga. Could the Theory of Evolution also play a role in the varying appearances of Hanuman's form through the different Yugas?

Here's a story from The Divine Reality that could refer to a form of Hanuman from perhaps the Satya Yuga (Golden Age)

Once Shankar Prasad Vyas told baba that he had given discourses on the story of Hanuman so many times but had not been able to see him in divine form. Baba Said, "Will you be able to bear the sight of him?" And kept quiet. Vyas also remained silent. That same night Vyas woke up with a start at about midnight. He opened the door of his room in Kainchi, and just as he was going out through it, a form as bright and huge as a golden mountain appeared before him. The spectacle frightened him, he immediately closed the door and fell down on his bed. After this Baba entered his room and rubbing him gently, asked, "Are you alright?" Vyas recovered and bowed before baba.

All beings were meant to be much larger (tens of times) in size and had much greater lifespan and the era was known as "The Golden Age". Could this glowing mountain of a Hanuman be the form that Hanuman had in the Satya Yuga? Being an Avatar for our age, did Maharajji simply cast his fishing net to the infinite and fetch the Divine Form of Hanuman into the KaliYuga (long count) or Dwapara Yuga (short count)? I wonder.



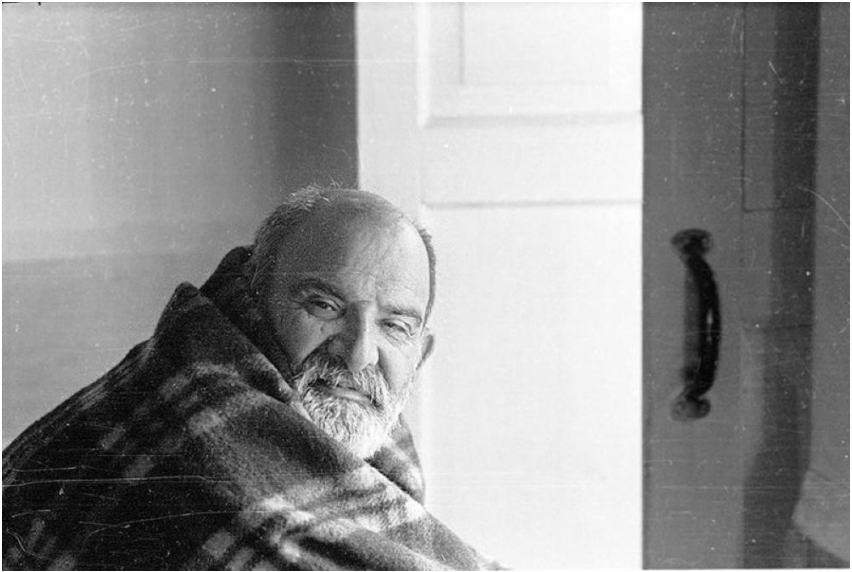
Maharajji - Between Vishnu and Shiva.

My final theory before I give up... Could Maharajji be the Avatar of Vishnu that we have been waiting for, but with deep reverence and love to Hanuman. Vishnu is known to have deeply respected and loved Shiva and vice versa. The cross connection between Vishnu is Shiva is Hanuman. Could Maharajji's connection with Hanuman be a Simple Love between the Preserver for the Destroyer?

The reason why I refer to him as the Avatar of our age is that people didn't just see him as Hanuman, some saw him as Krishna, Some saw him as Sri Ram, Some even saw him as Shiva. In the book 'it all abides in love' Jai Ram Ransom doesn't emphasise on Maharajji's divinity as Hanuman, but on Maharajji in general. He also mentions how the earlier devotees of Maharajji worshipped him as Shiva himself.

In conclusion, a simple Human being such as myself can say nothing with great certainty about a being of Godlike Power like Maharajji, except that I love him and trust him and he makes my life awesome, fun and full of surprises.

Whether Maharajji is Hanuman, or Vishnu or Shiva, or whatever else, for me he'll always be my 'boss' short for SatGuru. My guardian, friend and my guide. Oh and not to mention God.



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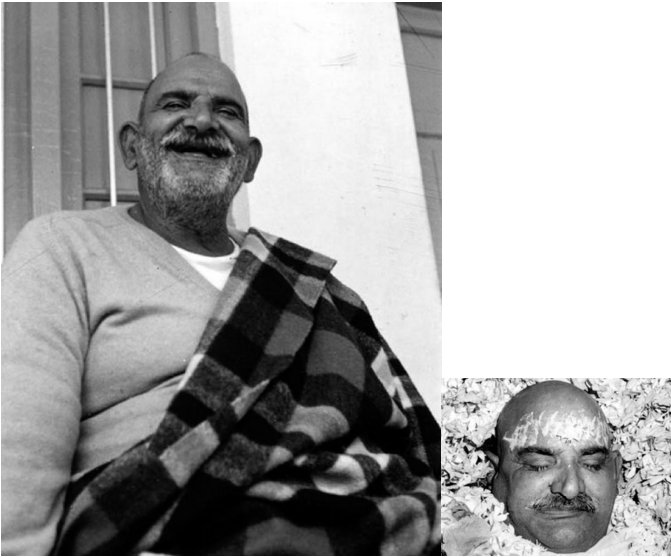
Where is Maharajji Now?

Maharajji as a Physical Body:

Since his “great escape” in 1973, where he left his body many theories have come to pass about him. One of his powers among his myriad array of superhuman strengths is the capacity to clone himself at will. That’s right, he can regenerate himself and create new bodies. There have been several occurrences of Maharajji having been in more than two places at once when he was alive. In fact, one of the devotees saw 16 different Maharajji’s walking in and out of the many doors of the Kainchi Ashram once. All of them physical. There was also this recent occurrence when an Indian devotee started yelling at his Maharajji’s photograph when his daughter’s pulse had stopped and Maharajji conveniently popped out of the photograph in full human form in an annoyed way, brought back the devotee’s daughter’s pulse and then yelled back the devotee to stop yelling and disappeared. This story was all over the regional news. There’s also been more than one instance of Maharajji coming in his Neem Karoli Baba form to functions and houses of devotees, not just in India but America as well he’s been spotted on the streets recently. Most of the devotees are very secretive about these things because they consider bhakti as something extremely personal and don’t believe in publicising these miracles. The above incidents may appear like

plainly fabricated lies to sceptics, but as I said about Maharajji “Fact is always stranger than Fiction”.

However, the important thing to consider is that whatever Maharajji does or did is with very precise intention. If he left his Neem Karoli Baba body in 1973, then it means he did so with good reason. Earlier this year I was going to make a short YouTube documentary called “the safety of death” and on the night before I released it I had a very powerful dream darshan of a smiling Neem Karoli Baba looking down on his own lifeless body which also had a smile on its face.



The two Maharajjis in my dream resembled these pictures

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय

“Jaya Jagadish Hare, Jaya Jagadish Hare, Jaya Jagadish Hare”

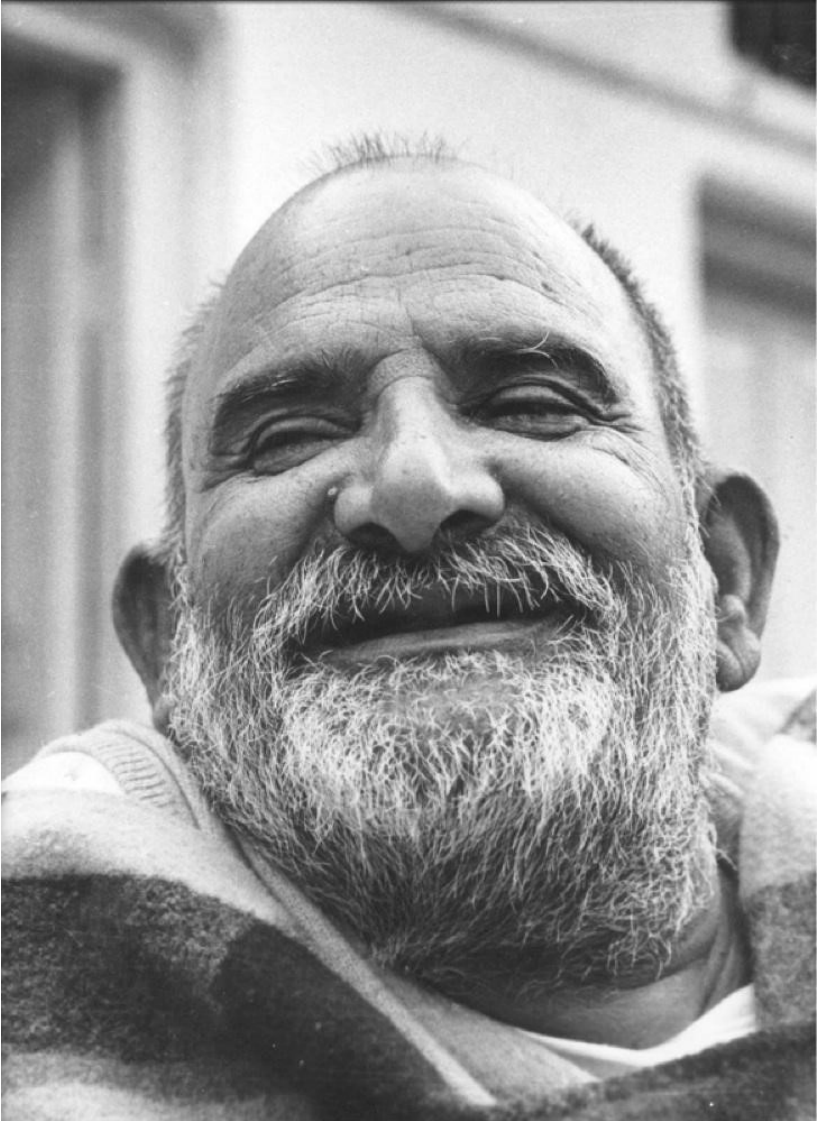
“Glory to the Lord of the Universe”

“Glory to the Lord of the Universe”

“Glory to the Lord of the Universe”

- these were his last words before he left his body on September 11th, 1973, in Vrindavan.

“WHEN YOU REMEMBER ME, I COME TO YOU”





Maharajji in his Murtis:

To get into a broader understanding of how spirit works I'd like to bring into focus the whole concept of the consecration of deities into their Murti's or Idols as an ancient practice in Hinduism. The sculptor usually sculpts the idol the best he can, and through the chanting of incantations and mantras specific to the deity, the idol is then 'Consecrated' and is treated the way a living being is. Rabboo Joshi in his book 'I and My Father Are One' explains the process of 'bringing the formless into form' that he, Sri Siddhi Ma and a few others did when they made the first Neem Karoli Baba Murti in Kainchi Ashram and got it consecrated.



His Marble Form in KainchiDham with Sri Siddhi Ma to the right

After having been there myself in November, I can tell you this much - THE IDOL IS ALIVE. A huge aspect of Maharaj Ji actually lives there. As soon as you go in, the presence factor radiating from this idol is so strong that sometimes I get overwhelmed. It's like he's actually sitting there day in and day out giving actual 'Darshan' to devotees from all over the place.

One of the most mysterious things about Kainchi Dham Ashram is that it really is the embodiment of Maharajji and Ma, who are now both merged into nonphysical. Personally, I have never been to a more spiritually potent place in my life although I've been travelling for a long time within India now. Several other ashrams have consecrated Murtis of Maharajji as well. I look forward to visiting each one someday. For more information about the temples and ashrams I recommend the website maharajji.love



Maharajji in his photographs and on our Altars:



A Picture of my pooja table in my house in Goa

In my experience personally this 'power station' also known as an altar or a Pooja table is where Maharajji consistently dwells along with the other deities in the frame. They form a glorious 'Soup of Divinity' to say the least, but with closed eyes it feels like an intergalactic radio station receiving and transmitting signals and messages.

I must mention again now that prior to Neem Karoli Baba, I was a very firm Atheist. So the act of waking up every morning and coming first thing to the altar to have conversations with 'pictures of dead people' and singing to a 'cute clay monkey god' and making offerings of food and flowers is quite exciting. Even today the altar is my favourite place in the house. No matter where I go, the first thing I do is build an altar.

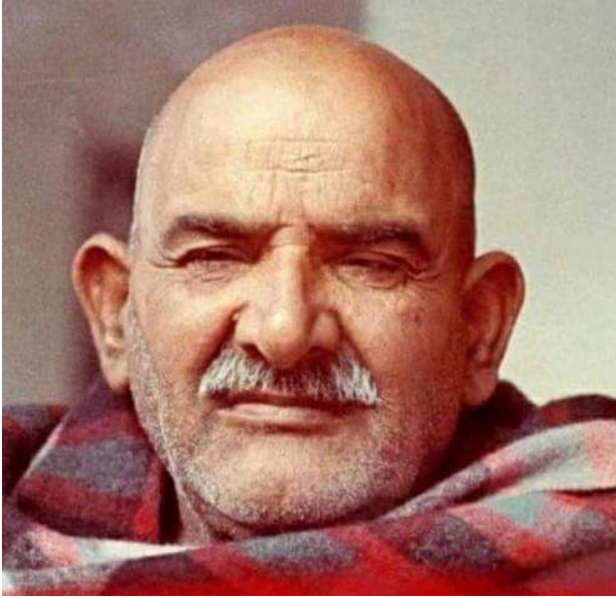
The Lilas and divine occurrences that have taken place on this altar are quite incredible. Truly the photographs are alive. It's not necessary to go to Kainchi or Vrindavan so have full darshan of Maharaj Ji, it's enough to build a temple/altar/ wherever we are. He has been known to have said "PRAYERS MADE IN FRONT OF MY PHOTOGRAPH SHALL BE ANSWERED BY ME". It's completely true in my experience. In fact, the photographs of Maharajji are actually the main portals through which I have a living communion with the divine.

To go deeper into this matter, let's examine what a photograph actually is : a picture is made using a camera, in which an image (a moment in time) is focused on to light sensitive material and then made visible and permanent by chemical treatment, or in these days stored digitally. Considering how recent this invention is, we are truly blessed to have actual photographic evidence and even a few minutes of video of this great Avatar.

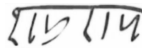
The genius who pioneered this was George Eastman in 1885. The first camera 'Kodak' was sold in 1888. Even just a century before that this kind of thing would be considered witchcraft or sorcery. But then again these are probably the fruits of the Dwapara Energy age (based on Sri Yukteswar Giri's short count system from 'the holy science'). The whole concept of idol worship in India is based on the idea that recreating these forms of deities that lived before us can allow them to share a part of their consciousness with each Murti and hence communicate with the presently alive humans and give us 'Darshan'. Darshan is a two-way thing. The Devotee sees the murti or picture and the murti or picture sees the devotee. In a way, a photograph is just a two-dimensional murti, except accurate to the point of perfection.

Even though every artist comes up with his imagination to paint pictures of Krishna, Moses, Jesus, Ram, etc.. The image of this Neem Karoli Baba deity is fixed, although his expressions are many and his form is just a reference point for practical purposes. Some devotees have recorded seeing tears and even reports of food being eaten by Maharajji's pictures. If I hadn't experienced it myself, I'd have called it totally impossible!

How great is it to know that this deity was born after the era of photography and is looking right at us now through this 'moment captured in time'. Look at his 'eyes of firm love'!



Jai Jai Jai Maharajji



Maharajji in Hanuman:

Whatever the link is between Neem Karoli Baba and Hanuman, whether they're the same being, or close friends, or tied divinely in ways us Humans cannot understand, the fact remains that where Hanuman is, Maharajji is, and where Maharajji is, so is Hanuman. Be it in the hundreds of thousands of Hanuman Temples in the world, be in a small Hanuman Murti in the house altar, be it in the hearts of the people who're singing the 'Hanuman Chalisa' or 'Sri Ram Jai Ram Jai Jai Ram' or 'Sunderkand', Maharajji and Hanuman are inseparable.



The Celebrated Birth Temple of Hanuman in Anjanadri Hills (2021)

The geographical location where I'm writing this book from, Bangalore, is really close to the kingdom of kishkindha which goes by Hampi in modern day India. Almost everyone here has a Hanuman sticker or Hanuman murti and frankly, Hanuman is the most celebrated deity in this part of India. The level of synchronicities and telepathic connections that happen here between symbols, idols and images of Hanuman and Maharajji is unexplainable. Somehow, I'm guided to the right place at the right time and there happens to be a Hanuman involved. Whether it's a bus dropping me off at a 'wrong stop' that just 'happened to be at a hanuman temple' or whether I take a random walk on the streets and am somehow intuitively aware of even the smallest Hanuman shrines and temples and end up going straight there and getting darshan of the murti and chanting the Hanuman Chalisa when possible. Every time I look into the eyes of a Hanuman murti, something bizarre happens. It doesn't happen with other deities. I find these murtis alive and very very actively listening to my Chalisa or looking into my eyes. Literally, none of the other 33 million gods in Hinduism gives that feeling. I assume it's Maharajji at play.

One of the memories that I hold dear while I was visiting here is that I had a small altar in my little guest room and for two days I wanted to find some fruit and flowers to give as an offering to the altar where I had a picture of Maharajji, Hanuman and Siddhi Ma. I couldn't find fruit or flowers anywhere, although the desire for this was strong. There's a very beautiful Durga temple near the Anjanadri temple where there's a glorious orange

murti of Hanuman (every temple in kishkindha has a small temple dedicated to Hanuman in it) and I went in for darshan. Much to my surprise, the priest gave me a flower! On my way out, I sat down to sing a Hanuman Chalisa to the beautiful Hanuman murti attached to the temple and the priest was overjoyed and gave me some sweets and a Banana as Prasad (consecrated food). Alas, I found my flower and fruit and gave them as an offering to my mini altar in the guest house!





The Murti Signifying the birth of Hanuman inside the Anjanadri Temple
(Folklore says it's about 10000 years old, the most celebrated Murti in in
kishkindha)

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Maharajji in his Devotees:

There's an extremely famous phrase that the modern day devotees use which is "Under Maharajji's Blanket". Being under Maharajji's blanket involves accepting him in our hearts as our SatGuru. It's synonymous with "devotee of Maharajji". Only those of us who are 'under Maharajji's blanket' as such can understand and recognise the Godforce that he is. For the rest of the world, he's just another saint. He's a master of disguise and loves to remain hidden in the shadows. Jai Ram Ransom has a chapter called "Maharajji is a Secret" in his book "It All Abides in Love". It's fundamentally true.

However, once he decides to show himself or give his 'Darshan', our first course of action would be to find some devotees of his to communicate with so that you understand that you're not going crazy. The astonishing nature of his Godlike non-physical self is so powerful that many who encounter him at first appear to have "lost their mind" to the outside world. Being directly in telepathic communication with a shapeshifting omnipotent deity whose origins span across the four yugas can be quite overwhelming. However, as we meet more and more people who're also devotees of Maharajji, we learn from them a few tips and tricks of how to live in the world whilst still appearing sane. This applies mostly to the beings who've not met Maharajji in person yet can feel his mountain moving presence and force.

However, as we get more and more familiar with his Lila, and allow him more and more into our hearts, he becomes quite comfortable in speaking freely through his devotees. I find that there's an extraordinary degree of telepathy between his devotees regardless of language and country. The only thing that unites us is the common love for our GuruDev Neem Karoli Baba Maharaj, and his wonderful whims and twists and divine plays among us.

Maharajji views all his devotees as equals. Regardless of age, gender, social status, country, how long they have been with him, all of those things don't matter from the eyes of God. You see, when he was in his physical body, he had to juggle how and when and to whom he gave darshan to (although he's known to be a teleport, shape-shift and appear at many places at once). But now he's equally available to all. All of Maharajji's devotees, whether we're aware of it or not, "channel" him into our life experience. He is spirit, pure, infinite, boundless yet with a very distinct personality.

Among the devotees, I've hardly ever met anyone who's selfish, cruel or capable of cheating anyone. In my stay in Kainchi I lost my 500\$ handheld camera once and a stranger, perhaps who could easily have kept it for himself, followed me up the hill and returned it to me so gracefully. When I asked him why he simply said, "everything here belongs to Maharajji but he wants you to have your camera back". Such a strange thing to say.



Maharajji in the dream realm:

For millennia now, scientists, religious people, philosophers, doctors and intellectuals of all kinds have tried to understand with all their effort what the dream realm is, yet no one in the world's history could come up with a logical conclusion about what exactly the dream world is.

Science has given a name to the study of dreams as 'Oneirology'. Even with all the modern-day advances, the closest thing science has been able to achieve is to map out when it occurs (during Rapid Eye Movement mostly) and give it a vague description such as "a succession of images, ideas, emotions and sensations that occur involuntarily during certain stages of sleep". In some cases, through advanced technology they've been able to track how long one spends in the dream state. However, it's becoming apparent that these things are simply outside the realm of quantifiable science.

The Ancient cultures, on the other hand have a bit more definitive approach to theories. Like always, the Egyptians were first to have written down their dreams in papyrus as far back as 2000 BC. Among them, people with vivid and significant dreams were thought to be blessed and were considered special. The ancient Egyptians believed that dreams were like oracles, bringing messages from the gods. They even would go to sanctuaries and sleep on special dream beds in hopes of connecting to the divine. The Chinese claim that there are two aspects of the soul, one that remains in the body and the other that journeys to the dream realm which they hold sacred. The Upanishads written between 900 and 500 BC, emphasises two meanings of dreams. The first says that dreams are merely expressions of inner desire and the second is the belief of the soul leaving the body and being guided until awakening. Whatever the unknown reality behind the phenomenon of

dreams, Maharajji has it fully figured out and it is completely under his control.

That's right Neem Karoli Baba is a true master of the dream realm.

In my experience of him, more than 4 times he's appeared in my dreams and showed me clear images of life events that had not taken place yet. In the books and stories among devotees, the sheer mastery he has over this realm is astonishing. If one sees Maharajji in a dream, it wasn't just a dream, it was him deliberately visiting the dreamer and giving him 'Darshan'. In total, I've probably encountered Maharajji in dreams about 13 or 14 times. The most recent one was where I requested him to show himself in my dreams and a few hours later he did! I talk about that experience in detail later in the book. One of the most memorable ones was when he made me do 'Danda Pranam' or full prostration to Sri Siddhi Ma outside of the Kainchi Temple. It was beautiful.

Through my experience, I can say this, for someone who's new to Maharajji, and doesn't know him very well, A dream with Neem Karoli Baba is an invitation from him to join his Satsang. I got my first invitation years ago, but I kept ignoring them cause I was too happy and didn't need a 'guru'. Plus, he doesn't look all that impressive before 'true darshan'. Just a smiling old man. But once one accepts this invitation, we begin to understand that the smiling old man with no teeth has the power to create worlds and is a living immortal deity with boundless power and compassion.

The dreams that the devotees' experience however are very personal to each. It depends on circumstance and feeling and context. Very recently me and my friends had a discussion about whether or not Ram Dass could be considered a SatGuru. Many people in the world love him so much and consider him their guru and Maharajji himself named Ram Dass - 'Samarth Guru Baba Ram Dass' which means all powerful guru. Anyway, it's different from 'SatGuru' which means ultimate guru or true guru. After having this conversation with my friends I fell asleep and to my delight the young bearded Ram Dass came to my house in Goa in my dream and we sat together and sang the Hanuman Chalisa in my altar to a picture of Maharaj Ji. On the same day my dear friend Margot had a dream where she saw the insides of my living room where the altar was. She lives in the United States, I live in India. We've never met in person. How bizarre. It was almost like Maharaj Ji was trying to tell me that Ram Dass isn't a SatGuru but one of his many devotees who he treats like his own children. Several more accounts of

his effortless mastery over the dream realm will be spoken about in the latter parts of this book.



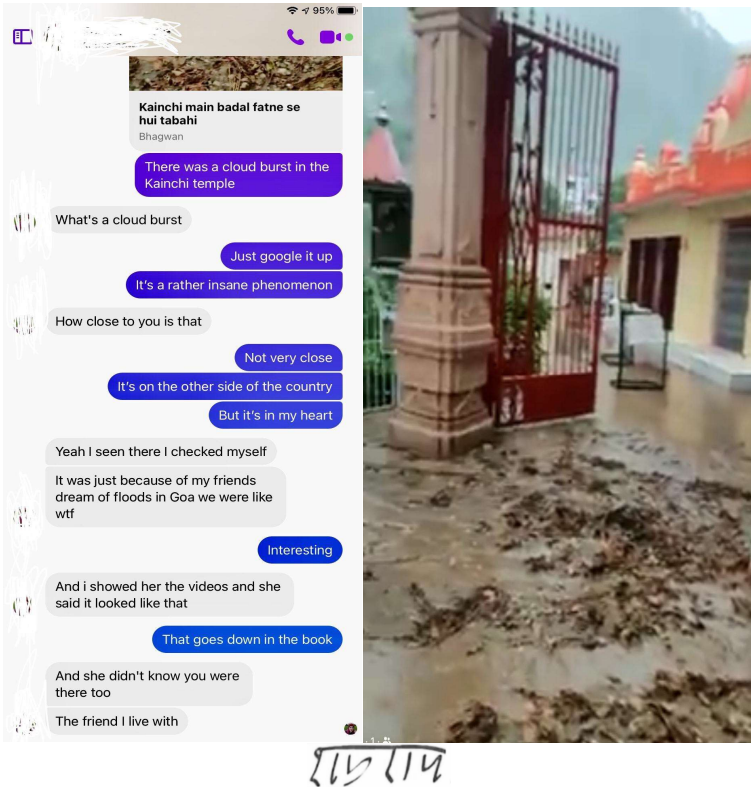
Maharajji beyond Space and Time:

One of the most difficult things about Neem Karoli Baba that was personally the hardest for me to digest is his mastery over space and time. You see I came from an understanding that we create our own reality and that the past, present and future are linear in nature and that what's done is done and the present moment holds the power to create the future.

Maharaj Ji kept repeatedly destroying all my perceptions and understanding of the way things work. Just when I think I know something about reality, Maharajji comes and shatters it to such an extent that I have to Pranam at his feet saying “ok Maharajji I don’t know anything” and start over again with the humility of a new born child.

The following is a true event that took place between 8th and 12th of May 2021. As I’m writing this it’s the 14th of May 2021 1.01 at AM. I only blurred the name of my friend on her request. Cloudbursts are supposed to unpredictable ‘freak events’ in nature. Not for him.

On the 12th of May Wednesday, there was a flood in Kainchi Dham as a result of a cloud burst. A few days before that my friend’s friend in Ireland had dreams of me being in a flood and asked me if there were floods in Goa, I said there weren’t. Then when she saw these pictures, she was extremely surprised to know that this was the dream on 8th of May. All around the temple, there were massive landslides and unimaginable damage. However, due to Maharajji’s miraculous grace, the temple is unscratched and no one was hurt.



What is the extent of his power?

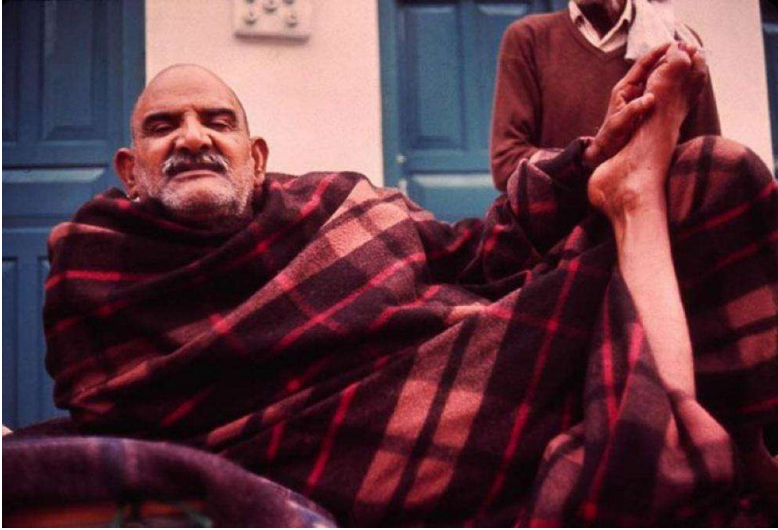
This is a rather difficult topic for most people to talk about since a lot of the devotees are shy and often speak only of the 'Love and Grace' aspect of Maharajji, I thought that I should simply take a leap of faith and say things as they are.

Maharajji can do anything and everything in the Universe.

Imagine a being that could effortlessly perform all the miraculous deeds that Moses, Jesus, Krishna, Ram, Hanuman and anyone else you'd like to bring into the picture do, Neem Karoli Baba has probably done it too, and is continuing to do it somewhere as we speak. He has the power of all the Gods, yet chooses to stay on earth and focus on alleviating human suffering.

Even now, the constant stream of Maharaj Ji miracles that get reported on a daily level is quite large. To some, he magically deposits exactly the amount of money in the bank that was needed for the devotee's daughter's wedding, to some he saves them from life threatening illnesses and prevents them from having fatal accidents. To some others, he pops out of the frame of his photograph and brings the dead back to life and disappears. These are just the beginning of his miraculous powers. He works on so many planes and so many dimensions that it's hard to comprehend where or what the limits are of his Divine Power.

"I AM CAPABLE OF CHANGING DESTINY. THERE IS NO
POWER IN THE WORLD THAT CAN GO AGAINST WHAT I
HAVE SAID. I CAN LOWER THE EXALTED AND RAISE THE
HUMBLE"

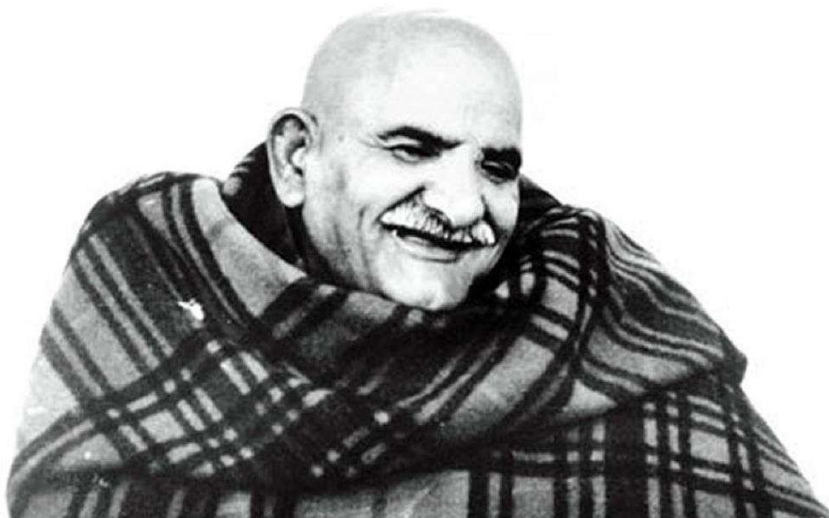


Maharajji is well aware of his powers and uses them in an extraordinarily balanced and graceful way. He is a genie and grants the wishes of anyone who's pure of heart, however he can also be quite a tough father and give one a firm "zen stick beating" if one misbehaves. Although even this beating, over the long run proves to be a blessing. I am a living example of someone who got the 'stick treatment' by angering an all-powerful deity, so I would not mess with him again here. Also in the Hanuman chapter, all the 8 Siddhis still apply to him, but he is not contained in one form anymore so they're more spread out.

Coming back to the love and grace aspect of Maharajji, several young aspirants hear the story of Steve Jobs and Zuckerberg and come to Kainchi till this day, he blesses them all with his Godly benevolence and sends them away with a loving 'Jao'. What they do with this blessing of his is left to them and the circumstances and devotion which they apply, but his love is unconditional. So many people with so many problems constantly pray to him and come to his ashrams and temples, yet he blesses all of them with his grace. The mysterious thing about Maharajji, what makes him a true hero, is not his powers but the fact that he can't help himself from solving people's problems. Such is the nature of the unconditional divine love that is Maharajji. Hanuman is after all - Sankat Mochan - The reliever of suffering.

It is common knowledge among the Indian devotees that “no sincere prayers go unanswered by Neem Karoli Baba” some call him the “Kalpataru” or a ‘wish - fulfilling divine tree’. His powers are so safe on the earth because of his extraordinary compassion. Lovingly he said:

“I AM THE FATHER OF THE WORLD.
THE WHOLE WORLD IS MY CHILD”



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Here's what I found when I dug a little deeper and more specifically into Maharajji's powers from his non-physical perspective, of course they're only the tip of the iceberg but I thought I'll list a few anyway:

- He can heal any disease and fix any difficult circumstance as long as the asking is sincere. I have met people who have been magically cured of seemingly incurable ailments in the recent past. The healing comes in many different forms just like they did when he was in his physical body.
- He has the power to penetrate ‘the politics of individual Karma’ and liberate one from these clutches of ‘karmic predicaments’, literally bending the rules of the ‘blueprint of existence’. How much he involves himself in these matters is really left to his will and our

understanding of the broader scope of life experience (beyond this incarnation)

- He has the power to create entire life circumstances and catapult the devotee into the middle of one of these for purposes of higher learning and further understanding of dharma and self
- He works either directly or sends a devotee rushing to those who are suffering and makes sure that the needs are met.
- He can assume any form he wants and give surprise visits to his devotees
- He can speak through and make anyone or anything acquiesce according to his will, he can change the minds of an entire legion of people or whole governments to suit the needs of his devotees.
- He's very very protective of his devotees and doesn't mind giving anyone a firm 'zen stick beating' if they trouble his devotees. Again, I have first-hand experience of insulting one of his devotees in the past and getting a high-quality zen stick beating.
- In certain places like Kainchi Dham, he controls the weather, the traffic, the food supply, and everything to the finest detail till this day. Anyone you speak to in Kainchi will explain to you he's the boss.
- Even if a single individual in the family is a devotee of Neem Karoli Baba, his grace extends to the whole family in ways so subtle that one often can't notice.
- The devotee inevitably ends up dropping most of the 'adharmic' (non-virtuous) ways of living and somehow becomes more forgiving, more loving, less angry, more compassionate, and more concerned with the well-being of others and the world as a whole. This is perhaps one of his greatest superpowers - the power to open the hearts of his devotees and make them better people.



What is his Significance on our Planet



Maharajji with Ram Dass, KK Shah and some of the early Western Satsang

Our beloved Maharajji is known as “Param Pujay Gurudev Shri Neeb Karori Baba Maharaj” in India. He is revered as one of the greatest beings that walked the earth till date and often referred to as ‘The Reincarnation of Hanuman’ and ‘The Guru of Gurus’. The paradox of Maharajji’s existence is that no matter how much he is revered and how big his Satsang is in India and other places, Maharajji himself essentially remains a secret. Many people have heard of him, seen his articles on the news, seen

pictures of him and also been to his temples, but the Living Maharajji that we know reveals himself to just a select few.

In my opinion, he is a grand master of outsourcing. He sent Ram Dass to the west to speak, and Krishna Das to the west to sing, Steve Jobs to create personal computing and many others in many parts of the world to his work. Of course, he works through all of them in essence and guides them through their lives. Steve Jobs when he got diagnosed with terminal cancer called up a fellow devotee and said that one of his great regrets is that he never met Maharaj Ji when he was still in his body, at his deathbed was a copy of *Miracle of Love* and a picture of Maharajji. Ram Dass started probably the most important revolution in spirituality at a key time (the 60's) and remained one of the most important spiritual teachers that ever existed and the voice of many generations. Krishna Das is still one of the most popular and important musicians that are bringing peace and harmony through music.

Furthermore, if we look at the world in terms of energy, then it's a really huge and complex place. The varying degrees of human complexities and the frequency of human insanity as a whole is quite large. Just look at what happened during the time of the world wars. Through sheer insanity and technological advancements our species turned on itself and human beings killed hundreds of millions of our own kind. It didn't just end there, but continues to this day, there are so many different kinds of warfare, and the level of human suffering is at its peak. After the United States bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the world as we know it lies in the hands of a few insane individuals who can obliterate humanity with the press of a button. You see, that's why the world needs Deities, Saints and soldiers of peace to keep the balance.

One being such as Maharajji fills the energetic gap with positivity to even out millions of insane 'rakshasas'. The word 'rakshasa' or 'asura' refers to power hungry self-centred egomaniacal demonic beings who thrive upon destruction and mayhem. These are not just mythical beings, but they are present in our current reality as well. Except, they wear suits and they appear just like us. Whether we like to admit it or not, we are continually at a state of Spiritual Warfare, where the forces of benevolence and the forces of darkness are constantly at odds with each other.

Maharajji is the epitome of light, he is the beacon of all that which is Good. He truly is the Sankat Mochan Hanuman of our time and keeper of the dharmic balance. Of course, there are many deities of light and many

saints and sadhus who through their meditation, japa, music, healing power and devotion energetically bring the balance of light and dharma into our world.

According to legend, Sri Ram, Sri Krishna and others have left this earth plane to their heavenly abode, but the Immortal Hanuman is still here protecting us and doing everything he can to maintain the balance of good. Be it Baba Ram Dass through whom tens of millions of people had spiritual awakenings and had darshan of Maharaj Ji or the legless sadhu outside the Kainchi Ashram singing bhajans from time to time and living off the kindness of others, all of Maharajji's devotees are constantly working towards the good of the planet. Regardless of how old they are or what their role in society is, Maharajji gives us the strength and resources needed to help people and make the world a better place. He is constantly at work, and through his large extended family of light workers, he is perhaps responsible for keeping the balance of dharma circulating on the planet to a very large extent.

“WHOEVER WORKS FOR GOD,
HIS WORK WILL BE DONE BY ITSELF”



Maharajji is not Religious - He is Love

Throughout history we find the same repetitive themes. A well-meaning being with a lot of good intention and love for the people attains a state of 'God Consciousness' or communes with 'God' and after his death an institution is built around him with rules and regulations and a monetary incentive and some form of a hunger for power, thus completely misinterpreting the intention of the original message and manipulating it, using it to control to masses and create a fearful 'organised religion' that often goes to war with other 'organised religions' over 'who's God is the right one' often causing tons of destruction and holy wars, bringing hell on earth in the name of God.

This recurring theme has been quite unfortunate and completely contradictory to the benevolent nature of God. In my understanding, God is Good, God is One, God is Love. of course, there is a whole universe of non-physical beings and deities that's far too complex for us physical beings to even comprehend, but I would think that the insanity of man is what causes all this trouble and war, not God. Thus, no matter how innocent and beautiful the origins of a certain religion, it always ends up being a threat to another and means to be used as a political tool.

Maharajji knows all this all too well, that's why there's no "Institution" or "organisation" related to Neem Karoli Baba. There are temples and ashrams and in all these places people of all faiths and walks of life are welcome. Although Maharajji was born in a Hindu Brahmin family, throughout his life he loved all and served all equally. The cave at Neeb Karori where he meditated and did his Tapasya for many years has on the outside carvings from various religious symbols including the Christian cross, the Hindu Om, The Islamic moon and star and others signalling that beings from all religions are welcome. Even the Vrindavan ashram's architecture derives inspiration from temples, mosques, synagogues and churches. Maharajji himself was considered many things by many people, among the Hindus he is and is considered a reincarnation of the Lord Hanuman, among the Muslims he is widely respected as a 'Fakir' or a holy man, amongst Christians he's recognised as a great saint and a follower of the principles of

Christ. Regardless of who or what comes for his darshan, Maharajji blesses the being and sends him or her on their way to a dharmic life.

One of the main reasons why a “religious institution” cannot be formed in his name is simply because he’s far too alive and far too powerful to have any such mishaps take place. He is a living, breathing, eternal, benevolent, playful deity who remains in grace and hiding just enough to be sought after by the eager seeker.



As much as the imagery and the ritual and imagery is against a backdrop of Hinduism, Maharajji himself is known to have said

“ALL RELIGIONS ARE THE SAME, THEY ALL LEAD TO GOD.
GOD IS EVERYBODY...
THE SAME BLOOD FLOWS THROUGH US ALL,
THE ARMS, THE LEGS, THE HEART, ALL ARE THE SAME.
SEE NO DIFFERENCE, SEE ALL THE SAME.”

Having said that, many experienced Hindus have explained to me that Hinduism cannot be defined as a ‘Religion’ in the modern traditional sense. It is known as the ‘Sanatana Dharma’ which literally translates to ‘the eternal way’. It is inclusive of all possibilities of worship and does not exclude anyone out. Also, the whole idea of conversion from other religions or missionary work is not something that’s appreciated or mentioned in scriptures, although some modern groups have found a way to create organisations out of Hinduism.

You might be wondering, if Maharajji isn’t religious, what’s up with all the ‘ram’s? Isn’t Sri Rama a Hindu deity? To answer that, Ram and Hanuman existed far before the label ‘Hinduism’ came into being. In terms of specifics one could say that Sri Ram is a deity, the 7th incarnation of Vishnu, The beloved friend and king of Hanuman from the Ramayana who was praised not only for his Godliness but also his unbearable compassion as a Human Being and his unwavering resolve of Dharma or Virtues. According to Tulsidas, the author of the ‘Sri Ramcharitmanas’, the uttering of the syllable ‘ram’ is one of the most sacred and powerful mantras one can use for self-empowerment.

On the level of energy and cosmic consciousness, the syllable 'ram' doesn't belong to any 'religion' and the love and power of this deity is available to all beings everywhere regardless of where they come from or what they believe.

Maharajji throughout his lifetime has probably filled hundreds of books full of written 'ram's and must have uttered it millions if not billions of times. In it known to bring peace, power, equilibrium, harmony, grace, health, wealth and compassion just to repeat this syllable.

Maharajji Says:

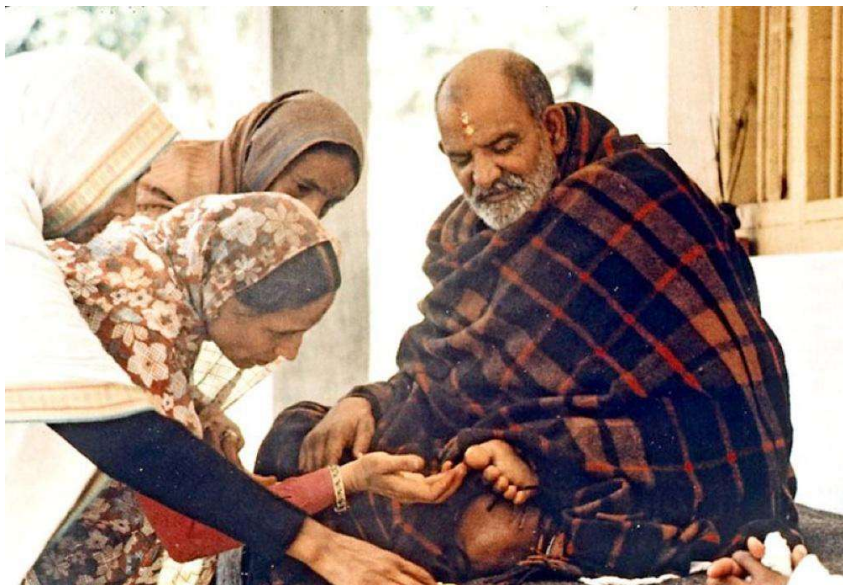
“IF YOU CANNOT LOVE EACH OTHER, YOU CANNOT
ACHIEVE YOUR GOAL”

“THE ONLY THING DEAR TO RAM IS LOVE”

“ONE CAN ACHIEVE ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD
BY CHANTING THE NAME OF RAM”



Maharajji as the SatGuru



The SatGuru, his lotus feet and his devotees

The dominant role that Maharajji plays in the world as a whole, even though he is an Avatar, is that of a SatGuru. Even though the word Guru should suffice in traditional terms, for this particular Guru I deliberately use the word SatGuru each time. The word SatGuru is given to a Rishi (sage) or a Saint who has attained the highest state of Self Realisation or union with God and his or her sole purpose is to guide and initiate the seeker into the path of spirituality and God Consciousness.

Most Gurus initiate disciples, but Maharajji clearly said

“I MAKE DEVOTEES, NOT DISCIPLES”

In this statement, Maharajji reveals his divinity, as only Gods have devotees, not gurus. Technically, a SatGuru is someone who has returned from a state of ‘Savikalpa Samadhi’ which is the final stage of Yoga where the Yogi becomes one with Brahma or Parabrahma (The Creator or Creative

Energy of the Universe). Kabir says “Satpurush ko Jansi, Tiska Satguru Naam” meaning “One who has seen the supreme lord of truth is the SatGuru. Kabir also says that worship of SatGuru includes in it worship of all deities.

In other words, SatGuru is the physical form of God



Very few beings have walked the earth who truly deserve the title of SatGuru. Neem Karoli Baba is one of them.



*Aghore Bhyo Taghore Bhyo, Ghora Ghora Tare Bhyaha
Sarve Bhyaha Sarva Sharve Bhyo, Namaste Astu Rudra Roope Bhyaha
Tat Purukhaaya Vidamabe, Mahaadevaaya Dimahi
Tanno Rudraha Prachodaayataha, Raamadootaaya Vidamabe
Vaayuputraaya Dimahi, Tanno Hanumat Prachodaayataha*

Om Namah Shivaaya Gurave, Satchitananda Murtaaye,

**I bow to the Guru, the Self of All.
The embodiment of Being, Awareness and Bliss,
Nischprapanchaaya shaantaaya, Niraalambaaya Tejase
Living within everything as its true nature; Supreme peace;
needing no support, but sustaining and supporting all;
illuminating the entire universe with the light of consciousness.**

Gurur Brahma Gurur Vishnu Gurur Devo Maheshwara
**“The Guru is Brahma (The creator), Lord Vishnu (The preserver, and
Shiva (the destroyer)
Gurur Sakshat Parabrahma Tasmai Shree Gurudev Namaha
“To that very Guru I bow, for He is the Supreme Being, right before
my eyes.**

Dhyaana Mulam Gurur Murti Pujaa Moolam Guro Padam
**“The root of meditation is the form of the Guru
The root of worship is the feet of the Guru.”
Mantra Moolam Gurur Vaakyam Moksha Mulam Guro Kripaa
“The source of mantra is the words of the Guru
The source of Liberation is the Guru’s grace.”**

Gurumadhye sthita Maataa Matrimadhye sthito Guru
**“In the Guru lives the Divine Mother, in the Mother resides the
Guru”**

Gurur Maataa namaste’stu Maatrigurum namamyaham
**“To the Divine Mother, as Guru, I bow,
To the Guru as Divine Mother, I bow.
Jyotilingaaya Namaha - I bow to the lingam that is Light
Aatmalingaaya Namaha - I bow to the Lingam that is the Self
*Gurulingaaya Namaha - I bow to the lingam that is the Guru***

Lyrics for the song ‘Puja’
Album: Door of Faith - Artist : Krishna Das



Every human being on the planet fundamentally has a few needs and desires. The needs could be narrowed as the basic necessities, food, water, shelter, community, good health, a source of livelihood, etc... desires are more powerful and accentuated needs. The universe of desires are many -

wealth, sex, power are some base desires, similarly there's a desires for knowledge, for communion with God, for spiritual upliftment, for salvation, etc..

But underneath this all, in my perspective the greatest desire that is often unexpressed is the desire to be loved. As human, this is as basic to us as our need for food and shelter. In fact, it wouldn't be unfair if I said that all one does is an indirect longing for love. But the problem with this human 'love' is that it's very impermanent and comes attached with its inevitable partner 'pain'. Where there is love, there is pain. This of course is in the human realm. No matter what the circumstance, this love can fade and often leads to sorrow and pain. Maharajji says

“EVERYTHING IS IMPERMANENT, EXCEPT THE LOVE OF
GOD”

This statement can be perceived in two ways. In a way it can be perceived as man's love for God, which is called bhakti or also God's love for man. Now this love of God is always being showered upon us but we can rarely feel it because our minds are clouded and our hearts are closed because of a variety of reasons personal to each. Some call this 'depression', some others call this 'loneliness' and try to fill this absence with all kinds of things. All my life I tried to fill it with food, drugs, sex, alcohol, TV, anger and many, many other things. I even went and got prescriptions to pharmaceuticals hoping that they would help but nothing truly helped. The love between me and my parents was too complicated and the love that I found through all my partners and friends would never last. Women left me, friends left me, parents were caught in their own struggles and there was nobody to blame hence I blamed myself and life at large. If you're like me then you understand the impermanent and changing nature of life.

In my experience, that hollow that I felt, the absence of direction, the confusion, the constant fear of life, the inner struggles and the feelings of loneliness and not being loved, these are all slowly being erased and replaced by Maharajji's divine love and protection.

The SatGuru is a portal through which one can harvest purpose, direction and guidance. He is an unconditional pillar of support. A constant companion through the waves of change and the uncertainties of life. A living spirit who responds and reciprocates our asking with love, grace, and compassion. His patience is unlimited and his love is without reason or

AVATAR *Neem Karoli Baba For The New Age*

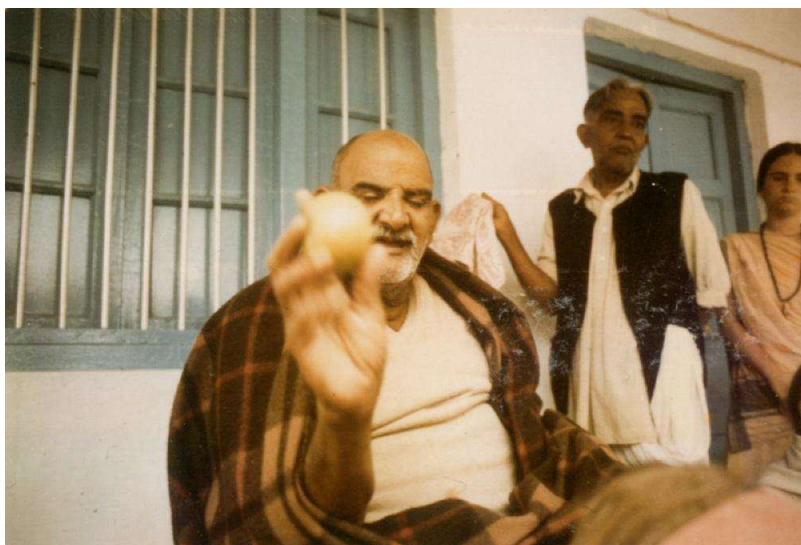
boundaries. A master of the universe who is mature and powerful yet also humble and eager as a child to go on life's adventures with us.



The Master Fisherman

*I boasted among men that I had known you.
They see your pictures in all works of mine.
They come and ask me, 'Who is he?'
I know not how to answer them.
I say, 'Indeed, I cannot tell.'
They blame me and they go away in scorn.
And you sit there smiling.
I put my tales of you into lasting songs.
The secret gushes out from my heart.
They come and ask me, 'Tell me all your meanings.'
I know not how to answer them.
I say, 'Ah, who knows what they mean!'
They smile and go away in utter scorn.
And you sit there smiling.*

~ Rabindranath Tagore



Maharajji with one of his most faithful devotees - Dada Mukherjee

॥ १५ ॥

Baba Ram Dass in one of his later lectures wrote something extraordinary about Maharajji when he was addressing the Satsang in the United States. He said, "Maharajji is the Fisherman, I am the worm, you all

are the Fish”. I borrowed the title for this chapter from that statement. It’s totally true. Maharajji handpicks his devotees.

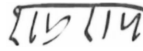
Even now, he is the sole proprietor of what I jokingly refer to as ‘Maharajji Lila Inc.’ - a non-physical non-profit phenomenon that has helped shape the world to the better as we know it and he himself is the CEO and the head of Human Resources and in fact takes care of all the more important functions of this metaphysical company. Of course, he has millions of beings working for him and his cause from all across the planet. What is his cause you may be wondering? - Sankat Mochan - The Alleviation of suffering and the general upliftment and welfare of mankind.

When he was in his body, the stories of how he attracted devotees almost everywhere he went are innumerable, but presently from his non-physical point of view, he makes sure he examines a person’s incarnational trajectory and hands out invitations. After he left his body, the book ‘Miracle of Love’ compiled by Ram Dass was in my perspective a great invitation to the English-speaking world. Hundreds of thousands have gained ‘Darshan’ through this book and thousands more continue till this day. In India however, besides the books and literature, there’s also a huge number of temples and ashrams and his presence here is very big, but still he somehow remains hidden from the mainstream. Many people have heard of him, but few are truly devoted to him relatively.

The more I get to know his Satsang, the more I understand how different the paths are that he lays out for a prospective devotee to find him. In the west, the extraordinary heart opening speeches of Ram Dass played a key role in the curiosity developing about Maharajji, not to mention the book ‘Remember, Be Here Now’. Some were attracted to Ram Dass and wanted to find the source of his inspiration and found Maharajji like that. Some get his darshan through pictures alone and end up coming all the way to India as a result of the feeling they got. For some seeking success they hear stories of him and come to his ashrams or temples looking for ‘the billionaire’s guru’. Others come by the association of fellow devotees.

One of the peculiar ways in which he chooses to give out an invitation is through dreams and synchronicities. Ram Dass mentions in his book ‘Miracle of Love’ that Maharajji expects a significant amount of effort before he reveals himself and gives ‘Darshan’, this is true till this day, but also some who I’ve become devotees without any effort. The keys are in his hands. Whatever the journey the individual takes to come into contact with

Maharajji, once he reveals himself and gives ‘True Darshan’, the seeker is hooked! They’ve come home!



Like the poem from Rabindranath Tagore suggests, once you’ve experienced the reality of Maharajji there’s no going back and also there’s no way of really explaining to those who haven’t. All they see is an old man in a blanket, yet they can sense that the devotee who hangs these pictures has a certain sweetness in his voice when he sings, a certain delicacy in her art when she paints, a distinct aura of intelligent humility radiates from the devotee of Maharajji, however Maharajji himself is just a two-dimensional picture on the wall through their eyes. I spent 10 years knowing him to be a ‘dead holy man’ each time I saw his picture.

Once he does reveal himself to an individual fully, it’s astonishingly overwhelming beyond anything we can imagine to say the least. One who gets darshan of Maharaj Ji simply has no frame of reference to hold in relation to what one sees. To understand that a Being of such power and majesty exists among us and is alive and available can come off as quite a shock to the newcomer who doesn’t know what to expect. Maharajji himself said,

“TO SEE GOD ONE YOU MUST HAVE SPECIAL EYES,
OTHERWISE YOU CANNOT BEAR THE SHOCK”

To me it feels like Maharajji is talking about himself. All throughout his life he was deceptively humble about himself and never claimed to be anything, but this humility is an unmistakable trait of a Deity. He never claimed to be the Avatar of our age unlike a lot of people who did (it’s only me proposing that he is in this book). Every time he performed a miracle or an act of divine majesty, he simply said

“I DO NOTHING, GOD DOES EVERYTHING”



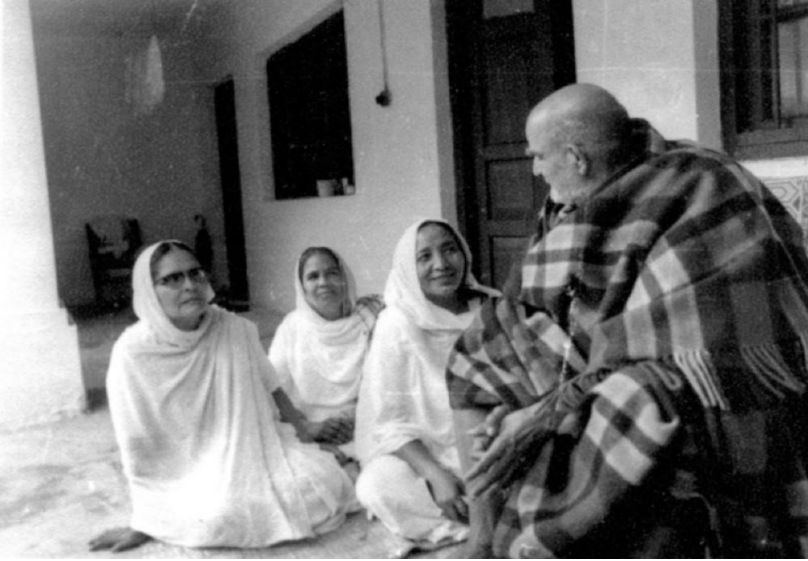
In my understanding of the world, he who claims to be anything spiritual is close, but isn’t quite it. He who claims to be enlightened is missing the point of enlightenment. He who claims to be an Avatar, simply lacks the

humility to be one hence isn't one. Maharajji claimed nothing, hence is a candidate for all of the above.

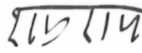
Coming back to the master fisherman, he knows exactly what he's doing and how much of himself he'll reveal to whom. There are many levels of understanding Neem Karoli Baba. I'll just mention a few broad categories:

- Distant acquaintances by association as in people who know him as the guru of someone they admire like Ram Dass or Krishna Das or Steve Jobs or a close friend.
- Beneficiaries of his infinite grace by virtue of being in one of his 'power spots' (people who live in Nainital, around the ashram in Taos, or in Vrindavan, in Neeb Karori, etc.. who aren't actively his 'devotees' but are in the vicinity of his canopy of love and divine power
- Quiet admirers of him who are probably part of another religious or a spiritual movement but admire and respect him nevertheless.
- Semi-Devotees who consider him their 'one of their gurus' and have his picture on the altar with a bunch of other deities or saintly people and just appreciate and hold him in their hearts.
- FULL-ON devotees of Maharajji for whom 'He is the light and the way' whose whole lives more or less revolve around him as he is our SatGuru, our muse, friend, focus of devotion and worship, guide and also deepest most sacred aspect of inner beings.
- Of course there's also the highest form of Devotees like Sri Siddhi Ma and Sri Jivanti Ma who are Avatars of their accord and the magnitudes of devotees in India and other countries who dedicate their lives to doing his work by writing about him, being in the ashrams and taking care of them, consecrating his murtis, doing his aartis, and are presently the embodiment of Maharajji in his physical absence.

Anyway, one thing that I have understood is that the frequency of his 'darshan' can only move up and not down. Every day that one spends in his presence, things only get more and more mysteriously graceful. They don't necessarily get easier, but things do get very magical and more and more of our experience is filled with love and universal perspective.



Maharajji with Jivanti Ma, Siddhi Ma and another Ma from Kainchi.



There are many theories about how Maharajji chooses his devotees and why, but the truth is only he knows. In my case, I suspect that I've known him in a past life and had forgotten but in this life he pulled me from my forgetfulness and reminded me. Some say that they've known him from several different lifetimes, some say that he is nothing but a very pure reflection of themselves, others just call him 'Baba' or 'elder' and leave it at that. Besides reciting the Hanuman Chalisa and Sunderkand, a devotee also wrote what's known as the 'Vinay Chalisa' in the Hindi language as a forty verse prayer to honour Maharajji's Human Incarnation. This is the English Translation:

The Vinay Chalisa

*Lord, I am ignorant and lack faith and devotion. I don't know how to pray to you. Still,
I humbly offer this prayer.*

Glory, glory Neem Karoli Baba, please purify my heart with your grace.

How can I sing your praises when I don't know anything about you?

Just a glance of your grace is enough to remove disease, grief, and suffering.

It is only by your grace that one can come to know you.

*Offering you everything – body, mind, soul, and worldly belongings – Is the way to true
happiness.*

*Just to see and touch you, Lord, Is enough to fill one's heart and home with happiness
and prosperity*

*Glory to you, bestower of happiness to saints and devotees, giver of all kinds of abilities
and wealth.*

*You are Vishnu, you are Rama, you are Krishna. You wander about satisfying the needs
of those you meet.*

Again and again I sang "Glory to you God". You are Hanuman incarnate.

Now I accept what Vibhisana said as supreme truth:

*"No one can meet a saint without God's grace, and with that grace comes the end of
suffering."*

I realized this in my heart the first day I saw you.

The troubles of those who fill their hearts with you are destroyed.

Glory to you my beloved Gurudev. I am yours in every way.

Please bless me soon. Let me feel that great peace that destroys suffering.

*Please wipe out sickness, grief, and suffering and let me continually repeat the name of
Ram.*

Whatever way I may attain supreme salvation, please bless me with that boon.

*In every way may I worship Hari and be free from hatred, jealousy, and the confusion of
dualities.*

May I always serve the saints. Lord, you can grant everything in all respects.

Please give me everything so I may be saved from this ocean of birth and death.

The fruit of all my past good deeds is refuge in you.

Glory to you beloved Gurudev. Again and again I offer my all to you.

At all times you are aware of everything everywhere. Your daily food is very simple.

Your appearance and dress is so simple that no one can know you as a sadhu.

Oh Lord, this is your way of living; your every word has deep meaning.

You turn non-believers into believers when you give them an awakening warning.

Followers of all religions bow their heads to you.

*Totally free of selfishness and free of desire, you wander about fulfilling the desires of
devotees.*

Oh Lord, how can I pray to you and earn the prasad of your grace?

You are the protector of sadhus and good people. You are ever a support to devotees.

You even fulfill the desires of wicked people when they take refuge in you.

Why should anyone be surprised by this? It is simply the nature of a true saint.

So please now have that kind of compassion on me and purify my mind and heart.

Whoever sings your glory daily is attracted to righteousness and good deeds.

They are blessed with the virtues and achieve all happiness and wealth.

All their desires are fulfilled and in the end they attain peace.

The four fruits of life are easy to obtain with your grace.

Save me, save me. You are my refuge. Remove all my troubles and suffering.

It is the greatest blessing to have even seen or touched your wonderful form.

*I have performed no good deeds and empty void of intelligence; it is only by your grace that
I can even speak of you.*

*I gently place these few flowers of faith at your feet. Ocean of Grace, my dearest Guru and
Lord, please accept them.*

- Written by Prabhu Dayal Sharma

Translation credit: maharajji.love website

A remarkable story of the origins of this prayer is that when the devotee first presented it to Maharajji, he immediately tore it up, what a profound thing to do. He perhaps didn't want such an open statement of his divinity considering how humble he is. However, the other devotees found a way to pick up the pieces of this torn paper and then glue it back together to preserve this prayer. There have also been other instances of people making collections of his miracles and presenting them as a book or an article and Maharajji immediately threw the manuscripts into the fire or tore them saying things like "do you want to bring disgrace to my name?" How peculiar.

To conclude things, if Maharajji chooses someone, and their heart and being is open to receive him, they'll know it without an element of doubt. One can run, hide or delay the process, but the Fisherman always catches his fish and releases them into his private ocean.



Maharajji and his Selective Invisibility

As I've mentioned before, I have known the name Neem Karoli Baba for close to 10 years now and seen pictures of him. I first heard of him of course through Baba Ram Dass - the incredible soul who was the messenger of Maharajji to the west and also my world. The many years I have spent knowing his name, all I associated with it was an old man in a blanket that was Ram Dass's guru. Throughout the book "Remember, Be Here Now" Ram Dass shows pictures of Maharajji, yet it felt like the least interesting part of the book. Even after reading about his amazing powers and capability, I felt more connected to Ram Dass. After all, Maharajji was "dead", what more is there to it?

Not a single lecture goes by where Ram Dass doesn't talk about Maharajji. Yet, for more and more people, Maharajji is completely invisible. They cannot see him, they cannot feel him, they cannot fathom his presence. Now that I know him, Maharajji is always present when Ram Dass speaks, even in his recorded lectures. I could only understand the mystery behind this once I had "True Darshan". Maharajji is the magnetic field of divine love underneath the word that Baba Ram Dass speaks. Their hearts have merged through Ram Dass's devotion and Maharajji's blessing. Although Ram Dass is the wordsmith and his inquiry into various techniques and methods of spirituality through research and syncretism is unmatched, Maharajji remains the 'Heart' of the matter. Ram Dass often referred to him as 'the captain of the ship' amongst other things.

To emphasise yet again, once the 'true darshan' of Neem Karoli Baba Maharaj has been received by an individual (especially now that he's non-physical), it may appear to the outside world as some form of madness or psychosis until the initial shock settles down if one isn't around fellow devotees to explain to them that it's ok. The sheer magnitude of his existence and even the frequency of connectivity and synchronicity that one experiences with him is beyond the grasp of any intellectual understanding. For those who Maharajji chooses to reveal himself to, it's an irreversible love story of epic proportions and those who he chooses to remain invisible to will look at the ones who are obsessed with him and wonder "I wonder what they find in that guy".

It's a grand mystery about this selective invisibility of Maharajji. Even among those who see him, the degrees to which he allows them to see him varies. To some Maharajji is their guru and a pleasant smiling picture on their altar, to some he is Ram Dass's guru, to some he is a friendly guide and a good omen, to the rare few he is the alpha omega and the overlord of all Creation. King of Kings, The God of Gods - The Avatar of this age. His deceptively ordinary physical appearance is also one of the tools he uses to conceal his divinity. I mean, for the ordinary eye, to point to a sweaty brown person sitting on a tucket with few or no teeth hoisting abuses at people and throwing fried carbohydrates or sweets at his devotees, referring to him as The God of Gods sounds absurd. But to those who feel him, experience his unnatural frequency of inexpressible power and grace, it's only normal to worship him the way one would worship a living God.

You see, his skin, his vessel, his form all of these are but layers of deception one must go through to see who he really is. But then again, he's simply in control of everything. If he wanted to he could change his form to anything he wanted to, to look like Krishna or Jesus or Ram or Hanuman as illustrated in all the books, but he remained to keep the ordinary overweight Neem Karoli Baba body of his with the big belly and the whole package of humanness through his incarnation. I suspect he did this because he doesn't like unnecessary attention. If someone wants to see him and love him for what he is beyond the 'form' he probably deems them worthy of his attention. For the rest, who're just in it for the fashion show, or who're simply not ready to become aware of his existence, he probably isn't bothered to reveal himself.

Now that he's left his physical body (he definitely made it look like he did at least) to know his truth means to recognise living spirit. Even though he comes alive through his photographs and any avenue he can come alive in, one must really focus and attune oneself and one's spiritual senses to feel distinctly the spiritual identity that is the formless Maharajji. A lot of the time it's really hard to catch because it's so subtle, and his playful almost mischievous nature as a spirit makes it even harder to catch. But once you get a hang of it, you can catch him each time and every time. But the fun part is you don't know if you caught him or he caught you.

When in Kainchi Dham I met many people who come to the temple with hopes of having a life-changing experience that might make them a billionaire like Steve Jobs or many degrees of varying intentions and objectives. Some of them receive darshan of Maharaj Ji and they can clearly

see the beauty of the sanctuary that he and Siddha Ma's samadhi holds, the rest just see a marble statue of an old man in a blanket and return unimpressed with yet another Facebook or Instagram post of a 'cool temple they visited'. The reasons behind this selective invisibility are known by him and him alone.

When I went to Kainchi, I almost broke down in tears immediately at the gates and when I sat by his murti, I felt supersonic rays of divine light emanating through their presence and divine energy permeating every molecule of my being beyond anything I'd experienced before. The day I left the temple, I was shattered. I felt like just opening a tea stall by the temple. Also, I met some young college boys who were also there and asked them if they felt what I was feeling and the best they could say is "it sure is peaceful here". For me it was like being inside the womb of the mother goddess whilst having my neurobiology recalibrated across various dimensions and incarnations. Such is the enigma that is Maharajji.



An application form for the Formless

As you were reading the previous chapters, there are perhaps a few different things that you may have experienced. If you are reading this book for the sake of knowledge and information, you may have learnt a few fascinating things in the form of facts and theories. If you are a being who is familiar with Maharajji but already comfortable with your spiritual path, then you may find this an uplifting read and feel like it deserves a spot in your bookshelf (depending on your perspective). If you're a seasoned devotee of Maharajji you're probably excited about his Lila in the form of this book and either agree or disagree with the perspectives of a fellow devotee while feeling the love nevertheless. However, if you're absolutely new to all of this and are in a place where you're looking for guidance and are drawn by what you've read and seen so far about Maharajji, I dedicate this poem I wrote and this chapter of this book to you:

The Seeker

As a soul in a body, lost in time and space
Here's a little story, about falling into grace
In this journey from the seed, to the bloom of the flower
I wondered what it takes, to see beauty in every hour

Once severed apart, by this cunning mind
My ears were deaf, and my eyes were blind
Though my legs were tired, and my patience peaking
For this truth so sacred, I kept on seeking

For all that it's worth, believe me when I say
I searched the whole of earth, for every night and everyday
I looked in my bookshelves, and every place that I have been
In the words of the masters, and the silent spaces in between

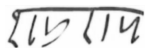
For I heard that there's a way, through which we can see
Life in its wholeness, and it's divinity
This way so they say, Is not a thing to be done
It's a way to just be, and return to the one

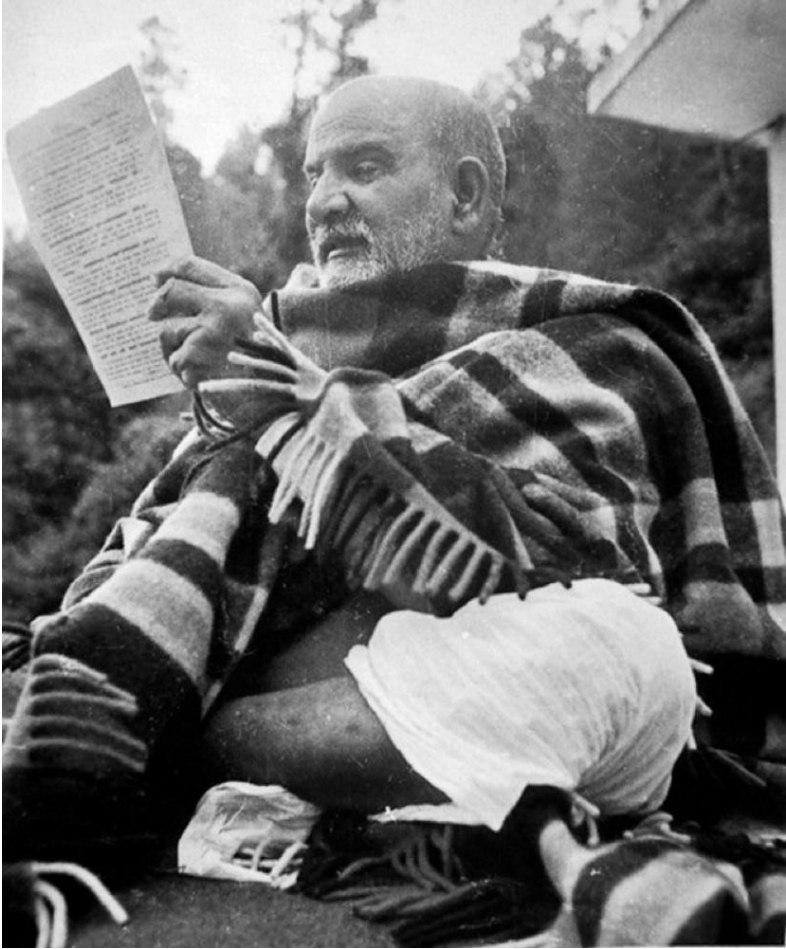
As a humble soul I speak, a few things that I did learn
The answer will unfold itself, as the illusions start to burn
So mysterious it can't be found, through looking of any kind
But the irony of it all, is that only the seeker will find

- Neem Das



Having learnt about Maharajji's selective invisibility, and the fact that he chooses his devotees, I am left with the knowledge that all I can offer you is what I call "A SatGuru Application form" to present to Maharajji. And if your desire is strong, and your calling is pure, he is bound by the law of love to respond by giving you darshan in some form or another and send an Invitation to his Universe. This is my loving 'act of rebellion against Maharajji himself' that I mentioned in the preface of the book. Look being the time traveller that he is, he's reading the application form already!





“THE GURU MUST KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU”

॥ ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥

A few things to consider in this process:

Who's eligible to apply:

- Anyone who is in need of sincere divine guidance and protection
- Anyone looking for unconditional love
- Anyone without a SatGuru, but longing for one
- Anyone looking for healing and a compassionate community to belong to
- Lost, confused, depressed, unhappy, financially insecure and rejected souls who feel like they don't belong anywhere and can't trust anyone
- True seekers who have seen through the workings of organised institutions that promise 'God' and yearn to find something more real and without strings
- Pure hearted adventurers who're looking for something that can challenge their scope of reality
- Beings from the Psychedelic subculture who're looking for a living non-physical master of the multiverse to go on their journeys with, whose existence and sovereignty spans across all known and unknown dimensions and realities.
- Spiritual 'dropouts' who have lost faith and are bored with the same old stuff



Before I move to the actual 'Application Process' (which involves no money or yearly subscription fees whatsoever) I just want to mention that until I came across Maharajji, the whole idea of having a 'Guru' was not only strange but extremely repulsive based on the nature of most the 'Gurus' I saw with their 'enlightenment for cash' schemes and bizarre cult-like behaviour and large social media advertising budgets.

Being a seeker of authenticity and integrity, I'm grateful beyond words to have stumbled upon a true master that is Neem Karoli Baba as my SatGuru, who literally wants nothing from me, let alone money. Maharajji's policy about money are made clear through his following quotes:

“A SAINT NEVER ACCEPTS MONEY”

“MONEY SHOULD BE USED TO HELP OTHERS”



My personal favourite is when someone offered him a large sum of money - Maharajji said:

**“WHY GIVE ME MONEY?
ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD IS MINE,
EVEN THE MONEY IN AMERICA”**



Spiritual Disclaimer:

For those of you who are new, it's only fair that I present a disclaimer before moving on to 'the Application Process' to apply for Maharajji's Darshan. Once an individual gets 'True Darshan' of Maharaj Ji, these are things that are likely to happen in varying degrees.

- You begin to understand that you are co-creating your life with an all-powerful deity who is omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient and knows everything about you.
- Everything that you thought you knew about the universe and its workings may change. The changes may be subtle or abrupt depending on circumstance.
- Your priorities may shift and you may start to experience life completely differently
- Large parts of your day may be spent in 'active conversation' with spirit
- Regardless of where you come from, the syllable 'ram' will become a very significant aspect of your life

- You may start to have direct, telepathic, trans dimensional experiences with the all-powerful and benevolent God Hanuman
- You may start experiencing an increasing amount of spiritual power and a decreasing amount of 'traditional free will' as Maharajji will feel free to come into your experience and co-create with you once you accept him in your heart as your SatGuru.
- Those of you who are 'control freaks' may find 'the Maharajji experience' not only difficult but impossible because a large part of the process involves relinquishing the 'need for control' and replacing it with 'trusting God'.
- Once you let Maharaj Ji in as your SatGuru, there is no going back, only forward
- You may find an urgent need to build an altar and make things holy in your life experience
- You may spend a lot of money on buying incense and flowers
- You will start to see that there a very powerful divine force working in your life and it may appear extremely overwhelming at first
- You may feel like large parts of your old life will wither away and make way for a new unknown but exciting reality
- You may drift apart from certain types of people and your family may not understand what you're experiencing, hence there's bound to be friction initially.
- Your old patterns of self-centeredness may slowly fade away making way for the new service-oriented you that's actually genuinely concerned for the welfare of humanity
- The initial process may be extremely difficult or relatively easy based on your degree of resistance
- You may occasionally feel like leaving everything behind and going on an eternal pilgrimage.
- Your life may be filled with a mysterious new sense of love, purpose and work.



The Application Process:

- Go back to the previous page and make sure you read the disclaimer properly and only proceed if you agree with all of your heart and soul
- Take a pen and empty book or paper and sit down in a quiet, peaceful place

- Make a very clear list of intentions in whichever language you're comfortable with about why you need a SatGuru. Be as truthful as possible to yourself, and write as many things as you want.
- Try to get a picture of Maharaj Ji (either in print, or on a device, or from this book) and become aware that he's listening through the photograph and connect with him either telepathically or verbally and read out your list of intentions.
- If you truly want him to be your SatGuru, ask him to send you a sign. He will send you one if your asking is sincere. The sign could be an intuition, a dream, a coincidence, a random conversation with a stranger, an image of hanuman appearing somewhere or anything that feels that it's a sign.
- The moment you see the sign and understand that he's responding, write out a heartfelt request asking him to guide you through this life experience as your SatGuru. Besides writing, also speak to and think about him.
- Keep clarifying your intentions and continue with the asking until you feel his distinct and unmistakable presence.
- A prayer that helped me connect with him is "Dear Maharajji, bring me into your divine embrace and make me a vehicle of your will, so that our souls can merge and we ascend as one into the heart of the universe".
- Humility is the key to infinite power, if we are humble enough to hold his lotus feet to our foreheads, then he will grant us the power to move mountains with our hearts.



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Adding to the above, I'll make a list of things that I found very helpful:

- Reading the book 'Miracle of Love' in English or 'the divine reality' in Hindi
- Joining Maharajji related Facebook groups and asking questions and connecting with devotees
- Listening to Ram Dass lectures
- Browsing the maharajji.love website
- Reading the many works of literature like Jai Ram Ransom's 'It all abides in love', 'By his Grace' and 'the near and the dear' from Dada Mukherjee, 'I and my father are one' by Rabboo Joshi and many other books.
- Visiting Hanuman Temples
- Listening to the Hanuman Chalisa
- Visiting any of Maharaj Ji's temples or ashrams
- Looking at YouTube videos of his temples and ashrams
- Reading about Hanuman or Ram
- Meditating
- Reading the Ramayana or Sunderkand (a chapter from the Ramayana)



Maharajji said:

“I AM EVERYBODY’S GURU”

So there should be no reason why a sincere request from an eager seeker gets rejected. However, it is also my dharma to list out prospective reasons as to why one may not get a response from Maharajji.

- One may simply not be ready to receive Maharajji yet
- One may already have a destined SatGuru other than Maharajji that one hasn't met yet
- One's intentions may not be clear enough
- Maharajji may be expecting a bit more of a consistent effort
- Psychologically, one may be resisting the idea of having a SatGuru
- One may not have overcome the basic obstacles of spirit such as pride and egotism
- Maharajji may simply decide not to reveal himself for reasons unknown to us



Before I conclude this chapter, I'd like to say that this is not any form of 'guru evangelism' or 'trying to market Maharajji'. Like I said Maharajji chooses his devotees, however even if a single person in the world found this chapter helpful in their lives, I'll be grateful.



How The Hanuman Chalisa changed my life

Before I dive into this chapter, I want to reveal a subtle little miracle that happened just now. I had made a video called 'the life transforming effects of the Hanuman Chalisa' on my YouTube channel a few months ago, as soon as I started typing this chapter, someone commented on that video immediately. This is obviously Maharajji's Lila. One of his many powers is that he can speak through people. I think he wants to show us that he's listening.

Jai Maharajji



On the way back from my life-changing trip to Kainchi Dham, I had to stop in Delhi for a night to catch the flight the next day in Goa. In the taxi going from the hotel to the airport, we passed by a very huge statue of Hanuman, after which the taxi driver started to get friendly and speak about things. Somehow we started to speak about Sri Ram and Hanuman. I was very new to these topics, because after so many years of atheism Maharajji gave me proof of the existence of God, especially Hanuman and Ram as deities. When the conversation got deep, I remember two profound statements that the taxi driver made. Firstly, he said, “even more powerful than Sri Ram is the name of Ram (Raam Naam)”. Secondly, he said, “if you want to know Ram, you need to go through Hanuman and the most important thing you can do to meet Hanuman is learn the Hanuman Chalisa”. I did not quite understand what he meant, but I wrote down “Learn Hanuman Chalisa” in my to do list on the phone.

Now firstly I need to explain to you that even though I have a basic knowledge of Hindi, it was still my third language in school and I struggle with reading and speaking till this day. Hence the need for the translator in this book. However, I came back to Goa and one of the first things that I started to do was learn the Hanuman Chalisa. The ‘Darshan’ that I had at Kainchi was so powerful that it shook the foundations of everything I believed in. Anyway, Hanuman and Maharajji are treated as one in most of the temples. They sing the Hanuman Chalisa to both the Murti of Neem Karoli Baba and the Murti of Hanuman in Kainchi. So I was keen on learning this magnificent prayer, which honestly speaking is quite an arduous task because it contains 40 verses plus intro and outro in the Awadhi language which is far different than the Hindi we speak today.

It took me close to four months of practising every day to learn the Hanuman Chalisa by heart, but frankly I can say it was one of the most important turning points in my life. In my opinion, being able to recite the Hanuman Chalisa by heart is a MahaSiddhi, or a SuperPower. To sing it is even more powerful.

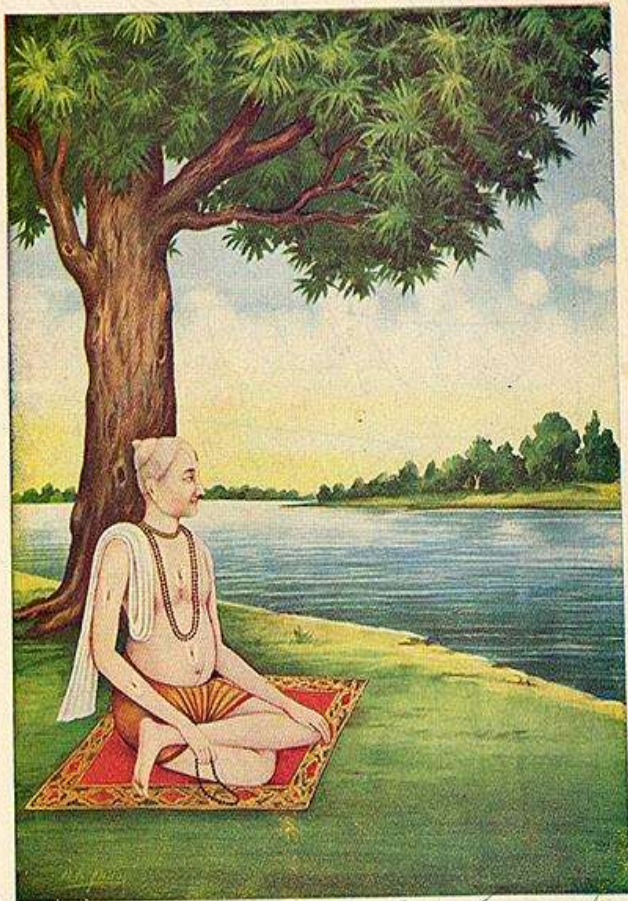


The author of the Hanuman Chalisa, Goswami Tulsidas who wrote the most widely accepted and most beautiful poetic epic 'Shri Ramacharitmanas', was not just an ordinary devotee of Sri Ram and Hanuman, but a reincarnation of Valmiki, the original composer of the Ramanaya. Even though the widely accepted Awadhi version of the Ramayana was written in 1633, legend says that Tulsidas had full Darshan of Sri Ram and Hanuman and several other deities who blessed him with the power to compose the Hanuman Chalisa.

According to many, the Sankat Mochan Hanuman Temple in Varanasi was built where Tulsidas had the sight or Darshan of Hanuman.



Goswami Tulasidas



Handwritten Devanagari text, likely a prayer or dedication, written in blue ink below the painting.

Jai Jai Jai Shri Goswami Tulsidasji
Maharajji handwriting at bottom (picture from JonVasu.com)

Handwritten Devanagari text, likely a prayer or dedication, written in blue ink below the main text.

The Hanuman Chalisa with Translation

COUPLET

Sri Guru Charan Saroj Raj, Nij Mann Mukuru Sudhaari.
Barnaun Raghuvar Bimal Jasu, Jo Daayaku Phal Chaari.

**Having polished the mirror of my heart with the dust of my Guru's
lotus feet, I recite the divine fame of the greatest king of Raghukul
dynasty, which bestows us with the fruit of all the four efforts.**

Buddhiheen Tanu Janike, Sumiraun Pawan-Kumar.
Bal Buddhi Vidya Dehu Mohi, Harahu Kalesh Bikaar.

**Knowing that this mind of mine has less intelligence, I remember the
'Son of Wind' who, granting me strength, wisdom and all kinds of
knowledge, removes all my suffering and shortcomings.**

QUATRAIN

Jai Hanuman Gyan Gunn Sagar. Jai Kapees Tihun Lok Ujaagar.
Ramdoot Atulit Baldhama. Anjani-Putra Pawansut Naama.

**Victory to Lord Hanuman, the ocean of wisdom and virtue. Victory to
the Lord who is supreme among the monkeys, illuminator of the
three worlds.**

**You are Lord Rama's emissary, the abode of matchless power,
Mother Anjani's son and also popular as the 'Son of the Wind'.**

"Mahaveer Vikram Bajrangi. Kumati Nivaar Sumati Ke Sangi.
Kanchan Baran Biraj Subesa. Kaanan Kundal Kunchit Kesa."

**Great hero, You are as mighty as a thunderbolt. You remove evil
intellect and are the companion of those having good ones.
Your skin is golden in color and You are adorned with beautiful
clothes. You have adorning earrings in Your ears and Your hair is
curly and thick.**

Haath Braj Au Dhawaja Biraaje. Kaandhe Moonj Janeu Saaje.

Shankar Suvan Kesarinandan. Tej Prataap Maha Jag Bandan.

In Your hands, shine a mace and a flag of righteousness.

A sacred thread adorns Your right shoulder.

You are the embodiment of Lord Shiva and vanar-raj Kesari's son.

There is no limit or end to Your glory, Your magnificence. The whole Universe worships You.

Vidyavaan Guni Ati Chaatur. Ram Kaaj Karibe Ko Aatur.

Prabhu Charitra Sunibe Ko Rasiya. Ram Lakhan Sita Mann Basiya.

You are the wisest of the wise, virtuous and (morally) clever.

You are always eager to do Lord Rama's works.

You feel extremely delighted in listening to Lord Rama's doings and conduct. Lord Rama, Mother Sita, and Lord Laxmana dwell forever in Your heart.

Sukshma Roop Dhari Siyanhi Dikhawa. Bikat Roop Dhari Lanka Jarawa.

Bheem Roop Dhari Asura Sanghare. Ramchandra Ke Kaaj Sanware.

Taking the subtle form, You appeared in front of Mother Sita. And, taking the formidable form, You burnt the Lanka (Ravana's kingdom).

Taking the massive form (like that of Bheema), You slaughtered the demons. This is how, You completed Lord Rama's tasks, successfully.

Laaye Sanjeevan Lakhana Jiyaaye. Sri Raghuv eer Harashi Urr Laaye.

Raghupati Keenhi Bahut Badai. Tum Mum Priya, Bhartahi Sum Bhai.

Bringing the magic-herb (sanjivani), You revived Lord Laxmana.

Raghupati, Lord Rama praised You greatly and overflowing in gratitude, said that You are a dear brother to Him just as Bharat is.

Sahas Badan Tumharo Jas Gaave. Asa Kahi Sripati Kanth Lagaave.

Sankaadik Brahmadi Munisa. Narad Sarad Sahit Aheesa.

Saying this, Lord Rama drew You to Himself and embraced you.

Sages like Sanaka, Gods like Brahma, sages like Narada and even the thousand-mouthed serpent sing Your fame!

Sanak, Sanandan and the other Rishis and great saints; Brahma - the god, Narada, Saraswati - the Mother Divine and the King of serpents sing Your glory.

Yam Kuber Dignpal Jahan Te. Kabi Kobid Kahi Sake Kahan Te.
Tum Upkaar Sugreevahi Keenha. Ram Milaaye Raj-Pad Deenha.

Yama (the God of Death), Kubera (The God of Wealth) and the guardians of the four quarters; poets and scholars - none can express Your glory.

You helped Sugriva by introducing Him to Lord Rama and regaining his crown. Therefore, You gave Him the Kingship (the dignity of being called a king).

Tumharo Mantra Bibhishan Maana. Lankeshwar Bhaye Sab Jag Jaana.
Yug Sahastra Jojan Par Bhanu. Leelyo Taahi Madhur Phal Jaanu.

Likewise, complying with Your preachings, even Vibhishana became the King of Lanka.

You swallowed the sun, located thousands of miles away, mistaking it to be a sweet, red fruit!

Prabhu Mudrika Meli Mukh Maahi. Jaladhi Laandhi Gaye Achraj Naahi.
Durgam Kaaj Jagat Ke Jete. Sugam Anugrah Tumhare Tete.

Keeping the ring in Your mouth, which was given to You by Lord Rama, you crossed over the Ocean, to no astonishment, whatsoever. All difficult tasks of this world become easy, with Your grace.

Ram Duaare Tum Rakhvare. Hott Na Aagya Binu Paisare.
Sab Sukh Lahe Tumhari Sarna. Tum Rakshak Kahu Ko Dar Na.

You are the guardian at Lord Rama's door. Nobody can move forward without Your permission which means that Lord Rama's darshans (to get the sight of) are possible only with Your blessings. Those who take refuge in You, find all the comforts and happiness. When we have a protector like You, we do not need to get scared of anybody or anything.

Aapan Tej Samharo Aape. Teeno Lok Haank Te Kaampe.
Bhoot Pishaach Nikat Nahi Aavein. Mahaveer Jab Naam Sunaave."

You alone can withstand Your magnificence.

All the three worlds start trembling at one roar of Yours.

O Mahaveer! No ghosts or evil spirits come near the ones who remember Your name. Therefore, just remembering Your name does everything!

Naase Rog Hare Sab Peera. Japat Nirantar Hanumat Beera.

Sankat Te Hanuman Churave. Mann Kram Vachan Dhyaan Jo Laave.

O Hanuman! All diseases and all kinds of pain get eradicated when one recites or chants Your name. Therefore, chanting Your name regularly is considered to be very significant.

Whoever meditates upon or worships You with thought, word, and deed, gets freedom from all kinds of crisis and affliction.

Sab Par Ram Tapasvi Raja. Tin Ke Kaaj Sakal Tum Saaja.

Aur Manorath Jo Koi Laave. Soi Amit Jivan Phal Paave.

Lord Rama is the greatest Ascetic amongst all the Kings.

But, it's only You who carried out all the tasks of Lord Sri Rama.

One who comes to You with any longing or a sincere desire obtains the abundance of the manifested fruit, which remains undying throughout life.

Chaaron Yug Partap Tumhara. Hai Parsidh Jagat Ujjyara.

Saadhu-Sant Ke Tum Rakhvare. Asur Nikandan Ram Dulaare."

Your splendor fills all the Four Ages. And, Your glory is renowned throughout the world.

**You are the guardian of saints and sages;
the destroyer of demons and adored by Lord Rama.**

Ashta Siddhi Nau Nidhi Ke Daata. As Var Deen Janaki Mata.

Ram Rasayan Tumhare Paasa. Sadaa Raho Raghupati Ke Daasa.

You have been blessed by Mother Janaki to give boon further, to the deserving ones, wherein You can grant the siddhis (eight different powers)

and the nidhis (nine different kinds of wealth).

You have the essence of Ram bhakti,

**may you always remain the humble and devoted servant of
Raghupati.**

Tumhare Bhajan Ram Ko Paave. Janam Janam Ke Dukh Bisraave.
Antkaal Raghavar Pur Jaayi. Jahan Janam Hari-Bhakt Kahayi.

**When one sings Your praise, Your name,
He gets to meet Lord Rama and finds relief from the sorrows of
many lifetimes.**

**By your grace, one will go to the immortal abode
of Lord Rama after death and remain devoted to Him.**

Aur Devta Chitta Na Dharai. Hanumat Sei Sarva Sukh Karai.
Sankat Kate, Mite Sab Peera. Jo Sumire Hanumat Balbeera.

**It is not needed to serve any other Deity or God.
Service to Lord Hanuman gives all the comforts.
All troubles cease for the one who remembers the powerful lord,
Lord Hanuman and all his pains also come to an end.**

Jai Jai Jai Hanuman Gosain. Krupa Karahu Gurudev Ki Naai.
Jo Sat Baar Paath Kar Koi. Chutahi Bandhi Maha Sukh Hoyi.

**O Lord Hanuman! Praises and glory to you O mighty Lord,
please bestow your grace as our Supreme Guru.
One who recites this Chalisa a hundred times
is released from all bondages and will attain great bliss.**

Jo Yeh Padhe Hanuman Chalisa, Hoye Siddhi Saakhi Gaurisa.
Tulsidas Sada Hari Chera, Keeje Nath Hriday Mah Dera.

**One who reads and recites this Hanuman Chalisa, all his works get
accomplished.**

Lord Shiva, Himself, is the witness to it.

**O Lord Hanuman, May I always remain a servant, a devotee to Lord
Sri Ram, says Tulsidas. And, May You always reside in my heart.**

COUPLET

Pawan Tanay Sankat Haran, Mangal Murti Roop.
Ram Lakhan Sita Sahit, Hriday Basahu Sur Bhoop.

**O the Son of Wind, You are the destroyer of all sorrows.
You are the embodiment of fortune and prosperity.
With Lord Rama, Laxmana and Mother Sita, dwell in my heart,
always.**

Siya Vara Ramachandra Pada Jaya Sharanam

Hail to the refuge of the feet of Sita's Husband, Ramachandra

Mangala Murati Maruta Nandana
Sakala Amangala Mula Nikandana

**Son of the Wind, Embodiment of Blessing and Joy
You destroy the root of all that is inauspicious**

**“PEOPLE DON'T KNOW - EVERY LINE OF THE
HANUMAN CHALISA IS A MAHAMANTRA”**

- Neem Karoli Baba Maharaj

So from the above meaning of the translation of the Hanuman Chalisa, it appears as if this prayer is a very religious praise of a mythical creature known as Lord Hanuman. Until last year I was sure that all of Hinduism was just stories, and the idea of a monkey God who can expand and shrink in size and having all of these powers just seemed ridiculous. But now I can say with all my conviction and zero doubt that Hanuman is 100% real, and 100% present right now on the earth plane. These forty verses may appear on the outside as a 'praise' for Hanuman, but what it really is, is an 'Invocation' where we invite the deity in spirit to the present time and space.

Maharajji's incarnation on the earth plane as the Avatar of this age feels like it was almost to prove to the world that Hanuman is Real, he practically exhibited all the powers of Lord Hanuman in a human body.

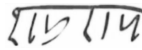


Before I move into the science of the Hanuman Chalisa, I want to speak about my experiences with it. Coming back to the Hanuman Chalisa and how it changed my life, I'd like to talk about the state that I was in, in my life. After separating from the love of my life, I had turned to alcohol. I could

say that I have exhibited addictive behaviour with alcohol and substances all my life, but in this period of my life I almost drank one full bottle of whiskey every day. Even during the early days of me practising the Chalisa, I would wake up and do Pooja and try to read the Chalisa once or twice and then by afternoon I'd start drinking as my body had become accustomed to it and my mind and heart was still in pain.

Slowly, however, with each recitation of the Hanuman Chalisa I started getting a sense of freshness in my body and mind, and would delay the time that I started drinking, some days I didn't drink. Something magical started happening with the Hanuman Chalisa, I couldn't quite understand what it was. Especially because I used to recite them to photographs of Maharajji and a Murti (Idol) of Hanuman. It was almost as if I was communicating with them.

The four months that I spent practising the Hanuman Chalisa was one of the most interesting times of my life. I felt like I had found a 'magical key' of some kind which enables me to access the realm of the Gods. Also, the most fascinating thing was that slowly small parts of my negative characteristics were being chipped away and I didn't even notice. By the time I fully memorised the Chalisa, I was a completely different person.



Here is a list of things that started changing while I was learning the Chalisa:

- My heart started opening more
- I felt like I wasn't alone in my body anymore, some beautiful new spiritual energy started filling me up
- My need for alcohol or substances slowly reduced
- I started to become kinder and more understanding of people
- I felt like I started to develop a strong 'common sense' which I didn't have before

I heard from a devotee of Maharajji that chanting the Hanuman Chalisa 7 times a day was recommended by him and since then I started reciting it at least 7 times a day, this is a practise that I follow till this day. However, on some days I felt like chanting 21 times, and I've gone up to almost 60 times a day, but I maintain a minimum of 7 a day. Here are the miraculous things that continue to happen till this day:



Defeating 'Addiction and Alcoholism'

In my difficult past, I have been in and out of rehabs many times. The common belief in these centres is that addiction or alcoholism is an incurable disease that one is born with and that the only way out is to recognise that it's an incurable disease and completely abstain from all substances and join the 12 step program and spend the rest of your life with people from this program. They believe if an alcoholic has one drink, then the disease will fully 'relapse' and that the addict or alcoholic will drink himself to death.

The Hanuman Chalisa proved this to be absolutely false in my experience and that there's no such thing as 'the disease of addiction', even if there was one then through the constant recitation of this great prayer, it gets cured one recitation at a time. The 'emptiness' that I felt as a Human Being was the cause of this tendency to be an alcoholic. The Chalisa filled up this emptiness with what I can only refer to as 'God's Love' and then I didn't need the drink or the drugs to fill up my void. However, after a few months of continuously reciting between 7 to 21 Hanuman Chalisas every day, it almost became like a source of power for me. And sometimes I would meet a friend or go to a bar, have one drink or maximum two and have the 'common sense' to stop there and then go back to my house to sleep, and wake up without a hangover. However, if you're reading this and you're part of a 12 step program please don't pick up the drink or drug. Life is much better without it. As I'm typing this, I'm very comfortable without the alcohol. In fact, I feel like the Hanuman Chalisa in itself is a powerful medicinal substance that can heal the wounds of the mind, body and heart. I'm simply not an alcoholic anymore.

Intellectual Enhancement

I don't know how exactly these things work, but it transcends the western science that we know and understand and brings into the physical world an element of divinity. Perhaps, the science of 'mantra' is such that the

poet embeds these verses with some metaphysical, magical quality, or perhaps it's Hanuman himself who comes to us during these recitations and is the source of these miracles.

Before and after every sitting to recite the Chalisa, one of the great feelings that I get is that of an 'Increase of Intelligence'. It's almost like I feel sharper mentally, and can do mathematical and cognitive tasks more clearly, and the logical brain feels like it can function better.

Neurogenesis

The word neuro means 'Nerve' and genesis means 'Creation'. If I had the resources to conduct a scientific study with lab equipment and measure the number of brain cells before and after this practice, I'm sure that there would be an increase in the number of brain cells. However, as of now I can only share with you my experience. Through many years of substance abuse, alcoholism and depression, I had lost a lot of my brain cells, and with the loss of these brain cells comes the inability to be happy without some form of external stimulation. As I grew with my Chalisa practise, I could feel the extraordinary magnitude of this neurogenesis, even today, it's my main source of power. It always works, each time, every time.

Creativity and Heart Intelligence:

Besides being good for the mind, the Hanuman Chalisa also plays an extraordinary role in my creative journey as an artist. For one, the most mystical thing that happened is that my singing voice started sounding so beautiful after no singing practice, people started asking me what was going on and why my voice started getting better and better, they thought I was practising singing. It was quite the opposite. I'd lost touch with my instrument and voice, but after the Chalisa recitation (which I mostly did in the form of fast speech) my singing voice got better as well. Also, I feel like the Chalisa has a specific power to unlock what I feel can be called 'the intelligence of the heart'. It's a very powerful intuitive and loving energy field where the one gets the wisdom to connect the heart and the mind. In fact, before every sitting to write this book I recite the Chalisa 7 times, it removes or helps with 'writer's block'.

Although the list can go on and on to include subtler things like increases in synchronicities and an unnatural sensation of inner peace and

wellbeing, I'd like to conclude by saying that the Hanuman Chalisa by itself is a living breathing, intelligent metaphysical organism that is a super powerful tool with benefits far exceeding the rational mind. I have friends who have been doing this practise for close to 50 years now and they say that things only get better and better with it. It's almost as if we invite the deity Hanuman into our cells and mind and heart.

Just to mention again, THERE IS ACCOUNT OF HANUMAN'S DEATH IN ANY OF THE HINDU SCRIPTURES and I personally believe that he is here with us, with Maharajji, looking after the welfare of the earth and eagerly waiting to alleviate suffering and come to aid of those in need. Many argue that Hanuman is probably the most powerful deity in Hinduism.

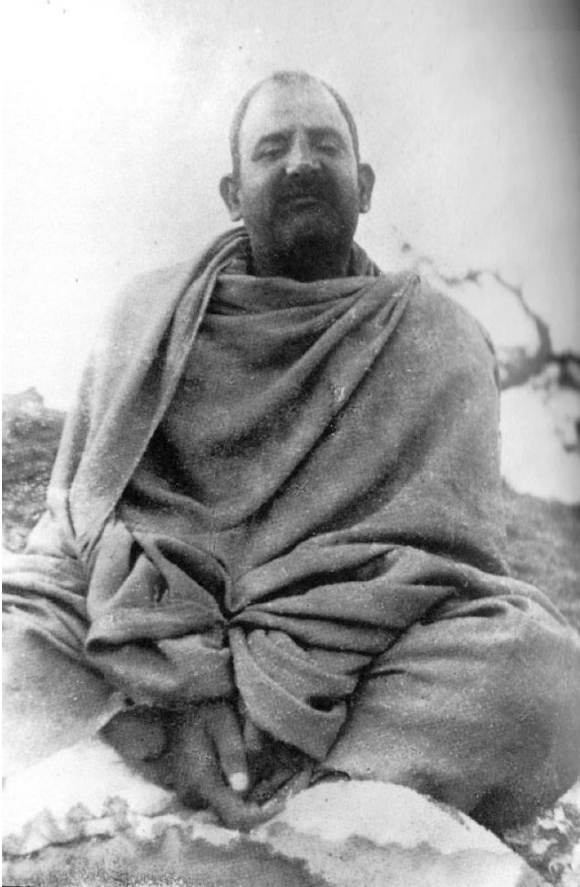


The Different ways to recite the Hanuman Chalisa:

- Reading it out: This is how I started, simply reading out the Chalisa out from the booklet or our phones is one of the best ways to start and extremely effective.
- Rapping it (fast chanting): This is what one can do once one memorises this prayer and it's an exhilarating, exciting and extremely powerful way of getting in more 'quantity' of chalisas. This type of recitation is mostly beneficial to the mind and increases 'dhyana' or capacity to focus.
- Singing without instrument: This is a very beautiful practise to open the heart and also listen to the unique melody that comes alive each time one sings. It's almost as if Hanuman himself chooses what melody comes out.
- Singing with an instrument: This is the most beautiful and probably most harmonious way of reaching out to the divine, it's a perfect combination of heart, mind, soul and harmony. The 'quantity' aspect reduces while the 'quality' aspect increases.
- Singing in a group: This is an amazing practise because the many become one and the entire group radiates with the glow of devotion.
- Online group chanting: There are many Facebook groups which have information regarding zoom meetings and online chanting, this is great for people who can't find others in their vicinity.

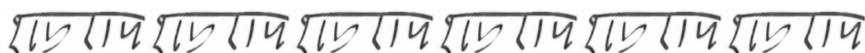
- English Chalisa: One of my friends Jon Vasu, who's a longtime devotee of Maharajji and friend of Ram Dass has a beautiful English version of the Hanuman Chalisa which rhymes... Visit JonVasu.com
- Singling out verses: Each verse can be singled out and repeated as a mantra and possesses specific qualities. This is great to focus on segments.

॥१५॥



-Maharajji / Neeb Karori Baba / Lakshman Das / LakshmiNarayan
Sharma

“Keep me in your heart”



The Keys to Surrender

When it comes to surrender and accepting Maharajji into my heart as my SatGuru, It took me a few years of ignoring the dream darshans, declining his subtle invitations and trying to hold on to my ego to run my life and failing miserably, to finally say - “ok Maharajji, I accept you”. That statement “Ok Maharajji, I accept you” looks so small in print and feels like it's no big deal, but in truth, it was the conscious act of me handing over the driver's seat and the metaphorical car keys to him in this life experience. Now that sounds scary as hell. Most people, myself included, won't give away those keys so easily. They represent our psychological, pathological hereditary need for control. We all have it, and we feel like we NEED it. The thought of “surrendering” to something beyond ourselves, or someone beyond ourselves is just scary.

Those metaphysical keys are what Jesus held on to on the cross when he said, “father why have you forsaken me?”. That's an extreme example. But the moment he said “thy will be done” he gave the keys away and his father God was in charge now. What we probably don't understand is that suffering is one of the greatest catalysts to surrender. It is harder for intellectuals to acknowledge, let alone surrender to a Deity to a force greater than themselves, unless life puts us on our knees. Anyway being an intellectual myself, I put maharajji through a sequence of tests including “the acid test”, the “are you for real” test and the “what's in it for you to test”. He passed all of them with flying colours, did I mention the “what's in it for me” Test? Although, blessed is he or she who can surrender without suffering or testing God.

You see the mathematical equation goes like this, many people feel they will lose their power or their feeling of being in control of their life

experience if they surrender, but the fact is that they gain more power than they can possibly imagine. They probably do lose a large portion of control, which is absolutely unnecessary if you ask me. Let me explain why, in this context, Maharajji is an Avatar of the divine infinite. He is omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient and unfathomably benevolent. He reminds me of that song “what if God was one of us” where there is an added emphasis on “God is Good, and God is Great”. Now, the thing about “the Good God” is that he knows what's best for you. It will probably make more sense if I speak about this in the first person.

Maharajji knows what's best for me. Somehow he does. Not only for me, but also for my family and my role on the planet as a whole. I suppose that's part of being an all knowing deity.

Let me give you a real life life experience of mine where he proved his “omniscience” or “all knowing-ness” in a way that it shattered my scepticism beyond repair. It was in the month of October 2020. I had started having powerful experiences with Maharajji through the book, “Miracle of Love”. But I wasn't sure of what to make of any of these. I was in the beginning phases of my communication with maharajji. I hadn't met any fellow devotees yet who could truly give me any rational explanation of what was going on, it was just me the book and a guessing game. To make things worse I had a terribly broken heart and an alcohol problem. Anyway, in the morning I woke up to a friend of mine from Austria who left me several voice notes on my Facebook messenger. She and I hadn't spoken in a long time, but she said that she had a very vivid dream of me playing a DJ set in a house that she owned with a huge and luscious swimming pool and very post outlook. In her dream, she described that it was a lively gathering that I was playing for. However, an annoyed old man came and entered the party and asked her to “ask the DJ to turn down the volume”. She didn't quite know how to respond as she said that the old man seemed to have spoken in a very authoritative and stern voice, but what she did do is start walking towards me to convey the message and somewhere along the lines she woke up and decided to leave me those voice notes immediately. I listened to what she had to say but hardly paid attention cause, you know, it was just a dream. We spent the next hour or so chatting about general things and catching up. However, two or three weeks passed and I totally forgot about this with my broken-hearted alcoholic stupor. The third week of November, I discovered that I really like mixing conscious Hip/Hop music as a DJ and had the intention of playing a set. And then through a sequence of events, I met a fellow DJ who invited me to organise a party in a resort. So we did, so on the 17th of November 2020, we organised a party in a resort with a swimming

pool. I'd never heard of the place or known of its existence until a few days before we booked it. It was a lovely place, I did a small 'universal peace' Pooja at 5.55 pm with Maharajji and Hanuman in it along with A picture of Jesus and Gandhi to inaugurate this. By then I'd already kind of surrendered to Maharajji as my Guru. The event was barely a success as there were very few people, but I still took a lot of photographs just because I got a new camera and the venue was beautiful. My Austrian friend looks at the uploads in my Facebook feed and sends me a very shocking message the next day –

IT WAS THE SAME PLACE SHE SAW IN HER DREAM FEW
WEEKS AGO
THE OLD ANNOYED NEIGHBOUR WAS NEEM KAROLI
BABA MAHARAJ



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So a few questions remain. How was that possible? Who decided the venue? Why was he in my friend's dream weeks earlier? What science can possibly explain this? What do I do about my understanding of the universe now? What exactly is the past or the present or future and who's in charge of what? I was stupefied.

You have to understand that at this point my previous teacher was Abraham-Hicks and according to them we create our own reality and nothing outside ourselves can create for us. Maharajji just broke that theory into pieces. The whole situation was just him trying to make a point, that he's the boss and it's not going to be that easy for me to just put him in a box and analyse his capabilities through my narrow scope of reality apparently. With all of my psychedelic intellectual history, and studies on higher subjects and experiments with plant medicines, I was dumbfounded like a child at a magic show. Utterly Astonished.

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“96 million Neem Karoli Babas”

Maharajji says:

“WHATEVER MAY BE A GURU, HE MAY BE A LUNATIC OR A COMMON PERSON, ONCE YOU ACCEPT HIM, HE IS THE LORD OF LORDS.”

The first statement shows his general sense of concern for all life on the planet, in the second statement I feel that Maharajji is giving us a clue. I think it's more than a clue, it's a message. The intricacies of how he picks his devotees are known to him and him alone, but the last part where he says “once you accept him, he is the lord of lords” is basically an indirect way of saying, “ONCE YOU ACCEPT ME, I AM THE LORD OF LORDS”.

This has been very true in my experience, and although his innate humility and constant attempts to hide his divine nature was a recurring theme throughout his life, now that he's free of his body it stands more true than ever. For me personally, he is the only Supreme Godforce that I have total faith in and access to, you see cause I need proof. He's the only 'PROOF OF GOD' that I have. You'd think by now I'd have let go of my scepticism, but Nah I still hold on to it, but not so tightly. That's one of the dynamics of our dance together as Guru and Devotee, although I must tell you, it's really hard being a sceptic around Neem Karoli Baba.

Anyway, going into the statement “ONCE YOU ACCEPT HIM, HE IS THE LORD OF THE LORDS” Maharajji's understanding, and knowledge of my life is just unbelievable. From his non-physical perspective, he knows everything about me. Not just about me, but about my family and all the beings in my circle. Not only does he know me, but the staggering fact of the matter is that he's looking after me, guiding me and is ever-present in my experience.

Now what I'm trying to say is that if you see the way he's treated in northern India, there are millions of devotees of his. Not just that, there's also the American Ram Dass connection and millions of international devotees of his who each have an altar and his pictures and Hanuman and a relationship with him.

On Guru Poornima in July in Kainchi, hundreds of thousands of people come to have 'Darshan' of him Siddhi Ma's in Kainchi Ashram, several thousand more across all his ashrams and temples across the planet. Yet, I feel like he is mine and mine alone. It's a mysterious phenomenon, yet a very real one.

Maharajji is one of the many wonders of the universe, and since I believe he is the Avatar of our age, one of the many powers he possesses is that of cloning himself spiritually. What do I mean by that? Let's dig deeper, if there are 96 million devotees of Maharajji, then there are 96 million Maharajjis. Especially now that he's left his physical form which he ridiculed as "Central Jail" on his last day in Kainchi before heading to Vrindavan and leaving his body. That's right, for each devotee of Neem Karoli Baba, there is a personal, aware, ever present, watchful guardian Maharajji who's listening to everything you're saying, calculating what's best for you, drawing a shield of protection, and performing his world famous Lilas.

How much of his universe is available to you, of course, is how much of him you allow. This is a continuing almost dramatic lifelong dance though what Ram Dass calls the "seasons of our lives" there is also a mysterious thing about spirit, which is Bhakti or devotion. Quintessentially God is aware, luminous yet invisible intelligent light, you can fill up every molecule of your body with this light through devotion. That in turn, brings the godforce upon yourself. You become Maharajji. I

To draw a conclusion to this chapter, I would like to say that Maharajji is PERSONALLY available to you right now. He isn't Ram Dass's Maharajji or Kainchi Dham's Maharajji, He is YOUR MAHARAJJI EXCLUSIVELY.

If you have let him into your heart as your SatGuru, he will guide your moment by moment through the winds of samsara teaching you how to deal gracefully with your individual karmas, allowing you to make mistakes, just so that you would learn from them. Like a father teaching a child how to ride bicycles without the training wheels.

"Guru Brahma Guru Vishnu Guru Devo Maheshwaraha
Guru Sakshat ParamBrahma Tasmai Shri Gurave Namaha"

AVATAR *Neem Karoli Baba For The New Age*

“I bow to you revered guru, you are Brahma the creator,
Vishnu the Preserver and Shiva the Destroyer,
You are directly the Limitless Brahman - the Supreme Godhead of the
Universe”



Maharajji is Alive

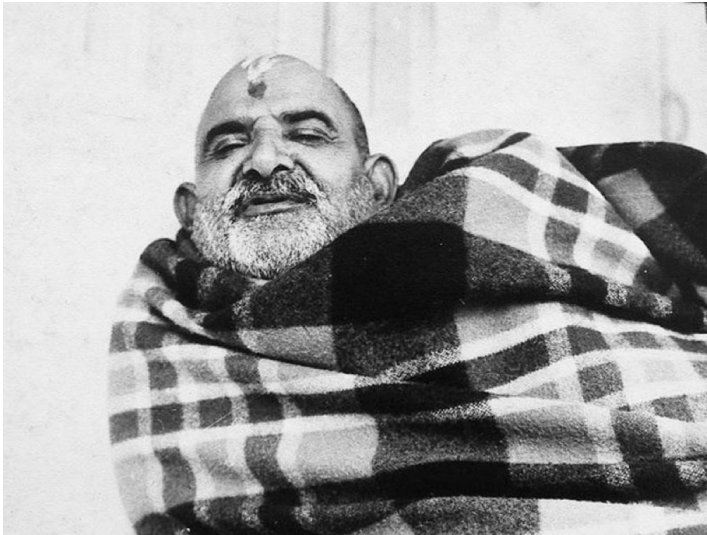
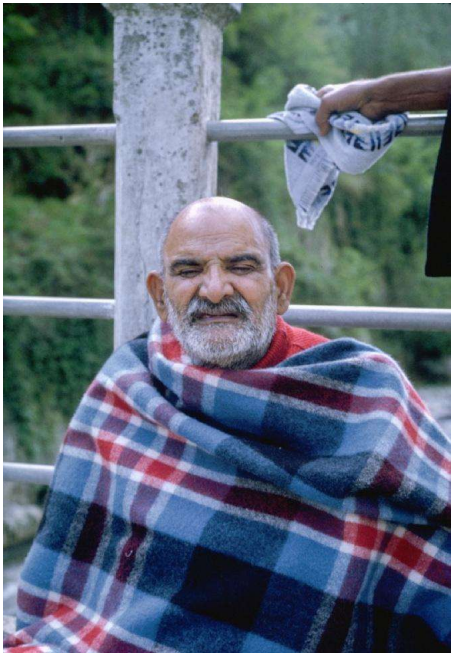
Let me try to explain to you the shocking reality of what happens to an ordinary human being like me, who spent a majority of this life being a very firm Atheist, who considered LSD the only God that ever was, and spent thousands of hours in this expanded state intellectualising the complexities of the universe, when he meets a living breathing Deity with a presence, personality and the powers of all the Gods that were described in mythology.

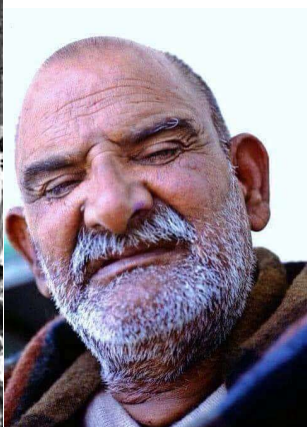
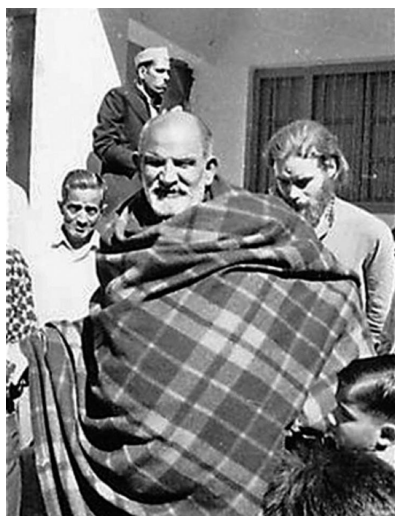
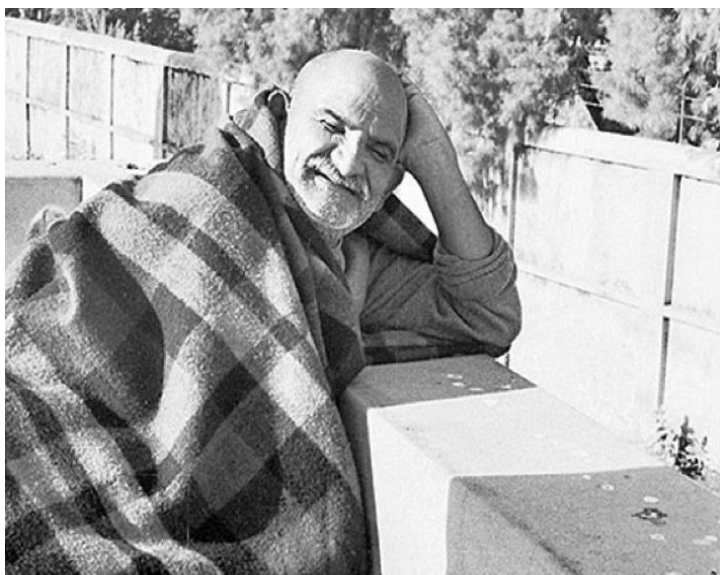
To a lot of people who don't know Maharajji, he is a dead old man in a blanket, to me he is a shapeshifting, all knowing, all pervading, benevolent yet all powerful living being, who exists beyond space and time, and only chooses to hold on to his Neem Karoli Baba personality for the benefit of the devotees, even though he's pure spirit and can literally be anyone or anything he chooses to be.

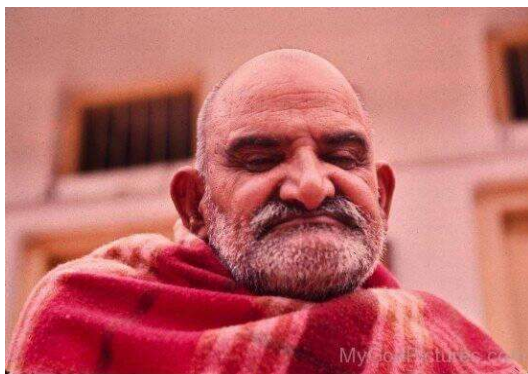
Let me explain what that means. Maharajji's physical form was only the tip of an infinite iceberg. Who he truly is, a common element of presence across all levels of God. To describe the indescribable, I'd like to use the word "the holy spirit" to convey what he feels like now. He has mastery over all the elements and planes. He understands air, water, fire, earth and heart also known the physical plane, he has total control and mastery of the "Dream plane" that's beyond our capacity and understanding rationally. No one has yet to come up with an explanation of what dreams actually are, even then he uses this realm to travel and commute with existence to and his devotees.

I feel like he lives now in his Murti's, Photographs (printed memory) and the hearts and intuition of his devotees.

The Photographs are Alive!!!!

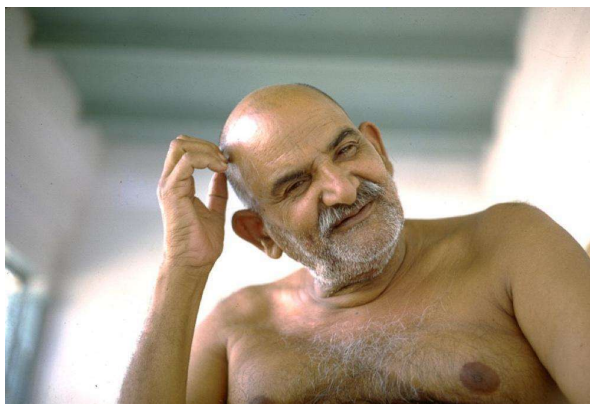






The images. What do you think you're seeing here? Is a printed set of pixels that form the pattern that resembled the man who once lived as Neem Karoli Baba? Is it just paper? Is it just pages from a book?.....?

Look closer.

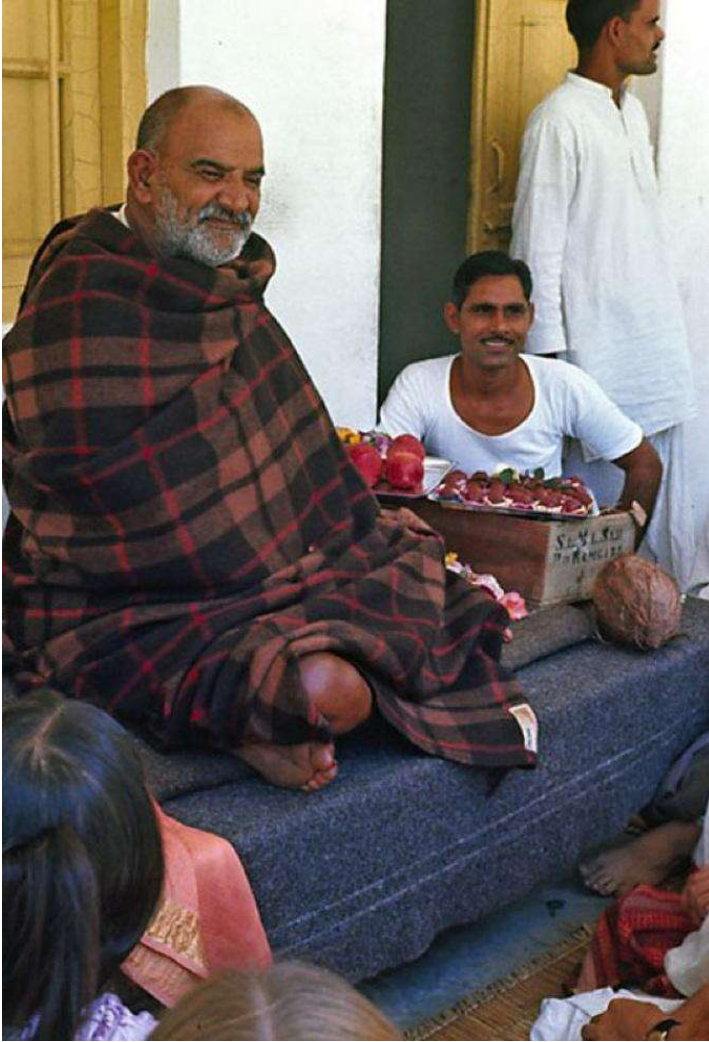


ITS MAHARAJJI. The Real One. Congratulations. You Own a Neem Karoli Baba

To be in communication with a living deity who is as real as the Sun can get quite tricky. A lot of our friends may not understand us. Our parents might think we're going insane. Our communities are not ready to hear of such things. Hence Maharajji gifted the world Facebook. Where we can get into "Satsang" with each other no matter how far apart.

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The Gift of the Blessing (Ashirwad)



We discussed earlier in the “birth of an Avatar” chapter that Maharajji was born on the year that the Kaliyuga (Material Age) makes way to the Dwapara Yuga (the energy age) according to Shri Yukteshwar Giri’s short count system of Yugas. The Dwapara Yuga according to the book ‘The Yugas’ is about energy and the information and technology. This makes perfect sense if you take into consideration that Einstein’s theory of relativity

came into being in 1905. Suddenly everyone knew that all matter was energy. The Hindus have known this and based several sacred texts on this all along.

So - The Material world is basically just condensed energy. Maharajji is aware, infinite all-encompassing spirit, which means that he is extremely intelligent energy itself that was presented in a human body for a short period of time. In traditional terms, there is a science behind why the Hindus touch the feet of their elders or revered ones. The energy of the cosmos flows from our spinal cord through a channel known as the 'sushumna' and the energy flows from the head bottom to the feet and into the earth and vice versa. For ascended masters such as Maharajji, Mahavatar Babaji and several others, their feet become a fountain of a divine energy that is readily available for he or she who has the humility to touch them and receive it. When they leave their physical bodies, the frequency of humility in itself is enough to receive that energy. These beings can feel our intentions as clearly as they can see our actions.



Jai Maharajji

Considering that Maharajji is a deity that can bend the laws of this material universe at will and has complete mastery over all aspects of the spiritual realm, his feet contain enormous spiritual energy. Even pictures of a saint's lotus feet transmit that radiance. There was a story in "the Miracle of Love" of Maharajji himself falling at the feet of an actor playing the role

of Sri Ram in a theatrical rendition of the Ramayana. This thickens the relationship between Maharajji and Sri Hanuman who's eagerly serving at the lotus feet of Sri Ram. Furthermore, the palms of Sri Ram are blessing the head of Hanuman. The Significance of this completes the 'cycle of Ashirwad or the 'circle of the blessing'.



So it could also be said that an Ashirwad is basically a stream of loving intentional energy that runs through the recipient of it and all that he or she does.

Maharajji and Steve Jobs:

When Steve Jobs came to Kainchi Dham, Maharajji sensed his intention to be pure and gave him the Gift of his Blessing. Legend says before Maharajji left his body he left an Apple for Steve with a bite taken out of it (local legend I heard from Kainchi). This is known as a 'Mahaprasad' or 'Grand Consecrated Food' which Steve used as a sign to make the logo of his company and was the core of the whole essence of the matter. You see, as an eternally grateful recipient of Maharajji's Ashirwad myself, I can say this much about it - there's no force on the planet that can oppose his benevolent will. If Neem Karoli Baba intended that Steve build a company that will empower the masses and give them connectivity and make the world a better place, neither the governments of the world nor the military force of any country can oppose it. Rumour says that opposing companies were threatened by the idea of the common population having personal computing because they would be harder to control and information would be more available to the masses hence empowering them, so they opposed the whole idea of "personal computing". Obviously Steve needed divine assistance to overcome these mammoth corporations with so much earthly power, thankfully for Steve he had Maharajji. Very simply Maharajji's God - a Deity. My mind is tempted to dull it down to call it other things so that people from different walks of life can understand but, truth be told HE'S GOD. That's what the concept of 'Avatar' really points to. A descending of infinite Godforce into a finite body only to return to the infinite and stay there ever present and watchful of the well-being of the earth. Steve faced many challenges in life and, and was accused of many things, but in my perspective - He did his job and he did it well. You can feel how Hanuman / Maharajji was working with Steve throughout the Journey of Apple. Maharajji has said:

“YOU CAN LEAVE ME, BUT I WON'T LEAVE YOU
ONCE I CATCH HOLD OF YOU, I DON'T LET GO”

As a result of this, the world as we know it forever changed. The Individual is forever empowered. These ‘smartphones’ that we all carry are just miniature ‘personal computers’ and if Maharajji’s blessing along with Steve’s conviction and hard work didn’t overpower those who opposed the idea, the world would have been a different place! This works perfectly in conjunction with the fact that we are in the Dwapara / Energy yuga and that Maharajji was born on earth to Inaugurate.

Whether it’s Steve Jobs, or Me or any of the millions of devotees of Maharajji in the world, it applies the same. Once, one receives Maharajji’s Aashirwaad, he’s forever with us. Whether we choose to follow the path of devotion or not. In a way, you could say that all Apple products are a manifestation of Maharajji’s blessing. You can feel the efficiency and perfection of their products. One of the side effects of receiving the blessing from him is enormous amounts of work. This of course is a massive blessing since our time here on this planet is limited and there is much to do. In the beginning of the founding of Apple, before the first macintosh was released, Apple employees were seen wearing T-shirts that said, “working 90 hours a day and loving it”. Obviously Maharajji’s blessing was working through him. Just in case you’re wondering, I’m not a paid ad for Apple, just a connoisseur for fine technology and Maharajji. Ha. It is said that Steve helped the American Satsang of Maharajji with green energy at times.

Maharajji and Facebook:

Mark Zuckerberg’s mentor was Steve Jobs. Also, being an enthusiast of LSD, Steve had spent a lot more time in India and had envisioned the Apple company in terms of energy and utility and how it can help make the world a better place. He came to Kainchi Dham, and Maharajji tested his intention and he got the blessing. Obviously, he understood the importance of this temple in the grand scheme of things. When Zuckerberg was stuck in the beginning of the entrepreneurial journey of Facebook, he asked Steve for guidance. Instead of giving him books to read or a seminar he simply sent him to Kainchi, that is he sent him to Maharajji’s Vortex. Although Mark Zuckerberg was a lot more immature and perhaps lacking in higher virtues, Maharajji simply understood that Facebook would be an invaluable tool for the expansion and convenience of his Satsang, and of course the rest of

humanity happened to reap the benefits of it. Zuckerberg returned, Facebook is an extension of Maharajji's will and now billions of people on the planet can stay in touch with their loved ones and the world is changed forever. Oh, and I mention that Facebook live is a great place for devotees of Maharajji to broadcast Aartis (invocations of deities through light) and Kirtans (devotional songs) and memes and pictures of his. Oh. Maharajji. You divine trickster. There are tens of Maharajji Facebook groups, the biggest one has 150,000 members in them not to mention Ram Dass groups, Hanuman groups, live 'Aartis' from almost every temple. How convenient.

Maharajji and you the reader:

Maharajji is the master of Unconditional Love. This is one of my experiments with free will that I discovered I might as well try out. As I'm typing these words, I'm sitting in my dad's house, in my little room and the iPad is on my altar with idols of Deities that I love and a postcard sized picture of Neem Karoli Baba mounted on top of a gorgeous 5 faced or "Panchamukhi" Hanuman looking his best along with a tiny picture of Sri Siddhi Ma. On behalf of the universe and all that's good for me and Maharajji and Siddhi Ma and all the deities that are here wish to gift to you the reader a massive light wave of Ashirwad through Maharajji's Palms:



May the light of the Universe and the unconditional love of Neem Karoli Baba Maharaj shine on you and your loved ones forever and ever through this life experience and beyond.



Now some of you may wonder, what do I do with this blessing? Can I really receive it with no strings attached? The answer to the first question is the blessing of a great saint is like taking a dip in thy holy waters of the Ganges and can bring divine favour or great luck or a general wave of wellbeing and good health to you and your loved ones. To answer the second question, there are absolutely no strings attached. The love of God is unconditional, it doesn't matter who you are, what religion you belong to, what you do, what your past karma is or what deeds you have done in the past.

The real miracle of Maharaj-ji is his superhuman capacity for unconditional love and his unwavering interest in human welfare. Why does he choose to stay here and help us and guide us humans? If I ponder upon this long enough, my eyes will start to fill up tears. How can I a mere human understand the intentions and the working of a Deity? A lot of the 'Why's of Neem Karoli Baba can only be understood in the depths of one's own heart. No mind however old or wise can fathom the reasons behind these great saints their intentions. Only the heart can know.



Addiction and Devotion

This is a topic that I intend to create a whole graphic novel form in the future but for now I want to talk about what makes an addict or an alcoholic a perfect devotee. Although I've mentioned this in the Hanuman Chalisa chapter, Let's dig into the roots of what addiction actually is. The 12 step program calls it disease. They say either you're genetically an addict or you're not. As much as I respect the 12 steps and all the people they've helped in the world, I'd like to sincerely disagree with this philosophy.

Through my eyes, every human being on the planet is "addicted" to something or the other. I don't believe it's a disease like smallpox or typhoid. I believe it's part and parcel of the human condition and labelling it as a disease not only is useless but could also be detrimental to the healing of the individual. However, this is just my perspective.

Having been in and out of rehab and having faced the psychological torment that goes with being labelled as someone with "an incurable disease" who needs to hang out with more people who talk about and give energy to that didn't work for me - it only made things worse. I would "relapse" again and again mostly because of the amount of guilt that I would feel because of having been labelled as all of those things and the constant stress involved with this program and the fear of being thrown into rehab. However, what did work for me is Bhakti. Let me say that in a way that less diplomatic and more Matter-of-Fact.

MAHARAJ-JI FIXED MY ADDICTION AND ALCOHOLISM

Now that I've dropped a statement like that, I have to say that he didn't 'magically remove all my cravings and longings and made me holy' no that's not what happened. Maharajji has a peculiar way of teaching, and I find this the most powerful of methods. He is a very intelligent father, who understands the psychology of us humans more than anyone else that I've come across. He won't just say 'stop drinking' or 'stop smoking' the way our human parents would if they saw us spiralling out of control. He lays out a series of experiences through his Lila that will bring awareness to the devotee on his own accord.

With me and alcoholism for example, even after I returned from Kainchi Dham I was heartbroken and quite a heavy drinker. I spent a lot of money buying expensive alcohol and overeating fatty foods with it. This used to be a pattern. And also I started smoking cigarettes with it. He didn't give me any strong intuitive signs that I should stop drinking. I felt like, as a spirit he supported my drinking and I would keep my bottle of alcohol on the altar overnight as I didn't want to hide anything or feel guilty for where I am in my life experience. Sometimes I'd pour two shots of Whiskey one for me and one for him in my drunken joy and say cheers to him and drink the whiskey. I felt like he was drinking with me in spirit. Slowly what started happening was that in order to maintain my discipline with Bhakti in terms of sweeping the Pooja table, buying flowers, learning how to recite the Hanuman Chalisa and generally not wake up with a hangover, I started developing a sense of responsibility about my own life. The same individual who was once labelled a hopeless drug addict and alcoholic started gaining a sense of awareness, at least for the first half of the day. The Hanuman Chalisa was quintessentially important in this process, I'll talk about that in the next chapter. But this whole ritual of having an altar and keeping it clean and having a sacred presence in my life started becoming more fulfilling than the "high" I got from these substances. In essence, what I'm trying to say is that unintentionally I slowly replaced these habits with Bhakti or devotion.

By the time I left Goa (where I live mostly), I was absolutely sure that I couldn't be called an 'addict' anymore. It just wasn't true. I would have one or two drinks once in a few days enjoy them and go home to sleep, I'd wake up without a hangover and start talking to pictures of Maharajji and Ma and start my daily Chalisa routine. On the last day before I left Goa for Bangalore, Maharajji tested me. A friend of mine who I hadn't seen in a long time was leaving town and he wanted to "gift" me an extremely large amount of 'ketamine' as he was leaving and didn't want to carry it on the flight. At first, I was tempted. It was one of my favourite substances and a year ago I would thank the heavens for this and take it all. Instead this time, I took a tiny bit in front of Maharajji's picture, laughed uncontrollably by the vividness of this Lila and returned the whole thing to my friend. My friend was shocked. Maharajji was proud of himself, and me a little bit.

I also quit smoking cigarettes quite effortlessly. All I had to do was put his face on the quit now app and stay indoors till the withdrawals passed. As of now, I'm asking him to help me with my addiction to food. All my past favourite substances like ketamine, cocaine, alcohol, nicotine I know that I

will never ever abuse again. I'd rather chant the Hanuman Chalisa or drink juice. It's over. I'm not an addict anymore.

All of us, no matter who we are or what we're addicted to, are looking for that pure and ecstatic love of God. Unless one feels this love personally, there is no way to explain or describe what it is. In the absence of this, we find alcohol, or drugs or even toxic co-dependent relationships to fill up this hole or emptiness inside. I've lived two decades like this, so trust me I know this feeling well. So in the absence of contact with non-physical loving source energy which can be called God, or in my universe, Guru Bhakti, the frequency of devotion changes form into addiction.

They're two sides of the same coin. Addiction is Devotion, Devotion is Addiction.

If you look a little deeper, you can see traits of them in each other.

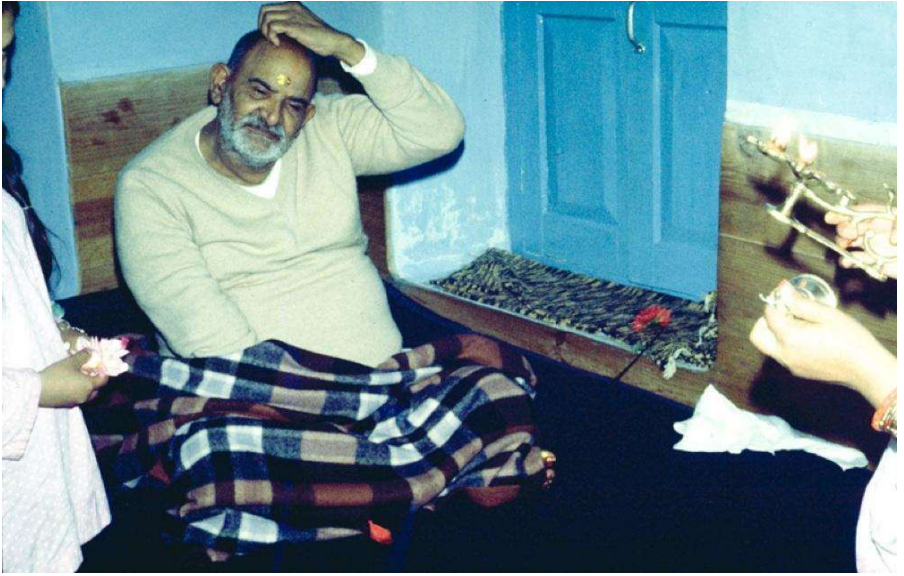
- The addict glorifies his or her substance, the devotee glorifies his or her Guru or God
- The addict needs a fix every day, the devotee needs darshan or contact every day.
- The addict always has a stash somewhere, the devotee always has incense somewhere (or candles or a praying mat depending on which religion)
- The addict can get defensive if one tries to take away his drug, try to take away my Maharaj ji from me and see what happens.

Let me explain what addiction is:

-Addiction is Bhakti in the absence of True Darshan - Devotion in the absence of God-

The key to curing addictive tendencies lies in focusing this devotion in the right direction!!

In my opinion, honestly junkies make perfect devotees. Our obsessive compulsive insanely passionate delusional ways of being is what makes the pursuit of God so exciting. I mean, ever since I started junking on Maharaj Ji and Hanuman, things just keep getting better and better. The only downside is I impulsively buy more books than I can possibly read. In fact, this book is a product of my addictive delusional ultra-passionate obsessive traits, except I am putting those traits to good use.



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The Shy Devotee

I've come upon several types of devotees of Maharajji. Each has their own unique relationship with him. Whether they are rich or poor, eastern or western, young or old, man or woman, the common thread that connects all of us is Love. I've seen a lot of religious sects and a lot of different kinds of people belonging to religious groups, in my personal experience none are as kind and loving as the devotees of Maharajji. There's an extremely subtle sense of unity which doesn't just limit itself to Neem Karoli Baba or Hanuman, this energy that Maharajji radiates in all the houses that even have a picture of him permeates into the family and makes them welcome the stranger and extend a helping hand to each other. It's like they become him and it's beautiful to watch.

Somehow, most of the devotees that I've come across end up feeling a transcendental sense of satisfaction in their lives. Moving closer and closer to Maharajji, their ambitions become transformed into grace, their sense of competition with one another disappears, and they somehow end up very content with what they have. This is especially true among the Indian devotees (I haven't been outside of India yet, most of my western Satsang is on Facebook). Some devotees are even afraid of acquiring wealth because they fear it will disrupt their frequency of Bhakti and make a mess. Maharajji has been known to have said

“MONEY BRINGS ANXIETIES”

Well, it is true that money brings unnecessary anxiety, but sometimes it can also make our lives better. The thing about Maharajji is he can do whatever he wants. It's just the nature of God. He made Steve Jobs a billionaire, he's brought back people from the dead, he's cured the blind and he continues to perform his miracles from his non-physical perspective as of now. He is a Genie that can grant any wishes of a sincere heart. Now, from my experience, he doesn't like two things. Firstly, he doesn't like it when I doubt him, he's given me more than enough evidence to show me his sovereignty and divine nature, Secondly he doesn't like it when I don't have enough faith in him to ask him for what I want.

On one hand we have an omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent shapeshifting personally available God who's eagerly waiting for his devotees communicate with him so he can perform a Lila, and or answer their prayers; and on the other hand we have what I like to call 'a shy devotee' who's too shy to ask his Guru for stuff. Contrary to most people who only go to God when they need something, this is quite the juxtaposition.

Just ask and Maharajji will give you whatever you want!

As our SatGuru he is responsible for our wellbeing, we have surrendered our hearts and souls to him. If we need a better car to drive up the hills or a better guitar to sing the kirtan or more money to take care of the family and buy better quality food for everyone HE WILL GIVE IT TO US. However, he's very intelligent and we cannot hoodwink him. He will do what's best for the devotee, but it's not unfair to ask him for things we need.

If you're alone and want a partner - ASK MAHARAJJI

If you don't feel abundant and want more money - ASK MAHARAJJI

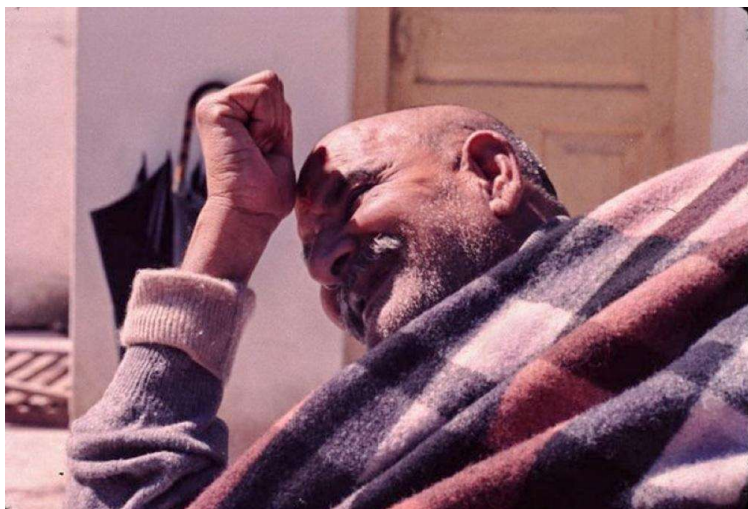
If you can't kick a habit and need help - ASK MAHARAJJI

If you want to heal an 'incurable disease' - ASK MAHARAJJI

If you're a devotee from a long time and want a dream visit - ASK MAHARAJJI

DON'T BE SHY!

However, the way in which he answers prayers and reaches out to his devotees and fulfils their wishes is tailor made for each person. For some he might just give them what they want immediately. For others, he might give a clue or an intuitive knowing of what the next steps to be taken are. In some cases, he gives a diversion from an entire journey to bring something else to the table that we possibly didn't know existed. Whatever the method in which he answers, HE WILL ANSWER OUR PRAYERS. For me, I had a broken heart and a failing career as a musician and no idea of what I'm going to do in these times. I asked him to help me, he gave me the understanding (through a long and complicated process) that I'm meant to write books. I finished one book and am writing this one now. I'm really loving the process. I asked Maharajji for money, he gave me a new career. Also, I asked him for friends as I'd lost all my old friends, and he gave me new and amazing groups of friends in the form of new Satsang. He is quite the playful loving and friendly Deity, he loves to be conversed with and made to feel like a friend not, just a Guru or God.





Setup and Punchline of Lila

The thing about being God is that God sees the big picture. The really big picture. Having a SatGuru as powerful as Maharajji doesn't necessarily mean that all of life's problems will be suddenly solved. In fact, it might get slightly a bit more challenging. You see, when a being such as Maharajji who's a Deity of limitless power, becomes involved in our lives, we are equipped with a force that can create galaxies at our disposal. Hence, to quote from Spider-Man, "with great power, comes great responsibility". The SatGuru is the co-creator of our life experiences, with deepening levels of surrender, he becomes more and more influential in what life experiences present themselves to us.

In Hinduism it is known as one day of Brahma is 4.32 billion years of mankind. So in the blink of an eye of Brahma, several thousand human lifetimes can pass. Maharajji sees the world through a similar lens. He is after all, the Avatar of our times, and he's here and he's present looking after his devotees and the earth at large.

Now if you understand the nature of life, polarity is something that cannot be avoided. With every few moments of happiness, there has to be a moment of sadness. With every bout of Joy there has to be sorrow. With every human we fall in love with, there has to be some we love who we lose to the infinite unknown that is death. This polarity and oscillating nature of life experience is not only unavoidable, but is probably the highlight of what being human is. Hence according to Hinduism people aspire to attain moksha

or liberation from the spiral of birth and rebirth. Maharajji rests beyond this whole trip, like the many faced Hanuman, he has many faces in many levels of existence.

Having said that, once you accept SatGuru into your heart, you allow him to create in your experience willingly. In the case of Maharajji, it's his world famous "Maharajji Lila". Now the thing about these Lilas is even though a lot of them are blessings and boons, some of them may seem like curses or punishment at the moment. Giving a few examples, I was thrown into a horrendous rehab and the love of my life left me. Steve Jobs got kicked out of his own company for a long time, Baba Ram Dass had a stroke of unimaginable proportions. All this of course was Maharajji's Lila.

This is the 'setup' aspect for his Lila. If you know what makes a great story or what makes a great joke, it's always the setup, followed by the tension and then the punchline kicks in and it all makes sense. Maharajji is metaphorically a Divine Comedian. The best of the lot. Now once the 'setup' was built, with time comes the tension and the doubt and the worry and the anxiety and the lack of faith. And through these dark waters, it doesn't make sense why. Some did everything right like Baba Ram Dass for example, he did everything right, and still got the stroke. But here's the deal, the punchline was waiting to happen. In my case, it took me 3 years to understand why the rehab thing and the breakup with my beloved happened. It was so that Neem Das be born through the rugged harsh wilderness of human suffering. In Steve's case, he learnt a lot about the nature of life and humility and finally when the punchline kicked in, he gave apple the iPod, iPad and iPhone all of which made the world a much, much better place. In Baba Ram Dass's case, as he himself said, the stroke gave him compassion and understanding beyond the ordinary. He wasn't just an ex Harvard professor anymore who brought Maharajji to the west and helped millions of people by being a successful and loved by all superstar spiritual teacher, the stroke made him a hero of mankind. The example of his life post the stroke is now worth telling stories to our grandchildren and beyond. He lived life as a spiritual superstar but died as a hero.

Such is the complexity of Maharajji Lila.

This is also the case where devotees lose their loved ones to age, disease or other such things, and this 'setup' feels unfair and rather unnecessary. But in the broader perspective of things, the death of each incarnation is but a millionth of a fraction of a blink of the divine, and the

those of us who are alive still grieving their loss usually end up facing the tension and then the punchline comes in the form of 'Fierce Grace' as Baba Ram Dass put it. There's also the question of karma and the accumulation of this 'cross-incarnational currency' and how we deal with it in our present lives.

Now this setup, tension and punchline can take many forms in terms of the human understanding of time. It could be something that happens in the morning and makes sense by the evening, or it could be something that happened 50 years ago, and makes sense just about now. Anything is possible, but it's all the stuff of life... It's the divine tragicomedy of samsara. The benefit of having a SatGuru through this whole trip is that we know that we are not alone in this, and however cruel some of these 'jokes' seem in the moment, it's only leading up to something much broader and wider in the understanding of the phenomenon. Everything that happens is but an opportunity to ascend and transcend, maharajji knows everything about us. He will never give us anything less or anything more than exactly what we're capable of handling. The true task however is fitting these phenomena into context, and even if we lose faith, it's only part of the setup.

The Punchline is yet to come, and when it does - It will be glorious.



Karma Vs. The Grace of the Guru

This is probably one of the most fascinating topics for one to ponder upon. What exactly is Karma? Being raised in a Hindu family, I grew up with this word thrown around like it was a cliché throughout my childhood. Even today, when anything happens to anyone, the first thing that people say is “it’s his karma”. If someone won the lottery ‘it’s her karma’, if someone had a terrifying accident ‘it’s their karma’, if someone gave birth to twins, ‘it’s his karma’ and if thousands of people drowned in a flood ‘it was their karma’.

Honestly, the whole idea of it made me very angry as I didn’t see the co-relationship and also I found that it was a convenient excuse for people to show their apathy when something happened. How could it be ‘the karma’ of a two-year-old to be diagnosed with a terminal illness when the parents went into extreme depressive grief. I just didn’t understand it. Furthermore, when I was a follower of Abraham-Hicks, they brought the Law of Attraction as a form of understanding karma but as a very real-time practical and malleable theory.

On the level of concepts, karma can be defined as the law of cause of effect, where one reaps what one sows. In the eastern religions, they are known as the following:

- Sanchitta - The accumulated past actions or karmas waiting to come to fruition
- Parabda - The present action what you’re doing now, in this lifetime and its result
- Agami - Future actions that result from your present actions are called agami karma

To understand karma, I think it’s important to understand the journey of the soul and reincarnation. To express how long we have been reincarnating, I’m going to present the classic Ram Dass Quote “if a bird flies over a mountain every 100 years with a scarf in its beak, the length of time it takes the scarf to wear down the mountain is how long you’ve been doing this” well, that’s a really long time. Imagine collecting ‘points’ or ‘scores’ through each and every one of these incarnations. The points are probably

not just 'good' or 'bad' but may contain specific imprints of infinitely varying diversity. There's a head spin if you need one.

Anyway, I feel like karma is some form of inter-incarnational blueprint, which carries the currency of intentional and specific 'points' from one life to another. Not only is it the trajectory from which we came, it could in fact be the origin of our 'soul identity' or 'soul personality' itself. That's why each new-born baby is different from one another. Because of this "blueprint of Karma".

Maharajji knew everything about everyone, especially his devotees. He's known to have been omniscient and clairvoyant. And personally in my life, the mystery of the whole thing just deepens the more I get into his Lila.

In the Miracle of Love, one statement by a devotee especially caught my attention.

"Neem Karoli Baba is like a sacrificial 'Havan' for Karma"

A Havan is a pit that is dug out in the ground and to perform a traditional Hindu fire sacrifice that symbolises offerings made to the deities and the idea of giving something up for Brahman (The highest universal principle or the ultimate reality).

It's also been known that throughout his life, he went into people's homes and ate their food as a means to absorb their karma. For me personally, even though I never met him in form, he appeared in a very glorious way in my dream and ate some food from my plate (most probably meat can't be sure) in high definition in the Train-Hanuman dream darshan that I spoke about in the beginning of the book. When I reached out to the community, they said that in the astral realm he 'ate' some of my karma.

Now what does that mean?

What does eating someone's karma mean? Considering this along with the 'Havan' aspect of things, one could conclude that he dissolves these karmas of devotees into himself and then gives it as an offering to the supreme reality by digesting them or combusting them, But why? Why does he do what he does? What's in it for him? Sometimes when you hear stories of him healing people, it appeared as if he took the suffering onto himself and then released it. Why?

The answer is simple.

DUE TO HIS UNCONDITIONAL DIVINE LOVE FOR HUMANITY!!!

Such is the greatness of this Mahatma, Mahasiddha and Avatar. He doesn't want anything from anyone. He just gives, heals, loves and continues to do so. Throughout his life his only possessions were a bowl, blanket and a takhat (tucket). He wasn't even attached to them.



Talking further about karma and the grace of the guru, How far does this go? How much of the karma of the millions of his devotees can he absorb? and which devotee gets how much of his karma absolved? Well, these things only Maharajji knows. As I'm writing this book, I'm aware that no matter how many books are written about him, how many documentaries come out, how many theories one can concur, all these will always be the tip of the iceberg of Maharajji. The most part will remain a mystery forever. However, as a devotee I can say the following things about his grace and karma

- Maharajji loves me unconditionally, but the more attention adoration and devotion I offer him, the more grace and attention and adoration he presents me
- He is an Avatar who accommodates the almighty 'Sankat Mochan Hanuman' (Shanidev - the deity version of Saturn gave him this title which translates into Hanuman the Remover of Suffering) and hence with every act of service to humanity I provide, however small it may be, he remains present and with me.
- He not only can absorb my karma but also the capacity to absorb the karmas of my loved ones, but I have learned not to depend on it.
- He responds to sincere prayers and asking almost immediately.
- A good way to measure grace is to look at the past and imagine all the things that could have gone wrong that didn't go wrong and thank the Guru for it.
- At times I have literally felt his role in the form of a divine healing hand present when I had these 'close calls' or 'saves' in cases of road

safety or circumstances that could have really gotten very bad but didn't.

- I've come to learn that even though I have Maharajji protecting me, application of basic common sense and awareness in my day-to-day activities goes a long way.
- To create good karma, is a wonderful, fulfilling and beautiful thing to do.
- The trick is to aim for a state of 'nishkama karma' where we're not expecting anything from the deeds we do yet do them anyway. This is not easy because as humans we are wired to look for rewards through our actions, But with devotion and practice this selflessness in action is something that one could look forward to.

All in all, there is a mysterious, unknowable mechanism at work throughout our lives which is known as Karma. It is ours, and ours alone. No matter how much power the SatGuru has, it's a wise idea to take responsibility for our own lives. Although when things don't make sense and seem unfair, it's ok or even necessary to ask or pray or argue for Karmic Justice or relief. This dynamic makes up the ever-beautiful dance between Jiwatma and Paramatma, individual soul and supreme soul, devotee and guru, the child and the cosmic Father. Free will exists, Maharajji is alive and eager to listen to you and respond in any which way he can. The mysteries of the universe are infinite. So are the powers of Maharajji, and the divinity and worthiness of our own Self. However, he did say:

“DUE TO INDIVIDUAL KARMA, PEOPLE MUST BE SENT AWAY FROM A SAINT. HOW THIS IS DONE VARIES. WHEN THE TIME FOR ASSOCIATION ENDS, THE SEPARATION MUST OCCUR”



A Sincere Prayer Answered Immediately

As I typed this, it is the 11th of May, Tuesday 2021. The last few days or months have been rather challenging for me and humanity as a whole. The pandemic and lockdowns take its toll on human mental health. Also, I had to leave the nature filled state of Goa and come to Bangalore to stay in a crowded city with my dad and nurse him through a double attack of typhoid and Covid, thankfully he's healed now. However, my last dream darshan of Maharaj Ji was around the time in March where he appeared and blessed me with his grace. My faith in him hasn't wavered, but just like the occasional rainy day in every summer, I've had moments of doubt. Usually when I feel doubt I take it as a sign and fall asleep.

However, since I undertook the process of writing this book, I've been extensively reading and researching and getting into the bhakti state and consciously overcoming the lifelong feelings of unworthiness and doubt so that I can provide this text to the world. My intentions at the core are pure but sometimes I wonder if they're pure enough as in I ask myself why I'm doing this? If I'm thinking about the money the book will make if it sells well, the connections and the adoration I get, or is it truly because of my love for Maharajji? Well, the answer I suppose is a combination of all of them. I can't avoid being human and having expectations. I haven't yet reached the state of 'Nishkama Karma' or the state of doing work without any attachment to the outcome, although sometimes when I'm typing these words I dissolve into the text and become one with the universe and all that exists.

However, the bond between the devotee and the guru is a very dynamic and reciprocated process and it is forever evolving. His love for me is unconditional, but depending on what state of mind I'm in and what food or substances I'm putting into my body and how much sleep I've had, my receptivity to his love changes in frequency. Sometimes I have thoughts like "Neem Das really? Is that your new name now? You're just gonna do whatever an old man says. Is this for real?" Well, those thoughts occur. And there's nothing I can do about it, I instantly speak to him and to his pictures and tell him "look Maharajji my mind is being strange" I can hear his celestial laughter from a distance sometimes.

Anyway, last night I'd overeaten (my main vice) and I'd consumed a small amount of cannabis hoping that it'll give me ideas but instead it gave me a headache and doubts and a strange feeling in my belly. I was ridden with doubts about the book and if I was worthy enough to write it, and if anyone's going to buy it or if really makes the difference to Maharajji and the whole string of paranoia attached to it, so just before I slept at around 3 am, I looked at one of his pictures and impulsively asked him with all my heart "boss can you please come into my dream? I could really use it now" and fell asleep immediately.

Now before I tell you what happened next, I need to explain to you that the lockdown mandates here at the moment state that we can't leave the house after 10 am, and since I've been staying up late nights putting this book together word by word into the late nights, the Pooja table has been missing flowers and offerings due to me waking up afternoon. Also psychologically I'd lost the spark of life and the sense of enthusiasm and that I usually have in terms of devotion and this sense of dread and hopelessness had subconsciously set in about the future of the world and my role in it. Maharajji was also gracious enough to put together a small group of wonderful individuals from all across the planet through my Patreon page in the form of a Satsang for us and we'd been facing constant difficulties and drifts amongst us as a result of everything that was going on in the planet. So he decided to take things into his own hands and answered my sleepy prayer! At sunrise today, Maharajji came into my dream plane and had a strange annoyed yet beautiful look on his face and woke me up just in time to buy flowers and fruits for the Pooja table. I feel like I've just been touched by an angel and spent the entire morning in bliss and typing this out as I'm basking in this afterglow. Also, I have to mention to you, in the name of investigative journalism I've been consciously doubting him being an incarnation of Hanuman so that I can come up with more interesting theories, but he decided to give me a dream darshan on Tuesday, which is the day of the week attributed to Hanuman. This is awesome.

I have heard that even when he was in his physical body he would often do something or speak to one person in a certain way, while in fact it was someone else in the surroundings who would reap the benefit, and everyone there took something different from the Lila. What is he trying to say to us? His devotees? Or is he reaching out to his prospective future devotees? Only the hearts of the beholders will know. For me, this was all that I needed to reboot the freshness of my faith and keep me going for a long time on the Maharajji Express Railways. *Choo choo...*

If I really look at the situation without the sense of doubt, I can see why he feels free to enter and exit my dream plane and create in my reality, I think it's because without a single fragment of reservation or resistance, I've gladly handed over the keys of my body, life, soul and incarnation to him, he feels free to navigate through them and do as he pleases. For me, honestly, this union with him is the tunnel itself and the light at the end of the tunnel simultaneously.

Maharajji is the ticket and lottery, the setup and the punchline, the beginning, the intermission and the climax of the film. I feel so very high!

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Sangam - The Meeting of the Rivers

The word ‘surrender’ is quite a scary one if you put it in the traditional context of war and it often denotes or symbolises defeat. But the surrender between a devotee and a guru, the Jivatma and Paramatma, individual soul and supreme self is not defeat at all, its victory beyond the wildest imagination of our limited thinking minds!

Maharajji may appear as an outsider with the form of an old man with a blanket on a tucket, but in reality, he is nothing but the supreme expression of our higher selves. If we as individual souls are striving for perfection, he is perfection itself longing to welcome us into his embrace. If we are warriors, he is the feast at the end of the war and the welcoming light at the end of our incarnations. If we are the master of puppets trying to put on a show, he is the applause from the crowd and the gravity of love that holds together the string between the puppet master and the puppets.

One cannot possibly go wrong with a deity such as himself, there is absolutely nothing to fear, no reason to hold onto the reigns of control once we come into contact with a being of his magnitude. The only rules in Maharajji’s kingdom are that of love, kindness, mutual respect and service. Even if any of these ‘rules’ are broken, forgiveness reigns supreme. His greatest Siddhi or power, amongst all the superhuman strengths, is his capacity to plant the seeds of boundless love, empathy, compassion and wisdom into the hearts of those who choose to let him in.

There is nothing in it for him, he is the embodiment of Nishkama Karma, the lord of unconditional love, a manifestation of the heart of Christ, the source of all poetry and the origins of all things beautiful. He is the Sangam (the meeting place of all the holy rivers) of great saints, deities, Gods and Goddesses, a personification of humility, ever in service to the lotus feet of Dharma itself.

He is the highest frequency of all things good and benevolent, the common factor of all things virtuous, He is the pinnacle of divine forgiveness, a teardrop of regret even from a demon’s eye. He is a devotee of devotion itself, underneath it all, he is a manifestation of Love itself.

And no, he doesn't want your money.

There are no priests to interpret him.

There's no institution to sign up with.

The only place you can meet him is in
the sincerity of your heart's desire.

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Seven Flowers, Two Wicks

While Maharajji was in his Neem Karoli Baba body, his miracles knew no limits. He has been known to have brought back the dead, saved children from falling off the terrace by providing a soft cushion made of his energy, turned water into milk, turned stones into gold and silver, have teleported to many places, made replicas of himself, cured incurable diseases and stopped an entire nation from plunging into war by causing the opposing army to retreat. The devotees who spent their time when he was still in the body, will tell you with him every day and every moment was a miracle. You see he's Avatar who had complete control over the physical, astral, causal and transcending realms. Jai Ram Ransom says that Maharajji simply understood the metaphysics of this holographic universe we live in and could send it to his will (from the book *It All Abides in Love*). That way miracles were just second nature to him.

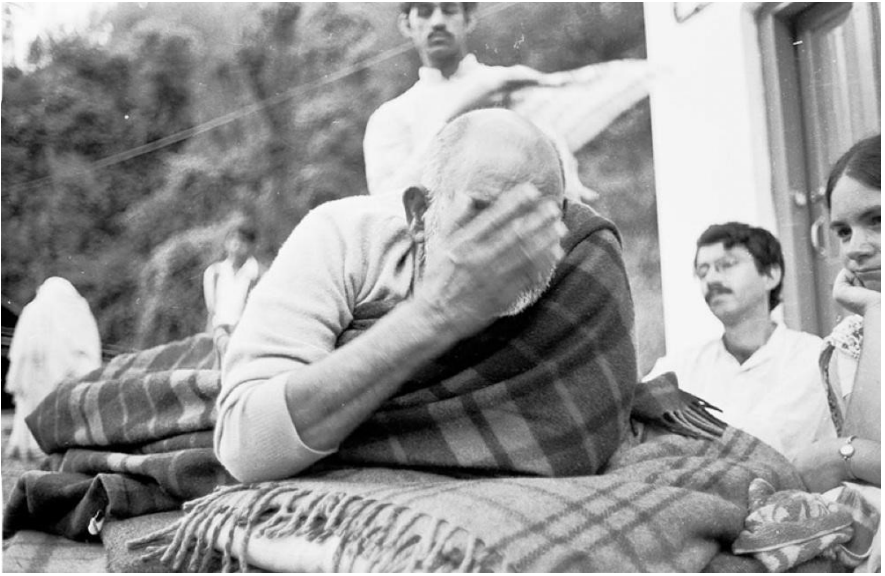
The great part is, even after his transition from a physical Maharajji to a 'spirit force' in the now, the miracles haven't stopped, they've just become subtle, relatively speaking. Of course there have been accounts where even after his "death", he's done some extraordinary feats worth marvel and wonder. Let me recollect two of them that I heard from very close friends and very sincere devotees of Maharajji. In one account, he saved my friend's life by magically manoeuvring his out-of-control car that was almost about to fall off the mountain because of frozen roads. My friend said that he felt a magical force that bent the laws of physics and hovered the car to safety right next to a small temple of Maharajji somewhere. He's been totally devoted to him since then. In another instance, a friend who owns a guest house in Kainchi said that there were a few teenagers who were lost in the wilderness of the village where the Kainchi temple is and they saw an old man who gave them water and directions to the hotel that they stayed in. Since practically everyone in Kainchi is a devotee of Maharajji they had hung a huge picture of him on the wall, the teenagers said that he was the man who gave them water and couldn't believe that he'd left his body in 1973!

In my life however, the subtleties of the phenomenon that I experience on a daily level and the number of synchronicities and intuitive telepathic miracles are too many to mention. My entire journey with Neem Karoli Baba has been like something out of a science fiction novel. However,

there's a few consistent 'miracles' that happen. It's his way of saying to me that he's still here, and can still do whatever he wants in the physical plane. The first phenomena is something that happened very continuously when I was in my Goa house. My friend had gifted me a beautiful metal 'deep' or a lamp with wicks which is common in Hindu households. With one of these lamps, one can choose however many wicks he wants to place and light them based on how bright one wants the altar. I usually used to light just one wick and it was enough. However, soon I graduated from one wick to two wicks and finally came upon the conclusion that 3 wicks give me enough light on the altar so that I can see things clearly in the dark. However the first night I left the three wicks and went to sleep, I woke up to find only two left. I was a little bit surprised. You see rats or insects don't remove wicks from a lamp. Anyway, I didn't think too much into it and fixed a third wick. The next morning, I was surprised to see that the third wick was missing again. I looked at Maharajji and was certain that this was his doing. You see I lived alone in the middle of a forest in Goa, and the second time I was sure it wasn't absent mindedness on my side because I took a picture and there were three wicks. I may have tried it again, to wake up the next morning to find that the third was gone and two remained with a picture of a notoriously mischievous looking Maharajji. Ever since then, I have used only two wicks in my Goa house.

Another one of these consistent things that happen is that every time I go flower shopping and buy garlands of flowers I ask the florist to throw in some extra single flowers so that I can place them on my altar. I use these single flowers to count the number of Hanuman Chalisas that I recite every day. My minimum is seven Chalisas a day, and Maharajji knows that. So for each Hanuman Chalisa I recite I hold one flower in my hand and then place it on the altar when I'm finished. Until now every single time that I've asked the florists for extra flowers, they somehow end up giving me exactly 7 yellow flowers without me asking them. Each time every time. It's become a routine between us.

“IT'S NOT NECESSARY TO MEET YOUR GURU ON THE
PHYSICAL PLANE,
THE GURU IS NOT EXTERNAL”



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The Doubt Cocoon

Maharajji is a master of Lila. The word Lila literally translates into 'the play of the Gods'. While we humans are freaking out here on the earth plane afraid of little things and getting attached to transient and inevitable factors of life like relationships, ageing, disease and death, the Gods perhaps see these matters from a rather playful perspective. You see, those who have

achieved the highest perspective know that death is a silly transition between forms and that we are all eternal deathless life force taking on temporary forms for reasons that can't be understood by the thinking mind. Having said that, I don't mean to invalidate the intensity of Samsara (the wheel of life experiences) but just present an alternative perspective.

If we look at life from our eyes and through this body, the problems are infinite and in fact the whole of life somehow seems to be like a video game, experiencing joy and happiness and eventually coming to a halt of suffering in a way or another, staying there for some time and questioning the nature of existence or doubting the sovereignty of God and then somehow finding a way out of this predicament and back into the status quo of everyday living. Some humans have it a lot harder than others. Some are ridden with chronic disease, pain and suffering and to some the only way out of that predicament is transitioning from this life experience also known as death. The mysteries of life are many. Nobody can have a definite understanding of what's going on for sure. We can each come up with a bunch of theories and hope that's what it is.

However, in the midst of this uncertainty, the grace of a benevolent master SatGuru such as Maharajji can be invaluable. Through his grace, devotees find the strength that is needed to go through whatever life throws at them, especially during the hard times. It could be the death of a loved one, an inconvenient sickness, a sudden change in the governing principles of the world that places the entire world in a state of confusion and uncertainty, the list goes on. However, through these experiences and in the heat of the moment it's possible for one to enter what I refer to as "The Doubt Cocoon". Let me explain in the next paragraph with an example.

The last few days, I've been experiencing what's known as 'writer's block' where ideas just didn't flow and I just couldn't progress no matter how hard I tried. Perhaps the lockdowns and the poor diet that went with it was responsible, or perhaps it was a classic case of 'Maharajji Lila'. Whatever it was, it peaked last night, and I felt a sense of doubt and uncertainty like never before. I entered a cocoon of negativity and doubt, questioning everything from what I'm doing with my life all the way to Maharajji's divinity and whether or not he was actually my guru and was worth everything that I'm doing and all the things I had to sacrifice because of him. Furthermore, I was feeling a sensation of pain and a feeling of helplessness like I'm all alone and looked at his pictures and didn't feel like he was real. I was angry and upset and very scared because I'm just about to publish my first book (before this

one) with the name ‘Neem Das’ referring to myself. I was filled with ridiculous doubts and irrational fears like how the community would respond and how I’m not pure enough of heart like Ram Dass and what I’m getting myself into and how religious all of these sounds and the whole episode was just painful was I felt like I was coiling into a corner like a snail with no defence. I was officially in “The Doubt Cocoon”.

Now in your life this doubt cocoon can take different forms than that of mine, but I’m sure you have experienced it before. It’s terrible when it happens, but I’ve understood that it’s supposed to happen. It’s a rite of passage and when it passes it’s a healthy way to check one’s intentions. In my case I perceive ‘The Doubt Cocoon’ as simply Maharajji’s lila to make me include this chapter in the book. He knew I was going to bounce back and literally grow wings from the doubt cocoon. Once that horrible cloud of negativity passed, I saw everything in a new light. I felt Maharajji’s spirit in a more pure and untainted way. I felt like the suffering made me appreciate the feeling of being back in my good state of being. I was certain that I was going to delete this file and discard the book, instead my faith in the process has deepened and it has an important new chapter in it.

Like I said in the beginning, the Gods love to play, yet they don’t stop protecting us or looking after our welfare during these plays. To doubt our SatGuru time and again is not only inevitable, but necessary for our evolution as Human Beings. It’s also essential for our growing “long term relationship” as Nit Ram put it with our non-physical spirit guide. Maharajji knows what he’s doing, but he loves to play “the disappearing act” time and again and literally delight in looking at what new conclusions we draw about him and how much more relieved we’ll be when we commune with him again. It’s an ebb and flow flows like the waves of the ocean or our breath itself.

Furthermore, the more we learn to overcome these cocoons of doubt and find faith within ourselves and him, the stronger our capacity to live in communion with the magic of spirit in our lives becomes. Some devotees I met have almost impossibly unwavering faith in him. Even after seemingly unfortunate tragic events related to the complicated blueprints of individual karmic predicaments, their faith in him lies unshaken. This for me is very inspiring and really beautiful to look at. The two examples that I’d like to quote here are Baba Ram Dass and the way he returned after his stroke and Jai Ram Ransom whose love for Maharajji was unwavering even after he lost his beloved to a terminal disease. Who knows why these things happen

even to the best of us, but whatever happens, the love and grace of Maharajji remains fixed and constant to us. Through these difficult times, it's important to remember that 'the doubt cocoon' is just another level in the video game of life.



The Paradox of Free Will

One of the most difficult things that I struggled with ever since my ‘surrender’ to Maharajji is the whole idea of free will. I spent many years of my life being the sole proprietor and the ‘Independent filmmaker’ in the movie of my life. Furthermore, when I discovered things like the law of attraction and the science of deliberate creation, I got very used to phrases like “you create your own reality” and “the thoughts that you keep thinking are what manifests in your experience”. Through years of experience I’ve also found this to be extremely true. Until I came across Maharajji and the table swiftly turned.

Suddenly I started to understand that I wasn’t at the console anymore, my prayer to him every morning is usually “make me a vehicle of your will”. So with that in a way I willingly gave the ‘keys’ away as discussed earlier. Jai Ram Ransom states in his book that ‘Maharajji simply runs our lives’ referring to the devotees. To a very large extent this happens to be true, the more devoted we are to Maharajji, the more we become a fragment of the larger organism known as ‘Maharajji’s Satsang’. He usually provides his devotees with projects, sends us on vacations, field trips, pilgrimages, etc... however fulfilling and satisfying this feels, at one point I started feeling like I was missing the exhilaration and adventurous uncertainty that came with deliberate creation.

It wasn’t so much that I was missing the feeling of being in control all the time, but I started to wonder if the ‘complete relinquishing of freewill’ was something that I could live with for the rest of my life. As much as I trust Maharajji completely, the idea of having everything predestined felt a bit difficult to digest. Especially in Ram Dass’s book “Remember, be here now” there’s a page that says “you are a completely determined being”. Every time I read that page I couldn’t help but feel uncomfortable. However, recently I discovered that free will does exist, even while under Maharajji’s blanket or being part of his Lila. We are still creating our realities!

Let me explain with an example, if creating our realities is like writing a book, SatGuru is like an editor of sorts. Not only does he edit the book after we finish the manuscript, but he also edits what contents go into the

book before the book has been written. However, is difficult for us to see that because we believe that the book is our original idea. He lets us believe that, except in rare cases where the writer ‘suspects’ that there’s something else happening besides ‘original thought’. However, the details, the expressions, the similes, the jokes and sometimes even the plot twists we are allowed to choose. Usually, the plot twists are a result of karma. The SatGuru may intervene if we’re making a big mistake in the plot, but also he may not, considering each incarnation is like a story and sometimes tragic stories lead to more exciting and inspirational endings and the SatGuru is the librarian in the Mukti incarnational library of our lives. You see, free Will exists, sort of.

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The Validity of All Experience

What do we know about this reality? Is this the only reality? What is the frame of reference that we can hold to examine what's real and what's not, who's right and who's wrong and what's valid and what's not?

Through the years scientists and religious people who claim to be experts have become masters of drawing boundaries. For example, for many millennia the western world was sure that the earth was flat and also that the earth was the centre of the solar system. That was proven wrong very quickly, also with Einstein's general theory of relativity we understand that all matter is in fact energy. However, some stubborn religious schools of thought defy facts and are keen on maintaining belief systems that limit reality and invalidate certain experiences. Rehabs and mental hospitals are full of people who may have simply accessed a higher state of reality that the traditional framework of our fragile societal norms cannot fathom. Of course, it's justified to keep people in these institutions if they are a threat to themselves or others, but it's not justified to invalidate their experiences based on the very narrow frame of understanding that is known as western or traditional psychology or psychiatry.

Even though I have mentioned this in the introduction, the fact that I heard Maharajji's voice in my head while I was in rehab before I knew what it sounded like and saw images of him in my head was very very real thing. Of course, the psychiatrists there with all their degrees, achievements and awards could only call them "delusions of grandeur" or anyone the limited labels they used to pin all phenomena. I met a kid there who claimed that he was from the Syrian constellation and that he could communicate with non-physical beings and would often speak in strange languages. Of course everyone mocked him and made fun of him and his mother had locked him up in rehabs for close to 5 years on and off. However, in some parts of the world this type of phenomena is very common and is respected and shamans of various tribal sects are known to communicate with non-physical beings and speak in languages that are not from the earth plane.

You might be wondering what I am trying to say with this?

I'm trying to say that whatever 'hallucination', 'dream', 'paranoid experience' we may have experienced with or without any substance is absolutely valid and an aspect of reality. If someone claims to have been Krishna in a past life and is absolutely certain about it, it's not my dharma to laugh at him but to listen with compassion. If someone claimed to see two light beings in their visions and suspected them to be Ram Dass and Maharajji, it is probably real. If someone claims to have seen Jesus in or Moses in one of their experiences, then perhaps they did. If someone says they were visited by aliens and extra dimensional beings, instead of immediately calling them crazy or getting them dangerous psychiatric medication from the highly compromised pharmaceutical industry, getting opinions from very two-dimensional thinking psychiatrists, perhaps we need take a moment to listen to what the other person is saying. Like I've said before, the more I spend time with Maharajji the more I understand that "FACT IS STRANGER THAN FICTION".

The least we can do is validate that experience by listening to it, not just with our sceptical sense of logic, but with an open mind and an open heart. This goes a long way in bridging the gap between our relative realises and truly finding unity with each other.

Each human being is a multiverse of our own, society tries to shut down and invalidate any experience that we may have that defies the thin frame of illusory lines that they call "normal". It's our dharma as conscious beings to increase our level of compassion to beyond these limitations that have been 'pre-paid out'.

If I were to go to a psychiatrist today and explain to them the things that I experience with Maharajji on a daily level, the suspicions that I have about how and when he manifests in what way, they will diagnose me with at least 7 different mental illnesses and give me 11 tablets to shut down my brain function. They may call me 'schizophrenic', 'delusional', 'paranoid', 'overly active imagination', 'grandiose insanity' and find my behaviour extremely wrong and recommend that I get psychiatric help. Thankfully Maharajji won't let them.

Let me give you an example. A few days ago there was a hungry cat in the basement, I had a suspicion that it was Maharajji as he can assume any form he wants. I offered it curd, but it wouldn't eat so I tried to get some meat and by the time I was back the cat was gone. I left the meat in the basement for it to come and eat. Didn't see it after that day. Anyway, I didn't

see that cat again that day. Two days later a fellow devotee and dear friend from Uttarakhand called me crying about some cat that wouldn't eat, and as soon as I told him that a similar suspicious cat was here, he felt extremely relieved and the next day said that his 'cat problem' was fixed. Now both of us like to believe that it was Maharajji. For the rest of the world, it may sound 'insane' or 'stupid'. It doesn't matter to us what others think.

Jai Maharajji.

Many such things happened to me in Kainchi and Goa. In Kainchi one of the most memorable things that happened was that while I was sitting outside the temple gates and making a video recording about a Music CD that emphasises the seven chakras that my friend 'truthseekah' made, a monkey came and pulled me by the shirt towards the Aarti as soon I talked about the crown chakra and uttered the word "Maharaj" - the Crown King. Now I believe that this monkey was Hanuman. It was definitely Hanuman. I could feel it.

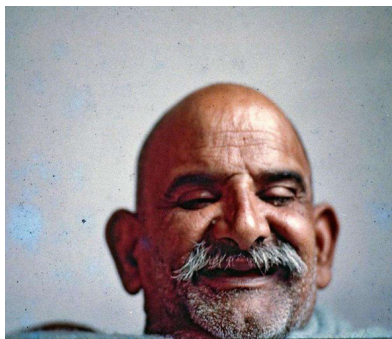


Another fascinating recurrence that I must mention is that while I was in my Goa house, I had the habit of leaving fruits and flowers every day on the altar (Pooja table) and then either distributing it or eating it myself the day after. One of the strange things that kept happening was that every time I left red apples on the Pooja table, a bite would be taken out of it and it would roll over and land exactly in the same spot under the treadmill. The first time this happened, I thought it was a mouse and threw it away across the balcony as my house is surrounded by nature and there're many cows and monkeys around. Much to my surprise, the immediate next day the same thing happened. This time I looked closer and the bite mark looked extremely human. I showed the pictures to some of my friends and the ones who didn't know Maharajji said it was a mouse and the ones who did said it was Maharajji. However, I was really scared of mice related diseases and examined the apple, took pictures and threw it away. More than 4 or 5 times, a similar-looking bite was taken out from the apple and it would roll exactly to the same spot under the treadmill. The mouse seemed extremely intelligent. However one day I felt a lot of love after reciting many Chalisas and decided to wash it and eat it. It tasted amazing and I felt great and didn't fall sick, in fact it felt like Prasad or consecrated food. This continued to happen until I left that house and each time I would wash the apple thoroughly, sometimes

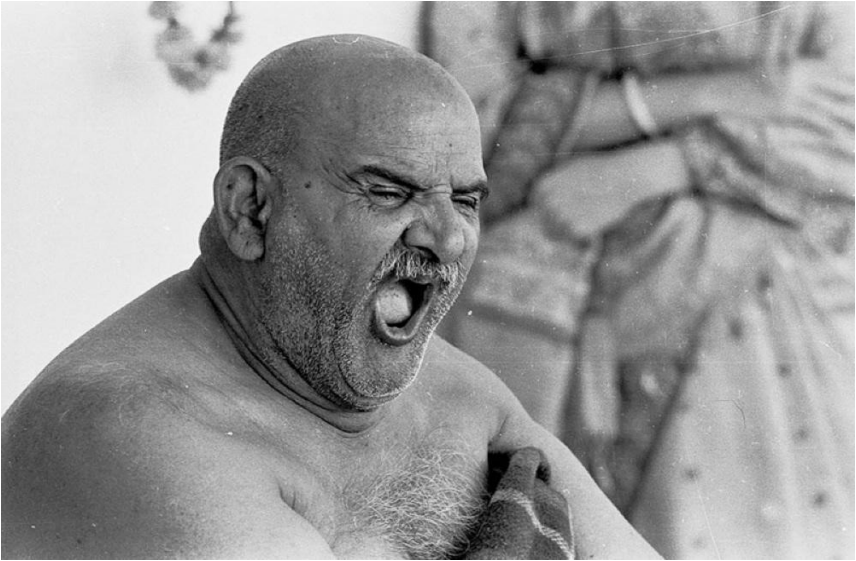
cut out pieces with a knife and enjoy the Prasad. I don't recommend anyone to do this, but I'm saying that I did it and I'm pretty sure it was Maharajji. However 'insane' that sounds.

So inclusion, there is a very thin line between the magical unknown of the multiverse and 'insanity'. If you're reading this, don't ever invalidate whatever bizarre or far out experiences, theories or suspicions that you may have about yourself, others, the nature of reality or Maharajji. There's a very good chance that it's true and society is just not ready to hear about it yet. However, there is one basic rule of thumb that I follow. In the words of Maharajji:

“NEVER HURT ANOTHER’S HEART”



The Gods get Lonely!



What do we know about the world of the celestial deities? How can we tell what they see or feel? What science or psychoanalysis can examine the moods of the divine? Well, there are no answers to these. We as humans can only think from this human perspective, we can only imagine what *can* be imagined. The hierarchy of the levels of reality can only be measured by the capacity to perceive them, let alone experience them, hence a certain degree of creativity goes a long way in building our relationship with the unknowable.

I suspect that not only is it that Humanity can possess traits of divinity, but perhaps even the divine may also contain traits of humanness. Let's take a saint/deity like Maharajji for example. One of the most touching things that I read in the book 'By his Grace' written by Dada Mukherjee is the following dialogue that took place between when some devotees seemed unempathetic towards Maharajji.

I (Dada) was very agitated and told him, “Baba, these people are thinking only of their tiny problems without caring at all about you, that you must also need to take a bath and have your food.”

He (Maharajji) caught hold of my hand, smiled at me, and said, “Dada, you should not be angry. This is the world, this is samsara [illusion]. Nobody comes to me for my own sake; everybody comes for their own problems.”



“MA WHAT AM I TO DO? - THERE IS NO EYE THAT CAN FOLLOW ME. NO ONE KNOWS ME, NO ONE UNDERSTANDS ME. WHAT AM I TO DO? (Said four days before He left His body)



Ever since I was a kid I've noticed a pattern in me. I used to only look to God when I wanted something. Be it good marks on my exams, or a family member to get well, or money or something. Basically, all my prayers were selfish. Even now I catch myself doing the same sometimes.

I've noticed that within the personal dialogue of most devotees we are usually looking upwards to our object of devotion, in the sense that we feel there is a provider and are asking this deity or formless energy to provide for us. Which is fair. The traditional understanding of God is that God knows everything, God has everything and we either ask God for stuff or we sing praise to God, which is also fair.

Well, what if that's not enough? What if the Gods, as much as they love us unconditionally, could benefit with a little small talk other than the usual routine?



What if being an all-powerful deity like Maharajji (or any other deity) gets lonely sometimes with all the millions of people asking them for stuff and praying for stuff constantly and no one enquiring about him? Would it be such a bad idea to sit down sometime in our prayer rooms, Pooja tables or altars and go “so how's it going on your side Maharajji? I hope everything's ok. I hope you're looking after yourself well. I know you're busy answering

everyone's prayers and making sure your devotees are well looked after, I know you have so many ashrams and so many little things to look after, but wherever you are right now I want you to know that you're not alone. As much as you are always here for me, I'll try to be always there for you too. If you get lonely, give me a sign. We can take a walk and talk about little things. I wonder how the weather is in whatever realm of existence you're in now. I hope the cycling of the yugas and the constant cries of the humans don't make you sad. If they do, you can always count on me just the way I count on you, let me know what I can do to cheer you up"

In my childhood, I only understood God as a theory and quickly fell to atheism before actually getting to know God more. But as of now, I have a very lively and reciprocated dynamic relationship with God (the salt lamp in my room flickered rhythmically when I was writing that little prayer enquiring about Maharajji, it's one of the ways in which he tells me he's listening, also I must say that I use the terms 'God' and 'Maharajji' interchangeably in my life). The dynamics of this relationship changes a lot, sometimes I feel like asking for nothing and just plainly lighting incense and chant my Hanuman Chalisa, with the knowing in the background that Maharajji's is always there, sometimes I feel like he's ignoring me and put in an extra effort to get his attention by either presenting him with flowers and nice things for the altar. Sometimes I also go through phases when I completely ignore him and we spend time together in 'cold silence' where he gives me a bored look and I reciprocate with the same, and before I know it I'm back to feeling full love and connection and singing Chalisas in different scales. Never a dull moment between us even if the moment is dull!

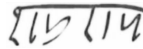
One of the funny things that I do with Maharajji, just to maintain integrity, is telling him about things that I am going to do before I do them. Maharajji says "SPEAK TRUTH", but when circumstances arise that I just can't speak certain truths to certain individuals because of certain reasons and I'm forced to lie, little lies or small lies, I tell him in advance "Maharajji listen I know you don't like it, but I'm going to lie to this person, and here's my reasons" that way I 'speak truth' and lie at the same time. I am NOT suggesting that you do this however. That's the truth!!



Furthermore, what I'm also trying to say in this chapter is that once a total surrender on the level of mind, body, soul and heart takes place

between a devotee and the object of devotion, a healthy sense of friendship can be developed. It's understood that the lotus feet of the guru is the provider of the dust that we polish the mirror of our hearts with (taken from the Hanuman Chalisa) but also simultaneously the devotee and our object of devotion can dance in the earth plane as equals from time to time. It's a fun sub-genre of bhakti as an addition to the usual full on serious bhakti with the danda-pranams (full prostrations) and the altitude oriented frames of reference (as in the object of devotion is higher than the devotee). Of course, true and absolute total surrender is a prerequisite to this playfulness, otherwise one may confuse playful equality to misguided arrogance and totally move in the opposite direction of love.

Even though the whole paradigm of linguistics itself is quite limited to describe the variations of moods, themes, seasons and cycles of emotions that one experiences while dancing with the divine, one of the most underrated themes in devotion is “friendship”. The beauty of friendship, in relation to love, is that friendship is a calmer, more sustainable, humorous and enjoyable form of love. It's similar to love, but slightly different. If love is the recognition of oneself in another, then friendship is the conversation that sustains this.



Jaya Jagadish Hare!

Everything about Maharajji and what he does is totally intentional. He knows why and when he was born, how he lived his life, and when and how he left his body. Maharajji knows what he's doing to the minutest detail, and to make a bold statement I can say this "MAHARAJJI DOESN'T MAKE MISTAKES." He has always known and well continues to know exactly what he's doing.

Mistakes are a thing of the Human realm, for those of us to which all of this is still a mystery. Vast aspects if not most of our human lives are a mystery, but for a master of masters such as Maharajji, who's simply "figured it all out" there can be no mistakes. You see, none of this stuff is a mystery to Maharajji. Not this earth plane, not the astral realm, not the dream plane, not the incarnational politics of the soul realm, the length, depth and the diversity of the multiverse, none of these are mysteries to him. Not only does he know everything, HE HAS MASTERY OVER EVERYTHING. If you've heard stories, or read about them or felt them in your own experience with him, then you know that there're no laws he can't bend. Whether it's the laws of nature, the laws of physics, the laws of time or even laws that we don't even know exist, Maharajji breaks them all, and continues to do so till this day. The rules didn't apply to him then, and the rules don't apply to him now. You see in a sense,

AN AVATAR IS A DIVINE OUTLAW

Now what does that mean? And how's that different from us? Well, it's quintessentially different. We humans have rules, and we need to follow them. Samsara is nothing but a giant film reel of rules, but the avatar can edit and play with this film reel as he feels. This is perhaps what Ram Dass meant by 'No accidents, No miracles' in the book 'be here now' and topped it off by saying it was a 'vantage point' we're stuck in. The more I see and enter Maharaj Ji's Lila, the more these 'miracles' begin to make sense on the level of intuition. On the level of mind, they can simply never be understood.

Let me narrate one of these 'miracles', if I haven't already mentioned it before. When I moved into the house in Goa, I was a very firm psychedelic

atheist. I moved there with my ex-girlfriend with whom I lived for three years. Now all these years, as I was walking up and down the stairs, I saw the letters 'RAAM' written in bold white chalk on the way to the first floor. I had heard of Ram obviously because I was born into a Hindu family, but I had no interest in anything religious, especially from my own religion. Me and my girlfriend were happy, and I didn't imagine that anything would ever go wrong. However, that very same 'RAAM' that was written on my wall now feels like the most important syllable in my life, so much so that I have a 4 square inch 'Raam' tattooed in the center of my chest with Maharajji's handwriting. My mind, or all the logical scientific minds in the world will find this ridiculous, but I know from the bottom of my gut, my deepest intuition that Neem Karoli Baba wrote that 'RAAM' on my wall, many years before I moved into that house or read the miracle of love, had dream darshan or been to Kainchi. He knew that this was my destiny, that HE was my destiny. For Maharajji, the avatar for whom all the physical universe and the very fabric of the space-time continuum itself is simply just 'moulding clay', this is like child's play. He is after all, the same man who's brought several people back from the dead and has been spotted by many decades after the cremation of his physical body, our minds can never understand it. But our intuitions know.





Top: 'RAAM' from my house in Goa... Bottom: Maharajji's ram tattoo in the centre of my chest



Maharajji left his physical body with very clear intent, that body that he inhabited was too limiting for a divine being such as himself, and the more his following of devotees increased, the more inconvenient it was for him and the devotees because there seemed to be a sense of inequality there. People felt limited in their access to him, but now he's here for each and every one of us, constantly guiding us, from his non physical perspective, giving signals and messages hoping that we catch on. As I was writing this, a song came on my iTunes and mysteriously enough they contained a message that was so relevant to this topic that I decided to include it in this book.

I was thinking about how limiting it must have been for him to be in a physical body, and what words I should use. So here're a few verses from the band 'Megadeth' with their song 'A tout le Monde' that mysteriously answered my question. Plus, I've translated the main chorus from French to English.

“So, as you read this, know, my friends
I'd love to stay with you all

Please smile when you think of me
My body's gone, that's all

To everybody, To all my friends
I love you
I have to go

These are the last words
I'll ever speak
And they'll set me free
If my heart was still alive
I know it would surely break
And my memories left with you
There's nothing more to say
Moving on is a simple thing
What it leaves behind is hard

You know the sleeping feel no more pain
And the living are scarred

To everybody, To all my friends
I love you
I have to go

These are the last words, I'll ever speak
And they'll set me free
So as you read this, know, my friends
I would love to stay with you all

Please smile, smile when you think about me

My body's gone, that's all

-



Maharajji's last words were

“JAYA JAGADISHA HARE”

“GLORY TO THE LORD OF THE UNIVERSE”

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय

Maharajji Speaks

“My body’s gone, that’s all” was a lyric from the previous page. To add to that I’d like to say everything else that of what is known as Neem Karoli Baba is still alive and present. When he was in a physical body, he gave darshan in physical form so that the light rays that are emitted by the source of light reflected his body and fell on our eyes and we ‘saw’ the physical Maharajji. Now he’s giving darshan through his photographs and dreams. Like we discussed earlier, every picture of Maharajji is extremely alive and he sees through the photograph as clearly as we see him. Before he could touch with his skin, and let people massage his feet and tapped the devotees on the foreheads or pulled beards, now he touches with spirit, an emotion you feel when you see his photograph or a listen to his devotees sing or talk you are being touched by Maharajji, being the son of the wind, also sometimes I feel him touching me as wind or the breeze. When in his body, he used to smell physical smells with his nose like the frying of puris or jalebis in the kitchen, now he is the jalebi and puri and its essence whenever it’s offered as Prasad.

Before he used to hear with his ear the sound of the kirtan being sung by his devotees or the noise of the engine of the bus he used to run after converting the water into petrol, but now he hears everything from the silence between these words you are reading, the intention of my beating heart and the soft clicks of the typing of this keyboard, as clearly as he can hear the music of the universe and the sound of the planets moving around the orbit of our solar system or the footsteps of the ants carrying a particle of sugar from leftover kheer somewhere in Taos or Vrindavan. But the most fascinating thing that I’ve noticed about his life from his non-physical apparatus is his capacity to speak. Maharajji speaks, very boldly, very clearly and with fixed intention.

There are many ways in which Maharajji speaks.

- Through thoughts and intuition: This is the most common form of receiving communication from him to me. I get a very clear ‘intuitive urgency’ that I need to do something very often, and each time I get this I have a ‘feeling’ that its Maharajji. Sometimes I see his image in my head, some other times I can also hear his high-pitched voice

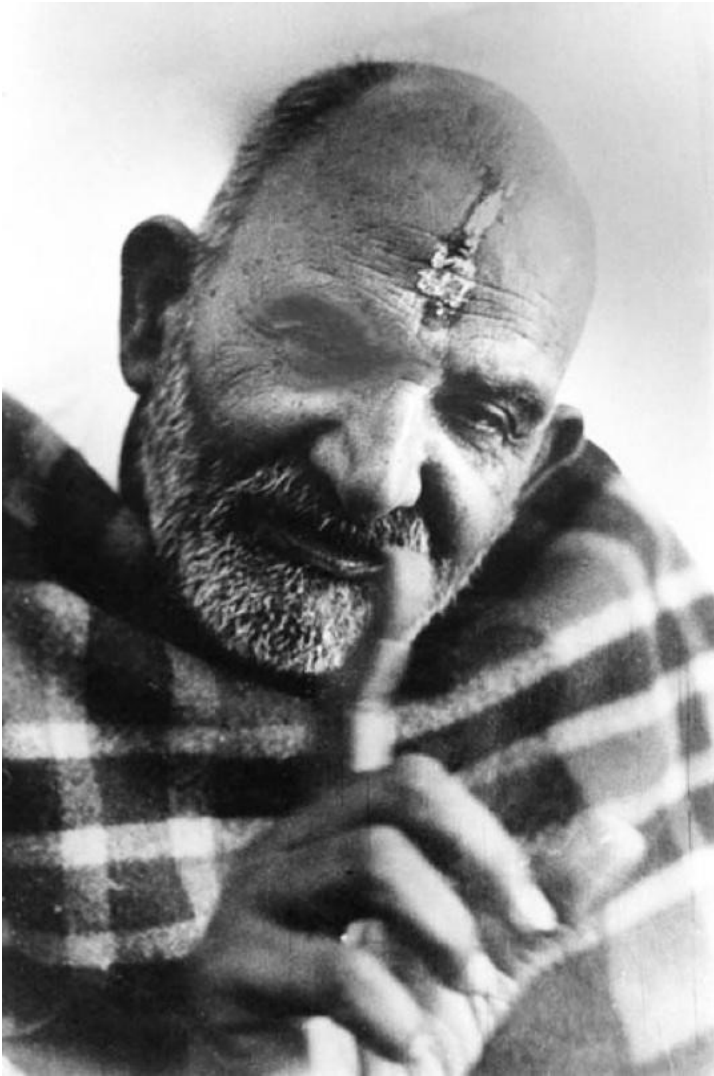
(mostly saying JAO) but I can be sure that he's speaking based on the intensity of the feeling. For example, when I was in Anjanadri in the birth temple of Hanuman, I woke up one Saturday with the feeling that Maharajji was asking me to go to three temples, two Hanuman temples and one Durga temple (I had a picture of both him and Siddhi Ma in my room altar and ma's considered an incarnation of Durga Maa). I knew that my dad was severely sick in Bangalore and I had to leave Hampi, but also I came to know later that it was the last day that the temples would remain open before the whole country went into lockdown because of the pandemic. He made me visit the temples before they would shut down indefinitely. These days though we're almost continuously in the middle of a telepathic dialogue.

- Through other people: This is probably something that needs a thorough investigation. Maharajji speaks through other people, especially his devotees and members of Satsang. The level of telepathy and connectivity that the Satsang experiences as a whole are so intense that some aren't even sure if we're individuals anymore or simply 'the collective body of Maharajji'. He can say things, through others, loud and clear and we hear it with our ears.

In the last days of my recent stay at Kainchi, I was so in love with the place that I never wanted to leave, even though my funds were running short. I was sitting in the balcony of 'Amar Valley Resort' which is run by a friend and a fellow devotee and wondering what I should do. Within seconds I heard a woman turn her head towards me and say 'JAO' (Maharajji's signature phrase) and turn away. She wasn't looking at me or speaking to me but in the conversation she was having with the other person, she just 'happened' to say 'JAO' looking in my direction. I immediately understood that I was to book my flights.

Another incident is a super Lila that I will never forget. On the day that I purchased my first ever Hanuman Murti, which was on Christmas 25th December 2020, a little poor boy aged maybe 8 years old, with a Christian cross who seemed very suspicious came down and sat next to me, looked into my eyes and said "Take Chai?" ("Take Chai" is one of the chapters in the Miracle of Love and I had just finished reading it). My whole body was filled with the realisation that this was Maharajji and I ended up getting him a chai and a paratha. Everyone thought I was crazy, but remember the motto of the book "Fact is Stranger than Fiction". Especially with Maharajji.

Besides this, there are also other strange things that Maharajji does, let me explain what happened between me and my friend today who's also a devotee. Just a few days ago this friend of mine showed me an example in Dada Mukherjee's book 'By His Grace' where Maharajji made Dada say things he didn't intend to say. I saw that and decided to read the book yesterday and thanked my friend for the recommendation. Today however I saw the one finger mudra picture three times on social media and had a strange feeling in my stomach. Each time I see this picture, it acts as a disciplinary warning from Maharajji to 'get to work' or 'stop fooling around'. It's also a symbol of him being strict with me, so honestly I get a little scared when I see it. Eventually, me and this same friend of mine who usually never argue about stuff had a bizarre and heated argument online about a misunderstood joke and it turned ugly and strange very quickly. We started saying things to each other that were hurtful and triggered negative emotions to a point where I acted on impulse and disabled my Patreon account. I disabled it for the month of June and as I was disabling it my dad was on the phone with someone in the living room and I overheard him say to someone "Definitely not June, maybe in July" while talking to someone else about a completely different topic, so putting these two together I can draw the conclusion that Maharajji created this whole scenario and spoke through them. Why did he do this? Perhaps he doesn't want me to take donations so that I can focus on this book and not be worried about creating Patreon content (which I was) Perhaps he wanted both me and my friend to understand what triggers us and overcome these triggers, put aside our differences and learn to rest in Love. Whatever it was, I'm sure that Maharajji was speaking.



Maharajji's famous One Finger Mudra

As a result of all the sequence of events and negative emotion I felt, I was in a space of utter doubt and total confusion to a point where I thought I should renounce the name 'Neem Das' as my impurities were too many and my display of anger with this person made me wonder if I'll bring disgrace to Maharajji's name in the future if I act out such emotions. Within the minute he spoke again, this time through what is known as "Synchronicity"

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Synchronicity - the language of God

I tried to start this chapter a few days ago, but I couldn't because my flow of creativity just stopped. However, today I slept in the late evening, woke up at 10 pm, and by the time I'd finished doing Pooja and reciting my seven Hanuman Chalisas, I knew that I finally had the inspiration and the creative flow to sit down and write this chapter. The moment I had that thought I looked at the clock and the time was exactly 11.11 Pm. 1111, 555, 333, 222, 777, 1234. If you're like me, then you've definitely seen these numbers and themes in various places. Repetitive numbers, mysterious coincidences, relevant songs playing on the radio that give us messages, getting to the right place at the right time, getting intuitive nudges and a feeling that the circumstances in life have somehow got meaning. All these things are known as synchronicities. The word 'Synchronicity' was first introduced by analytical psychologist Carl G. Jung "to describe circumstances that appear meaningfully related yet lack a causal connection". However, throughout his work, he gave out several new and interesting definitions of the concept but my personal favourite is **"a meaningful coincidence of two or more events where something other than the probability of chance is involved"**.

Let's examine that. If man lives in a fragmented way, without any sense of conscious connection with the divine, all the events in one's life may appear extremely random or without any connection. For many years when I lived like this, in years of depression there seemed to be no meaning in what I was doing, I had no sense of direction and the synchronicities, or my ability to notice them stopped. However, when this connection is found, either through an awakening or direct contact with the divine infinite, or in my case by the grace of the Guru, a thin metaphysical fabric of meaning and purpose starts to build itself. Now in my favourite definition of the statement, what catches my attention is the "something other than the probability of chance". For a mathematician or a stubborn atheist, it's very hard to imagine that there could be 'something other than the probability of chance'. A lot of things are labelled either as 'plain co-incidences' or in the other extreme if one finds too many coincidences, they are labelled as 'delusional conspiracy theorists'. The truth is of course a delicate balance of all of the above.

In my experience, synchronicity is practically the language of God. God is formless, and transcends the physical plane, but in order to speak with us, and show us the way, these meaningful coincidences and mysterious circumstances that seem to 'speak to us' present themselves. With Maharajji there are no co-coincidences. Just a web of Lila.



Jung further explains that there are three categories of synchronistic phenomena.

1. A meaningful correspondence between a mental state and a simultaneous physical event
2. A meaningful correspondence between a mental state and a physical event *outside the individual's perception*
3. A meaningful correspondence between the mental state and some future event

In my experiences with Maharajji, the degree and the number of synchronicities of all three kinds are simply too many to take for granted. Other than the numerical, earth plane and the dream plane synchronicities, the highest number of these coincidences somehow involve the deity Hanuman. Like I said, Maharajji and Hanuman are one. Maharajji being the human front and Hanuman being the mythical divine and symbolic front in this context. This is another way in which Maharajji Speaks, through Synchronicity. Let me recall a few of these from my life experience:

- To keep things fresh I want to start with something that just happened now. In my incense holder there's spaces for 8 sticks of incense, as I was taking out the incense sticks i took out a random number which happened to be 5 immediately, I bumped my elbow and exactly 3 more sticks came out of the box which had many, filling my incense holder with 8 sticks.
- After I returned from Kainchi, I started to smoke cigarettes again after many months of not smoking. The day after I started smoking, I woke up in the morning craving a very specific turmeric pav bhaji (a local dish of Goa) which was only being served in a very small restaurant on the roadside which I usually never go to. As soon as I entered this place, the first thing I saw was a huge 'no smoking' sign literally plastered between a picture of Hanuman and Ram. As soon I saw that I knew that this was Maharajji telling me to stop smoking.

After this I experienced many ‘signals’ from the universe that I shouldn’t smoke. Once I was smoking near the Pooja table and the cigarette fell from my hand and landed on the ‘divine reality’ book and made a mark exactly at the place where Maharajji’s hands and feet meet. The mark exists till this day. Despite the signals, I couldn’t quit smoking when I was in Goa but I quit now in Bangalore two months ago.

- As I’ve mentioned in the beginning of the book, I happened to ‘synchronistically’ meet a wonderful baba named Hanuman Das who has the same experience of having a monkey climb his right shoulder and stay there for a while and give him Ashirwad (blessing).
- I had the thought of owning a necklace of Rudraksha beads when I was in the birth temple of Hanuman and on the same day I found one literally hanging on a branch on the trek to the temple as if it was waiting for me.
- When I was in the taxi on my way to the bus station with the intention of going to the birthplace of Hanuman, I saw three number plates of vehicles one after the other, the numbers were 777, 888 and 999 consecutively.
- The information about the birthplace of Hanuman came from a food vendor who just ‘happened’ to notice my hanuman necklace and told me stories of this mountain just in time so that I could visit and return before the whole country went into lockdown
- The phone numbers of both my main contacts who are devotees of Maharajji in Kainchi Dham and Vrindavan have 111 in them.

These are just a few examples of the universe of synchronicities that take place between me and Maharajji. Every day every moment is a different synchronicity. What I have noticed is that in places where my mind can be quiet like in nature or in pilgrimage spots, are where I can notice them most. However, when I get stuck in cities and immerse myself in television or cartoons, I fail to notice the subtle synchronicities.

One of the main factors of this language of the Gods is that it’s VERY PERSONAL. Each person will see things and those things he or she sees speak only to them. For example, the number 777 is very important to my uncle who left his body recently. He was a devotee of Shanidev (Saturn) whose number is 7 and used 777 to lock his suitcases and his lockers etc. every time I feel this number near me, I sense his presence. The number 111 or 11.11 feels like I see them in ‘moments of power’ or ‘divine grace’. When I see 333 it’s symbolic of the angelic realm and also reminds me of the

Jeremiah verse from the New Testament “Call to me, and I will answer to you and show you great and mighty things which you do not know”. Well, Maharajji is my equivalent of Jesus, so when I see this it feels like he’s asking me to communicate with him. The number 555 I see as a grand omen of God, and divinity and that I’m doing the right things. 666 makes me feel strange because of its association with the devil, although in certain schools of thought it is meant to be a representation of material abundance. However, when I see 11.12, or 3.34 or 5.56, it gives me the indication that I’m not doing something right and that I’m not in alignment with my higher purpose. This is just my personal experience.

Even though I could go on and on about these concepts, I’d to keep it short and say that if we expand our perspectives, we can see that God, or Guru or our higher Self, exists beyond the linear understanding of time and space, and to give us nudges or signals into this present space-time continuum to make better choices or tell us that we’re on track. Either we need to be great meditators or extremely paranoid and obsessive-compulsive to catch all of these.



The Symphony of Samsara

Imagine for a moment life is a symphony and the SatGuru is the conductor, while we are the ones in the audience listening to the music. In this scenario, there could be hundreds of instruments playing at the same time, but what we hear in the present moment is simply the music, we are so immersed in the music that we don't usually pay attention to the little things, like the rustle of the tambourine, or the subtle timbre of the brass as they change tones. In our regular consciousness, we are usually swayed away by the lead instrument with accompaniment and it becomes our focus of attention. However, once the music stops, the instruments are all scattered and have individual identities and tones and the people who play these instruments have individual personalities and personal lives that need to be taken into consideration. Imagine if the conductor was not only aware of how to work the music while on stage, but also had the power to wave his magic wand and conduct the symphony of Samsara itself, whilst rooted deep in Nirvana.

Such is the nature of Neem Karoli Baba. He is the conductor of the symphony of worlds, every little detail is known to him and he's standing forever in the bliss of the music, known in the east as 'Sat Chit Ananda' yet understands the rhythms and the cycles of everything in the world. He knows when who wakes up and goes back to sleep, (this could also be used as a metaphor for life and death in relation to reincarnation), when who has the energy and capacity to play the instrument, who should be in the forefront and who should be in the background. Not just humans, but he's in complete harmonic resonance with the nature of the universe and all its animals too. He has the 'scoresheets' of these symphonies already written down and memorised, and somehow is always present and eternally conducting the symphony, with heart fixed in the supreme self.

One level deeper, and we understand that we ourselves are conductors of our own symphonies of life, whether we're aware of it or not, and the SatGuru then becomes the conductor of conductors. You may think that all of us having our own symphonies when they collide with each other would create a magnum opus of a cacophony, well in the case of mainstream society that is how it is, but in the "Maharajji Lila symphony", the conductor

of conductors teaches the correct conduct for each of the conductors to live by and hence becomes a Maha-Conductor who's capable of creating a symphony of unimaginable beauty and perfect harmony, where even the little 'mistakes' or the 'off notes' are simply adding extra texture and variety to this eternally grand 'Symphony of existence'. Maharajji said.

“THE EYES OF A SAINT ARE ALWAYS CONCENTRATED
ON THE SUPREME SELF.
THE MINUTE HE IS AWARE OF HIMSELF,
SAINTHOOD IS LOST”



The Instigator of Good Karma

One may not have to believe in karma to be in the centre of it. In the new age it's called 'the law of cause of effect', you could say 'as you sow, so you reap' and in a general sense those who do good get reflections of good, and those who do bad, get reflections of bad. This is a very basic understanding of karma, personally I've definitely understood that 'what goes around comes around' without any doubt. The details are of the precision of this law are so profound.

The deeper aspects of karma, like things we carry from past lives, I don't really understand very well and I don't think I'm supposed to honestly. Maharajji understands these things. He understands everything. But one thing that I have come to know about Maharajji is that he is a powerful deity that is constantly working for the good of the planet.

For those of us who are his devotees, he puts us on a very subtle 'save the world' or 'serve people' path. He knows which tasks to assign to which person exactly. He gave Ram Dass the mission to speak, Krishna Das the mission to sing, Steve jobs the mission to create and at this time he's giving me the mission to write, he's given you the mission to read. Some he assigns to simple things like taking care of wife and kids and living simple lives, some he assigns to renounce and chant the names of God and live as ascetics, some others he assigns to cook and feed people. Feeding people is his favourite thing by the way. That and the syllable 'Ram'.

Maharajji instigates good Karma. For an individual like me who had issues with parents, he's given me the task of taking care of my parents, one at a time through their old age and illnesses. As much as it's uncomfortable, as much as I'd like to simply ignore these responsibilities and just be on my own, he makes sure that I act that and behave in a way which acquiesces to dharma. When I broke up with my ex-girlfriend, he instigated that I give her whatever I owed her in terms of belongings and money and made sure that I apologised to all those who I'd been a menace to in the process. His compassion is so vast that not only does he love and work to alleviate the pain and troubles of the devotee, but also arranges circumstances in which the devotee serves his family and society at large. He is like a wise grandfather

who also the perfect gentleman with a heart of Gold. Once we are under his blanket of protection, he won't let us escape from our karmas, but he'll bring in the grace and the resources that're needed to fulfil these karmic responsibilities. Maharajji has been known to have said:

“IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO SEEK GOD SO LONG AS THE
PARENTS ARE ALIVE, THE WORSHIP OF LIVING PARENT ARE
DIFFICULT BUT IT'S THE BEST SADHANA (SPIRITUAL
PRACTICE)”



The God of All Things, Guru of all People



The world is a huge place. No one mind can comprehend the vastness of the planet and the diversity of the people. There're more than 7 billion people on the planet now each with their own set of circumstances, perspectives and unique joys and suffering. The first noble truth is that suffering exists and it's true. No one can escape suffering. In a country like India, where Maharajji chose to be born, the diversity of human experience is vast. The number of people who are hungry and living under the poverty line is extraordinary. Also in recent times, the expansion of the capitalist model and the number of rich people are increasing.

The troubles of a billionaire are different from the troubles of a railroad worker, but they are troubles nevertheless. The billionaire needs to constantly protect his fortune and be afraid for his life because so many are

jealous of what he has and want it, he's constantly paranoid with security concerns and political matters and social pressures. The railroad worker perhaps can't feed his family and needs to work extra shifts just to make ends meet. The heat of the day and the corruption of the politicians probably affect his livelihood. The politicians are constantly competing with each other for supremacy and power and control, ignoring their families. Their families are probably suffering from an absence of affectionate care from the politicians. Some suffer from hunger where the resources are few and some from obesity due to the addictive nature of profitable fast food. Some parents have troublesome children and children and troublesome parents. Some are seeking fame and fortune and feel empty without it, some are suffering from the fame and fortune and the absence of privacy and the stressful lives that it brings.

Through Maharajji's eyes, all are equal.

Dada Mukherjee says that the reason why it appears as if Saints have favourites is that "the mother pays more attention to the child that's sick". But in truth, they see us all as equals. It's a bit hard for us to imagine it because we see through the eyes of the human being, where there is a hierarchy and differences, but he sees through the eyes of the Supreme Soul or Paramatma. All kinds of people come to Maharajji with all kinds of troubles. Some had lost everything to a flood, some just wanted their 5th child to be a male, some wanted political advice, some wanted protection from enemies in war, others wanted money and healing from illnesses.

He answers all prayers and guides them on the righteous path. He doesn't want anything from anyone. He exists to serve. To this day, I have never met a single devotee whose sincere prayers haven't been answered by him. How the answer comes might differ from person to person, but no one that knows him goes hungry or unattended.

Maharaj Ji is very wise, wiser than wisdom itself. If people come to him with greed, he creates circumstances in which they come face to face with their greed and learn to transcend it. If someone comes to him without sincere intent, he sends them on a trip to understand the reasons behind why this sincerity is required. If someone comes to him who was raised in a way that his or her heart is closed, he'll gently but surely remove the blockages in their heart till they can love again. If someone's sole obsession is money, he will first ensure that the individual understands the nature of money and will most likely prepare him to use the money in a dharmic way through a

vast maze of Lilas before he finally grants the devotee that money. If someone is already using the money in a dharmic way then he can grant immediate financial boons.

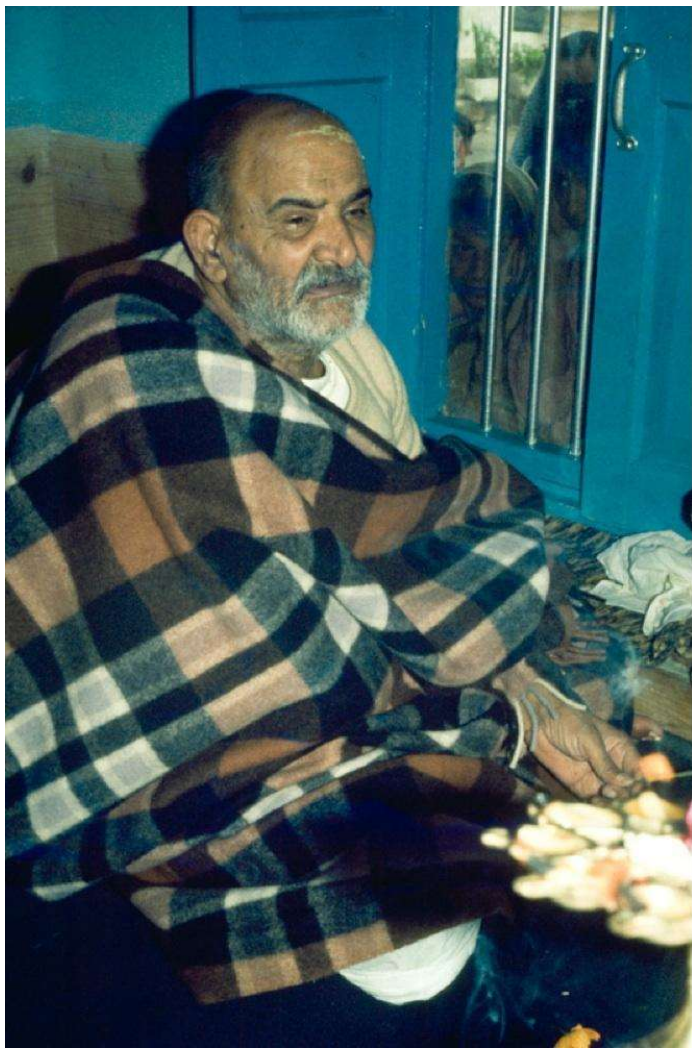
The way he works is mysterious and sometimes the really close devotees go through very difficult times because he puts us through them intentionally, yet nothing is random and no one is a stranger. Even the ones who don't understand him and in some cases abused him (while he was in his body), he reflects love. Maharajji says

“LOVE ALL MEN AS GOD, EVEN IF THEY HURT YOU OR
SHAME YOU
BE LIKE GANDHI OR CHRIST”

“GOD RESIDES WITHIN EVERY HEART”



"He who suffers for his Compassion"



“DADA, I COULD HAVE BEEN SUCH A GREAT SAINT,
BUT I SUFFER FROM A SERIOUS HANDICAP -
TOO MUCH COMPASSION”

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Out of the many faces of Maharajji, one that manifests itself only among close devotees is that of the fragile, soft-hearted, vulnerable one. Dada says in his book 'The Near and The Dear' - "We do not know how many tears of men, women and children he wiped away with his sweet words, compassionate touches, and soothing smiles. Only Babaji knows."

In another instance Dada talks about how the wealth or the property did not possess him, but on the contrary it was like a self-imposed pain to be with possessions like the Kainchi ashram and all the other things that inevitably grew to become his 'office'. Maharajji suffered a lot because of his compassion. He couldn't stop himself from hearing the cries of all of mankind and everyone who came to him and helped them and assisted them in any way he could, especially the helpless. He was constantly doing good for others, even when he was exhausted. When he left Kainchi for the last time before he left his body, he said "Now I am leaving central jail" as his blanket dropped from his body. Few days after that he took his 'Mahasamadhi'.

One of the most touching passages from Dada's recollection narrates how much compassion Maharajji had even in death, the following is an excerpt from Dada's memoir -

When we reached Vrindaban it was the third day after the Mahasamadhi and there was a large crowd. The fire was still smouldering. The first person who came to us was Vishwambhar. He said, "Oh, Dada, you are so very late. We were waiting for you until yesterday afternoon, but when you did not come we had to light the fire."

*On hearing this, of course, tears came to my eyes. I saw those very ugly pictures that were being displayed: a photographer had taken so many of Maharajji's body and they were being sold. It was very shocking, but I thought, "**Baba, you have been so very gracious and compassionate all through and even in the last moments you did not forget me. Had I been here, I should have been asked to put a fire stick to the funeral pyre. You have saved me from it.**"*

*Nobody understood my tears. They thought I was crying in sorrow at his parting. They said, "Dada, you should not cry." How could I explain? The next person that spoke to me was Mr. Mehrotra. He said, "Dada, you did not tell us that Maharajji was a heart patient." I actually lost my temper and shouted, "**What are you talking about? What disease, what illness did he not have? From the hair on his head to his toenails, each part and cell of his body was full of disease. He***

had taken my illness, he had taken your illness, he had taken from all of us. That is why we are enjoying our good life—he has paid for it.”

- Dada Mukherjee in “By his Grace: A devotee’s story”



One of the most beautiful things about the way Dada sees and relates to Maharajji is the humanness that he portrays and displays about him. Maharajji being an avatar and being a divine being and all wasn't as important to Dada and Didi as the simple love and the sense of family that ties them together. This is inspiring on so many levels. Every time Maharajji asked Dada what he wanted, Dada replied “nothing” even though he knew Maharajji could give him whatever he wanted. So beautiful.

In the last paragraph of the excerpt Dada implies that Maharajji took on diseases and illnesses from other people into his own body as he couldn't bear to watch people suffer. He was also known to have eaten 20 to 30 meals a day in the houses of devotees where it is believed that ‘took on their karma’. Maharajji also taught.

“YOU GET WISDOM FROM SUFFERING.
YOU ARE ALONE WITH GOD WHEN YOU ARE SICK.
IN THE CREMATION GROUND OR THE HOSPITAL,
YOU CALL ON GOD WHEN YOU SUFFER”

“YOU MUST ACCEPT EVERYONE AND SEE IN THEM
THE LORD, THERE IS NO NEED FOR A SAINT”



Each of these quotes is worthy of the deepest contemplation as Maharajji lays out little golden seeds of wisdom in each of them. I read an incredible anonymous quote recently that said:

**“The Purpose of the Buddha is to create more Buddhas not
Buddhists, and the purpose of the Christ is to create more Christs,
not Christians”**

The common thing among beings like the Buddha, Jesus, Neem Karoli Baba and other such saints and prophets is what Ram Dass refers to as “Unbearable Compassion” for humanity and the world at large. Through devotion to these incredible beings, our goal as a species must be to find that which unites us and not that which divides us, to use these golden illuminated masters as examples or portals through which we become reflections of them, in their kindness, wisdom and capacity to love. Unconditional love, in my opinion, is the highest, most sacred of virtues to attain, also perhaps the most difficult.

Somehow it all comes down to love.... Always.



Neem Karoli Baba and Jesus Christ

A parallel correlation that I find extremely worthy of wonder is the relationship between Maharajji and Jesus Christ. Maharajji loved Christ very very much, and tears rolled down his cheek with almost every mention of Jesus. He often suggested to his devotees that the teachings of Christ must be followed and when asked about money and who's rich and who's poor, he would say

“EVERYONE ELSE OTHER THAN CHRIST ARE POOR”

“CHRIST DIED FOR TRUTH”

“MEDITATE LIKE CHRIST, HE LOST HIMSELF IN LOVE”



Even though I have the deepest respect for Jesus Christ and the extraordinary example of love and transcendence that he is, the notion of missionaries and organised religion always bothered me. The usual phrase that missionaries use in their expansionist agenda that bothered me time and again was the phrase “Jesus died for your sins”. It made no sense whatsoever and felt like a manipulated tactic for ethnic cleansing and colonial conversions through the dark ages and the crusades. However, Maharajji brought light into this from a perspective that's more from the point of view of the heart. He said,

“HE WAS CRUCIFIED SO THAT
HIS SPIRIT COULD SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.
HE SACRIFICED HIS BODY FOR THE DHARMA.
HE NEVER DIED, HE NEVER DIED.
HE IS ATMAN (THE SOUL) LIVING IN THE HEARTS OF ALL”

The above statement is so profound that it can literally bring tears into my eyes if I meditate on it long enough. After all, Jesus was also ‘he who suffered for his compassion’. The words of Jesus Christ like “forgive them for they know what they do” and “thy will be done” are forever etched into my heart.



Contemplating further the relationship between Maharajji - the time travelling shapeshifting all powerful Avatar and the real Jesus Christ, a few things come to light. More than once Maharajji has said to certain beings, “what are you doing here? Jesus is your Guru”. A lot of the western devotees probably felt the same way about the church and were disappointed when they heard this. Further, it is known that Jesus never claimed to be God, but the Son of God. Whether he said “the ONLY son of God” is highly questionable and likely improbable. Also, he said “I Am the way and the Light” if we take this into the eastern context the plot thickens.

You see the literal translation of Guru is “the dispeller of darkness”. Furthermore, if we tweak the grammatical nuances we get “The light and the way out of darkness”. Could the statement “I Am the way and the light” be Jesus Christ referring to himself as a Guru? Also, taken into this context, “the only son of God” was perhaps a misinterpretation of him saying “I Am the TRUE Way and the Light”, also known as ‘SatGuru’ in the east.

Was Maharajji implying that Jesus is a SatGuru that is a vehicle of transcendence like himself? Most definitely yes, to this day I have friends who are true devotees of Jesus Christ and live by his example and connect and have a living and real connection with him the way I do with Maharajji. The true followers of Christ are the most delightful and wonderful people, they make the best music and have the most loving and compassionate hearts. They often aren’t accepted by the mainstream churches because they don’t ‘fit into’ the ‘agenda’.

Whether they choose to word it this way or not, Jesus is their SatGuru. The presence of Christlike energy is felt in the things they do and the way they live their lives. They don’t distinguish or look down upon other religions and try to convert them, instead they

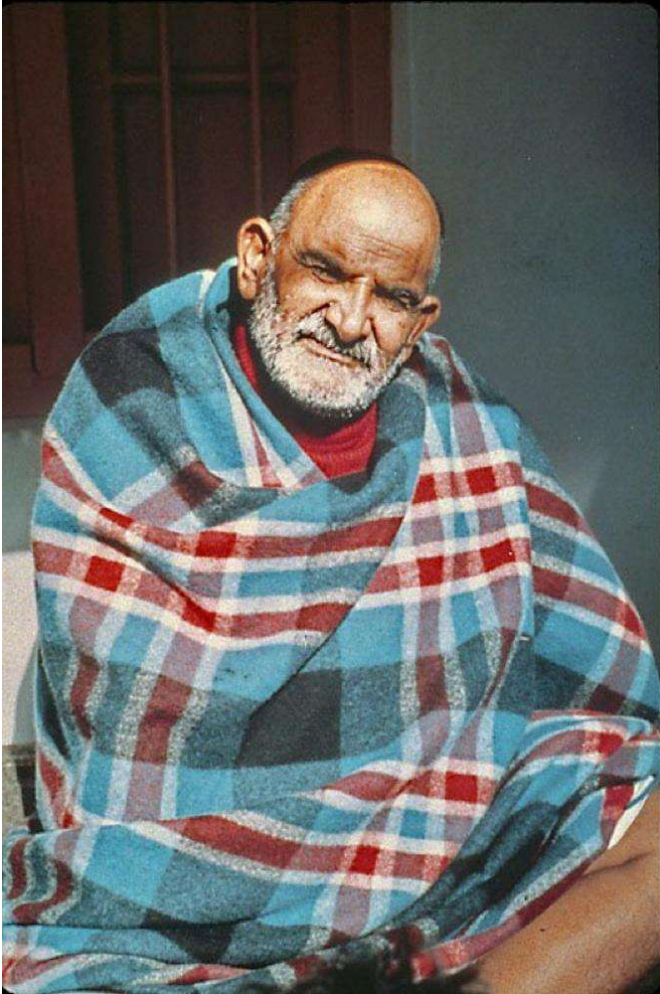
“LOVE EVERYBODY AND SPEAK THE TRUTH”

The degree of love that Maharajji has for anything related to Jesus is so deep that it almost resembles the love between a father and an actual child. Maharajji behaved as if his own child was crucified at every mention of Jesus.

Jai Ram Ransom after 30 years of research and study of Maharajji is absolutely certain that Maharajji and Jesus knew each other personally. The 'Jesus Lived in India' book along with the deathless and immortal nature of Hanuman that spans across all 'Yugas' of time topped with the knowledge of Sri Yukteswar Giri's 'Holy Science' suggests that the events of the New Testament took place in the Kaliyuga according to the short count system and the beginning of the Dvapara yuga was marked by the birth of Maharajji's Neem Karoli Baba incarnation. One can only conclude that they most definitely knew each other back then and know and work together now through their non-physical points of view. Who can know the ways of the Gods? "All is One", says Maharajji. "SAB EK"

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Maharajji the Superhero!



One of the things that impresses me so much about Maharajji is his unwavering capability to be extremely cool. He was cool when he was in his Neem Karoli Baba body with a great sense of fashion (someone once called it the 'bulletproof blanket' style) and a fantastic sense of humour and his omniscient one-liners and irreplaceable divine pranks also known as Lilas. Even now, from his non-physical perspective, Maharajji is very divinely cool.

His sense of style and heart centred rascality merged with his omnipotent godly powers makes him as cool as one can be. We spoke before of how for each devotee of Neem Karoli Baba, there is a personal version of him that is listening to and caring for the devotee. And this Maharajji adapts to the newest trends in technology, science, communication, fashion and music. What do I mean by that? Before he gave his darshan only through real life and a few photographs, but now he's all over the internet. Every day one can have darshan, Aarti and Satsang from the convenience of our homes with people from all over the world. Through our physical bodies he's well aware of which bands are cool and which bands are rubbish, he has a very fine taste in arts, culture, music and film. In my visions I've seen him wearing colourful new dhotis and blankets in my visions.

Every time we're enjoying a book, he's right there with us reading the book and feeling it's essence, if we're in a concert he's right with us having a blast with the music and really enjoying the process. More than anything else, he wants to see us humans thrive and celebrate life. You may think that just because Maharajji "died" in 1973 he doesn't understand how hybrid cars, or the latest iPhones or the trends in fashion, films and technology works, but he does! Whatever his devotees are experiencing through their senses, he's experiencing too. If you fall in love he's there celebrating, if you break up he's there feeling compassion for your broken heart, If you are watching a TV show, he's probably watching with you and laughing or crying depending on what you're watching. The closer we get the more I understand how cool he is. Some of the things that he does in the name of Lila are so fascinating that I can't help but notice how super awesome he is.

That's the thing about being spirit, spirit is omnipresent and ever young and eager!



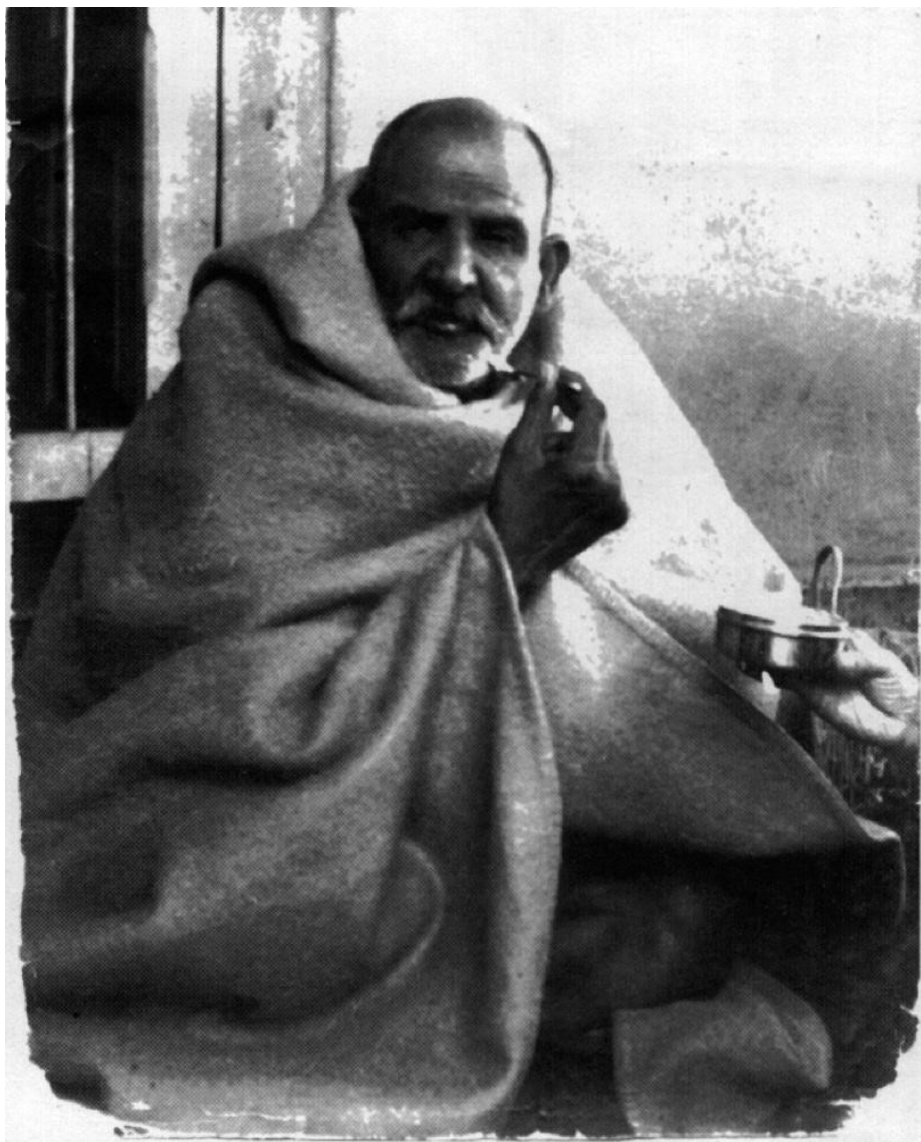
Maharajji is a living Superhero:

If you're reading this, I'm sure you're in touch with today's superhero pop culture. If you're in India, you perhaps remember the famous "Shaktimaan" that used to air every Sunday. If you're from other countries

perhaps you know Superman, Master Yoda from Star Wars, the whole of the marvel and DC Comics leagues and most relevant of the in recent times is the “Matrix Trilogy”. If we consider this example then Maharajji is like Neo. Or rather, Neo is an attempt to explain the existence of someone like him. Plus traits from other Superheroes.

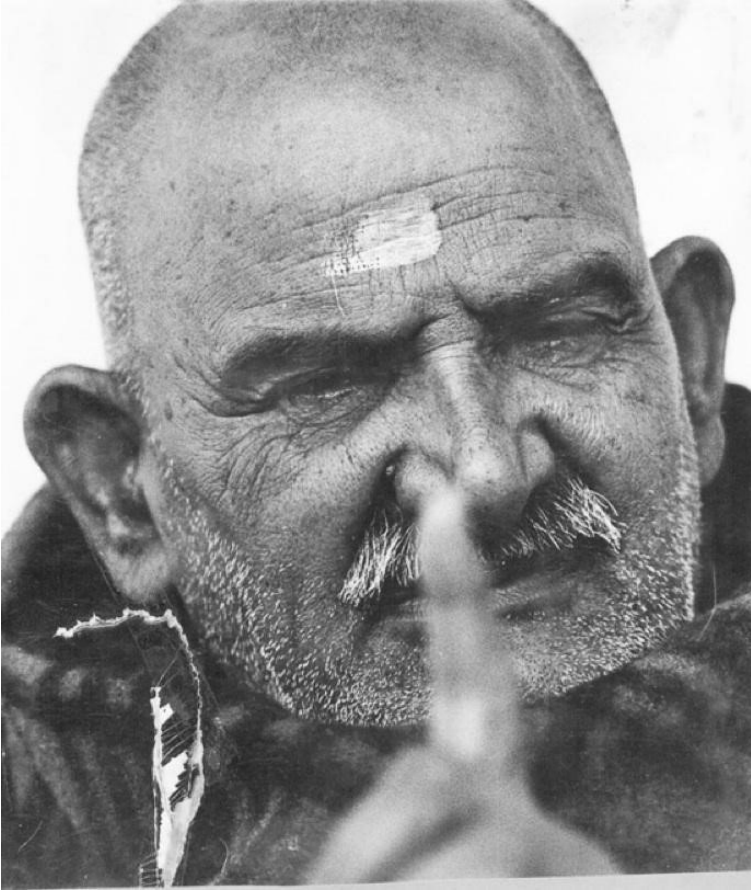
If we consider the physical universe as a simulation and the ‘rules’ of this simulation are nothing but programs written by a master architect, Maharajji is someone who not only lives outside of the matrix of physical existence, but has complete mastery over the program code of the matrix. Inside this simulation concepts like time, gravity, density, morality and physics appear as if they’re constants, but for he who lives beyond the confines of this whole simulation, these ‘constants’ become variables to one’s will. Walking through walls, teleporting, having control of the weather, telekinesis, manifesting objects like sapphires and murtis (idols), catching falling children by projecting a semi-physical, astral self into the place of where the child was to fall, becoming invisible, traversing dream planes, making others invisible, healing with a touch or a grace, having complete mastery over life and death and mortality, appearing at many places at will, these are just a few of the recorded feats of the superhero called Neem Karoli Baba. Even from his non-physical vantage point now he’s still more powerful than a lot of the fictional characters. (Read books like Miracle of love, Divine reality, I and my father are one, etc... to know more about his recorded superhuman stories if you're interested) Even though the comic book fan in me wants to brag about his feats, I’ll have to say that his capacity to love and his unwavering concern for human welfare is his greatest superpower. Oh, and did I mention Immortality? He once said,

“IF YOUR KUNDALINI (SPINAL ENERGY) AWAKENS,
YOU CAN GO TO AMERICA WITHOUT A PLANE”



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Maharajji's Anger



The thing about being an immortal Avatar with a limitless power that stretches beyond the confines of all that can be imagined is he comprises all possible shades, colours, emotions and expressions of nature. Anger is a part of nature and even deities like Maharajji get angry, even now from his non-physical state of being. I have met devotees who have never experienced Maharajji's anger and can't possibly relate to what I'm saying, but it's my dharma to speak the truth of my experience. It would be unfair if I didn't.

Maharajji can get angry, really angry but not without good reason. His anger is like that anger of Hanuman when he set fire to Lanka, it's on a level that no shield of protection on the earth can deflect. In fact, the first

time I met him in this incarnation I made him very angry by repeatedly making fun of one of his devotees and using his picture disrespectfully. He struck me down very hard with his divine powers and sent me to rehab to suffer for two months. But I had constant darshan of him in that place. And learnt the many truths of life and had my big and important Hanuman Darshan as soon as I left that place. Since he's not in his physical body, he makes people do his work and create a situation where his anger plays out. Thankfully, that was the last time I faced his anger head on, but I've seen his anger express itself in other ways after that.

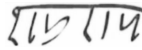


There was once a situation where after I returned from Kainchi, I was so shocked by what I experienced that I instantly became a full Hanuman devotee and one Saturday in January I made an agreement with a venue to have a organise a conscious dance party but at 5 pm I wanted to make a Hanuman Pooja at that place. I need to mention that the venue was close to a cremation ground and I felt that a Hanuman Pooja followed by a Hanuman Chalisa would be a good idea. All the arrangements were made, many people were invited and the date was set but the owner of the venue cancelled the event at the last minute and decided to hire a western band to play there. I was utterly disappointed and sitting in a restaurant and exactly at the time, the band was supposed to play an unnatural thunderstorm broke out making the entire area inaccessible, hence cancelling the other event. No one even knows where the clouds came from as it never rains in Goa in January. At 10 pm, when the event was supposed to finish, the rain magically stopped and the sky cleared in minutes. Whether you believe it or not, Maharajji did it to prove a point to me.

The only reason why Maharajji gets angry is to teach a lesson to his 'problem children' like me. I'm sure there're a few more. Also after receiving the punishment from his anger he makes sure the devotee has been fairly compensated just like a real parent buying his child ice cream after the anger incident. However, he's totally in control of how much damage is received by who, and why. In a way, his anger is enveloped with love. But he does contain the seed of Shiva - the destroyer, so I wouldn't push my luck with him. His patience is infinite, but once one crosses the line there're many levels to his anger - from a subtle frown to a typhoon of celestial fury. Ther're a few things that make him angry.

- Devotees not following dharma: Traits like excessive arrogance, cheating people, excessive lying, taking advantage of others either financially or sexually or emotionally, disrespecting elders, these things he does not tolerate.
- Taking his name in non-dharmic activities: If someone uses the words 'Neem Karoli Baba' and does something unfair for profit or selfish purposes, he catches them immediately. The one saying 'don't take the lord's name in vain' really applies here.
- Troubling his devotees: Maharajji is extremely protective of his devotees, he will let no one harm or harass or trouble his devotees. He sees all his devotees like actual children, and the perpetrator may get a series of mysterious life circumstances sent as backlash for harassing his devotees.

And that's it. These three things, two for the devotees and one for the others. I often say 'don't mess with the boss'. Anyway thankfully we're really cool now and I'm very careful not to anger him. I've noticed that he gets angry easily with the ones that he loves the most, like Dada. Typical parent. Contrary to popular belief, I personally believe that a celestial smack once in a while is good to humble arrogant kids. How else will we learn?



The Sceptic's Guru

If Maharajji wants you, he'll get you. Doesn't matter whether you're an atheist or a theist, doesn't matter what religion you belong to, doesn't matter how much knowledge, intelligence or willpower you have, it's all irrelevant. He's going to get you.

Ever since I was a child, I had to see things to believe them. I had to experience them with my senses for me to truly believe in them. This whole idea of "blind faith" is just not my thing. I find it repulsive and dangerous. Even when it comes to hearing other people's experiences, I often take them with a pinch of salt. It has to be first hand for me. People who blindly believe things, find what they're looking to believe in by virtue of the law of attraction, and hence justify their beliefs. This could include me at certain times, hence the healthy scepticism.

However, direct experience of spirit goes beyond seeing or believing. It becomes knowing. I never had a chance to meet Neem Karoli Baba when he was in his body (at least not in this incarnation), but I feel no sense of loss or no sense of envy for those who did meet him. The way I experience him on a day-to-day basis is more than plenty for me to handle. In fact, I'm really grateful that I didn't meet him when he was in his body for fear of being overwhelmed. I mean, from the books and all the stories I'd read, he seems like an extremely impressive being. But in reality and my own direct life experience, he's more impressive as a living spirit.

Mythology is a beautiful thing, until it makes itself real, after which it's not mythology anymore, it's an elevated form of experiential knowledge that is waiting to be absorbed. Ever since I had 'True Darshan' of Maharaj Ji, the synchronicities and the multitudes of experiences that I've had with Hanuman is amazing. First of all, I had no interest or knowledge in the being that is Hanuman, but now my whole life seems to be revolving around this incredible Deity. Hanuman is always the center of my altar. Sometimes I even have multiple Hanuman Murtis in places. And all the mantras and all the incantations that I chant are related to Hanuman. Like the Hanuman Chalisa or the Hanuman Gayatri Mantra. I can't tell you exactly how or why but there is an inextricable link between Maharajji and Hanuman. Not just going by stories of what I've read or people's opinions, I tend to rely on personal experience for important things in my life like which God I worship. Again one of the origins of this goes to an experience I had in Kainchi Dham. I

absolutely love that place, the experience of being there and putting Maharajji through all the tests possible and having this game of hide and seek with him between his shiny marble form and formless brilliance is worth talking about.



Here's a list of some of his Lilas (other than the ones previously mentioned) or divine plays of his in my life personally that shattered my doubt and made me a full on devotee. There're a few things that I'd like to say before I make this list, firstly I understand that many devotees are against the sharing of Lilas because they think it's personal, but for me, if even one another being gets darshan of Maharaj Ji as a result of hearing these stories, I'll be grateful. Secondly, every day has been a miracle of subtle sorts since my total acceptance of Maharajji into my heart, the ones listed here are the ones that's "talkable".

- For the week or so that I was in Kainchi before I got JAOed (Jao in Hindi means 'beat it' or 'get out of here' and is a very integral part of Maharajji vocabulary), I went to the temple for several hours every day. Honestly, I never wanted to leave that place as the energy is just so beautiful. On one of the last days there, I was reviewing an album that my friend 'truthseekah' made about the 7 chakras in Hip-Hop called 'Colors'. I went through the whole seven chakras starting from the bottom up and as soon as I reached the crown chakra, I made a reference to 'King' who is 'Maharaj' in the Hindi language, and as soon as I did that a monkey came and pulled me by the shirt very Intensely back towards the temple cause I was getting late for an Aarti or invocation. Skip to the 16th minute in this link to see what happened. The little flag to the left that is waving is on the gate of the Kainchi Temple.

Here's the link - https://youtu.be/PL_GV_EK-nw

Truthseekah - Colors (album reviewed and recommended to boost immunity vs. Covid-19...

35 views · 5 months ago



sheil obZerver

- Dream Darshan of the black murti before I knew it existed: Upon the request of fellow Hindi devotees, I agreed to make a small hindi documentary for my YouTube channel (same as above) about Maharajji. While I was working for this, I fell asleep in the daytime and had a crystal clear vision of a black Idol of Neem Karoli Baba with a funky-looking beanie. Thinking this to be just a dream, I ignored it and moved on. Few days after the release of the documentary a guy sent me a friend request on Facebook with this exact image.
- <https://youtu.be/Tbjax2GOso8>
- The above is the link to the video where the monkey God climbed my right shoulder



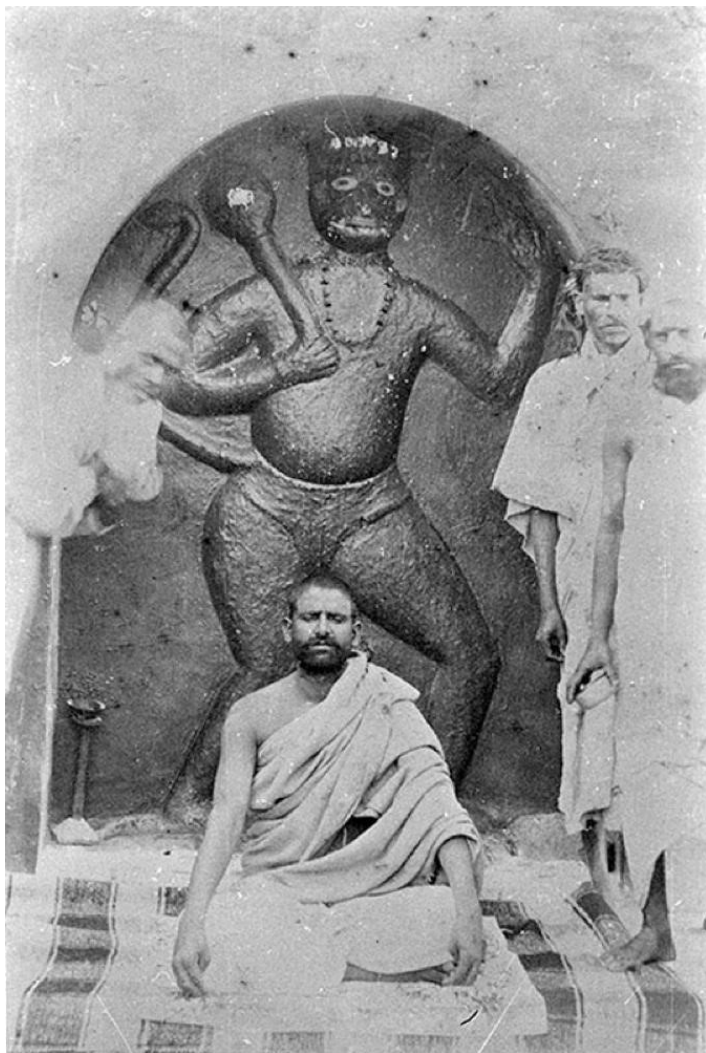
Murti From my Dream

- One day a Nepali couple who were my friends came home and they were low on funds and they were looking to borrow some money from me to start their food business. I had 4000 rupees and usually kept it under my clay Hanuman murti. However, the days before they arrived, I took out the 4000 rupees and kept them in my locker. Anyway when I invited them home, they brought fruits to the Pooja table and we sang a Hanuman Chalisa and when they were about to leave I saw 4000 rupees under the clay Hanuman. Anyway, I thought I must have forgotten to put it in my locker and gave them the 4000 rupees. Much to my surprise, when I looked in my locker the other 4000 rupees were there. The money I gave them was his doing.
- My friend Nyree from Australia was sitting in a restaurant and thinking about going to the book shop to buy a book, I didn't know that she wanted a book yet I offered her my old copy of 'Miracle of Love' synchronistically. The next day she had a full darshan of Maharaj Ji and had tears in her eyes even before she opened the book. On the next day she went on a walk randomly through the forest and magically found a small Hanuman Murti in the woods. She still has that murti till this day.
- Another friend from Australia, Linden, had heard me talking about Maharajji 24/7 and I'd also given her the Miracle of Love book, but for months after she got the book she didn't understand why I was so obsessed. He hadn't given her darshan yet. But one night she

dreamt that Maharajji was the president of the United States and felt like telling her that everything was going to be alright. The next she told me about her dream and I showed a picture where a western devotee had photoshopped Maharajji into the White House. She was shocked to see the exact same picture in her dream the day before, she became a devotee and now recites the Hanuman Chalisa.



A Divine Mystery!



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Hanuman, Vishnu, Ram, Krishna, Kalki and Maharajji

Earlier between the ‘Birth of an Avatar’ and the ‘Maharaj Ji and Hanuman’ chapter, I mentioned some divine synchronicities between the yugas, the prophecy of the last Avatar of Vishnu ‘Kalki’ and Maharajji’s birth. Even though most of the devotees of Maharajji consider him Hanuman himself, a few details from my experience made me examine the relationship between them from different angles for the sake of journalistic inquiry. One of the main reasons that I find a slight dichotomy between Hanuman and Maharajji and suspect that they are closely linked like friends instead of being the same being comes from my full vivid dream darshan that I mentioned in the beginning of the book.

An older and fully alive and animated version of Maharajji was sitting in front of the Hanuman just like from the picture, the Hanuman was absolutely still and resembled the Hanuman in the above picture except he was orange and glowing. Maharajji asked me to build a Hanuman temple while I was on a train, and after some effort I built a small temple after which he came and ate some of my food from my plate. The train started to move and I woke up.

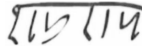
At the time that I had the dream I really had no idea of who Maharajji was except I recognised him as Ram Dass’s guru. I hadn’t even read the *Miracle Of Love*, so I didn’t understand the correlation between Maharajji and Hanuman. Also, I was a stubborn Atheist back then. Come to think of it, years later, when I was recently at the Anjanadri Temple a monkey came and ate some food from my plate the day after it sat on my right shoulder while singing the Hanuman Chalisa.



To explore further, I’ll try to simplify the complexities of Hindu origins in my understanding, starting with the trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. Brahma is the creative force of the manifest universe, the pulse of creation. Vishnu is, in short, the recurring representation of form itself and its preservative aspects, Shiva is known as the destroyer but is really a representation of the formless infinite consciousness.

The stories and the folklore associated with these concepts are far too many, but the thing that we need to pay attention to with regards to Maharajji is the relationship between the Avatars of Vishnu and Hanuman.

Sri Ram and Sri Krishna were the seventh and eighth incarnations of Vishnu, while Hanuman is a mystery of his own.

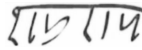


Hanuman

Hanuman himself is a Glitch in the Hindu Matrix - an immortal hybrid between man, monkey (Anjana and Kesari's biological child), Shiva's energy and Vayu's (the Vedic wind God) seed. Furthermore, he gets boons that enhance his array of Siddhis or divine powers.

In her previous life, Hanuman's mother was Punjikasthala and she was cursed to become a female monkey in next life — a curse could only be nullified if she gave birth to a reincarnation of Shiva. She was reborn as Anjana and performed many yagnas to please Shiva — who finally granted her that boon.

Hanuman is considered an ideal of force, power, energy, wisdom, service and devotion to God. That is why in religious scriptures, he is also called as 'Sakalgunnidhan'. Simply put, Lord Hanuman is immortal. In the Hanuman Chalisa, Goswami Tulsidas has written — 'Charo Jug Pratap Tumhara, Hai Prasad Jagat Ujara'. It is clear from this line that Lord Hanuman has been alive in every age in some form or the other to protect the universe.



Hanuman and Ram

The immense brotherly love and devotion between Hanuman and Ram was a result of their destined meeting during the events of the Ramayana, but we have to remember that at this time, they were born in physical bodies. Vishnu had taken birth in a Human body as Sri Rama. Lord Rama blessed Hanuman with the boon of being Chiranjeevi (immortal till the end of Kaliyug).

Ram Himself said to Hanuman, *"I am greatly indebted to you, you did marvellous, magnanimous deeds. You do not want anything in return. Sugriva has his kingdom restored to him. Angada has been made the crown prince. Vibhishana has become king of Lanka. But you have not asked for anything at any time. You threw away the precious garland of pearls given to you by Sita, not finding my name in it. How can I repay My debt of gratitude to you? I will always remain deeply indebted to you. I give you the boon of everlasting life. All will honour and worship you like Myself. Your murti will be placed at the door of My temple and you will be worshipped and honoured first. Whenever My histories and Leelas are recited or glories sung, your glory will be sung before Mine. You will be able to do anything, even that which I will not be able to!"*

Hanuman Ji is still alive and seen by many Saints and Sages in many forms or his original avatar.



Hanuman in the Mahabharata

The Mahabharata which is believed to have happened during the time of Lord Krishna only 5000 years ago has interesting stories regarding Hanuman

Bheem & Hanuman

Bheem is also a son of Vayu, which makes him Hanuman's half-brother.

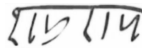
When the Pandavas were in the forest, Draupadi requested Bheema for a flower of heavenly fragrance. Bheema went forth into the forest to bring it. As Bheema was walking fast with long strides, he saw a monkey's tail across his path. He angrily shouted, "You ape, remove your tail and clear my way." The monkey slowly looked at Bheema and said, "My dear man, I am very old and can't even move. Push my tail away and walk on." Bheema was angry, amused and full of contempt. Was it what an unequalled hero like him should do? He tried to push the tail with his mace. But nothing happened. Try as he would, he could not even move that old tail. Then his mind grew clear and it dawned on him that this was not any ordinary monkey but was Hanuman. With folded hands, he begged his pardon.

Krishna & Hanuman

Eager to be of service to another avatar of Vishnu (Krishna), Hanuman attached himself to the flag of Arjuna's chariot, whose charioteer in the Mahabharat war was Krishna. He thus had the fortune of hearing the Gita as recited by Sri Krishna himself, the only other people having the opportunity being Arjun, Sanjay and Dhritarashtra. (There's a story of Maharajji where he transferred the entire knowledge of the Gita to one of his devotees by simply tapping the devotee's forehead with his toe after putting his blanket on him for a minute, in seconds the individual could recite the whole Gita effortlessly)

Arjun & Hanuman

Once on his pilgrimage to visit sacred places Arjun met Hanuman at Rameswaram. Arjun over-confident about himself said, "Sree Ram need not have asked the monkeys to build a bridge. If I were there at that time, I would have built a bridge with arrows." "A bridge of your arrows! Leave alone the Vanar Sena (monkey army), it will crumble under my feet," replied Hanuman. Well, it developed into a challenge. It was decided that Arjun should erect a bridge with his arrows and Hanuman should walk on it. If the bridge collapses, Arjun should jump into fire; otherwise, Hanuman must adorn Arjun's banner (flag). Arjuna built a bridge with his arrows. No sooner did Hanuman set one foot on it than it broke into pieces. Arjuna got ready to jump into the fire. Just then, Krishna reached there. He asked them to repeat their performances. When Arjun erected the arrow-bridge, Krishna touched the bridge with his divine hands as if to test it, he also asked Arjuna to repeat the name of Ram while shooting. Then when Hanuman danced on it heavily, it did not even shake. Hanuman was shocked and then realised that Krishna is none other than Bhagwan Ram. Hanuman kept his word and entered Arjun's banner (flag).



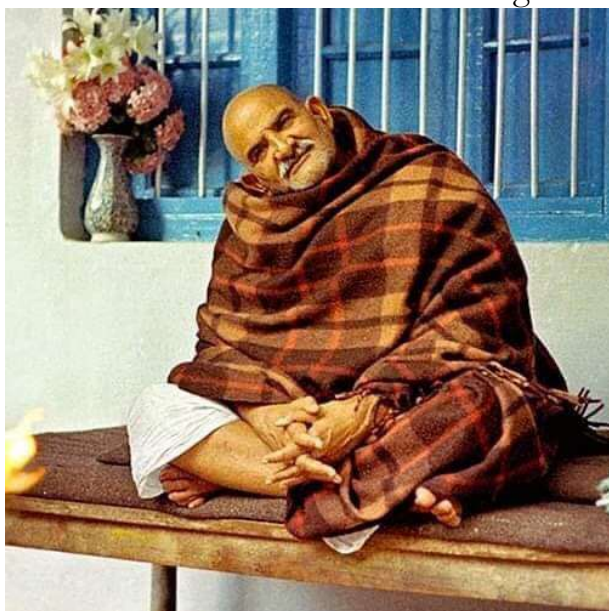
Hanuman and Kalki

So indirectly, the love and devotion that Hanuman has for Ram can also be attributed as the love and devotion for Vishnu - the deity of celestial form who keeps taking earthly form as avatars! So following this trend, "Kalki" is supposed to be the 10th Avatar of Vishnu, and just out of curiosity, this next bit may sound a bit cathartic and much like fiction, but considering the sequence of events leading to his birth, could Maharajji be the much awaited final Avatar of Vishnu? Even Krishna himself taught Arjuna the 'ram' mantra at Rameshwaram when he encountered Hanuman to build the bridge. That could explain Maharajji's love for Lord Ram even as an Avatar

of Vishnu himself. Could the link between him and Hanuman be as simple as the connection between Vishnu and Hanuman? Their devotion to each other is like a dance across many yugas and forms. “SERVE LIKE HANUMAN SERVED” is something Maharajji said a lot, yet it sounds like something Vishnu would say if he were in a human body. Who knows? We poets see no logic. We see our beloved everywhere we look.



Hanuman and Neem Karoli Baba – Brothers in arms or same Being?



Hanuman Darshans through Maharajji

I was looking online for accounts of other people’s experiences of Maharaj Ji and Hanuman and found this on a website.

Amar Singh Yadav Ji made a revelation on people who got darshan of Hanuman Ji. One day my Gurudev, Sri Swami Girdhari Lal Bhaktamal, went with a group of his

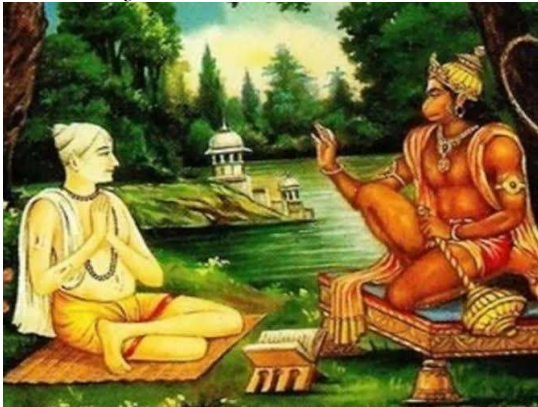
disciples to the Temple of Gore Dau ji on Parikrama Marg in Vrindavan. A religious ceremony was being held, and during the course of a reference to Hanuman ji, an idea flashed in my mind. 'Everyone says that Hanuman ji is immortal but nobody says that they have ever seen him. It is natural if a dead person is not seen, but it is strange that an immortal one has not been seen by anyone.' I expressed my thoughts to the swamis, but their answers did not satisfy me. My Gurudev asked my fellow disciples to go to Neeb Karori Baba's ashram to have Hanuman ji's darshan. On their return, he asked me to go as well. I saw a beautiful temple just in front of the entry to the ashram, but I did not see a murti of Hanuman Ji there. Sitting comfortably in the center of the room, facing the open doorway, was a large man wearing a dhoti and a blanket. I assumed that he was the manager of the ashram and that he was waiting for the murti to be brought so that it could be installed. On my return I told Guru Maharaj everything that I had seen. My fellow devotees, who had returned from the temple, expressed their surprise that I had not seen the huge murti of Hanuman Ji in the temple. Gurudev said, "It was the grace of Hanuman Ji that he gave you darshan in human form." A few years later I was visiting my brother R.S. Yadav and saw a photograph in his house of the same man as I had seen in Baba Neeb Karori's ashram. He looked exactly the same and was dressed in the same way. I pointed to the photograph and told my brother that I had seen him somewhere before. He was very happy to hear the full account of my experience in 1984 and went on to tell me that the photograph was of Baba Neeb Karori, who people recognize as an incarnation of Hanuman Ji. He added that Baba left his body in 1973 and that the huge murti of Hanuman ji had been installed in that temple, sometime in 1970. My brother also narrated two similar experiences of his friend, Brihaspati Dev Triguna Vaidya, another devotee of Baba Neeb Karori. On 24 September 1973 Triguna ji went to Baba's ashram in Jaunapur, Delhi, to have prasad on the thirteenth day after Mahasamadhi. After bowing before Hanuman Ji's murti, he raised his head and saw Baba standing there in place of the murti. He was astonished at the sight and offered pranam again. When he looked up the second time, he saw Hanuman ji's murti. The second incident took place sometime after 1976. Triguna ji went from Delhi to visit Kainchi and stood outside the big marble temple, in which he saw a huge murti of Hanuman. He did not know that he was standing outside Baba's temple. For as long as he stood there, he had the darshan of Hanuman ji and not Baba. On returning to Delhi, he told my brother about the big marble temple with the murti of Hanuman ji. My brother told him that, in reality, Baba Neeb Karori's murti was in that temple. These events completely removed my doubts.

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Hanuman and Tulsidas

This incident occurred in the 15th century.

Tulsidas hints at several places in his works, that he had met face to face with Hanuman and Ram. Tulsidas used to visit the woods outside Varanasi for his morning ablutions with a water pot. On his return to the city, he used to offer the remaining water to a certain tree. This quenched the thirst of a Preta (a type of ghost believed to be ever thirsty for water), who appeared to Tulsidas and offered him a boon. Tulsidas said he wished to see Ram with his eyes, to which the Preta responded that it was beyond him. However, the Preta said that he could guide Tulsidas to Hanuman, who could grant the boon Tulsidas asked for. The Preta told Tulsidas that Hanuman comes every day disguised in the mean attire of a leper to listen to Ramkatha, he is the first to arrive and last to leave. That evening Tulsidas noted that the first listener to arrive at the discourse was an old leper, who sat at the end of the gathering. After the Katha was over, Tulsidas quietly followed the leper to the woods. In the woods, at the spot where the Sankat Mochan Temple stands today, Tulsidas firmly fell at the leper's feet, shouting "I know who you are" and "You cannot escape me". At first, the leper feigned ignorance but Tulsidas did not relent. Then the leper revealed his original form of Hanuman and blessed Tulsidas. When granted a boon, Tulsidas told Hanuman he wanted to see Ram face to face. Hanuman told him to go to Chitrakuta where he would see Ram with his own eyes. At the beginning of the Ramcharitmanas, Tulsidas bows down to a particular Preta and asks for his grace. According to Rambhadracharya, this is the same Preta that led Tulsidas to Hanuman.



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Sab Ek - The Guru Within

In the previous chapter I went on an overly complex and deep search to look at the origins of Maharajji and find a way to join the dots in a Divine Conspiracy so to speak, but the reality of the matter is that it's a lot simpler than that. As much as concepts and theories and mythology are exciting and fun for the intellectual mind, the more important things lie in the simplicity of the present moment, and the oneness of all things.

Sab Ek means it's all one. As simple as this may seem, it's very profound what it implies. The truth is that all the Gods, Goddesses and Gurus, reside within you. You are the universe unfolding itself. You are God, looking at its creation through your eyes and senses, you are the physical representation of all that is was and ever will be. If I replace the 'you are' with an 'I Am', then the oneness of it all becomes prevalent

I am the earth I am the sky
I am you and you are the 'I'
I am the depth I am the height
I am the landing I am the flight
I am the darkness I am the night
I am the peace succeeding the fight
I am the bullet I am the gun
I am the stillness I am the run
I am the light I am the way
I am the Gods and their divine play
I am the canvas I am the paint
I am the sinner I am the saint
I am the joker I am the joke
I am the paintbrush and its stroke
I am the body I am the mind
I am the spirit I'm yearning to find
I am the mantra I am the voice
I am the silence under the noise
I am history in the making
I am the future in the taking

I am the flesh I am the skin
I am the loss I am the win
I am the outside turning in
I am the sacred Guru within



The Guru within - what a profound statement. In the book 'Be Here Now' Ram Dass holds a mirror to himself and says 'You are the Guru', and furthermore he goes to say that 'when you learn how to listen, everyone is the Guru'. 10 years after reading this I thought I understood it but turns out I hadn't. Before having 'true darshan' of Maharaj Ji, these were all concepts. Now they mean something completely different.

कस्तूरी कुंडल बसे मृग धूँडे बन माहि।

ऐसे घटि घटि राम हैं दुनिया देखे नाहि॥

Kasturi Kundal Basai, Mrug Dhundhe Bana Maahi
Aise Ghati Ghati Ram Hein, Duniya Dekhe naahi

- Kabir Doha

'Even though the fragrant Kasturi (deer musk) is found within the belly of the deer

The animal searches the whole of the vast forest seeking it in futility

Such is the nature of Ram (the divine)

That you may search the entire world yet not find him"

I learnt this perhaps when I was 10 years old in school. It's a beautiful poem regarding the internal nature of the Divine. Now when it comes to Maharajji, the degree to which this is true is a bit shocking.

Jai Ram Ransom said it best in his book 'It All Abides in Love' with a shocking one liner

“Maharajji is You!!!!”

The implications of this are so profound. Maharajji is you!? What does that mean?

Well even though he's a deity with his own personality and cosmic form and all that, the place where I feel him most is within my own heart-mind. The reason why I said heart-mind and not just heart is because sometimes he says stuff and does things from there which I'm sure was him. There are these intuitive messages that I get from time to time, and sometimes they are a feeling, and sometimes these feelings give rise to a thought. He communicates from that space. And feels comfortable to move in and out based on how we're feeling.

Sometimes, like when I'm writing this book, I intentionally ask him to come and assist me in the process. To be fair, my fingers do all the typing but this fusion of Maharajji and me in the Hridayam or what Ram Dass calls 'the heart cave' is where the real stuff is coming from.



"The Monkey and the Muse"

Muses are supposed to be mythical inspirational Goddesses of literature, science and the arts. It is believed that the quality of art that an artist produces depends on the amount of inspiration he finds through these 'muses'. The direct translation of muse in the Greek language is 'to put in mind', but in general the 'muse' is nothing but a direct source of intelligence, inspiration, and sometimes even love.

Stephen Pressfield in his incredible book 'The War of Art' talks about the process of 'invoking the muse' as a mystical heart centre's telepathic phenomena where we call upon this loving intelligence to come and fill up the moment with inspiration so that our work contains the divine qualities that make a piece of art or work worthy. In my life personally, I have had several muses. They have varied from mind-altering substances to inspirational teachers to women who were in my life. However, 'God' was never a theme I considered in my process of creating art. Ever since I had 'true darshan' of Maharajji, I've been constantly at work. He is my muse, I mostly do all my work with him and through him. I have never experienced such a continuous and sustainable flow of inspiration ever in my life. I've been through years of what they call 'writer's block' in my life where I simply couldn't create anything. Sometimes however with the use of LSD, I found that I could create a lot and break this writer's block, but then I would spend three days coming down from the substance and eating comfort food and lazing around. Now the boss doesn't let me do 'anything' so often. His philosophy is

"WORK IS WORSHIP"
"WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE,
WHAT IS TO BE DONE TOMORROW,
NEEDS TO BE DONE TODAY,
WHAT IS TO BE DONE TODAY,
NEEDS TO BE DONE RIGHT NOW"



But the beauty of this is that Maharajji will direct one to his or her life's purpose. For example, I had no clue that I would be a writer, and ever since I was a kid, I had this problem with procrastination and finishing projects. I would use the work 'tomorrow' to delay practically everything important in my life and years would pass by without getting the job done.

Thanks to him, now this is a thing of the past. So far, I've made about 5 documentary films for my YouTube channel, mastered the Hanuman Chalisa, finished my first book called 'Power of the Broken Heart' and then by his grace will release this book on Guru Purnima day in both the English and the Hindi language.

So let me explain how my process works -

- I usually get a hint or a message of what I'm supposed to do, some things he tells me directly and some things I decide on my own. The first book was a direct order from him, and this one is sort of a passion project.
- I usually do all my writing in the altar or near the altar after a Pooja and with many pictures of Maharajji around. Like I said before, he comes alive through the pictures and I get direct telepathic communication from him through them.
- I recite the Hanuman Chalisa seven times before I start any artistic process, and the magic of this is unbelievable.
- The Hanuman Chalisa is a muse in its own accord, that magic mantra is an invocation of Hanuman, and Hanuman himself comes down in 'Sukshma roop' or miniature / energetic form and assists the process of the work.
- As I'm reciting these, I can feel new ideas and bursts of inspiration coming from the heavens and descending into my mind and heart.
- Before I memorised it, I used to at least read it once each time before I started on an artistic journey.
- Each time I get stuck or lack inspiration, I directly speak to Maharajji and ask him to help me out. Either that or I light more incense and recite the Chalisa quickly, and suddenly my workflow just flows. Words appear into my mind, poems rhyme effortlessly, things just fall into place.
- It's because I can guarantee you that I'm not writing this book on my own, Maharajji/Hanuman is the co-author and the words here are basically the result of this cosmic collaboration.
- It's really incredible how quickly inspiration comes, even in a noisy city like I am in right now. I couldn't ever imagine that I would write a 200 page book from the confines of the city but Hanuman makes it all possible.

In conclusion, the ongoing exchange of Lila and love between me and my muse who is Maharajji/Hanuman is a fool proof formula for creating works of art. However, the quality of the work can only get better through

years of consistency and practise, but as an artist, there's no greater gift that's having a 'muse on demand' that turns up each time, every time and provides the inspiration, ideas and loving support that's needed to create art or do work. The best part is that the joy of the process has become more exciting than the results of the outcome, I never thought I'd say this but I LOVE MY WORK. Thanks to the divine monkey God.



The Devotees Speak

Jon Vasu Seskevich

“Maharajji’s English Hanuman Chalisa: Inspires Good Thinking”

This is a story about an English rendition of the epic Hindu prayer the Hanuman Chalisa, that Neem Karoli Baba requested be made. This Presentation is offered in grateful memory of Sri Siddhi Ma, K. K. Sah and Ram Dass.

A Yatra is a Spiritual Journey

My personal pilgrimage with this English translation became a Yatra at the Neem Karoli Baba Ashram in Taos, New Mexico. It was completed six months later at Ram Dass’ Memorial Service at Hanuman Gardens in Ojai, California January 18th, 2020.





“Take it to the world.” 2017 Ram Dass to Vasu

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय

The Hanuman Chalisa is a forty-verse hymn to Hanuman that is sung or read to remind him of his powers. Hanuman symbolizes selfless service and always remembering God. The Chalisa was written by Tulsidas in the 16th century in Awadhi a type of Hindi. Sri Siddhi Ma, Ram Dass and Krishna Das have all said, the Chalisa holds special blessings for Maharaj-ji’s (Neem Karoli Baba’s) devotees.

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय

Krishna Das reports Maharaj-ji said two striking things about the Chalisa.

“THE HANUMAN CHALISA HAS THE POWER TO CHANGE FATE.”

“PEOPLE DON’T KNOW, EVERY LINE OF HANUMAN CHALISA IS A MAHAMANTRA.”

My experience has been when there are health problems, or something bad is happening; the Satsang is encouraged to chant Hanuman Chalisas



Ram Dass has been a guide and true guru-brother to me since I first read his book, ‘Be Here Now’ in 1972 when I was 19. The next year I was introduced to the Hanuman Chalisa and the Ramayana in Ram Dass’ Love Serve Remember Box Set, which included 6 vinyl records and a booklet.



Love Serve Remember Box by Ram Dass.

I was not immediately drawn to the Chalisa. Instead, I immersed myself in the full range of Ram Dass’ teachings including lectures, retreats, a private class, meditation practice and kirtans. Years later, I was setting up programs for him first in Massachusetts and then in North Carolina.

Over the Years I Became More Drawn to Singing the Hanuman Chalisa. Beginning in the 1980's, I loved the opportunities to travel to the Ashram in New Mexico or to New York City to chant Hanuman Chalisas with people. At the celebrations, we would repeat it 108 times and it would take 11-12 or more hours to complete.

Mother

Sri Siddhi Ma cared for Maharaj-ji's devotees after he left his body. She encouraged us to deeply reflect on the meaning of the Hanuman Chalisa. Mata-ji encouraged me (and others) to sing the Chalisa daily. A few years later, I visited her again in India. I told her I sang the Chalisa to her in America. She said, Don't do that, sing it to Maharaj-ji.



Sri Siddhi Ma



In 2015, I began to learn of a story... An American sadhu from the Ramananda Order (Ram devotees) who spoke fluent Hindi met Maharaj-ji in Vrindavan for the first time in 1971. He was called "Sadhu Ramdas" by Maharaj-ji's devotees to differentiate him from Ram Dass.

One day, Maharaj-ji asked him to translate the Chalisa into English to help the Westerners. Inspired by Tulsidas, he not only translated a poem but patterned the rhythmic structure of the poem in the same cadence as the Hindi Chalisa.

I first learned of the story of Maharaj-ji and this English Chalisa from the website of Vaughn Paul Manley. He is a current student of the author, now Ramdas Lamb, Ph.D, a Professor of Religion at the University of Hawaiï. I loved and marveled that the Hanuman Chalisa could be sung in English. I have complete confidence in my pronunciation and an easy understanding of the words. Still, with over 40 years of being in this community, I had never heard of this story. So there was some doubt. I explored with older Satsang such as Raghu, Ramesh, and Krishna Das (KD) who confirmed they knew Sadhu Ramdas in Vrindavan. Krishna Das shared a story about Sadhu Ramdas helping to introduce drums and instruments into the chanting at the Neem Karoli Baba Ashram there.



Maharajji in Vrindavan with Dada Mukherjee

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय

The English Hanuman Chalisa
(Forty Verses in Praise of Sri Hanuman)
by Tulsidas

With pollen of the Guru's lotus feet, I cleanse the mirror of my heart,

and sing the pure virtues of Lord Raghuvir, the bestower of life's four fruits.

Knowing this body to be lacking in wisdom, I meditate on the Wind God's son.

Give me strength, wisdom, and intelligence, remove my faults and afflictions.

1. Hail Hanuman, ocean of wisdom and virtue,
awakener of three worlds, Monkey Lord Hail to you.
2. Unmatched in power, messenger of Ram,
Anjani's offspring, the Wind God's son.
3. Valiant Mahavir, with body like lightning,
dispeller of ignorance, inspires good thinking.
4. Golden coloured body, clothing so fair,
with rings in your ears, and very curly hair.
5. Lightning bolt in one hand, banner in the other,
sacred grass thread worn across your shoulder.
6. Avatar of Shiva, Kesari's delighter,
your radiant glory adored the world over.
7. Storehouse of knowledge, virtuous and clever,
absorbed in Ram's work, tiring never.
8. Ever immersed in the stories of Sri Ram,
you're present in the heart of Sita, Ram, Lakshman.
9. Donning a minute form, you appeared to Sita,
then in giant form you burned down Lanka.
10. Mightily destroying demons everyone,
ever fulfilling the work of Lord Ram.
11. Bringing sacred herb to revive Lakshman,
you received a joyous embrace from mighty Sri Ram.
12. Raghupati lovingly extolled your merit,
saying, "You're as dear to me as brother Bharat."
13. It would take a thousand mouths to sing your praise.
Saying so Lord Ram held you in his embrace.
14. Sanaka, all sages, and even Lord Brahma,
Narada, Sarada, along with Ahisha.
15. Yama, Kubera and others try to praise you.
How can a poet ever hope to describe you?
16. Doing for Sugriva a very great thing,
you brought Ram to him who made him a king.
17. Vibhishan listened closely to your word,
became Lord of Lanka, known throughout the world.

18. Traveling many miles, you went to the sun,
thinking it a fruit to eat when you were young.
19. Holding in your mouth Lord Ram's precious ring,
you sailed across the sea which is not at all surprising.
20. Difficult work wherever it may be.
By your kind blessings is done so easily.
21. At the door of Ram, you are the guardsman.
No one can enter without your permission.
22. All joy is gained by those in your shelter.
What is there to fear when you are protector?
23. Such is your power only you can handle.
Hearing your roar, the three worlds tremble.
24. Ghosts & evil spirits can never come near,
to one who repeats the name of Mahavir.
25. All illness is dispelled, and suffering is gone,
by constant repetition of thy name, Hanuman.
26. By Hanuman's grace from all troubles freed,
for those who remember you in thought, word, and deed.
27. Greatest of all is Ascetic King Ram,
all of whose works you have easily done.
28. Whoever comes to you with any desire,
receives the highest fruit of eternal nectar.
29. In all four ages your glory is sung.
Your fame enlightens the whole of creation.
30. For Saints and Sages, you are protector,
beloved of Ram, demon's destroyer.
31. You can bestow all perfections and power.
The boon was given you by Janaki Mother.
32. You know the essence of devotion to Ram.
In his service you will ever remain.
33. By devotion to you the Lord is attained.
Freedom from lifetimes of suffering is gained.
34. At the time of death, the Lord's abode is won.
Any rebirth will be of pure devotion.
35. Remembering any other deity is needless.
Devotion to Hanuman brings all joy and bliss.
36. Sufferings are dispelled, rebirth cycle cut,
for those who remember almighty Hanumat.
37. Lord of my senses, Hanuman hail to you!
Bestow thy grace as does the Guru.
38. For those who sing this, one hundred times,

all bonds are broken, the highest joy they find.
39. For those who read the Hanuman Chalisa,
perfection is attained, the witness is Shiva.
40. Tulsidas, eternal servant of the Lord, prays,
“Please make my heart, O Lord, into thy abode.”

Son of the Wind God, dispeller of distress, most auspicious in form,
with Sita, Ram, and Lakshman, please make my heart into your home.



*[Translation by Ramdas Lamb at Neem Karoli Baba's request, in Vrindavan 1971.
Last edited by Ramdas Lamb on 6/1/2021]*



Maharaj-ji's English Hanuman Chalisa Yatra

During the celebration as I sang Maharaj-ji's Chalisa with a few devotees, Punya who is part of the Ashram leadership team listened. Afterward, we spoke, and I shared the Neem Karoli origin story. As I was feeling inspired, I wondered about singing it 100 times in English at the Ashram? He thought it possible. The Yatra inspiration began. I had sung the Hindi Chalisa many times 100 rounds, even a few times by myself, but never in English. How about singing it with people too? Here are the details of all the Yatra components:

- *Sing the English Chalisa 100 times at the Taos Neem Karoli Baba Ashram this year.*
- *Sing Maharaj-ji's Chalisa 108 times with people and keep track.*
- *Make pilgrimages to Hanuman temples in California and ask permission to sing this.*
- *Sing Chalisa in Hindi or English by myself whenever I would like. Don't keep track.*
- *Sing Chalisa in Hindi with others.*
- *Reach out to the author of this translation.*

A real blessing of this Yatra was meeting Dr. Lamb in person and learning more. Over two years, he visited Maharaj-ji on many occasions. They would speak together

in Hindi about Ram bhakti as well as the importance of the Chalisa and devotion to Hanuman-ji. He shares:

“One day, I brought along a small book that had a commentary on the Chalisa and asked him to write in it for me. He wrote ‘Ram Ram’ in Devanagari and then said to me, ‘Translate it so they can understand.’”

Since this was Sadhu Ramdas’ first attempt at making a translation of anything more than a few sentences from Hindi to English, he developed self-guidelines for his interpretation.

- ▶ #1 Making it devotionally accurate for Hanuman-ji.
- ▶ #2 Respecting Tulsidas, he wanted to write it in a poetic, rhythmic style.
- ▶ #3 Per Maharaj-ji’s request, make the translation with clarity for the English speakers.

The Yatra continued to Temples with Hanuman’s Murti. In California, I visited four Hindu Temples for this practice, in Watsonville, Ventura, Torrance and Laguna Beach. Prior to arriving, I contacted each and all agreed for me to sing the Hanuman Chalisa in English eleven times for about 75 minutes.

During this Yatra, there were some incredible “chance” meetings. For example, on the shuttle bus going to the LAX airport, I had my Ram cap on my knee. I turned and noticed an Indian woman across the aisle. I said, “Jai Sri Ram.” She was happy and responded back. Veena shared she was from Ojai, had noticed my hat and is a Hanuman devotee! In no time we were doing a quick 5-minute Hindi Hanuman Chalisa on the bus. My girlfriend Mimi just smiled. After returning home, we sang together on this Yatra with her family and dear friends Mark and Asba Lee who are original students of J. Krishnamurti. I learned Ram Dass had spoken at Krishnamurti’s Foundation in Ojai.

This Yatra began in July in Taos inspired by the Neem Karoli Ashram, Hanuman-ji and Satsang

Then I returned on October 26th with Rick Ramirez and Paul Langan from North Carolina and a few local Satsang. We completed 108 Hanuman Chalisas, 100 in English and 8 in Hindi in 11.5 hours.

Maharaj-ji’s Chalisa continued with a visit to Maui and Vaughn Paul, Dec. 3rd He shared one of his favorite English Chalisa insights and pulled out another book of Tulsidas’.

#17 “Vibhishan listened closely to your word, became Lord of Lanka, known throughout the world.”

Did I know what Vibhisban learned from Hanuman that caused this great success? No, I did not.

Briefly, in my words, Vibhisban had deep self-esteem issues, no self-worth, he lived surrounded by disgusting demons! Ashamed, not good enough to offer God anything. Hanuman replied, look at me a monkey, truly reviled throughout the world. If I can worship and serve God, you can too! We are OK the way we are. God loves us, just offer God your devotion and service. A healing took place.

A few personal insights from this Yatra

The Hanuman Chalisa is a living teacher if we choose or it chooses us. In the opening prayer of the Chalisa beginning: “Knowing this body to be lacking in wisdom I meditate on the wind god’s son...” is very reassuring and inspiring. Speaking for myself, I know I make mistakes, I know life can be full of uncertainties. With the opening prayer, I am asking for help and in addition receiving it to be a better person.

Line #7 the words, “...tiring never.” When I did English Chalisa 100 times in Taos, these words inspired my practice with a positive energy throughout the day. Line #20. “Difficult work wherever it may be, by your kind blessing is done so easily.” Part of line #22. “What is there to fear when You are Protector?” In times of big life changes such as we find with the Pandemic; these words strengthen me, boost my spirit and feed my Soul.

Line #34. “At the time of death, the Lord’s abode is won, any rebirth will be of pure devotion.” Originally, I looked at this as a future focused issue, when I die this time, my next life will be of pure devotion. Now I have a new understanding. In past lives, I (as well as others) have sung this Hanuman Chalisa and now this life is the Bhakti Path.

Line #39. “For those who read the Hanuman Chalisa, perfection is attained, the witness is Shiva.” There is no pressure from the Hanuman Chalisa for one to memorize it. Simply reading it is enough. Quite enough really, Shiva certifies it!



It is not too easy to chant an English Hanuman Chalisa

- *KD has critiqued chanting in English in general because it is the same language, we drive ourselves crazy with in our heads.*

- ▶ *To sing the Hanuman Chalisa in English one needs to read the words. This can be a very different experience when one is already familiar with the Hindi words.*
- ▶ *Also if one has regularly sung the Chalisa in Hindi since childhood and now speak English, the words translated exactly do not form complete ideas.*
- ▶ *But I do have one more positive insight to share with you, even with all these challenges:*

Hanuman-ji Understands English!!!

One of Ram Dass' most heartfelt visions was to have a suitable Temple constructed in America for the Hanuman Statue (Murti) that he had commissioned in India after Maharaj-ji left his body in '73. It was properly crafted with the guidance of Sri Mata-ji, Rabboo Joshi and Ram Dass. In Jaipur, it was sculpted from marble, painted, carefully packed and shipped across the ocean. It arrived in New Mexico in 1978; now in 2019 Ram Dass' dream became manifested.



Ram Dass touching Murti's foot.



- *Jon Vasu Seskevich*

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www.EnglishChalisa.com

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय

Daniel Barnes

Recently I discovered it is possible for a being to subtly weave their way into one's conscious reality without a person realising, or asking for it to happen. I suppose this could be seen as a concerning possibility to some, and it certainly is quite unsettling once you notice your entire world changing around you, but in my case this happened at a time in my life where I was at a crossroads, making largely unconscious decisions that were dangerously defining the path I was on. I was profoundly attached to my trauma, my depression and addictions, and I was self-perpetuating my own deepening misery with each passing year.

I had heard the name Ram Dass mentioned by various people at times, but the subtlety in which he weaved his way into my life still astounds me to this day. Something rather inexplicable kept persistently nudging me in his direction, to the point where I was feeling almost desperate to seek out his story, and his teachings. It all happened so effortlessly from there, and like so many others before me, I devoured somewhere probably in the hundreds of hours worth of recorded material, and I carried around mala beads and a copy of Be Here Now. It all felt ridiculous at times, but I was happy. Ram Dass somehow changed the entire way that I processed reality, and I was no longer looking at my life through the same lens anymore. I somehow let go of my trauma, my addictions and found it possible to manage a lifelong battle with clinical depression without the need for medication. I was shedding my attachments one at a time, including the chemical ones.

Somehow his teachings, his use of words and his voice had the power to create a sense of unconditional love from within that I have limited ability to articulate into words. It was almost like I had redefined the concept of love completely, and this helped me to better understand others, as well as myself. All of a sudden I was no longer identifying with my thoughts, I was capable of becoming a witness to my moods rather than acting impulsively from within them. I had redefined the relationship between my conscious self, and the universe around me, and I understood the importance of the present moment, and being present with others. Of course, life still has its deep challenges, my neuroses certainly still manifest at times, but the difference is that I now have my practice, I know what to do, and I'm now capable of grounding myself in love when I feel myself getting lost.

On reflecting on all of this, and the powerful change it has caused in my own life, I came to realise that what Ram Dass was doing was interpreting and articulating a kind of love to westerners which we have limited capacity to understand. His Guru Maharajji was a being who at times taught without teaching, and often confused his devotees with the bluntness, and brutally succinct nature of his lessons. Ram Dass was able to be a voice for Maharajji in the west, and somehow impossibly construct words around his divine teachings which westerners, and those living modern lives were able to process and understand. This is part of what makes Ram Dass so special, and such a beautiful gift to the entire world. He radiates the same unconditional love which Maharajji did, and he gave us access to a

kind of love most of us never knew existed. All one has to do is look into his eyes to see it.

I've spent a lot of time trying to pinpoint and extract the source of the divine love that was flowing from Maharajji, through Ram Dass and out into the world. I spent time reading books, meditating, listening to lectures, speaking with other devotees, and came to the conclusion that as with so many other aspects of my journey, I was overthinking things. It was useless to attempt to identify a source or an explanation for the way Maharajji affected people. Some things are beyond explanation. At a certain point along the path, it suddenly became important to me to learn the Hanuman Chalisa. It wasn't obvious why, and didn't make much sense to me at the time, but I felt drawn, or called somehow to learn the verses. It seemed important for me to utter the syllables as close to the original dialect as possible to receive the benefit of the divine vibratory energy behind them. It proved to be an extremely powerful practice, and the closest I have come to connect with what I was looking for. I am still in the process of learning and practicing the verses, but I never expected for something to feel so vital for me to pursue. Whether I'm meditating on the verses as mantra, chanting aloud, or silently reciting them during my daily life, I have never found any other practice to be as healing, energising and grounding as the Hanuman Chalisa. It's the easiest way I have found to connect with Maharajji, and the fastest way I know to re-engage with the divine when I'm feeling hopelessly disconnected.

I still at times wonder how I arrived here, and how my life changed so suddenly. It feels like a hand reached down and lifted me out of the darkness and into the light where for the first time I could see how beautiful the world around me really is. In hindsight, it's all so surreal, but I know that a power I don't quite understand yet played a part in all this, and I know that the other path I was previously stumbling down is gone now, overgrown with trees and completely impassable, and my life has changed forever and there is no way to look back. The most exciting part is knowing how much further I still have to go.

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Margot Clark

What I am attempting to communicate is beyond language. This clumsy attempt is merely a finger pointing to the moon because words cannot capture the full mysterious richness of the guru.

I am from a middle American town where words like “guru” are scoffed at and thrown into a category reserved for Tofu eating hippies. I was baptised, confirmed and raised in the Christian church. I clocked many an

hour volunteering, attending bible studies, striving and reaching for the relationship I longed to have with the Divine. The trouble was that no matter how hard I tried or how diligently I studied, I was left with the script of what I should be feeling but was utterly disconnected from God. This came to a head when I experienced my first life-altering loss. Amidst the grief, I found my faith dwindled. The foundation that I built my hopes upon didn't appear to hold as I spiralled into a lost despair.

I believe that Maharajji has been working with me for various lifetimes but it was at this sad point, with my back up against a wall and my hope just about gone, that his workings became visible to me in my life. He reached my heart via Baba Ram Dass. As I found this incredible man's books, lectures and movies it was like he was holding the key that unlocked my heart. Every word Ram Dass spoke was like manna from heaven. He would answer the questions I had bouncing around in my mind before I even could string the words together in a way to pose them to myself. I trusted this dude. I read "Be Here Now" a few months after Ram Dass dropped his body and I am actually quite grateful that I never met him or knew of him while he was still on this plane. I have a tendency to get quite attached and can only imagine how lost I would have felt if I had confined Ram Dass to his human body.

Once Ram Dass' words reached my ears, there was no "off" switch. I constantly read, listen to or reflect about his teachings. About a year into my Ram Dass illumination, I started to have the distinct feeling that he was once again like the finger pointing to the moon. He had the language and the personality that got through to me, but I started to gravitate towards the man who changed his life. The trouble with explaining a relationship with Maharajji is that it is so deeply personal and subtle that it's almost impossible to articulate. As I started reading the words recorded by his devotees, I had this profound feeling that this being was as intimately related to me as any other person in my life. He seemed so familiar. Little things started happening. For example, a dear group of friends I have not even met in flesh, but have connected to over miraculous technology, have become almost like a fabric of reality behind what I see and do in the material world each day. We chat about Maharajji, encourage each other to read various texts or learn Hindu prayers and as I started trusting this bizarre Satsang, more and more synchronicities started to occur. These synchronicities are so unmistakable and they have the fingerprints of Maharajji all over them.

The craziest part as I learn to still my mind and listen to the language of the Divine is that I realise he has been with me all along. He wasn't waiting

for me to pass an elaborate test or prove my worthiness; he does not change. Rather, once we learn to quiet the monkey mind, stop the anxious thoughts and worries about how we would like for life to be we finally allow room for the ever patient, ever loving and ever present God to be known. At last, I have glimpses of this personal relationship that I had longed for. Is it exactly how I would have imagined or preferred? No way. Instead of sitting down and rapid firing questions and demanding answers like I used to imagine I would do, I now find myself in a delightful game of hide and seek. Maharajji gives us just enough to keep us moving our consciousness along but doesn't pull back the curtain entirely. Once there is room to know he is working in our lives, every situation can be handled with trust and faith. Speaking from personal experience, it doesn't matter if there is a health pandemic, social injustices occurring or losing a beloved and cherished friend to disease: there is peace in knowing behind the fabric of this material world, Maharajji is alive and weaving all the pieces of this Lila into his beautiful blanket.



Anuj Parihar

I had heard that you don't choose your guru, your guru chooses you. Well, it's totally true in my case. I never followed any baba or guru in my life. However, things changed when I met the love of my life who got me hooked to Maharajji in a very subtle way. She told me about this guru called Neem Karoli Baba or Babaji as they call him, and I was like, okay yeah yet another guru. I remember seeing people following their gurus like mad, with their mobile phone's background as their guru's image, desktop wallpaper and their pooja table: you can find their guru almost everywhere. I am not sure if I was envious or against that phenomenon. Now when I look back and see myself as them, I wonder when did it happen to me? When did Maharajji become an integral part of my life? As Neem Dass once said, how subtly Maharajji enters into the lives of all family members, it's hard to imagine.

I still remember my nineties when I was a teenager, my dad asked me if I want to go to Kota. Kota is a place in India which is considered as a hub of Training institutes to crack the entrance exam for IIT (Renowned engineering colleges of India). Only when I moved to Kota, I realised that it is actually not easy to prepare for IIT. This preparation for IIT is no less than finding god but with your books and ardent devotion. I lost this battle of finding god many times in those 3 years of my life and there was once a time when

I was standing next to a river with my friend thinking about if I wasted my last 3 years. Then out of nowhere, I got attracted towards Hanuman through another friend of mine, and I started going to a Hanuman Temple. I wasn't a very religious person back then, but now I try to remember and recollect my feelings at that time, I recall the feeling of being under someone's blanket. It was a very warm and protective feeling where you almost surrender without any expectations. Rest is a history, I cracked another exam for engineering colleges and got admission into a college which was in top 10 at that time. If I try connecting the dots now, then I clearly feel a guiding force always there with me, even though I am not sure if I even deserved it? I heard about a very beautiful word in a Maharajji's movie "Windfall of Grace", "Ahaituku Kripa" which loosely translates into unconditional grace. I truly believe that I received unconditional grace from Maharajji all the time since my inception (or even before).

Now fast forwarding it to my marriage, I married to a girl I found online and she and her family are Maharajji's devotees. This is what I call Maharajji's official announcement in my life. Since then we have always felt Maharajji's presence with us. It doesn't mean we have always been happy and sound. We have had our share of rainy days too but we always had him with us. Maharajji, just like our parents always made sure that we are not spoiled but then he also knows how much we can sustain.



Lila Dasi

Maharajji, Thank you for invading my life with your grace.

Thank you for showing me that every hardship, heartbreak, and obstacle in my life are part of the "play," and that I am always infinitely held and loved. I act like I know it all a lot of the time, but day after day you lovingly show me my many areas of ignorance, and you open my heart in ways that I never could have imagined before encountering you.

Thank you for the countless cosmic winks you send. Thank you for never judging me even when I am so hard on myself. Thank you for showing me unconditional love. I am eternally grateful.

Ram Ram,



Dain

When I first heard about Maharaj-ji, I had heard about him through the tv show *Midnight Gospel*, where Raghu Markus talks about how he and Ram Dass were told to “meditate like Christ while he was on the cross”. This quote sat in my head for a while, and around that time I'd just been getting deep into Eckhart Tolle's work, which had also taught me a little about Christ as well. I had loved hearing some of the philosophies that came from the word of Christ in the bible, however, I didn't believe in miracles. Later on when I began reading *Be Here Now*, I still wasn't able to connect the dots that the guru mentioned in *Midnight Gospel* had been the man whose pictures was all over the book 'Be Here Now'. It wasn't until I read Ram Dass's story of meeting Neem Karoli Baba that the impact of who this being really was had hit me. I had heard other stories about mind readers, or even people being able to teleport, however nothing had hit me like Ram Dass' story had, and I was left awestruck for quite a while.

Very quickly I began learning much more about Neem Karoli Baba, and soon enough I had pictures of him around my room, and was connecting with others interested in him. I'd heard that whenever you saw a picture of him, he could see you back. There was one day, where I had made a sarcastic joke over the internet that I had quickly regretted making, and an hour or two after, I remember Neem Das sending me a picture of Maharaj-ji, simply saying “Speak the truth”. It was at that moment where I experienced an intense shift in my consciousness, and it was like I could feel the entire universe moving into alignment. It brought me to tears. I think that ever since I had printed out those pictures of Maharaj-ji, I had really begun to feel his presence through my everyday life.

Living under the awareness of such a supreme being has brought me to a much different state of mind than I was in beforehand. I soon began delving more into the life of Christ as well as other saints, and learning from their teachings, but also learning from the experience of them and their presence in my life. In this regard, I find an utmost importance in the act of karma yoga, and consecrating each act up as service to The Guru. It is not always an easy thing to do, as I find it becomes a very intuitive act, however I find it can bring you to a place where you are serving God, and eventually are serving up God to others in a sense. It all comes full circle.

There is a lot to be grateful for in this experience; Sometimes I wonder how I could be so lucky to have experiences and understandings such as this. Much of it cannot be put into words, as it is the experience of an

energy unfathomable by the human mind. I truly do believe however that it is the experience of God and supreme consciousness at work, but I know that my understanding is still merely a grain of sand compared to the nature of reality at hand. When it comes to Maharaj-ji however, it is like what Ram Dass said: “I was looking for a map of consciousness... and he was the map”. Besides knowing there are such states and beings out there, it is also just good to have Maharaj-ji’s words to live by, such as “love everyone” and “serve everyone”. By remembering who he was, we can be brought closer to such a being, but regardless of that, he will always be here with us, we just have to remember that.



Karoli Dass

*If you have ever felt Love, you have been in the presence of Neem Karoli Baba.
He is Everywhere and Everything. With so much to say and share about our beloved
Baba, I simply want to say...*

I love you Maharajji

Thank you Maharajji

I will follow and bow to your lotus feet, life after life.

*Jai Neem Karoli Baba
Jai Hanuman
Jai Shri Ram*



In Conclusion / Afterword

To write a book about Maharajji is quite an interesting phenomena. His Lilas and this dive play of hide and seek is an incredible internal journey to dance with. For the sake of truth I have to mention to you, before the 'devotees speak' chapter, I spent all of last week, unable to write a single word because I'd hit the world famous phenomena of 'writer's block' yet again. It was really one of the most doubtful and paralysing mental states. When I woke up this morning I was sure that I won't be able to write anything today either, but then I understood that in the previous chapter (which I'd written a week ago) I'd claimed that the Hanuman Chalisa was a method through which one could overcome writer's block. Maharajji was waiting for me to prove to myself again that this is true before it went on print. So today, I recited the Hanuman Chalisa 21 times and my writer's block finally went away and I feel like I can express myself again. The poetry has returned. Oh, Maharajji.....

Anyway, to conclude this most wonderful of experiences that is writing this book, I need to say a few things. First of all, Maharajji / Hanuman have been my constant companions through the process of the book, and I'm ever so grateful. The moments of doubt and anxiety are my humanness, but the moments of beauty and poetry I attribute to the divine.

The word 'conclusion' itself is an antonym to the words 'Maharajji' or 'Neem Karoli Baba'. You see he always was, and always will be, generation after generation, millennium after millennium and Yuga after Yuga. So will we. We are eternal beings, and each lifetime is like a blink in the eye of the infinite.

To be a part of 'the Maharajji experience' is probably the most exciting thing in my life, and I'm so grateful that this divine pied piper is playing the melody to which I am dancing so enthusiastically. There's another example of free will, one cannot choose the melody of the universe, but one can choose how to dance. In due time however, when the melody and that dancer meet in the place of the heart, there will only be One. The dance becomes the music that becomes the dancer, that becomes the dance floor and it's all so beautiful. All I can say I this - it's worth it.

I would like to thank you - the reader, firstly for having the courage to stay alive and aspire to this most confusing of ordeals which is known as

the human incarnation and secondly for giving your time and energy to this book. Like in the song 'losing my religion', with every word I type I'm wondering if I said too much or too little, cause such is the nature of these unexplainable beautiful phenomena called Maharajji.



Losing My Religion

*Oh life is bigger
It's bigger than you
And you are not me
The lengths that I will go to
The distance in your eyes
Oh no I've said too much
I set it up
That's me in the corner
That's me in the spot-light
Losing my religion
Trying to keep up with you
And I don't know if I can do it
Oh no I've said too much
I haven't said enough
I thought that I heard you laughing
I thought that I heard you sing
I think I thought I saw you try
Every whisper, of every waking hour
I'm choosing my confessions
Trying to keep an eye on you
Like a hurt, lost and blinded fool, fool
Oh no I've said too much at
I set it up
Consider this
Consider this the hint of the century
Consider this the slip
That brought me to my knees, failed
What if all these fantasies come
Flailing around
Now I've said too much*

*I thought that I heard you laughing
I thought that I heard you sing
I think I thought I saw you try
But that was just a dream
That was just a dream*

*That's me in the corner
That's me in the spot-light
Losing my religion
Trying to keep up with you
And I don't know if I can do it
Oh no I've said too much
I haven't said enough
I thought that I heard you laughing
I thought that I heard you sing
I think I thought I saw you try
But that was just a dream
Try, cry, fly, try
That was just a dream
Just a dream
Just a dream, dream*

Songwriters: Peter Lawrence Buck / Michael E. Mills / William Berry / Michael J. Stipe
Losing My Religion lyrics © Night Garden Music



In a way, the lyrics of this song explain the playfully divine game of loving
hide and seek that goes on between me and Maharajji on a regular basis,

THANK YOU, BOSS (Maharajji),

Offered at the lotus feet of Maharajji Neem Karoli Baba.....



Jai Gurudev!!!