

RamKrishna Play Script

Introduction

Balvikas would like to perform a play for you called Ramakrishna – the many pathways to God.

There are few in the world that can truly be said to be close to God, few who have really seen, felt and become him. From these few the rest of humanity has lessons to learn. Of those few there was one, whose name may be familiar to you. His name was Ramakrishna Paramahansa. Baba has often said my life is message, so too was the life of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa. It was he who coined the phrase that is the theme for this Birthday “dive deep”.

The play that the children and youth are going to perform for you today encapsulates this message. Ramakrishna’s life showed the meaning of diving deep. He did not wait to be told or pushed he was one who wanted to find God and would stop at nothing to find him. He made no excuses and made compromise. He knew what he needed to do to find God and he did it. The play demonstrates not only that by ridding ourselves of reluctance we can find God, but, it also shows that it can be achieved through whatever path you choose to follow in whatever religion or God you choose to believe in. The play focuses on the many ways in which Ramakrishna Paramahansa found God. In his life he had many teachers who came and taught many paths to God. Ramakrishna took every path, and though each path was different Ramakrishna still managed to find God using each one.

SCENE 1 – Ramakrishna yearns for mother

The play starts after the marriage of Ramakrishna to Sarada devi. Ramakrishna worked in the temple at Dakshineswar as a priest. His work involved dressing mother Kali daily.

Scene 1 begins with gopi wailing for mother and then yelling. Mita comes in after yelling

After some time a deep urge sprang up in Ramakrishna, he desired to see mother. He would spend his days weeping, singing songs to mother and meditating. This continued for days until one day Ramakrishna yelled

Oh mother can’t you hear me, won’t I ever see you.
(scene showing crying and lamenting of Ramakrishna)

He lamented thus for some time. He was in deep agony and thinking thus he took a sword hanging from the wall and decided to take his life.

Just then the mother appeared before him. She stood in all her splendour blessing him. Ramakrishna filled with such awe fell unconscious.

SCENE 2 – BHAIRAVI BRAHMANI

Clear stage – except gopi who is left picking flowers.

Some time passed. Ramakrishna continued in his sadhana (spiritual practice) and he continued to have visions of the mother, interacting with her often.

One day he was picking some flowers for worship when he happened to see a lady walk past. He instantly felt a connection with the lady. He went back to his rooms and asked his nephew Hrday to bring the lady to him.

Hriday did so reluctantly, he thought to himself this lady will not come she is a stranger why will she come just because master has asked her to? Thinking thus he approached the lady and requested her for an audience with his master. To his surprise she agreed.

The lady's name was Bhairavi Brahmani. The lady came to see Ramakrishna and instantly recognised that this man, Ramakrishna was himself a very enlightened person. She said to him

“my child I have been searching for you for a long time. Mother said that I should teach you the way to God as laid down in the Tantras”

And so from that day on Ramakrishna became a student of Bhairavi Brahmani. She taught him many things one after another. He was constantly engaged in tantra the aim of which is self control. Tantra Ramakrishna saw, was the realisation that those very things that tempt human beings, that bring about desire and that prevent humans from realizing God are in fact themselves God. She taught the 64 main tantras one by one and though many students cannot accomplish them, Ramakrishna diving deep as was his nature learnt and mastered them all.

(show Ramakrishna meditating) Ramakrishna engaged himself in all the practices he gained many miraculous powers. He awakened the kundalini the way to the head.

(scene with mother) Ramakrishna devotion grew deeper and deeper day by day until he began to see God in the form of the mother. He constantly had visions of the mother or devi in all different forms. He often conversed with her and she in turn gave instructions. In this way Ramakrishna realized God using the Tantric method. This was the first method he was to use to get to God.

SCENE 3 – JATADHARI

Around the time when Ramakrishna had finished his tantric practices there came a wandering monk named Jatadhari. This monk worshipped Ram in the form of a baby which he called ramlal. He carried with him a small child statue which he saw as a living breathing baby Rama. He would nurse him and feed him as one would a real child.

Ramakrishna watched Jatadhari and soon himself became enraptured with the baby Ram. He could himself see God in the form of the child Rama in the small statue. Slowly Ramakrishna's intimacy grew towards the child and he would often be seen playing with the baby. On many an occasion Ramakrishna would be seen telling the child “hey get out of the sun your feet will get blisters”

Thus Ramakrishna actually saw, and spent many months with, God in the form of Ram, seeing him, playing with him, scolding him. In worshipping God in the form of Ram Ramakrishna did not withhold his devotion. He dived in deep and not only believed but realised and saw God in the form of baby Ram. The baby Ram refused to let go of Ramakrishna.

Baby Ram was very much attached to Ramakrishna. Jatadhari would not leave without the baby Ram. As a result Jatadhari spent many months with Ramakrishna so as not to leave Ram. However, one day Jatadhari approached Ramakrishna with tears in his eyes. He said to Ramakrishna “Baby Ram has fulfilled a wish I have had to see him, he has given me his darshan. He is happy in your company and I am happy when he is happy. So I will leave him with you and go away.”

From that day the baby Ram was with Ramakrishna for the rest of his life. To this day you can go and visit the baby Ram. In this way Ramakrishna realised God through the form of a child.

SCENE 4 – TOTAPURI TEACHES VEDANTA

Some time passed in the Ashram. One day a monk with a sturdy physique arrived at Dakshineswar. He was often seen wandering nude but his appearance was imposing. His name was Totapuri. Ramkrishna was attending to his chores. Totapuri walked past and saw Ramkrishna. As soon as he saw him he realised what an enlightened person Ramkrishna must be. He thought to himself “this man is a good soul, he is worthy of being my disciple. I will teach him my way – the way of Vedanta. I will teach him how to realise God without form”

Thinking thus he walked up to Ramkrishna and asked him “sir, I see in you a noble spirit are you willing to learn the way of Vedanta from me?” To this Ramkrishna replied “Look sir thank you for your kind offer, but, I will have to go and ask my mother first.” With this Ramkrishna went to the Kali temple and prayed to mother. After some time he heard the command from mother “yes my boy, go and learn from him. It is for this very purpose he has come here!”

Ramkrishna came back and told Totapuri “Yes mother has permitted me. I can learn Vedanta from you.” After this the teaching began. Ramkrishna was formally initiated into monkhood by Totapuri. He put on an ochre cloth and took the vows of a monk giving up all desires and enjoyment. He taught him to adopt the idea of not this nothis, as prescribed by the Vedas. He taught him that only Brahman is real everything that we see is Maya.

Totapuri asked him to meditate on formless God. But each time Ramkrishna tried the image of the mother would come into his head. Ramkrishna said then “no it cannot be done I keep seeing mother” To this Totapuri roared “It can’t be done what nonsense is this?” With this he picked up a piece of glass and pierced the forehead of Ramkrishna between the eyebrows and said “collect the mind at this point”. Ramkrishna then sat for meditation and as soon as the form of mother appeared he looked upon knowledge as a sword and cut the form of mother in two. There remained no function in the mind and Ramkrishna had entered Samadhi. Totapuri remained for some time sitting by his disciple. After a while though he decided to retire. Day passes into night. Totapuri expected Ramkrishna to shout for him. Three days passed but Ramkrishna still did not call.

Instead Totapuri went to see him, and finding him still in Samadhi whispered “hari Aum, Hari Aum into his ear to awaken him” He awaked after some time. Totapuri spent some eleven months in the company of Ramkrishna until it came time to leave.

SCENE 5 – THE MUSLIM FAKIR GOVIND RAI

After Totapuri left, Ramkrishna became absorbed in the thought of the oneness of all beings. About this time a Muslim Fakir by the name of Govind Rai arrived at Dakshineswar. He was a sufi muslim and loved God with all his heart.

Govind Rai told Ramkrishna of his religion. Hearing Govind Rai Ramkrishna also decided that he should try this method for he knew that all religions are pathways to God. He forthwith became a disciple of the Fakir and learnt of the Islamic religion. For three days he forgot all about the divine mother and stopped going to the Kali temple. He went on repeating Allah and recited the Namaz daily. He dressed and ate like a muslim. One day he saw the vision of a radiant figure, Prophet Mohammed. He approached him and entered his body. Thus Ramkrishna realised God through Islam.

SCENE 6– REALISING JESUS

Some time passed. Many people used to visit Ramkrishna. Amongst them was one devotee by the name of Sambucharan Malik. He used to read from the Bible to Ramkrishna everyday. From this Ramkrishna got a desire to follow the Christian path.

Close to the temple lived another devotee by name of Jadunath Malick. One day Ramkrishna paid him a visit at his home. He saw on the walls some pictures. One of those pictures was of Mother Mary and Jesus. He stared at the picture for some time and it appeared as if the picture came to life. Suddenly all his Hindu love for devas and devis vanished.

Back at the temple Ramkrishna meditated under the trees. He forgot completely about his temple chores. For three days he remained this way. At last, on the third day he saw a marvelous god man of fair complexion coming towards him. Ramkrishna recognised him to be Jesus. The figure approached him and embraced him and disappeared into him. Having thus seen Jesus the master never again had any doubt that Jesus was in fact an incarnation of God.

SCENE 7 – Devotees gather

Ramakrishna also found many other ways to God. Through Krishna and through Shiva. In fact as time passed and many devotees came to Ramakrishna he learnt of the many other ways to God and affirmed his belief that all are pathways to God. Many Buddhist devotees came to visit Ramakrishna. About Buddha he used to say “there is no doubt that the Buddha was an incarnation of God. There is no difference between the faith founded by him and the vedic path of knowledge”.

Ramakrishna also had many Jain devotees. In fact he used to keep a picture of Mahavira on the wall of his room. To the Sikh devotees he used to say about the ten Gurus “they are all incarnations of Rishi Janak (the king) I have been told by the Sikhs that Rishi Janak had a sedire before liberation to do good to people. He therefore was born ten times as a Guru from Nanak to Govinda, and having established religion amongst the Sikh attained Brahman”

Conclusion

Ramakrishna not only said that all religions are a pathway to God but actively proved this to be the case. He engaged himself in many various different pathways and through each one he achieved a vision of God.

The question remains how did he do this? Whilst many of us who practice this path sit on the shores hoping God will come to us Ramakrishna dived in deep. No matter which path he chose he applied himself fully.

He once said to his devotee God is like a sea of liquid sweet. Would you not dive into the sea? Just think of a vessel with a wide mouth containing the syrup of suga, and suppose you are a fly anxious to drink of the sweet liquid. Where should you sit and drink!

To this his devotee replied “from the edge of the vessel”

Thereupon Ramakrishna replied to him “You forget my son, for diving deep into the divine sea, you need not be afraid of death. Remember satchidananda Sea is the sea of immortality. The water of this sea causes death. It is the water of everlasting life. Be not afraid like some foolish persons that you may run to excess in your love of God” From this sea of immortality drink the chidananda rasa, the nectar absolute everlasting knowledge and Joy”

We would like to end now by quoting to you a poem from the gospel of Ramkrishna

“dive deep, dive deep, dive deep o my mind! Into the sea of beauty

make a search into the regions lower, lower down under the sea, you will come by the jewel, the wealth of Prema

Within thy heart is the abode of the God of love. Go about searching, go about searching, you will find it.

Then shall burn without ceasing the lamp of divine wisdom

Who is that being doth steer a boat on land – on land on solid ground?

Says Kabir “listen, listen, meditate on the hallowed feet of the lord the divine preceptor”