

The
Ghost
of
Death



Find Out 'Who You Are?'

Before the Last Breath



The pyre is waiting for us all.



There is no exception, no escape from the jaws of death.

For whom the bells toll? It tolls for thee...

ding dong, ding dong, ding dong!



“The concept of death creeps slowly towards you”, says Maharaj, “and then, one day, willingly or unwillingly, you will have to leave this body”. Open fact! “The body has a time-limit.”

But, you are not the body.

YOU ARE UNBORN

We continue to run away from death, even when we hear of people dying every day.

Secretly, in denial, we tell ourselves that it will never happen to us, or not happen for a long long time. “Wake up”, says the Master, “you have a golden opportunity to make sure that when you leave the body, it will be a very happy time.



“Who is dying? Who is living? Find out!” urges the Master. We need to get to know ourselves in a real sense, and confront the ghost of death.

BOO!

Say 'Boo' to this scary and terrifying terminator.



The Master 'refreshes our memories', reminding us that this fear of death came from body identification. From the beginning, we have been brainwashed into believing that we are born, and that we are going to die.



We have accepted this information blindly, as FACT. Our body attachment has grown so strong, that we are afraid to let it go, and even when we try, we can't break free from its grip.

According to Maharaj, many of us claim to have spiritual knowledge. We will say, "I am not the body", "I am Brahman, I am Atman". BUT, when something unexpected happens, like an accident or illness, or we're suffering on our deathbed, all these truths vanish - as if they were mere affirmations. And all we can do is tremble with fear. This means that the conviction - "we are not the body", has not taken root. It is not real conviction. And our 'spiritual' knowledge - is not real Self-Knowledge. Somewhere, there is a crack in the foundations. So what to do?

We are very fortunate to have in our midst, Ramakant Maharaj, a realized living Master, and direct disciple of Shri Nisargadatta Maharaj. Maybe Maharaj will save us?



No, Maharaj doesn't 'do' save.... but better than that, he is one of the rare Masters, (if not the only one), who gives initiation into the lineage, by way of the Master Key, the Naam Mantra. This can be viewed as a 'valuable insurance policy'. It promises, ensures, and guarantees against any cracks in our

foundations. What an investment!

The Master explains: “If you want to know yourself perfectly, the process of Naam mantra is most important”. Humanity has a lot of knowledge about the 'Brahman', 'Atman', 'Paramatman', but this is all dry knowledge, for discussion and entertainment”.

“You see, body-based knowledge is here, (he points to the body), and unless it dissolves, then – whatever is built on top - will collapse, (like building castles in the air). People who say, 'I have knowledge without the Naam Mantra', that's OK, but the knowledge is only acting as a painkiller, and maybe giving them some temporary relief.”



The Master continues: “There is a lot of milk, (knowledge), around, but if you add just one pinch of salt, then all the milk is spoiled”. This means that if we have one small doubt, this little doubt will produce, first, a little tremor, then, a crack, gradually followed by an earthquake. And then, it is only a matter of time, before the whole building collapses. However, if we recite the Naam Mantra, then we are off to a good start, a very good start. Our foundations will be so firm, so solid, that nothing will affect us. Our edifice will not be subjected to any subsidence. It will pass any survey.



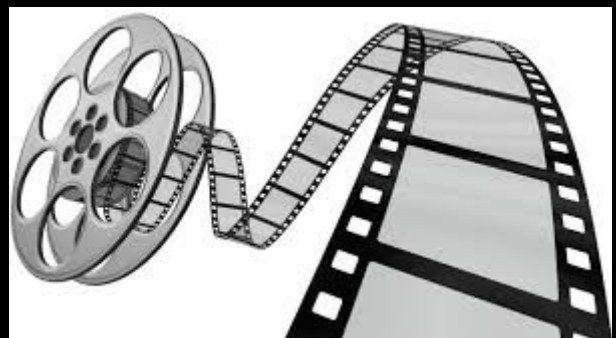
**Our Self-Knowledge will be undisturbed,
by anything and everything –
100% guaranteed!”.**

Maharaj says the prescribed medication is **Meditation**.

Meditation on the Naam Mantra is the 'Anti-virus for Chronic Illusion'. Apparently, the mantra will dissolve body-knowledge. It will help clear out the rubble from the old foundations – our hard-drives, congested and infected with Illusion. As well as sweeping out the detritus, the process of reciting the mantra will remind us of our true identity – that we are 'Ultimate Reality'.



“Every moment in your life is very precious, never to be repeated. Now is the time to discover whether your foundations are solid or not. See! Examine! Find out! Are there are any lingering doubts? Do self-enquiry now”, exhorts the Master, “because if you delay, and leave it till the last moment, it will be too late”.



We are the architects of our own lives, the producers, directors. We determine the last act in our movie. So how is this final scenario going to play out? We can either blissfully and effortlessly 'sail into the blue yonder', as it were, or with trepidation, let the hungry grim reaper devour us. If we want a smooth exit, we need to seriously confront ourselves, (starting now), and find out if our

knowledge is deeper than 'skin-deep'.

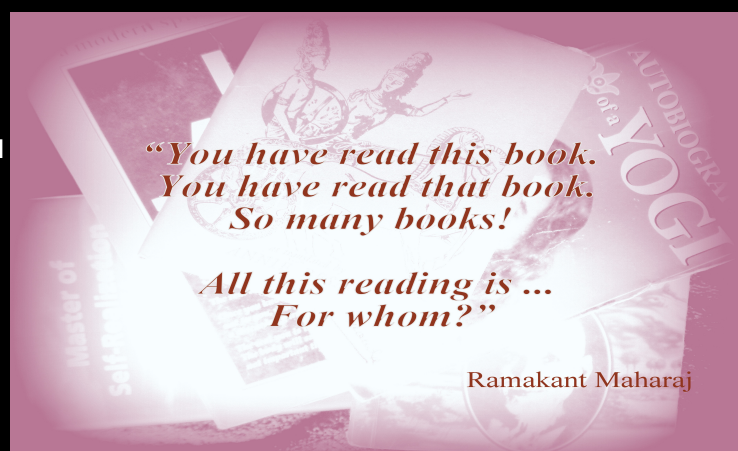
“Self-Knowledge has to be pragmatic so that, when the time comes to leave the body, you will be fearless. There must not be any attachment left”, the Master hammers home again and again. Back to school!



Speaking with some urgency, he repeats: **“You are not the body, you were not the body, you will not remain the body”** - open fact. **So, accept this truth”.**

He continues: “If you are not the body, what are you? You are unborn. Make self-enquiry, and then you will find out THAT YOU ARE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE BODY. Use discrimination, take a look, contemplate. Think on your existence. No one is thinking, only accepting everything blindly.

Find out if you are on shaky ground. Maybe you have read many spiritual books. Maybe, you have faith, a cherished belief, and you think that you are prepared. That is good. But, be certain, be sure”.



The Master is straightforward and practical in his approach: “Ask yourself 4

questions:

- 1. Am I totally fearless? ✓ Or X
- 2. Am I totally peaceful? X or ✓
- 3. Do I have complete happiness? ✓ Or X
- 4. Am I tension-free? X or ✓

"If the answers to these questions come back, 'No!' - then it seems that all your knowledge has been for nothing.

X =



You have been firing blanks. Your journey has lead you up the garden path. The currency that you bought, and so diligently stashed away over the years, has turned out to be counterfeit, fake currency", he chuckles.



or



"Self-enquire, ask yourself 'Where do I stand?' before it is too late", he reiterates. So, the Master prompts us to find out the state of our 'spiritual bank balance

and insurance policy', while we still can.
Better to face these illusory demons now,
than let them pounce upon us on our
deathbed, and make us shake, rattle and
roll, quaking and quivering.



Real spiritual knowledge, Self-Knowledge, needs to be pragmatic. It has to be implemented into daily life. If it remains merely theoretical, intellectual knowledge, then it is well-nigh useless.

“There is no birth and there is no death. You were never born”, says the Master.

**When we know the Reality, we begin to see, that this
overwhelming smell of fear, that followed us around, haunting
us from 'birth', was a big illusion.**

The balloon has burst! We discover that all our fears are rooted in the greater
'Fear of Death' – simply a body concept, body knowledge, and therefore
baseless, hot air.

So, it turns out that our heavy baggage of dread
and trepidation surrounding our 'mortality', which
we carried around for
decades was completely unnecessary. Still, now
we know ...better late than never ...



We expended all this energy, keeping
at bay a gigantic monster. The beast that
never existed has melted away, vanished.
The illusion, dissolved.



Ask yourself:

Who is dying?
Who is living?
Just self-enquire.
Nobody is dying,
nobody is taking birth

Shri Ramakant Maharaj



First stage self-enquiry,
second stage self-knowledge,
third stage self-realization.

Shri Ramakant Maharaj



**Self-enquiry
leads to
Self-Knowledge
and
Self-Realization.**

“Real Self-Knowledge is so important”, says the Master. Without it, the end may come painfully and traumatically”. Not taking charge, the dissolution of the material body may be cruel - like a merciless, enforced attack on us. Like debt collectors possessing our homes!

Master says:

Be quiet and happy. Stay as you are.

You are not the body.

You were not the body.

You will not remain the body.

You are Ultimate Reality.



The Master smiles warmly:

“Be alert, and prepare for that happy and peaceful moment which is the goal of the serious seeker – the great Mahasamadhi”.

Shri Nisargadatta Maharaj 'Mahasamadhi'



So, Find Out 'Who You Are' before the Last Breath

