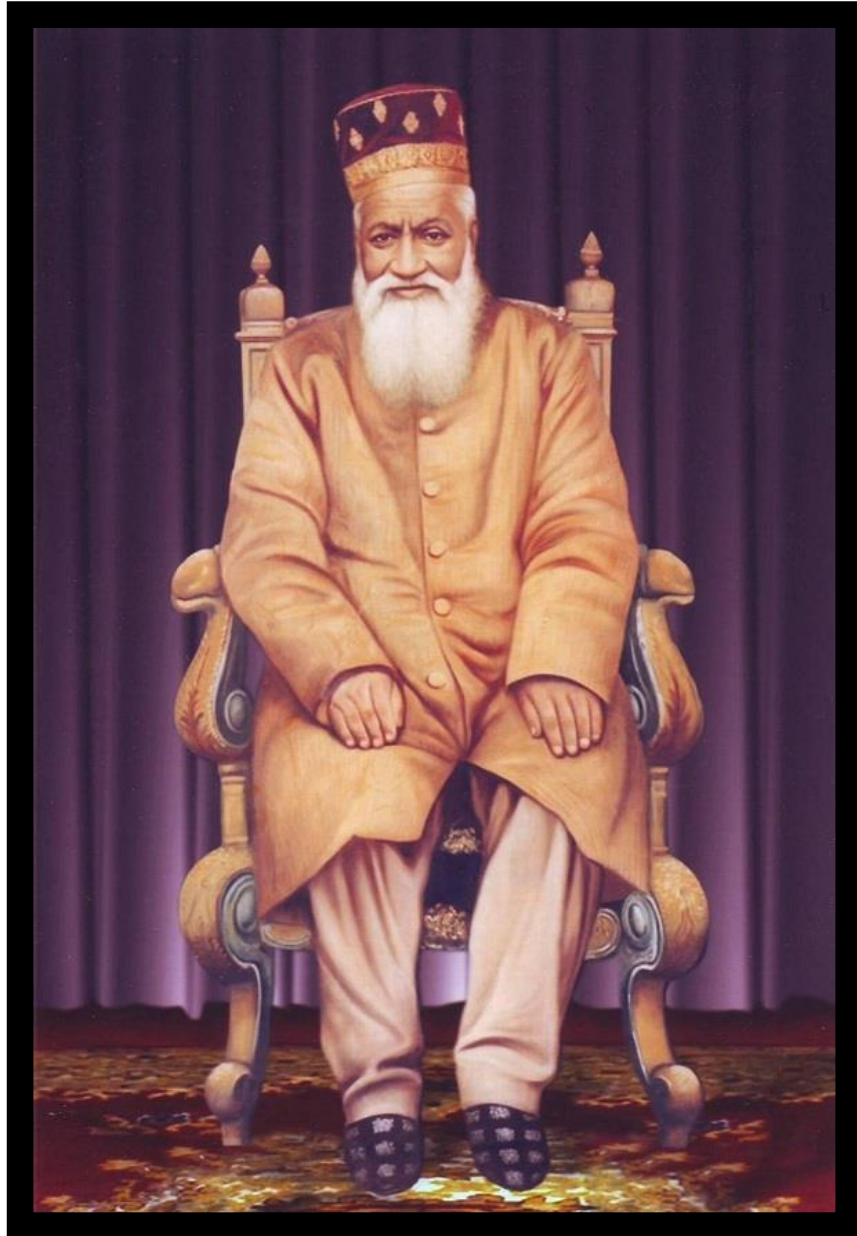


Radhasoami Mat Prakash



Huzur Maharaj

INTRODUCTION

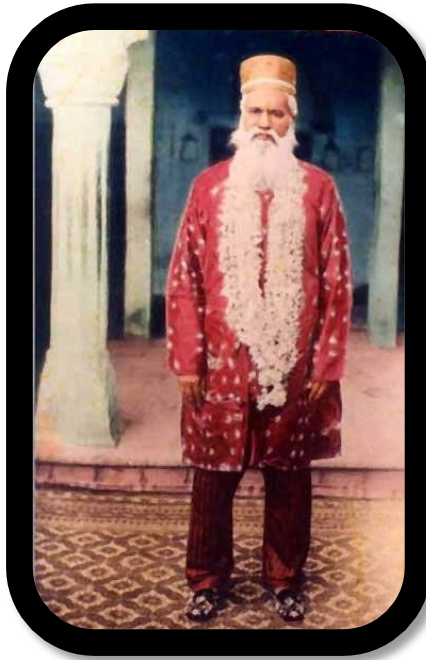
For many years, Huzur Maharaj (2nd Sant Sat Guru) was asked to write a book in English by His most advanced disciples on the Radhasoami Faith. After their persistence, He eventually relented and was pleased to dictate ***Radhasoami Mat Prakash*** in 1896. This book set a

historical precedent of having been the first treatise ever published on the Radhasoami Faith in the English language. A notable example its initial reading had upon the Western mind was the author Dr. Julian Johnson, who upon perusing the following passage from the book, *"The Supreme Being, being a boundless Ocean of Spirit or Love, and human being, being a drop or current of spirit from this Ocean..."*, had stated, "It came with the force of a personal message from the skies!" Such was, and is, the effect many have felt through the years upon reading this timeless Sant Mat classic.

For anyone who wants to understand the fundamental, as well as esoteric teachings of Sant Mat or Radhasoami Faith, and what distinguishes it from other spiritual paths, *Radhasoami Mat Prakash* is a must read. Huzur Maharaj eloquently explains the principles of the Radhasoami Faith in an easy to understand language that speaks to either beginner or even the most advanced student.

Radhasoami Sahai Preface

- * This tract is intended for the benefit of those who, seeing the instability and transitory state of the things in this world, as well as its short lived pleasures and greatness, have a craving for everlasting and unalloyed happiness and undisturbed peace in a mansion which is not subject to change, decay or dissolution.
- * It will also help sincere enquirers of truth who, observing that the love or affection for objects in this world is attended with great pain and affliction consequent on their separation or disappearance, and are anxious to know the Supreme and Eternal Cause or Creator and Master of the whole creation, with a view to fix their attention and set their heart entirely on His Holy Feet, and approach Him in His Highest Mansion.
- * This class of thinkers and enquirers conclude from their observation of the numerous gradations in the creation, and the laws which govern the movements of heavenly bodies, that there must be a Highest Sphere of all pure, Boundless Ocean of Love and Spirit, the residence of the Supreme Being, the Eternal and Unchangeable, the Supreme Master and Director of the whole creation, that every human being (who is a drop from that Ocean) should aspire to try proper means to approach.
- * These means have been prescribed by the Supreme Being Himself when He appeared in human form with the merciful object of reclaiming down trodden humanity involved in endless troubles and miseries in this world. They can be easily practiced by both men and women of any age and in all countries, who, observing the perishable nature of all objects in these regions, have the slightest but sincere desire of finding truth and enjoying eternal joy and bliss in the highest and purest regions of love and spirit in the August and Happy Presence of their Supreme Father.



RadhaSoami - the Holy Name of the Supreme Being

1. The Radhasoami Mat or Faith derives its name from its original Founder, the Supreme Being Radhasoami who appeared in this world in human form and designated Himself Sant Sat Guru or perfect Saint or true Guide and Preceptor, and preached holy doctrines to sincere enquirers of Truth for the deliverance of their spirit from the bondage of body and its surroundings, as well as from the pains and pleasures of this world, and for the ultimate admission (of their spirit) into the Holy Presence of the Supreme Being after traversing and breaking through the trammels and impediments in the material spheres.

2. The Holy Name RADHASOAMI [*pronounced 'Rah Dah Swah Me'*] has been given out by the Supreme Being Himself. It resounds in splendid refulgence in the higher spheres and can be heard within themselves by those who perform devotion by practicing Surat Shabd Yoga according to the instructions given by the Supreme Being Himself.

3. All obstacles thrown in the way and traps laid by Universal Mind and Matter to stop or interfere with the progress of a pilgrim to the high mansion of the Supreme Being in pure spiritual regions disappear at once on the pronounciation of the Holy Name Radhasoami by the devotee; such is the immediate effect and beneficial influence exercised by this Almighty Name. It at once strikes awe and terror in the heart of the conflicting agents and revolting forces met with by the devotee while traversing the material regions and gradually removes them altogether from his path.

4. The Holy Name RadhaSoami signifies both the Supreme Being and the original Spirit or Sound current (or Word) that emanated from His Holy Feet, which is the prime factor and principal agent in the whole creation.

Three Factors in Creation

5. According to Radhasoami Faith there are three factors in the creation of which the first and principal and the prime mover and life-giver is the Spirit, or Word or Sound. The second or the main working factor is Mind; and the third, the Matter, of which the body and senses (the instruments of action) are made. The first principle or factor, namely Spirit, is the prime cause of everything and presides over all, and has its abode in the uppermost regions above all and beyond the Mind (the second factor) in the innermost part of the body. The locality of the Mind or the second factor is below that of Spirit, or outside the innermost quarter, while the flesh or body formed of Matter, the third factor, occupies the outmost portion of the vehicle or human form with the senses attached, or human form with the senses attached thereto. Accordingly, there are three degrees and hence **Three Grand Divisions** in the Universe or Macrocosm with corresponding divisions in the human body or Microcosm.

6. The three degrees or Grand Divisions, comprised in the entire creation, according to Radhasoami Faith are –

1. SPIRITUAL

2. SPIRITUAL-MATERIAL

3. MATERIAL-SPIRITUAL

Pure spirit, uncontaminated with matter, exists in the First Grand Division. Here the Supreme Being reigns over absolutely spiritual life. This is the purest possible form of life and has no desire but to love and serve the Supreme Being. The joys - the very existence -- of this pure spirit-life are derived from the Supreme Being who is the Ocean of Spirit, Love and Joy. Nothing concerning this degree is known or has been known to the founder of any religious creed. It comprises six subdivisions and is called the *Dayal Desh* or the regions of Mercy.

7. The second or Spiritual-Material degree, or grand division, is entirely free from all worldly passions and desires of the lower order. Likening the Supreme Being to an Ocean, the president of the second degree is a tide from that Ocean. He is a kind of Viceroy who rules over

all life existing in the space comprised in the second and third degree divisions committed to his care. As its name indicates, the spiritual-material degree contains both spirit and matter. But that matter is, comparatively speaking, pure and is subject to and controlled by spirit. Life here is very pure and though clothed in pure material forms, spirit predominates. This degree also comprises six subdivisions and is called the *Brahmand* or the regions of *Universal Mind* and pure matter.

8. In the third or material-spiritual degree, matter predominates over spirit. Life is composed of spirits wholly clothed in coarse matter. Having quite forgotten the higher abode from which they originally sprang, the spirits here have acquired carnal desires and passions. This also comprises six sub-divisions and is called the *Pind* or the regions of *Individual Mind* and coarse matter.

9. This degree is dominated over by a wave emanating from the Supreme Being and flowing through the tide which has already been licensed to a Viceroy. This wave or current may, for want of a better name, be called Governor who presides over the material universe and controls matter.

Our solar system belongs to the third degree

10. All solar systems like ours are included in the third degree. Beyond all solar systems in this plane is the locality of the second degree; beyond that locality, again, is the situation of the first degree, the residence of the Supreme Being.

Correspondence of Macrocosm with Microcosm

11. The above Three Grand Divisions in the Universe have a correspondence, or are in the same plane with similar divisions in the human form or body, which is a miniature or Microcosm of the Great Universe or Macrocosm.

The Supreme Being distinguished from the Gods of other religions

12. The Supreme Being, as already said, is unknown. The spirit or the Viceroy who presides over the second degree is the Lord God of the Bible; he is the Sat or Sachchiddanand or Shuddh Brahm of the Vedantas; the Nirvin of the Jains and the Buddhists and the Lahut of the Mohammedan Saints. The spirit or Governor who rules over the third degree is the Brahm or Parmatma or God of most religions in the world.

The second and third degrees contain spirit and matter; the former predominates in the second, and the latter in the third degree

13. The entire creation below the first degree is composed of two parts, namely, spirit which is all good and pure, and matter which is always more or less bad. Man is a drop from the Ocean, that is, the Supreme Being. This drop of pure good spirit is so mixed with matter that it becomes in bondage thereto, and unless aided by the Supreme Spirit is always liable to yield to temptation and deteriorates or sinks down in matter.

Necessity of matter in the second and third degrees

15. Nevertheless, matter is actually necessary for spirit life in the second and third degrees. But for the matter, the Supreme Being would be one huge Ocean filling all space. Before the creation, spirits laid at the foot of the Supreme Being in an unmanifested mass. These spirits could have had no separate form, no individual existence, except by an admixture of matter. Thus they could have attained no knowledge of the Supreme Being. As fire is necessary to light any ignitable substance, so is spirit required to give life to matter. At the death of every creature, the liberated spirit merely changes its covering, in other words, takes up its abode in a like form or that of another creature.

The ascending and descending scales in Creation

16. There are two streams in our solar system - the one ever improving, the other always deteriorating. The spirits of the first of these streams pass from plants through the lower creation until they reach man; they then become angels or heavenly spirits and ultimately merge into the Supreme Being or remain in His presence. Maintenance, or individuality in the changes later than man, depends upon the practice of devotion according to Surat Shabd Yoga or the union of the spirit with the Word -- the Word being the emanation from the Supreme Being. If such devotion be not practiced, the spirit loses its previous individuality and becomes merged into a lower stage fit for its reception. A devotee, when merged into the Supreme Being, can assume His individuality at pleasure. Such a being is called a perfect Sant, a special and beloved Son of the Supreme Being. But the Spirits who belong to the deteriorating stream are wholly under the influence of matter. At every change they get lower and lower until they reach the lowest form in the creation.

The special Beloved Sons of the Supreme Being or Sants

17. The Supreme Being has special and beloved sons called Sants [Saints] and Param Sants, who are full of mercy and love, and who descend periodically upon the earth to deliver spirits from the bondage of matter and to carry them to the presence of the Supreme Father.

One should look for a Sant or Sadh to approach the Supreme Being

18. Any one desirous of reaching the Supreme Being must search for a Sant Sat Guru (Incarnation of the Supreme Being) or a Sadh Guru (one who has reached the top of the second grand division) and invoke His help, and receive instructions from one of these Superior Guides as to the manner of his devotion and procedure.

Definition of Sant Sat Guru

19. A Sant Sat Guru is he who has either descended directly from the highest division or reached that quarter by practice of Surat Shabd Yoga under the immediate direction of the former.

Definition of Sadh Guru and Satsangi

20. A Sadh Guru is he who has descended from the top of the second grand division or reached it by the practice of Surat Shabd Yoga under the direction of a Sant Sat Guru and is proceeding towards the highest division. A Satsangi is he who having full belief and confidence in the Sant Sat Guru and His words, is practicing Surat Shabd Yoga under His immediate direction and having traversed some distance is pushing on upwards.

The Supreme Being is both personal and impersonal

21. The name of the Supreme Being is Radhasoami. He is impersonal but personal in the second and third division and when He manifests Himself through humanity as Sant Sat Guru. His attributes are mostly met with in the Sant Sat Guru who might be called an Incarnation of Sat Purush Radhasoami, the true Supreme Being.

Definition of true salvation

22. The deliverance of spirit from the bondage of body, senses and mind, and its gradual ascension and eventual entrance into the first or

highest division by the practice of Surat Shabd Yoga is perfect salvation according to Radhasoami Faith. At present, the Surat spirit which is a particle of the Supreme Being or a ray from the Supreme Sun, or a drop from the Supreme Ocean of Spirit, having descended from the highest or first region has become encased in material coverings and in a manner intermingled with matter and is in this, the third region, subject to the forces or carnal desires and passions resulting from such mixture.

Spirit subject to birth and re-birth in the second and third degrees

23. In its descent from the highest region the spirit has become enveloped in various coverings of matter or bodies, and as long as it remains in the second and third division where matter exists, it cannot be freed from re-birth in the lower or higher regions. It is only in the first or highest division where there is no matter, that there is no re-birth.

Radhasoami Faith not built on the scriptures of any religion

The efficacy of *Surat Shabd Yoga* testified by inspired religions...

24. Radhasoami Faith is not built on the basis of scriptures appertaining to Hindu or any other religion, but on the precepts of instructions of the Supreme Being Himself, who appeared on this earth in human form and graciously performed the functions of a Sant Sat Guru for the benefit of degraded humanity. The original books of all inspired religions, however, bear sufficient testimony to the superiority and efficacy of the Surat Shabd Yoga as the only means and the only highway to the Highest Heaven.

The internal Sound Current is the means of raising the spirit. The difference of Dhwanyatmak and Varnatmak names. The power of Sound Current or Shabd

25. The Sound heard internally is a current which has originally emanated from the Supreme Being and is the means not only of concentrating the will, but also of raising the spirit to the source from which it emanates.

26. At the time of initiation, a novice receives instructions as regards to the particulars of Shabd [inner-spiritual Sound] of each sub-division by means of which they have to raise their spirit upwards. This is called Dhwanyatmak name, while that uttered by tongue is called Varnatmak name.

27. It must be clearly understood that by Shabd or Word or internal voice is meant the spirit of life current which enliven every part of the body and is the main principle or essence which supports life in and

gives activity to every being or body in the whole creation or universe. Even in this world, everything is done by means of word or sound and all affairs are managed through its instrumentality, as one speaks or gives order and the other attends to it or carries it out into execution. The instantaneous effect of word or sound on human beings, and even on animals, is so apparent in every day experience of our life that it needs no further explanation.

The state of spirit in the third degree

The change of its powers with the change of its spheres.

28. At present, the spirit of man is residing in the third or material-spiritual region and has -

The method for taking back spirit to its original source and ride the sound current

29. The method for taking back the spirit to its Supreme Source is first to concentrate at the focus of the eyes, the spirit and mind which are diffused in our body, and in a manner tied to external objects by desires and passions, and next to commence its journey homewards by attending to the internal sound, or in other words, by riding the life or sound current which has originally emanated from the Supreme Source.

30. The current which has been instrumental in having brought it down here must naturally be the only true path for its return to the original source, and whoever finds this current is on the path of emancipation. This current which is the spirit and life current, is called in the Radhasoami Faith, Sound or Word, or Holy Name.

Testimony of Sound as given by other religions

31. Other extant religions also give distant allusion to this life or sound current. For instance, in the Bible we find, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." The *Vedas* also have *Nam* or Word, the *Pranayam* or *Om*, and so others.

The Shabd of Radhasoami Faith distinguished from that of other religions

32. But there is a difference between the Word or Sound which is alluded to in the different extant religions and that in Radhasoami Faith. Their information is not confined to the Word or Sound of one and the same sphere. Some belong to the spiritual-material and some to material-spiritual regions. While the Word or Sound mentioned by Radhasoami

Faith appertains to the first or highest spiritual sphere. These sounds are not nominal words or names like the names of common things, but are real sounds resounding in their appropriate spheres like the ringing sound of a bell, shell, etc..

The efficacy of the real Name or Sound to approach the centre from which it emanates

33. By merely repeating a name or word, the thing or substance which it designates or to which it appertains cannot be acquired but by hearing a real word or sound, the centre from which that sound is emanating can be approached. You cannot obtain bread by simply repeating the word "bread" unless you go to a baker's shop and purchase it there.

34. So by internal repetition of *real Holy Words or Names* one can only collect together at the focus of the eyes, the spirit which is diffused all over the body, but by internally hearing the sounds thereof one can actually hold communion with and gradually approach the centres whence these Holy Sounds or Names emanate.

Necessity of sincere prayer

35. Prayer is necessary to obtain blessing and mercy to help man's perfect salvation, but it must be offered from the inmost of heart and not confined to mere utterance. It must also be backed up by works of faith and charity performed through love and affection for the Supreme Being.

Necessity of sincere love for the Supreme Being

36. Great stress is laid in the Radhasoami Faith on engendering love for the Supreme Being. This can only be done when all worldly desires are gradually eradicated from the mind and it becomes impressed to the inmost core with the unbounded bliss that might be attained by approaching the Supreme Being, Radhasoami. Love, being attraction, it is quite plain that the devotional practice for approaching the Supreme Being will become very easy indeed if there is true love for Him, and devotion, instead of being a thing of duty, will be the highest and most blissful work in this world.

Necessary restrictions as regards mode of living

37. In following this mode of devotion the following restrictions are made with regard to diet and mode of living. No intoxicating drink or drug and animal food is to be taken and immoderate indulgence in any desire is to be avoided. Animal food is forbidden on account of its

producing a material tendency in human nature, and intoxicating drink is detrimental to a calm and natural state of the brain and the nervous system. Other public and private duties should be carried on as usual.

Definition of good and bad acts

38. The moral code appertaining to Radhasoami Faith is comprised in two sentences:--

- 1. All acts, including spiritual practices, which tend to free the spirit from matter and raise it towards its source, are good work.**
- 2. All acts which tend to degrade the spirit by weighing it downwards deeper and deeper into matter are bad work. Again, any action done with a view to help the needy from unselfish motives is good work; and the contrary, bad work in this world.**

39. Radhasoami Dayal says that the highest aim and object of every spirit should be to gradually throw off the coating of matter with a view to return to the Supreme Source. This is what He defines as "Good". To seek worldly objects, to set the heart entirely on worldly affairs, is a retrograde movement; and this is "bad". The next aim of every human being should be to do good to his fellow creatures by thought, word and deed as far as practicable, and to avoid injuring them except in the interests of society or for the good of many.

Brotherhood [and Sisterhood] of Radhasoami Faith

-- Place of worship -- Offering of flower garland

40. Priests in the ordinary acceptation of the term find no place in Radhasoami religion. All the followers are originally equal and form a big brotherhood or fraternity [and sisterhood]. But the superiority of each member depends on the degree of love which they imbibe for the Supreme Being, and on the intensity of the desire they manifest to approach Him. The more fervent members receive inspiration and preach to others giving them also counsel. There are no temples and no shrines. Any house or even open air is equally fit for the purpose of worship. No place is more holy than another except where the Sant Sat Guru resided while on earth. Each member of a congregation assembled for worship brings a wreath of flowers which they place round the neck of the Preacher. Immediately or at the close of the service or Satsang, this wreath is returned to them and sanctity thus obtained.

Radhasoami Faith consists in four words

41. The Radhasoami Faith is comprised in four words –

- 1. Sant Sat Guru**
- 2. Sat Shabd or Sat Nam**
- 3. Satsang**
- 4. Sat Anurag or sincere love for the Supreme Being and Sant Sat Guru**

42. (1) Sant Sat Guru - He has already been described above.

(2) Sat Shabd or Holy and Truth Name is the sound proceeding from the Original Source. It undergoes some changes, or in other words, is enveloped in a sort of covering at every step in its descent in material regions. By 'step' is meant each sub-division or sphere.

(3) Satsang is attendance on the Sat Guru, hearing His discourse, reading His works, and performing acts of faith and charity inspired by love for and a desire to approach the Supreme Being. This is external Satsang. Internal Satsang is the application of mind and spirit to the sound current at the time of practice and an effort to raise themselves to higher spheres.

(4) By 'sincere love' is meant a strong fervent desire and perseverance to approach the Supreme Being. This desire should outweigh all worldly desires.

Superiority of Sound practice over external religious observances

43. It is evident from the above that all external works of charity, worship, pilgrimage, or mere reading of holy books, unless accompanied by internal practice of Surat Shabd Yoga (or the union of spirit and Holy Word) do not lead to true salvation which can only be attained by raising the spirit to the First Degree or pure spiritual regions. One may reap the fruit of such acts by obtaining happiness in the same or a new body or re-birth, in the same or a higher sphere. But to approach the Supreme Being, there is absolutely no other means except the practice of *Surat Shabd Yoga* under the guidance of a Sant Sat Guru or a Sadh Guru, or a sincere lover of the Supreme Being who has received instructions from and is helped in his practice by one of those Superior and Holy Spirits.

Description of three natural states - wakefulness, dream, and sound sleep

44. It is necessary to remark here that every human being passes through three states of life in every twenty four hours, viz.:--

- 1. The wakeful state in which he works with his senses and limbs, feels pleasure and pain, and comes in contact with other creatures and**

objects in this world. In this state the principal seat of the spirit is in the pupil of the eye.

2. The dreamy state in which his connection with the corporeal body (or outer covering) and the senses as well as the external world ceases or is slackening. He has no sensation of bodily pleasure and pain, and all anxiety about worldly affairs in a manner disappears. In this state the spirit is drawn within and upwards to the astral sphere where it dreams and comes in contact with astral creation and works by means of internal mind and senses.
3. The state of deep and sound sleep when all action of mind and sense ceases and the spirit is drawn further inwards and its connection with both the corporeal and astral bodies temporarily ceases. Breathing and motion of the heart and pulse continue, but in certain diseases such as catalepsy as well as in the state of deep trance, etc., the motion of the heart and lungs also ceases owing to the spirit being withdrawn innermost.

45. It would thus appear that the connection of the spirit with the corporeal body and senses as well as the objects of this world is established during the wakeful state only, when the spirit current returns to its seat in the pupil of the eye where the sensation of worldly pleasure and pain is experienced, and the mind, the senses and the limbs perform their respective functions. This connection is temporarily severed when the spirit withdraws itself from its seat and all sensations and functions cease simultaneously. A similar change begins to appear when a man is dying, that is to say, his spirit current is gradually withdrawn from the extremities and when the pupil of the eye is turned upwards and inwards, the spirit flies and its connection with the body ceases forever.

The mode of devotion as prescribed by Radhasoami Faith is the only means to approach the Supreme Being

46. Radhasoami Faith prescribes the means or certain mode of devotion where by a man [or woman] could at pleasure withdraw their spirit from its seat in wakeful state, and thus release it to a certain extent from the bondage of body and senses and slacken its connection with the outer world, and thus free one's self to the same extent from pain and pleasure of this world, and retire temporarily to take rest and enjoy the bliss of higher spheres within themselves. A devotee can traverse the regions of death and return to body at pleasure, or in other words, by practicing devotion for a certain length of time one can withdraw their spirit to the point where death takes place and even beyond it, and can at pleasure bring it back to the seat occupied in the wakeful state and resume the functions of mind-body senses.

47. The benefits accruing from such a practice, viz., the enjoyment of bliss in higher regions within us and obtained relief from the pleasures, pains and cares of this world as well as of the body etc., are self-evident proof of the great importance and extraordinary usefulness of the mode of devotion prescribed by Radhasoami Faith. This mode of devotion is the only and surest means of eventually attaining perfect salvation or complete liberation from the bondage of material coatings appertaining to the lower and higher regions of matter.

48. It is rightly inferred from the above that there is no other way to raise the spirit to the highest sphere but the one prescribed by the Radhasoami Faith, viz., removing or raising the spirit gradually from its seat in the pupil of the eye in the same manner as it rises or withdraws at the time of death, and by catching or riding the Sound or life current to carry it back towards the main source from which it originally descended.

This mode of devotion is free from all risk and danger and can easily be practiced by men and women of any age, literate or illiterate

49. The mode of devotion referred to above is free from all dangers and is so easy of practice that a child of ten or twelve years as well as an adult and the old can perform it conveniently and comfortably at all times, without interfering with the daily business of life. The mind of the devotee will gradually (as they progress in their practice) imbibe more and more love for the Supreme Being, intensifying their desire to approach Him in the highest region, and look upon the pleasures and objects of this world as trifling and transitory.

Pran Yoga discarded as dangerous and unnecessary

50. In times gone by and even now some persons consider Pran Yoga or the practice of suspending breath and drawing it up to the sixth or seventh nervous centre or ganglion (the seat of which is in the interior, behind the point between the two eyes) as a means for obtaining salvation. There is no doubt that this practice secures the liberation of spirit from the bondage of coarse matter in the third grand division. But in the first instance, the process is very difficult and is attended with danger in case of slight omission or commission as regards its rules and conditions, and secondly, the practitioner would still remain in the regions of matter, though pure, and therefore, [be] subject to re-birth and the pains and troubles attendant thereon. A man living with his family and pursuing his profession can hardly comply with the regime and strict rules laid down for this practice and even those who have renounced the world, are scarcely able to carry out this practice without permanently

endangering their health, thereby retarding their progress in the way of attaining their objects, namely the raising of spirit to the sixth or seventh Chakra or nervous centre.

51. Moreover, the Pran or breath current is dependent on the spirit or Word current for its life and support, as when the latter is drawn inward to more than ordinary extent the breathing is gradually stopped, or in other words, the Pran current also follows the spirit current or is withdrawn from the body and its action gradually ceases.

52. Again, the Pran current is a subordinate agent to the spirit current and its function is limited to certain automatic action in the body, as when the spirit current is withdrawn during the time of sound sleep the function of senses and limbs ceases, and through the Pran current or breathing, continues its action it cannot exercise any influence of the senses and limbs which respond to the impulse from the spirit current only. The practice of Pran Yoga is, therefore, discarded by Radhasoami Faith as difficult, dangerous, not carrying to the highest sphere and therefore useless and unnecessary.

Evidence of the existence of God and the Almighty

-- The essence of God and Spirit is the same --

It is an emanation from Him -

53. A sincere seeker after truth should allow no doubt to remain in their mind about the existence of the Almighty Creator, as the whole creation, terrestrial and celestial from its design and object and the immutable laws by which it is governed, bears evidence to the existence of the all powerful and controlling hand of an intelligent Supreme Being. His power commonly called energy is diffused everywhere, but it requires impulse from the Supreme Source to put it into action, and this impulse is the Prime Spirit or Sound current which forming centres at certain distances completed the work of creation in each circle or system so designed, and descending in its course carried out the work of creation to the furthest limit. The lowest system is dependent upon the one higher than itself for its life and support, and this again upon one higher still, and so on, until the highest sphere is reached which is the above of the Supreme Power, the Prime Cause of the first impulse or Life and Spirit current. These systems are called solar systems, each working in subordination to the higher one, and all depending for their life and support on the Supreme Being.

54. This Supreme Being is the sole master of the whole creation and the spirits clothed in body in this universe are emanations from Him, that is, their essence is the same and they more or less exercise the same powers as the Supreme Being within their respective spheres or

bodies, viz., controlling matter or the forces of nature and elements which work harmoniously in subordination to the spirit.

The above statement illustrated

55. To understand the above more clearly one should carefully observe and watch the progress of a plant from the time it germinates until it is fully grown up and until it dies. Since the first manifestation of germ or spirit, the forces of nature, viz., attraction, repulsion, constriction, chemical affinity, light, electricity and elements, including gases etc., all combine and work harmoniously to aid its growth and sustenance. Again, when the spirit separates itself from the plant, the very same forces help its decay and decomposition till the body or form disappears. The same case is observable in the growth of all bodies in the animal and vegetable kingdom from the time of germination, or first manifestation of spirit, until its separation from those bodies which results in the death, decomposition or decay of the latter.

56. It may, therefore, be inferred from the above that the spirits are emanations from the Supreme Being or the first and original cause of creation. Also, that the spirits by the powers they exercise are the means of support and sustenance of the bodies thus created, and that their separation from those bodies is the cause of their death and decay.

57. It is evident from the above that the whole work of creation in various spheres is carried on through the instrumentality of emanations or spirits issuing forth from the Supreme Being as rays from the Sun, and that this creation exists and subsists as long as the spirit maintains connection with the body or the form it assumes, and that decay and decomposition follow the severance of this connection; that matter and all forces resulting from its contact with spirit in various spheres are wholly controlled by spirit and that nothing can move or act by itself without an impulse from the spirit force which is immortal. Matter within its sphere is also imperishable in its original form, namely chaotic or atomic, but it owes its life and activity to the impulse from the spirit force.

Bachak Gyan (Sophistry) and Idolatry

58. There are people who have gone to the one or the other extreme in forming their opinion and conducting the worship of the Deity, that is to say, some have adopted the worship of form or some sign said to have appertained to the Creator when He incarnated Himself in human form, or to one of the superior spirits who appeared in this world as prophets or mediators; while others regard Him as formless and omnipresent and

contemplate Him as Akash or ether pervading the entire creation and space.

59. According to Radhasoami Faith, both the above schools of thinkers appear to be in fault in as much as they exhibit utter ignorance of the real state of things and, therefore, the means adopted by them for their salvation are faulty and defective. There is no doubt that the Supreme Being is formless and boundless, but when a current from this Prime Source descended into the lower sphere and in a manner animated and awakened matter, the first form produced by the admixture of the two was the image for the first time assumed by the original Spirit current, and the outlines of this form served as a standard for all the animated forms subsequently created in the various spheres below; and these outlines are also more or less distinctly visible in the forms of all creatures on this earth.

60. The saying that God created man after His own image is confirmed by the fact of his superiority over all creatures in this world, and the circumstance of the outlines of the human form being adopted with more or less precision in the structure of the whole animal kingdom. If such is the case with the human image in creation, in the lower orders it follows that this very image can be traced backwards and upwards in a more and more perfect order until we reach the first form, the most perfect, originally assumed by the spirit current when commencing the work of creation.

61. It is hopeless, therefore, for anyone to approach the Formless without first coming in contact with the various main forms assumed by the Spirit in its descent to the lower sphere. These are living forms ever present in the spheres to which they pertain within every human being, and they help a traveler in his onward journey to the highest and original form which again leads him to the Formless, and thus perfect salvation is possible to be attained. To degrade the living form to one made of stone or metal, or to stick to certain signs and symbols appertaining thereto and preparing their metallic imitation, etc., etc., without the knowledge of the original, or any attempt to trace it within ourselves, is wandering away from real to unreal object.

62. Again, to think of the Formless and liken it to ether without the knowledge of the various forms or coatings which its main current or creative agency has assumed in its descent to this sphere is as faulty and irreconcilable without present limited thoughts and ideas as the degradation of the living form to imitations made of stone or metal, like toys.

63. Some [who] have gone to a further extreme and identifying themselves with the first and Eternal Clause, the Formless and Boundless Source of Spirit, have lost all regard and consideration for the same, and

become extremely selfish and proud of their existence, which is a mere drop from the Ocean of Spirit and Love or a mere ray from the Supreme Sun, the Life and Light Giver of the whole creation. These have become so infatuated with the idea of their self-sufficiency and superiority, as Brahm or God, that they adore no one as their creator or superiors and fearlessly act according to the dictates of their impure mind and senses; and as their bondage with the material covering or body and its various currents continues un-relaxed they are at the time of death hurled into the regions of matter and find new bodies and places fit for their reception according to the result of their good and bad actions and their predominant passion or desire.

64. The proper course for a sincere lover of the Supreme Being is to acquire knowledge of the secrets and the order of creation, and the means of traversing the distance and stages between his dwellings in the body (the pupil of the eye) and the abode of the Supreme Being, the Prime Source of everything; and to start on their journey with fervor and perseverance with the avowed object of one day reaching the presence of the Most High and Beloved Supreme Father.

Shabd or Word is not originally the resist of vibratory motion or the property of ether as supposed by a certain class of thinkers

65. There are some who regard Word or Sound as the quality of void or ether, while others consider it the result of vibratory motion but they both labor under an erroneous impression. When it is asserted by all revealed religions that Word or Sound was the first manifestation of the Deity or Supreme Being, and the rest of the creation, including ether and other elements, was created by the Sound or Spirit current - how could then the original Word be regarded as the quality of ethers when it is the life and soul of everything that followed its first manifestation? Again, when the original Word or Spirit Current was the prime mover and the first impulse which came from the Supreme Source and was the first cause of all sorts of motion and colors and forms, how could it be regarded as the result of vibratory motion, which motion is however the subsequent expression or manifestation of spirit or energy throughout the creation? The vibratory motion is confined to the spheres where matter exists in subtle or pure or less pure and impure or coarse force and is the result of contact of spirit with matter; in other words, it is the manifestation of an effort on the part of the spirit current, descending from the Highest Sphere, to remove the material coating of the spirit or energy in the lower regions.

66. It should, therefore, be clearly understood that instead of Sound being the result of vibratory motion, it is really the prime cause of everything in the universe and also of vibratory motion, which again is

instrumental in furthering the work of creation in the material regions. In the lower regions, various sound currents originate from vibratory motion and serve the purpose of carrying on the work of creation in various directions below; but the Original Sound or Spirit Current is the parent of all motions and forces as well as light, sound, elements, etc., etc., that came subsequently into existence in the second and third grand divisions.

What is Truth?

67. There are many who assert themselves to be searchers of Truths but there are few who try and persevere to ascertain it and fewer still who sincerely work at any sacrifice to attain it. By Truth or Sat Pad is meant the Essence, Spirit, Soul, and Life of everything that exists or appears to exist, itself unchangeable and immortal. Again, we might define Truth or Sat Pad as the Essence of Essences, Spirit of Spirits, Soul of Souls, Omniscient, Omnipotent, Formless, Boundless, Unapproachable, Unknowable (except by Saints), Unchangeable, Unfathomable, the Source and Beginning of life, of energy and of everything (perishable and imperishable), an Unlimited Ocean of Love and Wisdom, Omnipresent but concealed in various coatings except in one placed viz., the highest region, where it can be observed by the spirit's visionary power.

68. The former definition is applicable to the Truth, or rather to the rays which issued forth from the Sun of Truth, or the drops from the unbounded Ocean of Truth diffused over all the space comprised within the Universe of Universes; giving life, power and energy to bodies existence and appearances. By these rays is meant spirits residing in all apparent bodies or existers, forming the creation in various spheres in the space and giving them the power of motion, thought or reason, etc., etc. In short, the whole creation extending from the highest to the lowest sphere is sustained by the spirits or rays from Sun of Truth, and disappears or is dissolved on the separation of spirits from the coatings or bodies in which they reside, or in other words, on the severance of the connection between the two.

69. The second definition points to the source of the above rays or spirits, the Truth of Truths, ever shining forth in its awesome majesty and splendour, and directing from its highest abode the course of its rays and controlling the forces which sprang up from their contact with matter and are playing their respective parts in the whole creation in the spheres below. To summarize the above, the whole creation which one feels, sees and observes, owes its original life and growth to Truth, and is sustained throughout by Truth and disappears or is dissolved when Truth is separated or withdrawn wherefrom.

How to attain or realize this Truth?

70. To approach the Source of Truth one must first approach and catch its ray or spirit current and then follow and trace its course back to its Source, the Truth of Truths. It is well said by some philosopher, 'First know thyself (Spirit or Truth) and then know thy God (the Source of Spirits, the Truth of Truths)'. The highway to reach the Truth and thence its Source, or the Truth of Truths, lies within the microcosm or the human body.

71. It must be understood that the spirit current as well as the currents of other forces (spiritual-material) are flowing from within downward or outward towards external objects; and to approach their centres one must change the direction of these currents upward or backward to their internal source. As the stream of the spiritual-material forces appertains to sensual desires or worldly pleasures and greatness, the traveler, bound for the regions of Truth, must of necessity give up these desires to a certain extent and thus shut up or stop its downward flow before they can safely proceed on their journey. It is not necessary that one should altogether withdraw from the world and its objects but they should so regulate the course of the current of the various forces as to confine their use to what is absolutely necessary for living in this world with family etc., on a moderate scale, discarding all vain and improper or sinful ideas and acts.

72. Any one acting in the above manner will be able to gradually realize the Truth within himself [or herself]. But these are very few who would attempt to make the above sacrifice and regulate their habits and conduct to meet the conditions of the great enterprise they undertake; hence the real Truth has remained concealed and unknown. Again, these are very few who would devote a portion of their time and attention to conduct enquiries earnestly to satisfy themselves of the existence of Truth and of the correctness of means prescribed for its realization or attainment within their own selves.

What is true religion?

73. True religion or faith is that which leads a sincere enquirer to the region of real Truth, and teaches them the ways and means of traversing the regions where false and untruth and comparative truth exercise their sway, and of finally reaching the highest and most sublime mansion where nothing but the Truth of Truths dwells and manifests its unrivalled glory in splendid refulgence and everlasting joy and happiness.

74. Any religion or faith which treats of rituals and ceremonies or external observances and moral principles etc., and does not profess to know or cannot teach the secrets of real Truth or the Truth of Truths, is a religion built on knowledge and reason or founded on scanty information furnished by revelation of a lower order emanating from the presiding spirit or genius of the second or third grand divisions where untruth and comparative truth hold sway.

What is true salvation?

75. The attainment of this Truth of Truths in its highest mansions by a sincere and affectionate devotee is called true and perfect salvation. There are many who in their search for Truth, traversing some distance, stopped short on their way in one or other lower spheres in the material regions and regarded it as the mansion of Truth. Every one of these lower spheres is, however, the mansion of comparative truth and in the absence of instructions from a Perfect Guide of Sat Guru many have been misled to regard false or apparent, or comparative truths, as real and pure Truth; and the result is that they unwittingly remained in the material regions to die and be re-born after certain long periods.

76. Every higher sphere is the abode of the Master and Director of the creation of that sphere and of the spheres below, and is, therefore, more Joyful and more lasting than the latter. But as far as matter extends, there is permanent durability and immunity from change, decay at dissolution; and, therefore, these spheres are unfit for the reception of a devotee who is desirous of approaching the Supreme Being, the Truth of Truths, the Joy of Joys, Unchangeable and Immortal, full of everlasting and unbounded bliss and felicity unalloyed with any form of matter.

Luminous and dark rays

77. It may be observed here that rays of light (resplendent pure white light) represent Truth or Spirit in this world, in other words, are originally emanations from the spiritual Sun of Truth; while darkness and dark rays represent matter and instability or untruths, and are emanations from the luminous as well as the dark suns. The rays of light are called luminous and those of darkness non-luminous. A sincere devotee should not stop at any stage where these are both light and darkness, but should continue their journey onward until they reach the region of pure, eternally resplendent light where there is no darkness at all, that is, the region of truth and of pure Supreme Spirit.

78. In like manner, and in correspondence with the above, there are two currents flowing from the higher regions of the brain in the human body, viz., white matter and grey matter, the former being the representative of light and spirits while the latter partakes more or less of matter and darkness. In the spheres comprised in the third grand division, white light represents spirit current, while blue light and dark rays indicate Kal Purush or Brahm, the ruler of the coarse material regions.

79. The tendency of Brahm or the Universal Mind is downward and outward, and that of matter or Maya, still more downward and outward as the latter forms the superficial covering of all bodies created in various spheres of the second and third grand divisions; hence the war of spirit with these two most powerful agents or factors in the creation which present grand obstacles and impediments to a devotee or pure spirit on his onward journey towards its source, the Supreme Being. These obstacles can easily be overcome only by the grace and mercy of the Supreme Father and the help of the Sant Sat Guru or Mediators.

Absolute necessity for spiritual devotion

80. It may be concluded from the above that so long as the spirit remains clothed in material coverings or bodies in the regions of matter (the second and third grand divisions), it will of necessity be subject to the forces of nature or matter which have a downward and outward tendency, and that unless it withdraws its currents to a certain extent from the objective world with the help of a Superior Spirit or Sant Sat Guru (who has freed Himself from the bondage of matter) and tries to traverse and raise itself above the material spheres by practicing a certain mode of devotion, it cannot expect to liberate itself from the various material coverings and their influences and reach the pure spiritual regions, the abode of the Supreme Being, and thus attain perfect salvation.

81. It is, therefore, absolutely necessary for and incumbent upon every human soul, male or female, desirous of escaping the pleasures and pains of this world, inseparable from the assumption of material body and also the excruciating pains of leaving the body and everything surrounding it, (the objects of its joy and pleasure) at the time of death as also to avoid re-birth and the sufferings attendant thereupon, to search for a Superior Spirit or Perfect Guide and under His guidance and benign influence start on its homeward journey with an ever increasing love for, and with a fervent desire to approach, the Supreme Father and thereby secure His grace and mercy for the easy and early attainment of its aim and object, the Holy presence of the Supreme Being.

The work of salvation can be carried on in human body only

A devotee is not required to quit their family and profession.

82. The mode of devotions referred to can only be practiced while a spirit dwells in a healthy human body and those who fail to accomplish the work of devotion or even commence it during their present life must inevitably submit to a series of births and re-births in infernal regions of matter, and to the suffering and pain inseparable there from. Any amount of regret, remorse or repentance at the time of death and after it, will be too late and of no avail. And regret, they must who fail in their present life to avail themselves of the opportunity offered them for regaining their lost kingdom, the abode of the Supreme Father.

83. If a man [or woman] has not sufficient means of accomplishing the work of salvation in their present life, they should not be discouraged or disappointed. If they simply commence the work under the guidance and the merciful protection of a Sant Sat Guru and the Supreme Father, Radhasoami, they will be able to accomplish it in the next, or one more subsequent births which will be superior in every respect to the previous birth, and when they will have sufficient means at their disposal to help them in finally attaining their object.

84. It must be clearly understood that Radhasoami Faith does not require or permit anyone who joins it to quit their family or surroundings or give up their avocation or profession to obtain their livelihood; on the other hand, it enjoins the advisability of a devotee continuing to live with their family and discharge their household and professional duties satisfactorily and at the same time secure salvation by earnestly and fervently practicing devotion for two to four, or at most six hours a day, distributing the above time at the rate of half, three fourths or one hour at a time according to their convenience.

The sphere of true salvation

85. A little consideration and careful observation of the affairs and the transitory state of the world will show that our abode on this earth is temporary and that our permanent dwelling is in the pure spiritual regions, and that so long as the spirit remains clothed in material body on this or any other globe in the material regions it must suffer more or less mental or bodily pain and enjoy worldly pleasures to a greater or less extent, and be also subject to rebirth whether it takes place sooner or later, and that these vicissitudes of life in the lower spheres cannot be

avoided until traversing the material spheres by devotional practice the spirit returns to its happy home, the Holy Abode of the Supreme Being.

86. It becomes, therefore, absolutely necessary for all sensible human beings to exert themselves to quit the infernal material spheres and approach the Supreme Being in His Highest and Holiest Mansion, without which perfect salvation cannot be attained.

The advisability of awakening and developing spiritual powers

Observation I

91. The human spirit being native of pure spiritual regions and a denizen on this earth, it becomes necessary for its rest and comfort that it should try to return to its source where alone it can enjoy pure spiritual happiness permanently.

Observation II

92. The human spirit being mostly attached and confined to this world through the senses of sight, hearing and taste, it can easily release itself from the bondage of body and pleasures of this world by turning these very senses upwards within itself, whereby it could see higher objects hear heavenly sounds, and taste the nectar of life which flows from higher regions in the brain.

Observation II

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Observation III

93. There are many gentlemen and in some cases ladies too, who set out bravely at great risk of life and property on exploring expeditions to the Poles and various other unknown and untraversed lands and hills in distant parts of the globe, or ascend the sky in balloons or conduct experiments for the navigation of air, also for making new discoveries in chemistry, electricity and other branches of science etc., the fruits of which are a very small addition to the knowledge of geography or other department of science, and some personal advantage in the shape of fame and name to the adventurer. It, therefore, seems equally, nay, highly desirable, for the permanent and most important benefit of humanity in general to start on a journey in untrodden spheres, to ascertain the source, or in other words, the happy home of our own selves, viz, the spirit, and to reach the sublime presence of our beloved Supreme Father, the Almighty Creator. The adventurer will secure great

and lasting reward, namely, the approbation of the Supreme Father, and salvation of mankind in general, and permanent immunity from rebirth and pains and pleasures of life on the earth.

Observation IV

94. Every one burns with the desire to acquire worldly riches, sensual pleasures and worldly fame and greatness. There are many who toil and work hard to satisfy their ambition. Of these, some succeed fully and some partially in their efforts, while others fail altogether. Those who are fortunate in attaining the object of their aspiration are again in constant anxiety to obtain more and more the object they have gained; and those who did not try their luck or make any attempt to acquire worldly wealth, pleasures and fame, burn with envy and jealousy to see their more fortunate brethren in full or partial enjoyment of the same. Thus the whole lots of people always suffers from, or are tormented with, the pain of discontent, disappointment, jealousy and envy, or insatiable thirst or greed for more and more.

95. Again, all human beings are subject to four kinds of afflictions viz., (1) mental, such as fear, anxiety, pain caused by mishap, theft, loss and bereavement etc., sorrow for a relation or friend in distress or trouble etc., etc., (2) various diseases of body and senses, (3) quarrel, enmity and dispute with others, (4) pangs of death.

96. Some of these cases are partly or wholly remediable, while others of serious nature are wholly irremediable and beyond the power and control of humanity. In these latter cases, man can get no help from others and has to reluctantly suffer extraordinary pains, troubles and privations.

97. The most holy and sublime Radhasoami Faith prescribes remedy for both sorts of troubles, namely those mentioned in paragraph 95 as well as those in paragraph 96. The remedy is simple and can be applied by all if they will only willingly undertake (at no trouble to themselves) to practice devotion according to Surat Shabd Yoga, or in other words, try to liberate their spirit from the bondage of matter by raising it from its seat in the pupil of the eye towards its source, the highest sphere or pure spiritual region, the abode of the Supreme Heavenly Father.

98. By doing so, all desires for worldly riches, pleasures, name, fame, power and greatness, will gradually cease and in lieu thereof will spring up intense love for the Supreme Being and strong desire to approach His Holy Mansion and witness His glory in the creation.

99. In like manner, the more the spirit disentangles itself from the bondage of body and other objects of this world, the less will it feel the effect of afflictions and adversity which generally befall mankind in this world, and by the Grace of the Almighty Father acquire sufficient

strength to withstand all temptations and privations in life and gladly meet death when it comes, in order to attain heavenly bliss in higher spheres and everlasting joy in the highest mansion of the Supreme Being.

100. There is no other way or means of overcoming or escaping the troubles and pains to which human life is subject in this world except the practice of concentration and sublimation, or elevation of spirit to higher spheres according to Surat Shabd Yoga as prescribed by Radhasoami Faith.

Observation V

101. The spirit current is constantly flowing out through the nine principal orifices or apertures in the body, viz., two eyes, two ears, two nostrils, mouth, generative organ, and anus, and is the cause of pleasures derived by senses etc.,. But these pleasant sensations are not lasting and the impressions produced by them on the mind are so numerous and of such a conflicting nature that eventually they give rise to serious disturbances in the realms of thoughts and ideas.

102. A wise and prudent man [or woman] should avoid lending their power of senses to promiscuous observation and collection of varied impressions and formation of indifferent, and sometimes indistinct ideas there from, in view to keep down irregular, improper and unnecessary desires which spring up in the heart and prove a source of unlimited bother and trouble to the thinker.

103. Ordinary people, out of curiosity, take very little care to guard their senses against their misuse, but it is incumbent on all thoughtful men and women to exercise some restriction over their love of curiosity and to restrain the external flow of their spirit current through the senses by changing its course under the instructions and guidance of a Sant Sat Guru, or a Sadh Guru, towards the tenth higher orifice or aperture in the interior; through which the main spirit current flows from its source in highest regions of the brain into the body.

104. This change can be easily but gradually effected by following the practice of concentration and sublimation of mind and spirit according to the instructions given in Radhasoami Faith. It is nothing more than the following of the course or passage of the spirit which it adopts at the time of leaving the body (when death occurs), and if this work can be accomplished to a certain extent in [their] lifetime, it will be attended with very beneficial result in the end, inasmuch as it will not only save the practitioner from the excruciating pains etc. which are experienced by all at the time of death, but also enable them to witness the glory of the Supreme Father and through His Mercy and Grace secure abode in the happy and peaceful regions on High. All men and women of thought and wisdom should covet this reward and strive to obtain it through the medium of Sant St Guru or one of His sincere and loving followers.

Observation VI

105. People suffering from bodily and mental diseases run to doctors for remedy, and readily follow their instructions in taking medicine and food prescribed by them, and are very impatient to recover their health. But all persons more or less suffer from the effects of diseased mind and yet they are ignorant of the evil results that await them owing to the ever increasing unhealthy condition of the mind which entices and prompts them to commit (intentionally or unintentionally) sins and improper acts in word, in thought and deed.

106. One can only become cognizant of this error and ignorance when they associate with divine and pious persons who constantly try to watch, control and check the evil tendencies of their mind and the improper desires springing up in their heart. And if they be inclined to get cured of this unhealthy and dangerous state of their mind they should have recourse to a Sant Sat Guru or His sincere and affectionate follower for remedy, for they are the doctors who are well acquainted with the diseases of the mind and can prescribe easy and effective means for their removal by instructing the patient in the practice of concentration and sublimation of mind and spirit.

107. Taking into consideration the absolute necessity of the welfare of the spirit, it appears to be incumbent on all persons to take notice of the diseased state of their mind and to adopt necessary measures for remedying the evil within their present lifetime, otherwise their case will become nearly hopeless and render them liable to great hardships and troubles in this life as well as in future re-births in the material regions to which their spirit and mind will remain confined.

Love for the Supreme Being

108. This practice can be conducted easily and comfortably if the devotee has a little love for the Supreme Being. Without love it will be too hard and difficult to practice Surat Shabd Yoga with any good result to be obtained within a short time.

1. The Supreme Being, being a boundless Ocean of Spirit or Love and human being, being a drop or current of spirit or love from this Ocean, and love being the very essence and means of existence of the whole creation, it follows that no effort in any direction, temporal or spiritual, unless actuated by love or affectionate regard can be crowned with success and the work or labor rendered easy, sweet and harmonious.

2. Love is most sublime, having its origin in the highest region, the abode of the Supreme Being. In whatever heart it springs up, it

will gradually raise and carry the fortunate possessor of this lofty and noble passion to the highest region.

3. All good qualities and goodness itself will gradually find their home in the heart in which love dwells and all bad qualities will be rooted out by and by.

4. Whatever a man fully of pure love thinks or does is all wisdom, while the thoughts and works of worldly wise men are full of selfishness and folly.

5. Knowledge without love for the Supreme Being is futile and tends towards untruth or darkness or materialism, while love turns everything to good use and lead to enlightenment and truth. Even worldly love, such as filial and conjugal, is attended with goodness, happiness and comfort to all concerned. How much more good would then result to mankind in general if the same love become spiritual, and be directed towards the Supreme Being, the Merciful and Kind Parent of the whole creation.

6. Self-love brings on egotism or pride, and sows the seed of hatred, jealousy and disregard in the minds of kindred's, associates and neighbors; while pure and sacred love for the Supreme Being creates in the heart humility, meekness and an affectionate regard for kindred's, neighbors and humanity in general.

7. Pure and holy love is always ready to spend (regardless of) whatever it has for the sake of its beloved, the Supreme Father, and the benefit of mankind without any distinction; whereas self-love or love of world always tries to appropriate everything to itself, even at the risk and loss of others.

8. Pure and holy love is always ready to sacrifice anything whatever to gain admission into the presence of the beloved, the Supreme Being; whereas self-love will never part with anything except for the sake of its own aggrandizement and indulgence in sensual pleasures.

9. The noble passion of love is most powerful and strong. It removes all obstacles and thorns in its way and discards all superstitions, doubts and skepticism.

10. Where pure love dwells, there sheds the light of Grace as it forms a link with the spirit or love current from its source, the Supreme Being.

11. Such is the strength and effect of affection, and kind treatment, that it subdues ferocity and other injurious and dangerous characteristics in beasts and other animals. That is to say, they begin to love and have an affectionate regard for their keepers and trainers.

12. A heart devoid of love or affection is as hard as stone, and does not form a suitable receptacle for the light of Heavenly Grace and Mercy.

13. Sincere love is reciprocal, so if one has a heart full of love for the Supreme Being, they are sure to be attracted towards Him by Grace, Mercy and Holy Light which will gradually illumine their inner self, and then all menial or worldly affections and desires will gradually disappear.

14. Love or the power of attraction is the basis of the whole creation and the cause of its sustenance and preservation.

15. The Supreme Being loves and takes special care of those who love Him with all their heart and soul, and gradually draws them towards Himself, the Grand Centre of Pure Light and Attraction; while those whose hearts are imbued with worldly love and passions recede from this centre, or in other words, they of themselves fly away towards the circumference or darkness and untruth.

16. Every wave of love rising in a lover's heart brings tidings of goodness and joy from the beloved and every thought springing up in such a heart is a harbinger of good works and good services for the sake of the beloved.

17. Love has no bounds, knows no restrictions, and is not limited by conditions, and like its source is extensive and far reaching in its beneficial results.

Faith

109. Faith built on pure and sincere love for the Supreme Being is strong and immovable like a mountain, and love founded on strong faith goes on increasing until it carries the lover to its fountainhead, the Beloved Supreme Being. Both strong love and strong faith are sure and certain means to the attainment of perfect salvation. They are inseparable from each other.

Incarnations

110. It must be clearly understood that as the Supreme Being now and then incarnates Himself in the person of a Sant Sat Guru or sends His special beloved sons as Sants, so does the Viceroy or president of the second grand division or Brahm or Lord God appear in this world in the person of a Yogeshwar as first class incarnation, or sends his special sons or agents as Sadhs or first class prophets. In like manner, the governor or president of the third grand division incarnates himself in the person of a Yogi as second class incarnation or sends his agents as second class

prophets. There is great confusion in the promiscuous use of these names, and very little or no distinction is made in the rank and powers of these superior spirits. In the Radhasoami Faith, a clear line is drawn to distinguish the position and functions of each of these above spirits, according to the height of the sphere to which they belong and from which they descend.

111. A follower of Radhasoami Faith, who practices devotion according to instructions given by the Sant Sat Guru, will pass through the spheres occupied by the superior spirits referred to above on their journey to the highest sphere or the abode of the Supreme Being. They will, however, not loiter on the road or in the mansion of any of the above superior spirits, but with the help of Grace and Mercy of the Supreme Father and the Sant Sat Guru proceed determinately direct to their destination unimpeded by any obstacle thrown in their way by mind and matter, and unaltered by any temptations offered by the varied creation in the intermediate spheres.

Necessity of a contemporary Sant Sat Guru

112. According to Radhasoami Faith, the presence and help of a Sant Sat Guru is absolutely necessary for a neophyte to commence the work of salvation, or in other words, to practice internal devotion for the purpose of first concentrating and then raising their spirit beyond the material spheres.

113. All embodied spirits living here having left their original home from time immemorial, and having passed through various material spheres in their descent to the corporeal body in the third grand division, have become so firmly attached to their present dwelling, viz., the body and its surroundings in this world, that it is difficult, nay, impossible, for anyone to effect a change in the present condition and abode without the aid and instruction from One who is a resident of that sphere and holds communion with the Supreme Father. Because He alone can be expected to know all the secrets of the descent of the spirit to the lower regions and the means of liberation of it from the bondage of matter, to enable it to rise and return to its original source. Such a Sant Sat Guru occasionally appears in this world for the salvation of fallen spirits.

114. There is no other means except by associating with the Sant Sat Guru and His affectionate followers to acquire love for the Supreme Being and practice devotion with an intense desire to approach Him, and have a glance of His glory and resplendence in the highest sphere where He dwells.

115. Mere knowledge of the mode of devotion derived from hearsay or reading the holy books will not help a would-be traveler on their journey homeward; it [the jiva] needs full instructions from an experienced guide and occasional help and information from him to enable a novice to proceed on their journey unhampered by obstacles and impediments which are generally met with in traversing material spheres. When no worldly knowledge or art or profession of any sort can be acquired by anyone without undergoing training under an experienced manner, how can it then be possible for anyone to acquire any knowledge of the Supreme Being and hold communion with Him without help and instruction from an experienced Master or Guide called the Sant Sat Guru, who would spiritually keep an eye on His disciple and watch the progress of their homeward journey to the spiritual regions, and at the same time take care of them so that they may not be tempted and detained by Superior Mind and matter, or their agents on the road?

Distinguishing features of Sant Sat Guru or True Guide

116. As in these days there are many who call themselves Sants, Sadhs and guides or leaders of sects and religious societies etc., etc., it is difficult to distinguish between a Sant Sat Guru or true Spiritual Guide and a host of family or ancestral guides and wandering mendicants and religious leaders, except by the means hereafter described;-

1. That the True Guide is He who imparts instructions for the practice of Surat Shabd Yoga as prescribed by Radhasoami Faith.

2. That His object in preaching the holy doctrine and giving practical instructions is nothing more than the saving of humanity from perdition and raising the human spirits to the highest and pure spiritual regions from which they originally descended.

3. That He is not actuated to undertake this work from selfish motives or for any personal benefit or aggrandizement.

4. That as envy and jealousy on the part of interested religious parties will try to slander His character and otherwise shower taunts and sneers on Him and His limited congregation. He won't feel ashamed or discouraged by such acts of the ignorant, jealous and worldly people, but go on with His sacred work steadily and determinately with full trust in the Grace and Mercy of His Beloved Father, the True Supreme Being who invariably extends His protection to the sincere lovers of Truth.

5. That His discourses, being purely spiritual and full of affection for the Supreme Being, will be heartily attended to by sincere searchers of Truth and true lovers of the Supreme Being, and His instructions sought for by them to practice the mode of devotion

(Surat Shabd Yoga) calculated to raise the spirit to the Holy and Highest Mansion of the Supreme Father.

6. That by acting up to His instructions, sincere lovers of Truth and the Supreme Being will derive much pleasure in their practice and have occasionally internal visions of supernatural character and glimpses of higher regions and also notice the Grace and Mercy and Protection of the Supreme Father now and then extended to them.

7. That their belief and trust in the Mercy of the Supreme Father will go on increasing and strengthening, and with it also the love for the Supreme Father, imparting new strength and steadiness to the devotional practice.

8. That as the practice and the joy thereby realized within increase, the mind of the sincere devotee will gradually be withdrawn from the world and its objects of pleasure, regard all worldly hopes, joys and fears as worthless and transitory and feel unwilling to devote more time and attention to them than what appears actually necessary for conducting business and family affairs.

9. That by associating with such a Guide and hearing His discourses and attending to the practice enjoined by Him, all doubts and errors and improper impressions and reflections will gradually be removed from the mind of a sincere searcher of Truth, and his heart will accordingly be filled with pure love for the Supreme Being and His children, the humanity in general.

10. That under His guidance a sincere devotee will gradually be able to control the action of his mind and senses as regards indulgence in worldly pleasures, and by and by forsake sins and sinful ideas; and should such thoughts ever enter his mind he will feel extremely sorry and from the bottom of his heart ask and pray for forgiveness and protection.

How a sincere devotee will act when he meets a Sant St Guru

117. A sincere and affectionate devotee who has fortunately joined the congregation presided over by a Sant Sat Guru will readily offer anything, however valuable, for His service and will always be ready to gladly perform any service, however menial, that may be required of him [or her] on any occasion, and thus merit the Grace and Mercy of the Supreme Father and affectionate regard of the Sant Sat Guru

118. It is observed in this world that when one has strong friendship with or love for another, they are ready to sacrifice everything for the sake of their friend or beloved; so in the religious world, when one fortunately meets a Sant Sat Guru or a True Guide and under His guidance acquires strong love for the Supreme Being, they will act

without reserve in doing what they possibly can to please the Supreme Father and the Sant Sat Guru, which will show how much they value and what regard they have for purely religious duties in the comparison to the worldly works and obligation.

Atheists laboring under a mistake

119, Atheists who deny the existence of the Supreme Being or Creator and also of the spirit as emanation from the Supreme Being, appear to be laboring under a great mistake.

120. A reference to paragraphs 53-57 will show that there exists a Supreme Almighty Being, Who is the Original Cause and Life and Support of the whole creation and Whose unlimited power controls and directs the various forces forming the machinery thereof.

121. And, again, the same paragraphs describe how the spirit, being an emanation from the Supreme Being by the power it inherits, summons all the forces of nature, elements etc., on its first manifestation in the world to work harmoniously in constructing its receptacle, the body, and maintaining it in perfect working order as long as it occupies the same. In this case also the spirit force apparently controls and directs the action of the subordinate forces of nature etc., for the proper working of the machinery of the body, and as soon as it is withdrawn, the whole machinery collapses and the form or body is dissolved existing no more.

122. If the above facts do not fully satisfy an atheist, they should at least take into consideration the change of states they undergo daily (see paragraphs 44 and 45) whereby they will perceive that in their wakeful state they feel the pleasures and pains of this world; whereas in dream they are removed to another sphere which has little or no connection with the physical body and this world, and when removed further to the sphere of deep sleep they become in a manner unconscious, and the connection with their physical and astral bodies in a manner ceases. A little thought over these changes will enable them to notice that if they can by any means retire to their inner spheres at pleasure, they can find safety from all the pains and troubles of this world and the physical body, and at the same time enjoy greater pleasures and joys within themselves without the least trouble and expense.

123. Every one, whether they be an atheist or otherwise, appears to be full of desire to obtain pleasures and greatness in this world, and to attain this object they work hard from their infancy to the time of death, whether their hope is wholly or partially realized or not.

124. Again, every one wishes to shun danger, sickness, ill-luck or any other mishap or misfortune and tries their best to avert it, or at least lessen its effect by any means in their power. Also, every one fears death

and the pain attendant thereon, and would try any means to avoid it as long as they could find it possible to do so.

125. A careful study of Radhasoami Faith will show that, if any person were to sincerely and affectionately practice devotion at least three hours a day, they would find that the mode prescribed by the Merciful Radhasoami will gradually weed out all desires appertaining to this world by fulfilling some and showing the futility of others, and create a passionate love in their heart to approach the Supreme Being and witness His Glory and enjoy real happiness in the heaven abode, and also give them strength enough to overcome the troubles and afflictions in this life and also the pain of death.

126. Thus the sublime and holy Radhasoami Faith and its practice fully meet the requirements of human beings, and should, therefore, be unhesitatingly adopted by all who, without renouncing this world, hope to secure perfect salvation or happiness in the next.

Matter and Motion

127. Scientists say that Matter and Motion are the principal factors in the creation. This is true insofar as the lower material regions are concerned, but they do not or cannot say how or whence this motion originated. Motion needs a motor, and this motor is the same spirit or word current issuing forth like rays from the sun from various centres or spiritual-material suns and diffused over all the space comprised in the second and third grand divisions.

128. Every atom is in itself a ray or current issued from a centre and is endowed with spirit power which (in this world) is called energy by the scientists. Unmanifested energy or spirit power is called latent or potential, and that brought into action or full play, kinetic. Both the above names apply to the impulse from the spirit force which is the origin and beginning of all.

129. The atoms playing their part in this world, for instance, issue forth from our sun, or the Sun above, of which the former is a planet. They are manufactured in the above orbs before they issue forth as rays or currents and are thus fitted for the work of creation or for forming parts of the bodies they combine to form or give existence to. The spirit current latent in these atoms is much steeped in matter of the lower spheres and it requires impulse from a higher current appertaining to and descending from the higher sphere to awaken its energy or actuate it into action.

130. It will thus be seen that spirit power or force is all in all, or it is the principal force or actor in the whole creation, or in other words, it is the life and soul of everything.

Transmigration of Soul

131. Radhasoami Faith recognizes transmigration of soul or spirit, for so long as the spirit remains confined to the second and third grand divisions it must remain clothed in some sort of body or covering; and when one body is worn out it must of necessity assume another in the higher or lower spheres or subdivisions according to its acts and predominant passion or desire.

132. We notice in this world that people of a peculiar turn of mind or taste invariably associate with and find pleasure in the company of people of the same sort. So in the world to come, everyone will be drawn or attracted to the sphere and company of those with whom they have sympathy or affinity owing to the common object of their desire and affection, and assume similar or different bodies according to the degree of their affinity and result of their past actions or Karma.

133. Until, therefore, a spirit tries by practicing devotion according to the mode prescribed by Radhasoami Faith to liberate itself from the bondage of matter and body predominant in the second and third grand divisions, and after closing its account of Karma rises to the highest sphere of pure spiritual region (called the first grand division), it cannot get rid of the material covering or body, and therefore, it must continue subject to birth and re-birth, or in other words, the spirit must successively change its covering or body.

Description of Karma Reduction and obliteration of their effects

134. There are three kinds of action or Karma, viz., first *Kriyaman* or the acts performed by a person in his present life; second *Prarabdh* or the acts performed in the past or present life, the fruit of which is to be reaped in the present life; third *Sanchit* or the unripe acts done in the past and present lives, the result of which is to be experienced in future lives.

135. A follower of Radhasoami Faith by practicing devotion and observing the rules prescribed by it can easily, although gradually, overcome or reduce the effect of all these Karmas and then get rid of the body, or break through the shackles of matter in the material spheres.

136. The rules to be observed are as follows:-

1. That a sincere devotee should resign one's self wholly to the Mauj or Will and pleasure of Beloved Father, the Supreme Being, and thus leave the effect of all action or Karma done by them in the present life (according to the moral principles laid down in paragraphs 38 and 39) to be produced by Mauj [divine will] so as to suit their spiritual and temporal interests; or in other words, give up one's own personal desires and hopes and make them subservient to

the Will of the Supreme Being. They will thus be freed from the effects of one sort of Karma called Kriyaman.

2. As regards the second sort of Prarabdh Karma, their effects must of course be experienced during the present life, but there would be a vast difference in the result (or the amount of pain and pleasure to be experienced) according to the progress made by the devotee in the spiritual practice and the degree of their love for and trust in the Mercy of the Supreme Father; because a devotee who is capable of withdrawing their spirit current inward and upward to a certain extent, will be less liable to bodily pains and worldly anxieties, fears and hopes, than a worldly or unpracticed person whose spirit cannot move from its seat in the pupil of the eye except under the influence of sleep.

3. Sanchit Karmas can be easily disposed of by a devotee during their practice. There are two sorts of impressions made on the mind's atmosphere, viz., (1) those produced by external objects when they come into contact with the senses, and (2) those produced by desires and various thoughts and ideas springing up from time to time in the mind. These impressions are strong or feeble according to the intensity or weakness of desire and thought, or the force or indifference with which the senses grasp the external objects.

137. When a devotee is traversing the mental sphere on their journey homeward, these impressions are vivified by the power of spirit and appear to them as real objects; they engage or attract their attention and detain them for some time. But as the devotee is forwarded not to busy themselves with these impressions, they sooner or later break their connection with them and proceed onwards, whereby the spirit current is withdrawn from the above sphere and the said impressions rendered lifeless and incapable of producing any effect on the devotee when they return to their seat in the body, viz., the pupil of the eye, after completing their devotional practice for the day.

138. It will thus be observed that the effect of Sanchit Karma is nearly obliterated after engaging the actor or devotee's attention for a few minutes only, instead of occupying days and months and perhaps years in some cases, during the actor or devotee's next life, had they not been initiated in the practice prescribed by Radhasoami Faith.

Description of four Principal personages concerned in the practice of Radhasoami Faith

139. The Radhasoami Faith recognizes three Grand Personages, and a sincere and affectionate disciple, the fourth; namely, (1) the Supreme Father, (2) the Supreme Mother or Original Spirit or Word current emanating from the Supreme Father, (3) the Supreme Son or Sant Sat

Guru, the Representative of the Supreme Father in human form, (4) the disciple or the son or human spirit.

140. The above quaternary may be further explained as follows:--

The first personage or the Supreme Father and Sole Master is a vast and Boundless Ocean of Spirit and Love and Joy from Whom the Original Spirit or Word current emanated. The second personage or the Supreme Mother is the Original Spirit and Sound current, the Prime Mover, Creator, Nourisher and Supporter of the whole creation. It is the connecting link between the Supreme Father and the son or disciple, and leads the way and helps the son in returning to the Father's Highest Mansion. The third, the Supreme Son or Sant Sat Guru is the Representative of the Supreme Father in human form on this earth. This incarnation of the Supreme Father, or His Special and Beloved Son Sant Sat Guru, appears now and then in this world for the purpose of saving spirits from going down to the lower regions and raising them to the higher spheres, and finally to the Mansion of the Supreme Father. The fourth, the disciple, the son or human being is a ray or drop descended from the Supreme Sun or Boundless Ocean of Spirit, Love and Joy; but their attention having been diverted by mind and matter towards the material creation down below, they have lost all knowledge of the Supreme Father and His Highest Mansion, and cannot now return to His Holy abode without the help, externally, of Supreme Father or His Special and Beloved Son, assuming human form of a Sant Sat Guru; and internally, of the Supreme Mother, or the connecting Spirit and Sound current between the Supreme Father and the disciple or son, Who illumines the heart of a sincere lover and devotee and sheds grace and mercy upon them.

141. As the disciple or devotee proceeds on their journey homeward, they gradually absorb the spirit and sound current, or in other words, shorten the distance between themselves and the Supreme Father, and thus playing in the lap of the Supreme Mother. They return with their loving Mother to the Holy and August Presence of the Supreme Father.

142. Without the Help and Grace of the Supreme Father and His Special and Beloved Son, the Sant Sat Guru in human form, no human being can ever acquire sufficient strength to give up worldly desires and pleasures or to undertake the journey homeward, or in other words, practice devotion according to the mode prescribed by Radhasoami Faith. It must always be remembered that none but the Sant Sat Guru can under His own protection, regenerate fallen humanity and the grant sufficient strength to enable a disciple or devotee to fight their way out of the various spheres presided over by Superior Mind and matter, where all sorts of obstacles and temptations are ready to interrupt the traveler

in their journey and draw them towards the creation in higher spheres on the way.

The work of regeneration

143. The work of regeneration consists in the movement of spirit and mind from the lower to the higher spheres by the practice of devotion. A man [or woman] may be said to be twice or thrice born accordingly as they have traversed the regions appertaining to first, second or third birth. A sincere devotee having strong love for the Supreme Being, may through perseverance and fervor, and with the Grace and Mercy of the Supreme Father and the Sant Sat Guru of their time, traverse the regions of two or three births in one lifetime. That is to say, raise their spirit to the second grand division and complete the work of regeneration in the next life by undergoing the fourth birth or traversing the spheres appertaining thereto, and finally enter and take their abode in the Mansion of the Supreme Father at the top of the first grand division or pure spiritual regions.

Radhasoami Faith is open to all mankind who may or may not renounce their old creed

144. All people without any distinction of caste, creed and color can be admitted into Radhasoami Faith; and as the devotional practice appertaining thereto is conducted mentally and spiritually, it is not binding upon the followers of this Faith to publicly renounce their former creed and its external observances, or in other words, it is optional with them to do so or not accordingly as they can easily overcome all opposition and obstacles in their way, or find it difficult and inconvenient to face them in the beginning. Internally, they must, however, adhere to the practice prescribed by Radhasoami Faith, which they can easily attend to unnoticed by others, at the time they have to be present with their family and friends at the performance of the rituals or ceremonies of their old creed.

People desirous of seeing miracles etc., unfit to follow Radhasoami Faith and practice devotion prescribed by it

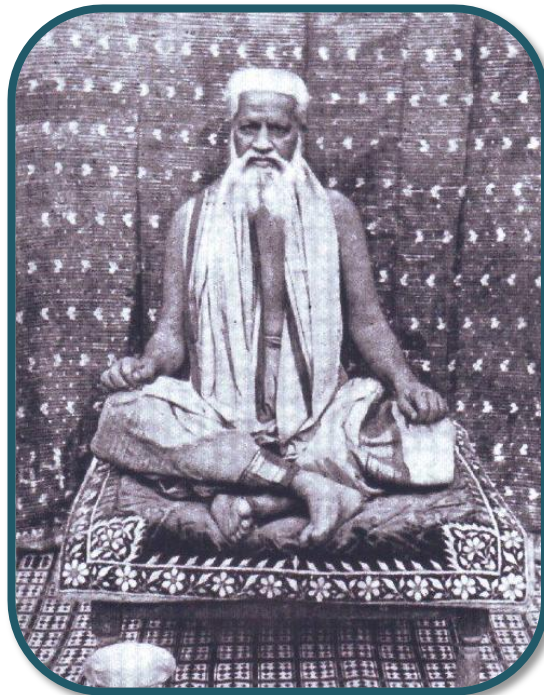
145. People are generally very fond of seeing miracles or acquiring supernatural powers and with this object in view they express their readiness to practice any mode of devotion, and even to sacrifice (temporarily) all sensual pleasures and desires for greatness in this world etc... But this is a mistake, and they are laboring under a delusion, such persons cannot be regarded as sincere searchers of Truth or lovers of the

Supreme Being. The Radhasoami Faith does not accept their overtures for admission and initiation into its secrets.

146. A sincere devotee having no other object in view than to approach the Supreme Being in His Highest Mansion, will however, witness glories of the Supreme Father in various forms on their way to their destination, and see many things more wonderful than ordinary miracles, if they will only practice devotion for some time with strong faith, fervor and love for the Supreme Being. They will further observe the Grace, Mercy and Protection of the Supreme Father extended to them on all occasions when needed.

147. A member of Radhasoami Faith is strictly forbidden to divulge the secrets or mention to any one (even to a fellow member without express permission) the glory and wonder of the higher creation they see now and then within themselves, or the happiness and extraordinary joy they experience during their practice; or the special Mercy, Grace and Protection extended to them from time to time on important occasions by the Supreme Father and Sant Sat Guru. Therefore, to do all the work here by means of the senses and the mind which are mediums between it and the material objects and consequently, as a natural result its power has become quite hampered. But as soon as it begins to ascend, powers which are now lying dormant become active and spirit acquires ultra material or higher powers.

Huzur Maharaj



(1829-1898)