

Sant Ravidas – The Messenger of Equality

**“If one cannot do good, at least don't harm others.
If one cannot be like a flower, at least don't create the thorns.”**

**From Sahaja Yoga Family
Best wishes on Sant Ravidas Jayanti**

**Sahaja Yoga Meditation
sessions are always free!**

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Sant Ravidas



Her Holiness Shri Mataji

Nirmala Devi, Founder, Sahaja Yoga

About Sant Ravidas

Sant Ravidas was a great saint, poet, philosopher, social reformer and God follower during the 'late medieval period' of the Indian history. He was one of the prominent figures of the Bhakti Movement and had given spiritual and social messages through his poetic writings. He was a rich spiritual personality and was also worshipped by people, listening to him and reciting his songs, padas, etc.

Sant Ravidas is generally thought to have been a younger contemporary of Kabir. According to some sources, Ravidas was initiated by Kabir's famous guru Ramananda. And some traditions assert that Ravidas was, in turn, the guru of the great female poet-saint Mirabai. His padas, devotional songs, and other writings (around 41 verses) are mentioned in the Sikh Scriptures, Guru Granth Sahib which was compiled by the 5th Sikh Guru, Arjan Dev Ji. He is revered by both Sikhs and Hindus.

Sant Ravidas Jayanti or birthday anniversary is celebrated on Magh Purnima with great fervor to perpetuate his teachings and establishment of peace and brotherhood all over the world.

Early Life and Education

Sant Ravidas was born in Harijan caste to Kalsa Devi Ji and Baba Santokh Dass Ji in the Seer Goverdhanpur village of Varanasi, U.P., in 1377 AD (although some people believe that it was 1440 AD).

In his childhood he attended the Pathshala of his Guru, Pt. Shardanand. Sometime later Pt. Shardanand was restricted by some higher caste people to teach Ravidas Ji in the Pathshala. However, realizing that Ravidas was a godly child boy Pt. Shardanand admitted him to his own Pathshala to teach him. He was a very brilliant and promising student and got more than what he was taught by his Guru. Pt. Shardanand was very much influenced by him and his behavior and he thought that one day Ravidas would be spiritually enlightened and will become a great social reformer.

The spiritual prowess of Sant Ravidas is evident in an incident where his Guru Pt. Shardanand brought him near to the dead body of his friend and he said "that it was not sleeping time my friend, it was time to get up and play 'hide and seek' game." As Sant Ravidas was blessed with spiritual powers from birth, his friend got alive after hearing his words. The parents and neighbors of his friend were very surprised to see all that happening.

Marriage and Social Involvement

The main reason for his distraction from his professional family business of shoe making was his love and devotion to God and for this his parents were worried about him. However he got married to Lona Devi Ji in his early age and got a son called Vijaydas. Even after his marriage, he was not able to completely concentrate on his family business because of his more interest in worldly affairs.

He was a true messenger of God to save the real Dharma when social and religious patterns were distressing because of discriminations over social beliefs, caste, colour, and creed. During his time, low caste people were neglected and were not allowed to do some common jobs in the society of higher caste people such as were inhibited to: go to the temples for prayer, go to schools for study, visit the village during the daytime, live in huts instead of a proper house in the village and many more. After seeing such a scenario of social inequality, Sant Ravidas Ji started giving spiritual messages to everybody in order to permanently tackle the bad situation of low caste people. He bravely faced all the discriminations and taught people that one is not known by his caste, religion, or beliefs in God, he is known only for his great deeds (karma).

Later Life

Later in his life, he became a great follower of Lord Rama and started following some names like Ram, Raghunath, Raja Ram Chandar, Krishna, Hari, Gobind, etc. in order to express his feeling towards God.

Teachings of Sant Ravidas

Nowadays, despite the society being divided into different castes, people are also sharing their ideal gods and great men. But we all know that great men belong to everyone and they have dedicated their lives for the interest of the society, country and the entire world. The status of great men is equal to that of God. Today, this message should be given in the society that Sant Ravidas and great men like him do not belong to just one caste or community. If someone is limited only by a caste, it is an insult to those great men. If we throw light on the life of Sant Ravidas Maharaj, we will see here that he was not a saint of only one caste or society, but he fulfilled the will of God for all. Guru Nanak Dev also considered Sant Ravidas as his Guru and accepted his greatness. Seeing his deep devotion towards his life and works, we come to understand that an example of humanity can be set by breaking the boundaries of caste, creed and region.

Despite having an unwavering faith in God, Sant Ravidas continued to spread the message of brotherhood and equality in the society throughout his life. He had an important contribution in teaching everyone in the society how to treat each other equally. Sant Ravidas wrote many such works in which both spiritual and social messages were given.

करम बंधन में बन्ध रहियो,
फल की ना तज्जियो आस
कर्म मानुष का धर्म है,
सत् भाखे रविदास

Meaning: We should always remain engaged in our work and should never give up hope of getting the results of our work. If doing work is our religion then it is our good fortune to get the results.

कृष्ण, करीम, राम, हरि, राघव, जब
लग एक न पेखा
वेद कतेब कुरान, पुरानन,
सहज एक नहि देखा

Meaning: Just as the names of Lord Krishna, Ram and Hari are different, in the same way the same God has been praised in the Vedas, Quran and Puranas. All Gods teach virtues.

रविदास जन्म के कारनै,
होत न कोउ नीच
नकर कू नीच करि डारि है,
ओछे करम की कीच

Meaning: Ravidas ji kept explaining to people throughout his life that no one is inferior because of any caste. The deeds done by a person make him inferior.

मन चंगा तो कठौती में गंगा

Once some of his disciples urged him repeatedly to take the holy dip in the sacred river Ganga but since he was pre-occupied with some work he answered their beliefs about a common saying "Man changa to kathoti mein Ganga" means our body needs to be holy by soul not by just taking bath into the holy river, if our soul and heart is pure and happy then we are completely holy even after taking bath in the water-filled tub at home.

How to Imbibe the Message of Sant Ravidas - An Introduction to Sahaja yoga & Self realization

In today's era of 'maya' (illusion), who will understand the path of human goodwill shown by Sant Ravidas. But today, where life is surrounded by an atmosphere of darkness, there is a ray of light that has granted man not only an accurate alternative but also the scope of solving the questions facing his day today social and spiritual life. That is, experiencing Self-Realisation, meaning first we must know our 'self' then only we can know God. This is possible only through the awakening of the innate energy called 'kundalini' which when rises from the base of our spine connecting various energy centres called Chakras, enlightening our spirit and opening the fontanelle bone on top of our head to make way for the All-Pervading Power or 'Brahmashakti' to enter into our subtle system and flow in the form of cool breeze called as Chaitanya or 'Vibrations' to manifest the state of Yoga in our being. Yoga means union of spirit (atman) with paramatman (god). Thus, a path of true spirituality with 'sarva dharm sambhav' (respect for all religions) and 'sarva manav sambhav' (respect for humanity) is set for the seeker for achieving the state of purity of soul as enshrined in the writings of Sant Ravidas. The attainment of Turiya state through Sahaja Yoga is easy.

The experience of Self-Realisation or Yoga has been made easy by Her Holiness Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi when She opened the seventh Chakra known by the name Sahastrar by awakening the 'kundalini' on the 5th of May 1970 making it possible for the first time in the spiritual history of the world for en masse Self-Realisation. Thus, Sahaja Yoga was born and at present is practiced in over 140 countries of the world and the practitioners are leading a joyful life. 'Sahaja' means born with you and 'Yoga' means union of 'Spirit' with All-Pervading Power. Sahaja Yoga grants us the knowledge of the roots which enlightens us about the mission and purpose of life.

For further details on Sahaja Yoga please contact or browse the given websites.