

"THE STORY of Ramakrishna Paramhansa's life is a story of religion in practice. His life enables us to see God face to face. No one can read the story of his life without being convinced that God alone is real and that all else is an illusion. Ramakrishna was a living embodiment of godliness. His sayings are not those of a mere learned man but they are pages from the Book of Life. They are revelations of his own experiences. They, therefore, leave on the reader an impression which he cannot resist. In this age of scepticism Ramakrishna presents an example of a bright and living faith which gives solace to thousands of men and women who would otherwise have remained without spiritual light."

Mahatma Gandhi

*(From "Life of Sri Ramakrishna" published
by Advaita Ashram, Calcutta)*

**GAURAV GATHA
A SERIES THAT
EDUCATES AND INSPIRES**

© Gaurav Gatha, A-1/28, Safdarjang Enclave New Delhi-110029

All rights reserved : January 1981

Published by Mrs Santosh Puri, A-1/28-Safdarjang Enclave'
New Delhi—110029 and printed

at Jay Print Pack (Pvt) Ltd. 8/39, Industrial Area Kirti Nagar-110015

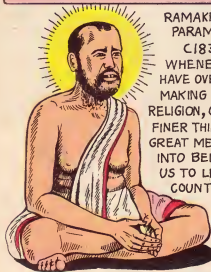
Editor : Mrs Santosh Puri General Editor : T.S. Narula

Script : Sudhir Tailang Artwork : Jugesh Narula

Single Copy : Rs 2.50 Annual (Twelve Issues) : Rs 25/

Distributors : Central News Agency, 4-E/4 Jhandewalan, New Delhi 110055

Ramakrishna Paramahansa



RAMAKRISHNA
PARAMAHAMSA
(1836-1886)
WHENEVER CRISES
HAVE OVERTAKEN INDIA,
MAKING PEOPLE FORGET
RELIGION, CULTURE AND THE
FINER THINGS OF LIFE,
GREAT MEN HAVE COME
INTO BEING AMONGST
US TO LEAD THE
COUNTRY AND PUT IT
AGAIN ON THE
RIGHT PATH.

SHRI
RAMAKRISHNA
PARAMAHAMSA
IS ONE OF

THESE IMMORTAL BEINGS.



KSHUDIRAM CHATTOPADHYAYA WAS AN
HONEST AND PIOUS BRAHMIN. HE AND HIS
WIFE, CHANDRAMANI, LIVED IN DEREPUR,
A VILLAGE IN BENGAL. THAT WAS A
LITTLE OVER 150 YEARS' AGO.

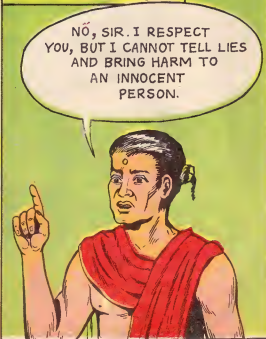
ONE DAY, THE VILLAGE ZAMINDAR,
RAMANAND RAI, SENT
FOR KSHUDIRAM.

KSHUDIRAM, I
WANT YOU TO GIVE
EVIDENCE IN MY FAVOUR IN
COURT. IF YOU DO SO, I WILL
REWARD YOU HANDSOMELY.



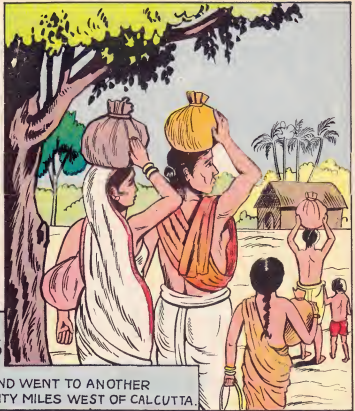
BUT KSHUDIRAM WAS A
STAUNCH LOVER OF TRUTH.

NÖ, SIR. I RESPECT
YOU, BUT I CANNOT TELL LIES
AND BRING HARM TO
AN INNOCENT
PERSON.



THE ZAMINDAR LOST HIS TEMPER.

KSHUDIRAM ! HOW DARE YOU REFUSE TO CARRY OUT MY ORDERS ? YOU WILL PAY FOR THIS !



AND THE ZAMINDAR INVOLVED KSHUDIRAM IN FALSE COURT CASES. HE CONFISCATED ALL HIS BELONGINGS, AND MADE HIM PENNILESS. KSHUDIRAM LEFT THE VILLAGE WITH HIS FAMILY, AND WENT TO ANOTHER VILLAGE CALLED KAMARPUKUR, SEVENTY MILES WEST OF CALCUTTA.

LOOK ! HOW HAPPY THE CHILDREN ARE !

IN SPITE OF THEIR POVERTY, HOWEVER, KSHUDIRAM AND CHANDRAMANI WERE HAPPY IN THE NEW VILLAGE. THEY HAD TWO SONS, RAMKUMAR AND RAMESHWAR, AND ONE DAUGHTER, KATYAYANI.

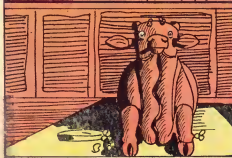
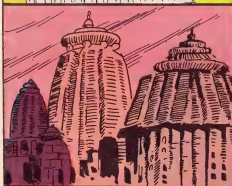
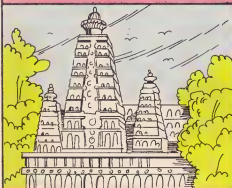


ONE DAY, KSHUDIRAM SET OUT ON A LONG PILGRIMAGE



JAI SHRI KRISHNA
JAI SHRI KRISHNA

HE WENT TO MANY HOLY PLACES.



AND EVENTUALLY HE CAME TO GAYA. WHEN HE SAW THE DEITY AT THE TEMPLE OF GADADHAR, HE FORGOT HIMSELF IN ECSTASY AND LOST ALL SENSE OF TIME IN PRAYING TO THE DEITY.



HARE KRISHNA,
HARE KRISHNA
HARE KRISHNA,
HARE KRISHNA
HARE HARE....

* ONE OF THE NAMES OF LORD VISHNU.

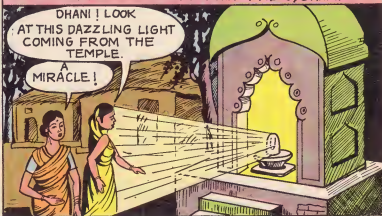
AT NIGHT LORD VISHNU CAME TO KSHUDIRAM IN A DREAM.



SAYING THIS, LORD VISHNU VANISHED.



IN KAMARPUKUR, KSHUDIRAM'S WIFE, CHANDRAMANI WENT TO THE TEMPLE OF SHIVA WITH HER FRIEND, DHANI.



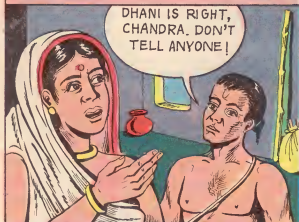
THE LIGHT ENTERED THE BODY OF CHANDRAMANI. SHE FELL DOWN UNCONSCIOUS.



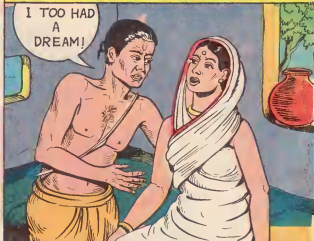
AFTER A WHILE SHE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS AND SAID—



WHEN KSHUDIRAM RETURNED FROM HIS PILGRIMAGE, SHE TOLD HIM THE WHOLE STORY.



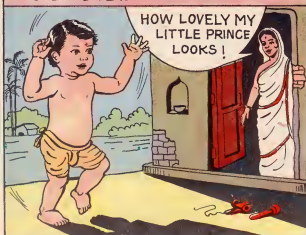
HE TOLD HER ABOUT HIS DREAM.



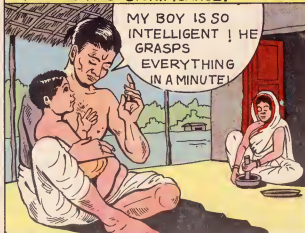
ON FEBRUARY 17, 1836 CHANDRAMANI GAVE BIRTH TO A VERY LOVELY CHILD.



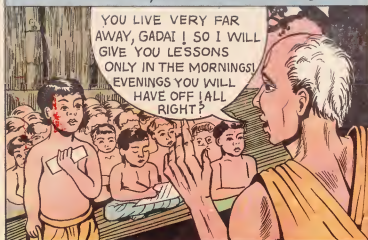
THE DAYS PASSED, AND GADADHAR GREW OLDER.



KSHUDIRAM TOLD HIM STORIES OF GREAT MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE.



AT THE AGE OF FIVE, GADAI* WAS SENT TO SCHOOL.



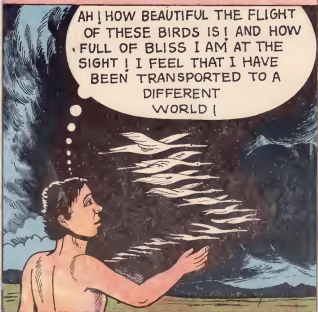
GADAI WAS A LOVER OF NATURE, HE LOVED TO WANDER INTO THE FIELDS AND OPEN COUNTRY.



ONE DAY A FLIGHT OF HERONS.....



GADAI BEGAN TO LOSE CONTROL OF HIMSELF AT THE SIGHT.



HE FELL DOWN UNCONSCIOUS*



SOME PERSONS PASSED THAT WAY. THEY BROUGHT HIM TO CONSCIOUSNESS BY SPLASHING WATER ON HIS FACE.



IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, SIR. THE BEAUTIFUL SIGHT OF THE HERONS IN FLIGHT TOOK ME TO A WORLD I CANNOT DESCRIBE!

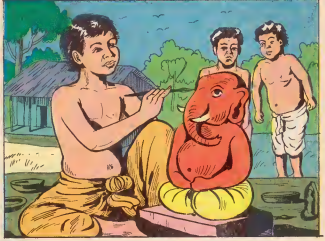


* THIS WAS HIS FIRST EXPERIENCE OF TRANCE, OR SAMADHI.

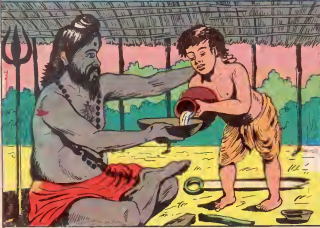
WHEN GADAI WAS EIGHT YEARS OLD, HIS FATHER DIED.



HE DEVELOPED A PASSION FOR MAKING CLAY IMAGES OF GODS AND GODDESSES.



THE COMPANY OF SADHUS GAVE HIM GREAT PLEASURE TOO. HE LOVED SERVING THEM.



ONCE A GROUP OF WOMEN WENT TO THE TEMPLE OF THE GODDESS VISHALAKSHI.

LET HIM COME ALONG TOO.



I SHALL ALSO COME

GADAI BEGAN SINGING BHAJANS.

HARE KRISHNA....
HARE KRISHNA....
KRISHNA KRISHNA
HARE HARE...

HOW SWEETLY
HE SINGS!

I CAN SPEND ALL MY
LIFE LISTENING TO HIM
SINGING BHAJANS!

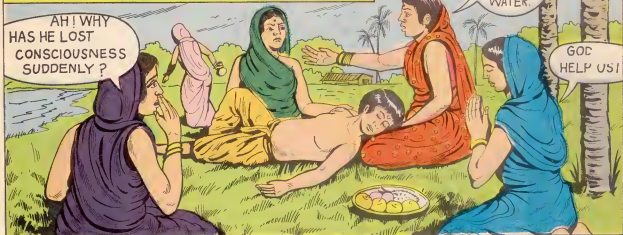


ALL OF A SUDDEN GADAI FELL SILENT. HIS BODY BECAME STIFF AND HE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS.

AH! WHY HAS HE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS SUDDENLY?

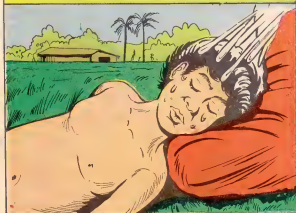
SPLASH HIS FACE WITH WATER.

GOD HELP US!



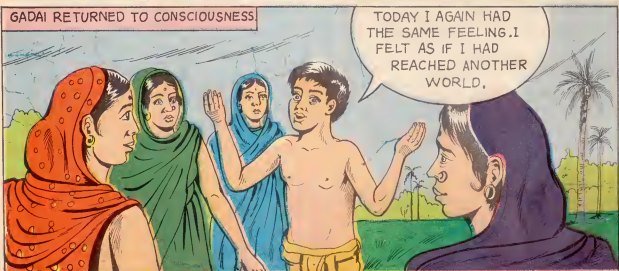
GADAI DID NOT REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS EVEN AFTER THEY HAD SPLASHED WATER ON HIS FACE

ONE OF THE WOMEN RECITED THE NAME OF THE GODDESS VISHALAKSHI INTO HIS EAR SEVERAL TIMES.

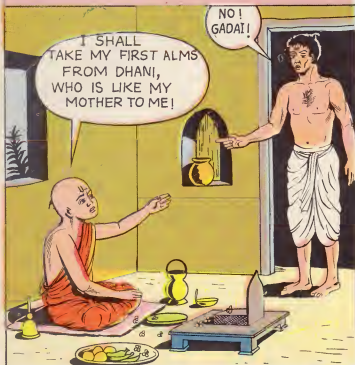


GADAI RETURNED TO CONSCIOUSNESS

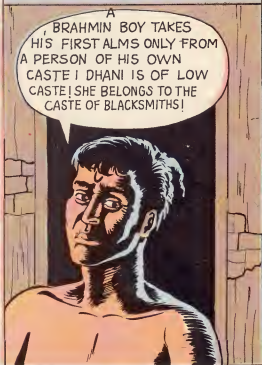
TODAY I AGAIN HAD THE SAME FEELING. I FELT AS IF I HAD REACHED ANOTHER WORLD.



GADAI WAS NOW NINE. BEING A BRAHMIN BOY HE WENT THROUGH THE CEREMONY OF WEARING THE SACRED THREAD.



HIS ELDER BROTHER, RAM KUMAR, TRIED TO STOP HIM FROM DOING THIS.



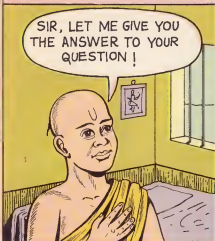
BUT GADAI WAS ADAMANT. IN THE END HE TOOK HIS FIRST ALMS FROM THE HANDS OF DHANI.



ONCE, SOME PANDITS (SCHOLARS) WERE HAVING AN ARGUMENT ON A POINT OF PHILOSOPHY.



GADAI WAS PRESENT THERE. HE COULDN'T CONTROL HIMSELF.



...AND HE WAS ABLE TO GIVE THE RIGHT ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM. THE PANDITS WERE STRUCK WITH ASTONISHMENT.



GADAI WAS NOT ONLY ACTIVE, INTELLIGENT AND ARTISTIC, HE WAS ALSO A GOOD ACTOR. ONCE, HE PLAYED THE PART OF LORD SHIVA ON THE STAGE AND MADE EVERYONE SPELLBOUND.



THE ZAMINDAR OF THE VILLAGE, DURGADAS, WAS VERY PROUD OF THE FACT THAT NO MAN HAD SET EYES ON THE WOMEN OF HIS FAMILY. GADAI ONCE DISGUISED HIMSELF AS A WOMAN SELLING YARN FOR WEAIVING AND CAME TO THE ZAMINDAR.

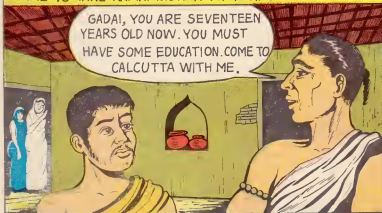
I HAVE LOST MY WAY. CAN I SPEND THE NIGHT WITH THE LADIES IN YOUR HOUSE?



HE SPENT THREE TO FOUR HOURS IN THE WOMEN'S QUARTERS OF THE HOUSE. HIS BROTHER RAMESHWAR CAME LOOKING FOR HIM....



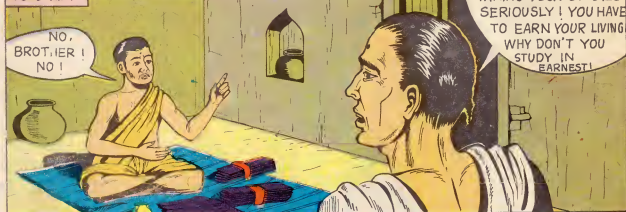
THE ELDER BROTHER OF RAMAKRISHNA*, RAMKUMAR, WAS RUNNING A SANSKRIT SCHOOL IN CALCUTTA. HE CAME TO TAKE RAMAKRISHNA WITH HIM.



GADAI, YOU ARE SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD NOW. YOU MUST HAVE SOME EDUCATION. COME TO CALCUTTA WITH ME.



HE CAME TO CALCUTTA. BUT BOOKS AND STUDIES DID NOT HOLD HIS MIND. HIS ELDER BROTHER ONCE TOLD HIM—



NO, BROTHER ! NO !

LOOK, GADAI ! IT IS TIME YOU STARTED TAKING YOUR STUDIES SERIOUSLY ! YOU HAVE TO EARN YOUR LIVING ! WHY DON'T YOU STUDY IN EARNEST !

WHAT SHALL I DO WITH AN EDUCATION THAT BRINGS ME JUST FOOD AND CLOTHING FOR MY BODY ? I WANT AN EDUCATION THAT TEACHES ME THE GREAT TRUTH ! IT SHOULD TAKE ME TO GOD !



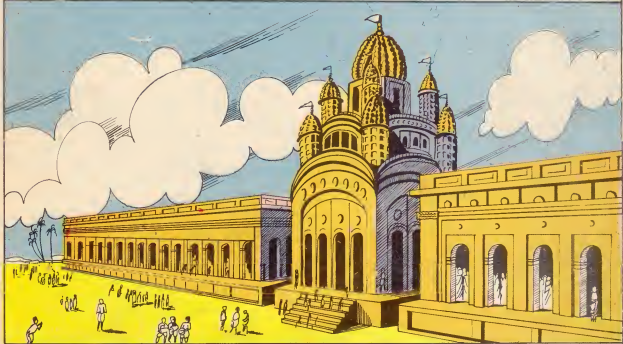
RAMKUMAR DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO SAY.



HE WANTS SOMETHING EXTRA-ORDINARY ! VERY WELL ! I SHALL NOT TALK ABOUT IT ANY MORE.

*GADAI WAS FAMOUS BY THIS NAME. MOST PROBABLY THE NAME WAS GIVEN TO HIM BY HIS PARENTS OR BY ONE OF HIS RELIGIOUS TEACHERS.

TWO YEARS PASSED. A WEALTHY LADY, RANI RASHMANI, BUILT THE TEMPLE OF DAKSHINESHWAR FOUR MILES NORTH OF CALCUTTA ON THE BANKS OF THE GANGA.



THE RANI AND HER SON-IN-LAW, MATHURANATH BISWAS, CAME TO RAMKUMAR TO APPOINT HIM PRIEST OF THE TEMPLE

I WANT YOU TO BE THE PRIEST OF THE TEMPLE, RAMKUMAR.

I AGREE TO TAKE THE JOB.

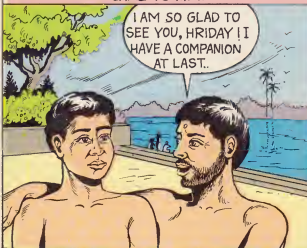


WITH RAMKUMAR, RAMAKRISHNA ALSO WENT TO THE TEMPLE. HE SANG DEVOTIONAL SONGS IN THE TEMPLE. MATHURANATH WAS DRAWN TO THE YOUTH.

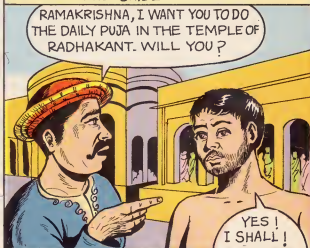
I DON'T KNOW WHY THIS YOUNG MAN ATTRACTS ME SO MUCH!



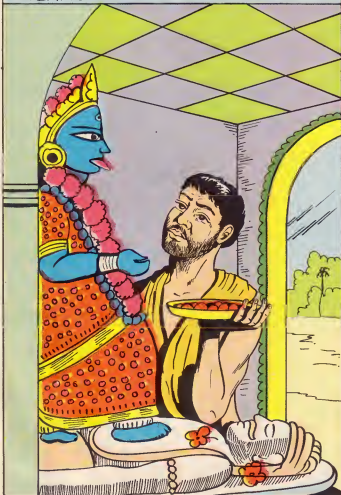
ONE DAY RAMAKRISHNA'S NEPHEW HRIDAYRAM CAME TO HIM.



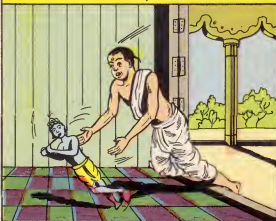
MATHURANATH ONCE CALLED RAMAKRISHNA AND SAID—



AFTER THIS, HE BECAME PRIEST IN THE TEMPLE OF THE DIVINE MOTHER.



ONE DAY, ONE OF THE PRIESTS OF THE TEMPLE OF RADHAKANT WAS CARRYING THE IDOL OF THE GOD, WHEN SUDDENLY...



THE IDOL FELL FROM HIS HANDS AND ITS LEG BROKE.



THE RANI CALLED A MEETING OF THE
PANDITS. THEY SAID—

YOU CANNOT
WORSHIP A BROKEN
IDOL. IMMERSE THIS
IDOL IN THE WATERS
OF THE GANGA AND
HAVE A NEW ONE
MADE.

BUT I
LOVE THIS
IDOL VERY MUCH
INDEED! WHAT
IS TO BE DONE?



THE RANI APPROVED OF WHAT HE SAID,
RAMAKRISHNA MENDED THE BROKEN LEG OF
THE IDOL SO SKILFULLY THAT THE JOINT COULD
NOT BE SEEN BY THE KEENEST EYE.*



* EVEN TODAY THIS IDOL CAN BE SEEN AT
DAKSHINESHWAR

SHE CAME TO RAMAKRISHNA WITH
MATHURANATH. RAMAKRISHNA SAID—

WHAT STUPIDITY IS THIS? HOW CAN YOU
THROW THE IDOL INTO THE GANGA
SIMPLY BECAUSE IT IS BROKEN? IF
YOUR SON-IN-LAW BREAKS HIS LEG
ONE DAY, WHAT WILL YOU DO? WILL
YOU THROW HIM OUT OF THE HOUSE, OR
TREAT HIS LEG?



HE HAD HIS OWN WAY OF PERFORMING
PUJA. HE WOULD TOTALLY FORGET HIMSELF
AND THE WORLD AROUND HIM.



MOTHER, GIVE ME
DARSHAN! COME TO
ME, MOTHER!

AT NIGHT WHEN EVERYBODY WAS ASLEEP, HE WOULD SLIP INTO THE JUNGLES, WEeping AND CRYING...

MOTHER, WON'T YOU GIVE DARSHAN TO YOUR SON?



ONE NIGHT HIS NEPHEW HRIDAYRAM FOLLOWED HIM INTO THE JUNGLE.

UNCLE! UNCLE! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO THE JUNGLE FOR?



BUT RAMAKRISHNA DID NOT HEAR HIS NEPHEW AT ALL, AND WENT DEEPER INTO THE JUNGLE.

DEAR GOD! WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO MY UNCLE? I AM FEELING SCARED.



ONE NIGHT HRIDAYRAM GATHERED COURAGE AND...

UNCLE! HAVE YOU LOST YOUR HEAD? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE IN THE JUNGLE WITHOUT CLOTHES ON?



RAMAKRISHNA WAS SILENT. THEN HE SAID—

MAN MAKES HIMSELF A PRISONER BY SO MANY UNNECESSARY BONDS SUCH AS SHAME, DISGUST, FEAR, THE LOVE OF FAME, THE LOVE OF CASTE... NOT TILL YOU HAVE DISCARDED ALL THESE CAN YOU PROPERLY PRAY TO MAA!



RAMAKRISHNA NOW TOTALLY LOST HIS SANITY IN HIS SEARCH FOR THE DIVINE MOTHER. HE RAN WILDLY, CALLING MAA! MAA!

WHERE ARE YOU, MAA! GIVE ME YOUR DARSHAN MAA!



HE WOULD RUB HIS FACE ON THE BANKS OF THE GANGA SO VIOLENTLY THAT IT WOULD BEGIN TO BLEED.

MOTHER! DON'T BE SO HARD-HEARTED. WHY DON'T YOU SHOW YOURSELF TO ME?



LIFE WAS MEANINGLESS TO HIM WITHOUT MOTHER.

MOTHER, YOU HAVE GIVEN DARSHAN TO MILLIONS OF YOUR BHAKTAS! WHY ARE YOU SO CRUEL TO ME?

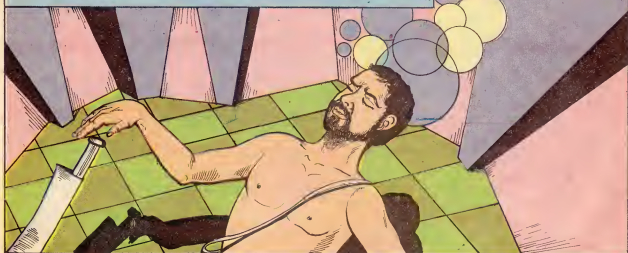


HE TOOK DOWN THE SWORD HANGING ON THE WALL AND...

LOOK, MOTHER! LOOK! IF YOU DO NOT COME, YOUR BHAKTA IS GOING TO KILL HIMSELF...



AND ALL OF A SUDDEN, RAMAKRISHNA FELL DOWN UNCONSCIOUS....



HE SAW A DAZZLING LIGHT ALL ROUND HIM, POURING FROM EVERY SIDE...AND HE HAD THE VISION OF THE DIVINE MOTHER.



FROM NOW ON, HIS MANNER OF WORSHIP BECAME EVEN MORE EXTRAORDINARY. HE WOULD TALK TO THE DIVINE MOTHER, PLAY GAMES WITH HER, AND FEED HER WITH HIS OWN HANDS...



SOME TEMPLE OFFICIALS REPORTED TO MATHURANATH THAT RAMAKRISHNA HAD GONE MAD. MATHURANATH CAME TO THE TEMPLE TO SEE FOR HIMSELF.



WHEN THE NEWS OF THE 'MADNESS' OF RAMAKRISHNA REACHED CHANDRAMANI, SHE CALLED HIM OVER TO KAMARPUKUR, AND MARRIED HIM TO SARADAMANI, THE FIVE-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER OF RAMACHANDRA MUKHOPADHYAYA...



THE ORNAMENTS THAT SARADAMANI WORE ON HER WEDDING DAY WERE BORROWED ONES.

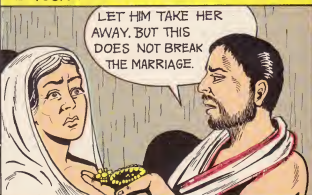
DON'T WORRY, MOTHER, WHEN SHE FALLS ASLEEP, I SHALL TAKE OFF THE ORNAMENTS.



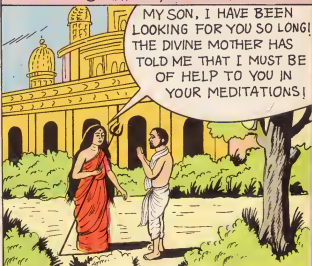
ONE YEAR AND A HALF AFTER HIS MARRIAGE HE WENT BACK TO DAKSHINESHWAR. AGAIN HE BECAME RESTLESS FOR MAA.



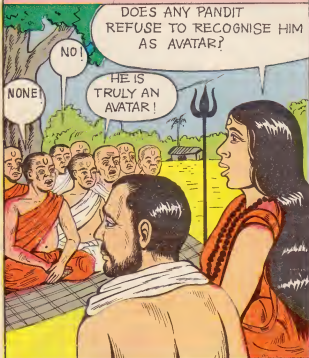
HE TOOK OFF THE ORNAMENTS. WHEN THE UNCLE OF SARADA CAME TO KNOW OF THIS, HE TOOK HER AWAY.



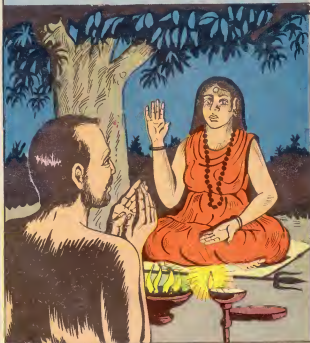
ONE DAY A WOMAN, CALLED BHAIRAVI BRAHMANI, CAME THERE.



SHE DECLARED AT A GATHERING OF PANDITS THAT RAMAKRISHNA WAS AN AVATAR OF GOD, AND CHALLENGED THEM TO DENY IT.



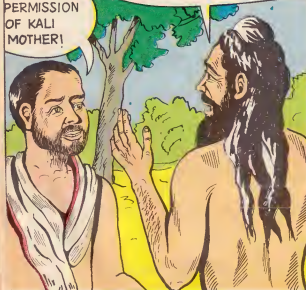
LATER, UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF BHAIRAVI BRAHMANI RAMAKRISHNA SAT DOWN UNDER A BEL TREE, AND STUDIED THE DIFFICULT ART OF TANTRA.



ONE DAY A SANYASI (MONK), CALLED TOTAPURI, CAME TO VISIT RAMAKRISHNA.

RAMAKRISHNA! I CONSIDER YOU FIT TO BE MY SUCCESSOR. WILL YOU LEARN VEDANTA AND PRACTISE IT ALL YOUR LIFE?

I MUST ASK PERMISSION OF KALI MOTHER!



HE GOT THE PERMISSION OF THE MOTHER AND HE WAS READY TO STUDY VEDANTA. TOTAPURI ASKED HIM TO MEDITATE ON THE FORMLESS GOD.

RAMAKRISHNA! TRY...

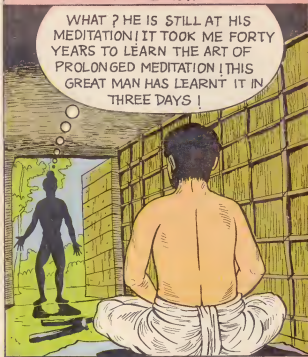
WHAT SHALL I DO? I CAN SEE GOD ONLY IN THE FORM OF THE MOTHER! I CANNOT SEE HIM WITHOUT FORM!



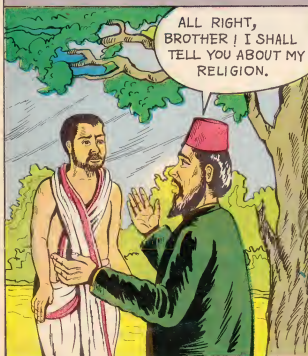
AFTER MANY ATTEMPTS HE WAS SUCCESSFUL IN SEEING GOD AS FORMLESS AND HE LOST HIMSELF IN MEDITATION.



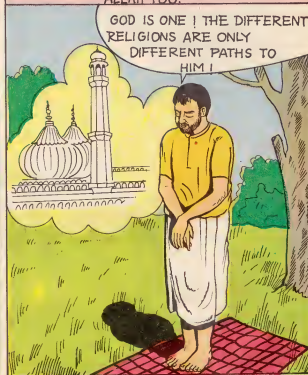
THREE DAYS LATER TOTAPURI CAME BACK TO THE HUT.



TOTAPURI LEFT. RAMAKRISHNA FELT THAT HE SHOULD FIND GOD THROUGH ISLAM TOO. HE WENT TO MEET THE MUSLIM FAKIR, GOVIND RAI.



RAMAKRISHNA NOW BEGAN READING THE KORAN AND PRAYED TO ALLAH. HE FOUND ALLAH TOO.



IN THE SUMMER OF 1867, RAMAKRISHNA RETURNED ONCE AGAIN TO KAMARPUR. HIS WIFE SARADAMANI CAME TO MEET HIM THERE. SHE WAS NOW FOURTEEN YEARS OLD.

ARE YOU WELL, SARDAR?

I AM WELL, WITH YOUR BLESSINGS

RAMAKRISHNA TAUGHT A GREAT MANY THINGS TO HIS WIFE. AFTERWARDS HE WENT BACK ALONE TO DAKSHINESHWAR.

HOW LOVING AND TENDER HE IS!

MATHURANATH AND HIS WIFE CAME TO RAMAKRISHNA.

RAMAKRISHNA! THE TWO OF US ARE GOING ON A PILGRIMAGE! COME WITH US!

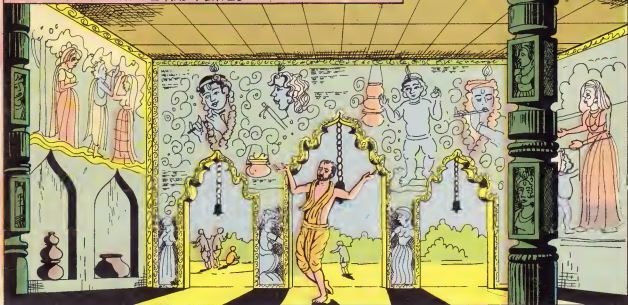
VERY WELL!

THE PARTY SET OFF ON THEIR PILGRIMAGE IN JANUARY 1868. THEY WERE 125 IN ALL, COUNTING THE SERVANTS.

THEY WENT TO DEOGHAR, VARANASI, ALLAHABAD AND OTHER HOLY PLACES.

NOW WE SHALL GO TO VRINDAVAN!

AT VRINDAVAN RAMAKRISHNA BECAME RAPTUROUS. IT WAS THE CITY WHERE LORD KRISHNA HAD SPENT HIS CHILDHOOD. EVERY WALL AND CORNER SEEMED TO ECHO WITH THE LAUGHTER OF KRISHNA AND THE PRANKS THAT HE HAD PLAYED.



PASSING THROUGH A VILLAGE, RAMAKRISHNA SAW Hordes OF POOR PEOPLE, AND HIS HEART MELTED WITH PITY FOR THEM.

BUT WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO YET ! I WILL RUN SHORT OF MONEY!

LOOK MATHURANATH ! THE GODDESS HAS GIVEN YOU VAST WEALTH ! GIVE ONE FULL MEAL TO THESE POOR AND HUNGRY PEOPLE ! GIVE A PIECE OF CLOTH TO EACH OF THEM !

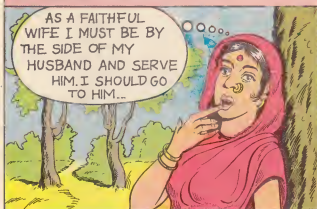


SHAME ON YOU ! VERY WELL ! YOU GO ON YOUR JOURNEY ALONE. I SHALL STAY BACK HERE AND WORK FOR THESE POOR CREATURES. I AM NOT GOING FARTHER.



EVENTUALLY, MATHURANATH AGREED, AND HE FED AND CLOTHED THE POOR PEOPLE.

SARADA DEVI WAS NOW 18 YEARS OF AGE. SHE OFTEN HEARD WILD RUMOURS ABOUT THE DOINGS OF HER HUSBAND. SHE BECAME EXTREMELY AGITATED.



FROM JAIRAMBATI THE CITY OF CALCUTTA WAS SEVENTY MILES AWAY. WITH HER FATHER SHE SET OFF ON FOOT TO CALCUTTA.



ON THE WAY SHE FELL ILL WITH HIGH FEVER.



AT NIGHT A GIRL APPEARED IN HER DREAM.



WHEN SHE ROSE IN THE MORNING HER FEVER HAD GONE.



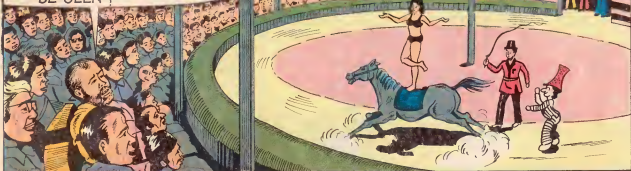
ON REACHING DAKSHINESHWAR, RAMAKRISHNA WELCOMED HER WARMLY. ON THE NEW-MOON DAY HE WORSHIPPED HER AS THE DIVINE MOTHER *



* FROM THEN ON SARADA DEVI BECAME SHREE MAA OR HOLY MOTHER FOR THE DEVOTEES.

ONE DAY A FRIEND OF RAMAKRISHNA TOOK HIM TO THE CIRCUS.

IT IS NO EASY FEAT TO BALANCE ON ONE LEG ON A GALLOPING HORSE! A LOT OF PRACTICE IS NEEDED TO ACQUIRE THE SKILL! WITH THE SAME PRACTICE AND DEDICATION GOD CAN ALSO BE SEEN!



HE SAW GOD IN EVERYTHING. ONE DAY AT THE ZOO HE SAW HIM IN THE LION. HE SAT DOWN THEN AND THERE IN MEDITATION.

NO! I DO NOT WISH TO SEE ANY OTHER ANIMAL NOW!



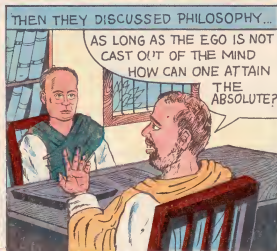
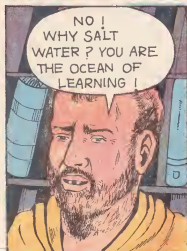
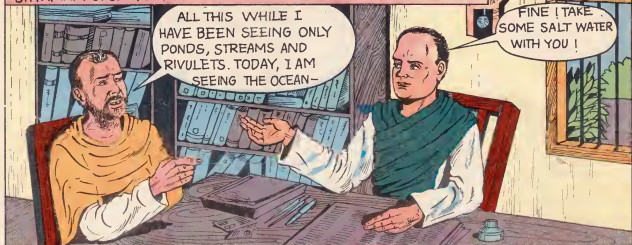
HE SAW GOD IN SMALL CHILDREN TOO...



...AND ALSO IN THE DANCING GIRL...



RAMAKRISHNA HAD A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOUR. UNDERNEATH HIS HUMOUR ALSO, WAS DEEP PHILOSOPHY. ONCE HE WENT TO SHYAMARPUKUR TO MEET ISHWARCHANDRA VIDYASAGAR *



IN THIS MANNER HE HAD MEETINGS WITH A NUMBER OF GREAT MEN. THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THEM WERE SWAMI DAYANAND AND BANKIM CHANDRA CHATTOPADHYAYA **



* VIDYASAGAR WAS FAMOUS FOR HIS LEARNING, GENEROSITY AND CONCERN FOR OTHERS.
** HE IS NOW KNOWN AS BANKIM CHANDRA CHATTERJI.

ONE DAY RAMAKRISHNA WAS STROLLING IN A GARDEN WHEN HE SAW A DIVINE FORM COMING TOWARDS HIM.



JESUS CHRIST EMBRACED RAMAKRISHNA AND ENTERED HIS BODY.



AROUND THIS TIME, IN CALCUTTA, A SENSITIVE AND PROMISING LAD NARENDHRANATH WAS GOING THROUGH INTENSE INNER AGITATION.

DOES GOD REALLY EXIST ?
(IF HE DOES, WHERE IS HE ? I HAVE MET MANY RELIGIOUS LEADERS, BUT NONE OF THEM HAS SEEN GOD !)



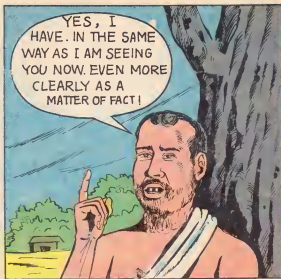
ONE DAY, HIS COUSIN, CHANDRA DATT, TOLD HIM ABOUT RAMAKRISHNA. SO HE WENT TO DAKSHINESHWAR.

AH, YOU HAVE COME SO LATE ! WHY HAVE YOU MADE ME WAIT SO LONG ?

HE IS TALKING AS IF HE KNEW ME !



NARENDRA ASKED HIM THE ONE QUESTION WHICH WAS TORMENTING HIM.



NARENDRA BEGAN TO VISIT HIM OFTENER NOW.



WHY DOES MY
BODY FEEL AS
THOUGH IT WERE
ON FIRE ?



NARENDRA WENT INTO THE ROOM.

WHO HAS
PUT THIS
MONEY HERE ?



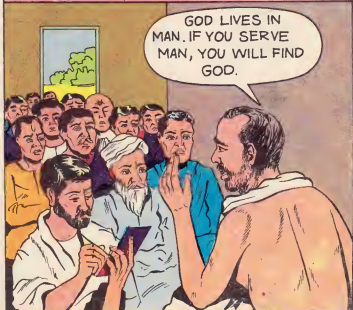
AFTER THIS INCIDENT NARENDRA
BECAME A FIRM FOLLOWER OF
RAMAKRISHNA.

HE IS REALLY
GREAT !



THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FLOCKED TO HEAR
THE DISCOURSES OF RAMAKRISHNA. TIRELESSLY,
HE SPOKE TO THEM....

GOD LIVES IN
MAN. IF YOU SERVE
MAN, YOU WILL FIND
GOD.



ONE OF HIS DISCIPLES, MAHENDRANATH GUPTA,
TOOK DOWN IN WRITING ALL THAT HE SPOKE..

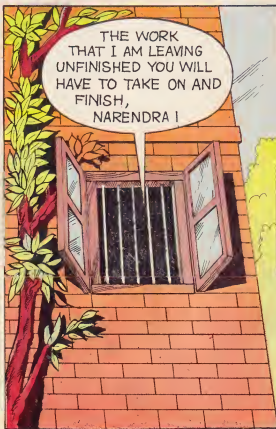
LATER, HE BROUGHT OUT THE SAYINGS OF RAMAKRISHNA IN BOOK FORM.



ONE DAY RAMAKRISHNA FELT A PAIN IN HIS THROAT WHICH WENT ON INCREASING...



IN DECEMBER 1885, HE WAS TAKEN TO A GARDEN-HOUSE AT COSSIPORE.



NARENDRA STILL HAD DOUBTS ABOUT RAMAKRISHNA.

IS GURUDEV
REALLY THE AVATAR OF GOD?
IF HE WOULD ONLY SAY SO
HIMSELF...ALL MY DOUBTS
WOULD BE SET AT REST..

ooo



RAMAKRISHNA READ WHAT WAS IN NARENDRA'S MIND. HE GATHERED ALL HIS ENERGY AND SAID—

NARENDRA! DO YOU STILL
HAVE DOUBTS? SEE! HE WHO WAS RAMA
AND WHO WAS KRISHNA IS IN MY BODY
TODAY AS RAMAKRISHNA!



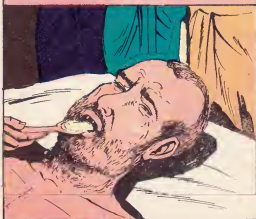
NARENDRA HUNG HIS HEAD IN SHAME..

IT WAS AUGUST 15, 1886. THE TIME, MIDNIGHT, THE
CONDITION OF RAMAKRISHNA SUDDENLY
WORSENEDED AND HE BEGAN TO SINK....

I WANT
TO EAT
SOMETHING..



HE WAS GIVEN A LITTLE
PORRIDGE.



HE CALLED NARENDRA TO HIS SIDE AND
PLACED HIS HAND ON HIS HEAD.



NARENDRA FELT AN EXTRAORDINARY
SENSATION. THE FULL FORCE OF
THE DIVINE ENERGIES OF
RAMAKRISHNA ENTERED HIM...



NARENDRA ! TODAY I HAVE
MADE MYSELF A PAUPER... I
HAVE GIVEN YOU EVERYTHING
I HAD. YOU NOW HAVE TO LIGHT
UP THE WHOLE WORLD WITH
THE POWER I HAVE GIVEN
YOU...

LATER ON, THE SAME
NARENDRA BECAME
FAMOUS
AS SWAMI VIVEKANANDA .
HE CARRIED
THE MESSAGE OF
RAMAKRISHNA TO
EVERY CORNER OF
THE WORLD AND
PRESENTED
A FINE IMAGE OF
THE COUNTRY...



TODAY, ALLOVER THE WORLD, IN MANY CITIES, RAMAKRISHNA MISSIONS ARE
WORKING. A GREAT MANY MEMBERS OF THESE MISSIONS ARE TO THIS
DAY CARRYING ON THE WORK THAT VIVEKANANDA STARTED YEARS AGO.

SRI RAMAKRISHNA SAID.....

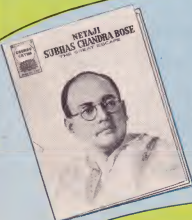
- * AS A LAMP DOES NOT BURN WITHOUT OIL, SO A MAN CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT GOD.
- * THE TREE LADEN WITH FRUIT ALWAYS BENDS LOW. IF YOU WISH TO BE GREAT, BE LOWLY AND MEEK.
- * A TRULY RELIGIOUS MAN SHOULD THINK THAT OTHER RELIGIONS ARE ALSO SO MANY PATHS LEADING TO THE TRUTH. ONE SHOULD ALWAYS MAINTAIN AN ATTITUDE OF RESPECT TOWARDS OTHER RELIGIONS.
- * SIN AND MERCURY ARE HARD TO DIGEST.
- * AS A NAIL CANNOT BE DRIVEN INTO A STONE BUT ENTERS EASILY INTO THE EARTH, SO THE ADVICE OF THE PIOUS DOES NOT AFFECT THE SOUL OF A WORLDLY MAN WHILE IT GOES DEEP INTO THE HEART OF A BELIEVER.
- * AS LONG AS I LIVE, SO LONG DO I LEARN.
- * THE WISE MAN SAYS, "IT IS THOU, O LORD, IT IS THOU," BUT THE IGNORANT AND DELUDED SAY, "IT IS I, IT IS I."





GAURAV GATHA

HINDI
&
ENGLISH



Our forthcoming titles

