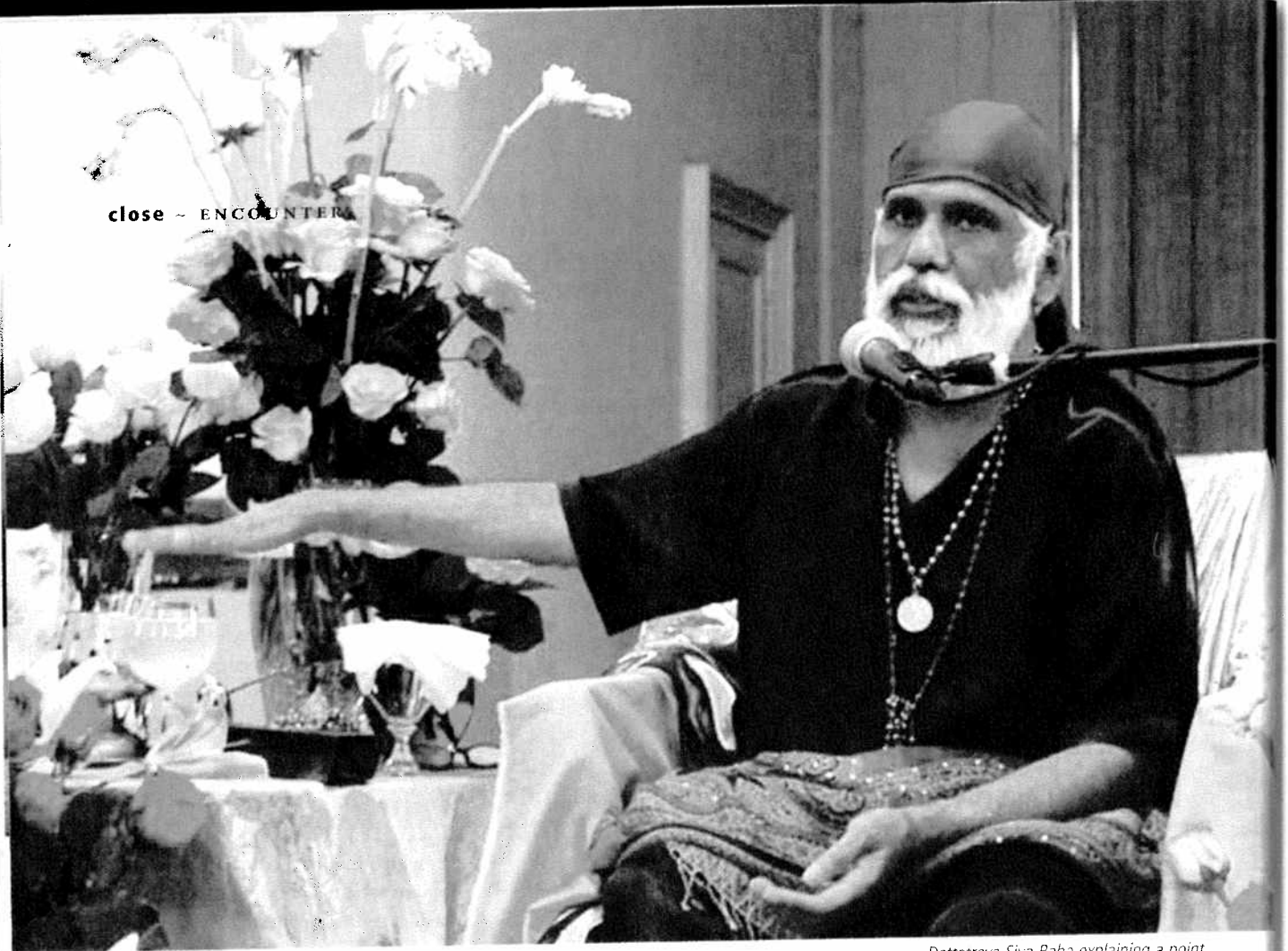


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Dattatreya Siva Baba explaining a point

ILLUMINATING THE HEART OF HUMANITY

Today, the world we know is caught in an unprecedented flux with the collapse of the global financial order, increased occurrences of human perpetrated violence, and ever present threat of natural calamities resulting from climate change. The individual too is waging an ongoing battle with stress and despair. While society is busy searching for outward solutions to its problems, many amongst us are also turning inwards and exploring the possibility of a spiritual breakthrough – the proverbial last ray of hope before night falls.

For them, Grace Light could be that flash of brilliant news. A new phenom-

GRACE LIGHT, A NEW PHENOMENON PURPORTED TO HAVE COME DOWN TO HELP HUMANITY EVOLVE, CLAIMS TO CREATE ENHANCED JOY, PEACE, AND COMPASSION

by P Venkatesh

enon already being experienced by several people, Grace Light is said to pro-

vide an opportunity for us to take charge of our own lives. It promises to empower us with the divine intelligence to create enhanced joy, peace, and compassion. "After several hours of giving and receiving Grace Light, I felt a profound sense of peace, and that God had answered our prayers. I finally feel like this is a solution," says Jaya G, San Diego, USA.

The genesis of the Grace Light movement can be traced to an unassuming YouTube video. In it, a fatherly figure by the name Dattatreya Siva Baba (fondly called Baba), dressed in coloured robes and matching headscarf, momentarily introduced the Grace Light process. He

also gently invited thousands of dedicated viewers, separated in time and geography, to experience this 'inner light of the Divine' for the first time on July 17, 2008 – the Guru Poornima day.

Popular as 'the YouTube guru' for his ingenious use of the no-cost online media to spread his teachings, Baba is a man on a mission – to prepare humanity to experience HOPE (Heaven On Planet Earth). On YouTube, his channel 'DattatreyaSivaBaba' features more than 200 videos on topics such as karma, astrology, soul genetics, mind-sound technology, meditation and enlightenment. With over 11,000 subscribers and around four lakh hits to his channel, this scholar-mystic, now living in the United States, is openly sharing the secrets of the Tamil Siddhas (enlightened sages of Southern India) to whose lineage he belongs.

Born as Baskaran Pillai in the town

of Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu, Baba's spiritual journey began at an early age when he underwent intensive meditation under the guidance of various emi-

ayurveda and other healing arts.

Alongside his mystic education, Baba earned a Master's degree in English Literature and a Master of Letters in Comparative Literature from the University of Madurai, Tamil Nadu. In 1983, he came to the United States and completed his PhD in Religious Studies from the University of Pittsburgh. While there, he was the Coordinator of Indian Studies within the Asian Studies Programme, and taught several courses on Buddhist meditation. His teaching was so popular with the students that there was often a waiting list for his classes. He also served as an editor for the *Encyclopedia of Hinduism*. He also trained in neuro-psychology to help him interpret traditional yogic wisdoms as they relate to psychobiology.

Though he had been teaching people to change their consciousness for more than two decades, Baba became

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Baba is a man on a mission – to prepare humanity to experience HOPE

(Heaven On Planet Earth)

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nent meditation teachers. Studying in numerous places, including the Himalayas, he received a thorough initiation into the teachings of the Tamil Siddhas. He also got training in mantras, astrology, numerology,

Grace Light event in progress



widely known when he instructed the renowned motivational speaker, Dr Wayne Dyer, to teach the 'Ah' meditation' to the world. Dr Dyer wrote about this manifesting meditation in the best-selling book, *Manifest Your Destiny* (Harper Collins, 1997), and duly credited it to his 'guruji'.

Baba's commitment to enable people to experience increased joy and prosperity, and his interest in the biological evolution of the physical body and its transformation to a light body, have converged in his bringing forth the Grace Light teaching to the world. Baba says, "Even so, I am only one conduit to receive and spread the light. Who is going to transmit it? Every one of you will transmit it after you have received it. In this way, the light will quickly spread within a short period. Let us all join together and receive the light and transmit it to our fellow men and women."

Baba also admits to have incarnated innumerable times in service to the Grace Light. Dr Walter Semkiw, a US-based 'occupational medicine' physician and author of *Born Again* (a book on reincarnation cases of popular personalities), provides objective evidence on the website www.johnadams.net about Dattatreya Siva Baba's previous lifetimes as the great saints Agastya and Swami Ramalingam, each of whom mastered the principles of light and transcendence. Of these saints, the recorded history of Swami Ramalingam (also known as Vallalar) is readily available, and offers an interesting insight into what Grace Light can accomplish.

Living in a town called Vadalur in South India, as recently as the 19th century, Vallalar prayed intensely for the Light of God to descend on earth. He believed that only the divine Light was capable of fully dissolving human pain and sorrow. Being a compassionate soul, he desired people to reclaim their true immortality by praying to the divine Light. "Life of eternal bliss is union with God. Those who have



Transmitting Grace Light to partner

achieved this will have transmuted this impure carnal body into a pure golden body, and again have the pure body transformed into a supersensible, spiritual body," he once stated.

In fact, Vallalar's entire life had been a preparation to attain the Suddha Deham, or the pristine Body of Light. His disciples have recorded that, in his

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into a divine life*

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later years, his physical body became translucent and cast no shadow. They recount that several attempts were made to photograph him, but since light passed through his body no clear image could be obtained. Only his clothing and a very misty vision of his face and limb were apparent.

One day in 1874, he asked his dis-

ciples to lock his room from outside. After some time, a few government officials came to investigate and ordered the door to be opened. To everyone's amazement, the room was empty. True to his words, Vallalar had dematerialised into light without discarding his physical body. It is said that Lord Shiva Himself gave Vallalar an extraordinary gift to access His divine grace.

This gift was the mantra – 'Arut Perum Jothi, Arut Perum Jothi, Thani Perum Karunai, Arut Perum Jothi'. Here, 'Arut Perum Jothi' (meaning limitless energy and intelligence) is a vast Light. 'Thani Perum Karunai' means this Light is the mercy of the Lord. Together the chant means – 'You receive unlimited intelligence and unlimited energy in the form of infinite Light through the grace of God.' No wonder, this chant is an integral part of the Grace Light process taught by Dattatreya Siva Baba.

During the Grace Light empowerment process, one is led through a profound meditation, in which passwords are revealed to open upto nine gates (vital centres) within the energy body. After this, one learns how to receive Grace Light and how to transmit it to another. Usually, you are paired with a partner who places his or her hands near your energy field and onto the crown of your head, usually for three to four minutes. By the end of this



Dattatreya Siva Baba leading the meditation

process, one is completely empowered to carry the Grace Light to one's family, friends and acquaintances. Although there is a fee to be paid for empowerment, passing it on to others free of charge is insisted upon.

"Once received, Grace Light will work in miraculous ways. Physically, there will be significant healing of diseases and enhancement of energy levels. The mind will receive greater intelligence as dormant parts of the brain awaken. Old behaviours, emotions and limiting beliefs will start to dissolve, giving access to deeper inner wisdom. At a soul level, it will activate the perception of our interconnectedness and unity with the whole, transforming human life into a divine life," explains Baba.

Since July 2008, Baba has been on a continual tour of cities across America, Australia and Asia, holding Grace Light induction and intensive events. Marie Otte, a 49-year-old nurse from Illinois, USA, recalls, "While attending these events with Baba, the group energy was so vibrant that I could sense things dissolving from my past. At home, with daily Grace Light practice, my outlook is getting more positive all the time. I am thrilled with the results." Vishnu, London, UK, shares, "For me this phenomenon feels like the next big leap in human con-

sciousness, comparable only to my reiki experiences but on a much deeper level."

The Grace Light movement is now spreading with weekly local gatherings being held across USA, Canada,

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Germany, and UAE. Raji, New York, USA, says, "Recently, eight of us gathered in my home to practice the Grace Light techniques. It was so incredibly magical. I feel more at peace and am more hopeful than before in my life. We must 'Pay It Forward' by passing on the Grace Light to as many people as we can."

In India too, local gatherings are now held in Chennai and Bangalore. Rajesh Thekkadath, a 27-year-old software professional, reveals, "During our first gathering in Bangalore, we used Kirlian

photography before and after Grace Light meditation. We found that the quality of participants' aura improved, and the size of their chakras enhanced appreciably after just a single meditation. Personally, after doing the meditation daily for the last three months, I feel peaceful, more loving, highly energetic, and the best part is that I no longer fight with my wife."

"Grace Light worked wonders in Girlstown, a residential home for underprivileged girls in the age group 11-17 years. Not only do the girls love it, but also want each learning session to start with it. Apart from a glow on their faces after the meditation, I have seen them transform from being shy and tense to having bright, outgoing and peaceful personalities. Thanks to Grace Light, in a short time, each girl has had her own little victory, thus relishing their process of self-discovery even more," describes Lalita Bearss, Programme Coordinator, Tripura Foundation (charitable organisation founded by Baba), Chennai.

My own introduction to Grace Light meditation was through a YouTube video, and every time I practise it I emerge feeling lighter, calmer, and with a cheerful attitude towards life. The opening lines of this famous hymn by John Henry Newman sums up my optimism, "Lead, Kindly Light, amidst the encircling gloom. Lead Thou me on!"

While embracing the Grace Light is a personal choice, it is also a choice that has the potential to not only impact our own evolution, but can also contribute to the positive shift in the collective consciousness. After all, if it does awaken the very heart of humanity, then a life of prosperity, peace and enlightenment can be a reality for all. That will actually herald the coming of the Golden Age.

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