Vince R

VNP

Friday, December 13, 2019

Dearest Lady,

Thank you so very much for your message of love and encouragement. The timing was perfect as I have been going through a bit of a hard time. Wednesday when I woke up, it felt as if something had finally moved out of the way. Your love message was the icing on the cake so to speak. I also loved watching the video of your speaking at the Germany Retreat that was shown via streaming last night. I felt your care in explaining to newer people about how much one can change as a result of transformation. What better demonstration of the “we are not that being of illusion” teaching than The Lady from ten years ago and The Lady today. People so want to identify with the body, with physical characteristics, and in doing that miss the essence, the truth that is The Lady.

My rough patch was tied in to some degree with “you are not that being of illusion.” Mostly though it seems there was just some deeper work that needed to happen and my physical circumstances provided the opportunity to do that work. I had prepared myself to have all the surgeries – foot, pacemaker, eyes – one after the other and was taken aback when the foot showed some healing, the pacemaker was delayed and only the cataract surgery was pending. There was a feeling of disappointment. In my timing I wanted to get it all done so I could move past the body stuff and focus on the people and this Mission. So another level of surrender to His timing was needed. Finding out that the pacemaker surgery was going to be more complicated brought up some threads of control or loss of control. One end of life scenario I had never considered was heart damage from what should have been a simple procedure. I was pretty shaken when I left the cardiologist’s office.

The very next day I had the second cataract surgery and for several days my close vision was gone. I could not read and had to strain to see much of anything. That really forced me to confront yet another layer of letting go of this body. I have accepted aging eye changes, glaucoma, cataracts and loss of vision at night, but there was some attachment to having sight - to seeing things of this world. Looking back now that I have moved through it, I can identify and tease out these areas of attachment to body, attachment to this place, and having some control. At the time, however, it just felt like a big dark ball that needed to be moved through. I felt the need to meditate, but after the cataract surgery I could not scream, put my head down or even cry. More loss of how I wanted it to be. It took a few days of quiet begging and pulling on every bit of trust in Gourasana, but finally the dark ball was gone and it was so joyful to receive your message from a lighter place. Now that my vision is improving daily, and I have accepted His will with the pacemaker situation, I feel grateful that this came up when it did. I don’t want to be on my deathbed wanting to have one last look at this world of illusion.

In the midst of those few days of struggle, Juan stood out as a gift from Gourasana. I listened to the recording of his brilliant speaking to the Seminar staff when I got home from my cataract surgery. I heard him tell the staff that they would keep their hearts open, not by releasing in Part One of the GMP, but by giving. Giving to the participants and giving to each other. Non-stop giving. That became the theme for our Thursday VNP meditation. Giving. People exchanged love and gave each other roses. We all listened to Juan’s talk to the Seminar staff and then came together in prayer for Juan, for the staff and for the participants, including Marian, Gabriel and Marlowe.

I came through this little bump with a deeper level of surrender and even more detachment from this body and having any say over what happens. In my heart I want to be at the Retreat with you and Juan and my desire is to give to this Mission for many years to come. But having found an even deeper level of trust in His timing and His will, I humbly surrender to His plan for me.

I was talking with Jack today. He is doing quite well with his mental challenges. He is leaving Sunday to drive slowly to Denver and will spend a couple of weeks with Maria before returning to Arizona. I shared with him that perhaps some day people will look back and see some of us in the VNP as examples of how important it is to do the serious work before the body interferes. Jack found the depth of his connection with Gourasana and that connection, and along with the serious work he did on himself all those years, it is allowing him to continue his transformation in spite of the mental challenges he faces. I was blessed with the strength to go through Ashrams and serious transformation in spite of physical challenges and so many surgeries. Neither of us would be able to do that part of our transformation with our current physical limitations.

I also met with Ruby yesterday. Her neurologic testing showed mild changes consistent with the onset of Alzheimer’s. Her father had Alzheimer’s and now her brother has the disease as well. I spoke with her about urgency - that she has maybe 18 months or so left to do some serious letting go. On a material level, I asked her to have a clear plan in place by the end of January for who will take over her finances when she is no longer able to do so, and for what she will do for care when the community is not able to do so. Right now the impairment is pretty mild and we are making sure her service jobs are uncomplicated and routine. But she is another example of perhaps waiting too long to begin the serious work of breaking free, and now she faces a serious time limitation.

What I want to say to people, what I want to scream to the Path – is “Do the serious work of breaking free now. Please. I am begging you. Learn from all the examples we have been given. Kendra, Meera, JoAnne and Buddy all thought they had more time. Within the past couple of years Anna, April, Tara, Katy, Frederick and Jim Leonard have all faced treatment for various forms of cancer. And then there are the non-cancer, non-fatal illnesses like what Jack faces, what Bartleby has gone through, what John goes through with his back, what I am facing and what Ruby will now be facing. Let go now. Surrender now. Find humility now. Do the serious work while you are still able to do so.”

Through the many hours spent in being driven to doctor offices, then sitting in waiting rooms, doctors’ exam rooms, and recovery rooms, I have been blessed to be sustained by Gourasana and the Host. They are always right there with me. Yet it is still challenging to give in service, do my own spiritual work, and pray for others with so many hours spent getting care for the body. It must be extremely difficult for those who have yet to find that unshakeable connection with The Lord to suddenly find out they they have a serious physical or mental condition. Kalindi warned us. Gourasana warned us. No time to waste. I suppose anything I say would be redundant, but I hope and pray that some people will learn from my experience. The health of these bodies can change dramatically in a single moment. Assuming we are healthy enough to hold on to separate will or any attachment to this place just a little bit longer is playing with dynamite.

This may be preaching about the obvious Lady, but I wanted to share with you because writing about what I am going through helps me feel even closer to you. I have so much gratitude and love for you. No matter what happens to this body moving forward, I will continue to find ways to give to the success of His Mission. I am so happy for Juan and for the people who got to experience being with him in the Seminar. I am happy that you and he got to spend hours together in the glory of The Incarnation yesterday. Perhaps the love and joy the two of you shared helped move me through my rough patch back into this place of joy. I am so looking forward to being in our little meetings again at this year’s Retreat.

With all my love,

Vince