



DIVINE DISCOURSE

TITLE: 2nd Shambo Discourse

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Shambo Discourse

SWAMI SURYANANDA - 1st July 2007

Whilst the Swamis are dressing the Lord I want to take this opportunity to talk to a little bit about what is happening at the moment in Skanda Vale. Many of you have heard about Shambo. Shambo is one of our bulls and he's just behind you in the temple, behind the shutters and the reason why we've put a bull in the temple is because the government wants to kill him... I know it sounds very strange, why the government would want to kill a bull from the temple but they've actually issued a slaughter notice and they want to come and kill him at the end of next week.

Why have they done this? They have done this because he's reacted to a simple test that shows he may have been exposed to Bovine TB. Any of you who are doctors would know that a similar test in human beings doesn't mean that that person is a danger to everybody else – it's a simple skin test. If a member of your family reacted to such a test would you allow them to be killed? Ask yourself that question. If someone shows any sign of illness what do you do? You go to a doctor, you get more tests done, you find out what medicine you need and you treat that person.

Every life-force has the same opportunity as you or I to evolve and integrate with God – this is the purpose of our birth. The person

next to you is not any more important than you are and you are not any more important than Shambo is. Everybody in the eye of God is equally as important. Only God has the right to give life, only God has the right to take life, and we have a duty to uphold Dharma, the highest consciousness of Almighty God. Satyam, Dharma, Prema, Shanthi are the four cornerstones of Sanathana Dharma.

We have spent many, many weeks now trying to discuss an alternative to killing with the government. We have offered to pay for tests. We have vets who have treated Bovine TB in many animals. We have isolated Shambo so he's not a risk to any people or any other animals. Yet they still want to kill him! Why do they persist in this whole approach? They persist in this approach because of politics, because of economics, because of pressure from farming unions who are worried that if Shambo is given an opportunity to live then that will undermine their whole policy in relation to TB in the country.

The government solution to a problem is to kill the problem! In the foot and mouth disease, millions and millions of cows were killed. In the BSC crisis millions and millions of cows were killed, nearly all of whom were perfectly healthy. When a person steps over the line between killing and not killing then killing becomes the easy solution. When it is easy to kill millions of cows as a solution, it also becomes easier to kill many many human beings and you will find the same arguments, in view of bringing stability to the world, in view of economic circumstances, we must go to war, we must kill!

This is Adharma. It is driven by the Asuric forces. We have to stand up for Dharma. We have to stand up for the sanctity of life. There have been many people in the Hindu community – community leaders – who have either been silent on this issue or have been supportive. Now the question you should be asking your temple committees, asking the representative bodies of the Hindu communities in the country, ‘Who do you represent? Do you represent Dharma? Do you represent Almighty God? Or do you represent self interest and politics?’ What is the purpose of an organization that can not uphold the fundamental tenets of our faith?

At the end of this puja, we will take a special murthi of Lord Subramanium, and we will install that murthi in front of Shambo, because this is the temple of Lord Subramanium. He is the sole authority in this temple! If anybody from the government wants to try to enter this temple, they will be challenging the authority of Almighty God. Do you know who Lord Subramanium is? He is the commander in chief of the heavenly forces. He is the destroyer of the forces of Adharma.

For somebody to attempt to enter this temple to kill a member of His family would be the highest act of desecration of our faith. It would be the highest act of desecration of the sanctity of life. It is absolutely important that you support us in these next few days to make sure that the government realizes that they can not do this. We will challenge any decision of theirs in the courts, but ultimately we obey Almighty God. We can not act in a way which is not in accordance with Dharma. Killing is not a solution.

The government has tried to make out that they are 'sympathetic to our concerns', that they are 'sensitive to our way of worship', that they 'acknowledge the difficulty that we have in this situation' ... How very nice of the government!

We had a meeting with them in Cardiff. That meeting was a total farce! They called that meeting to show the media that they were in dialogue with the temple. They weren't in dialogue. There were representatives of the Hindu community there and they will tell you that. The government came to that meeting to explain why they are going to make the decision to kill Shambo. They've made absolutely no effort whatsoever to use their resources to work with us to find a solution which doesn't involve killing.

What are the risks of Shambo staying alive? First of all, if a person has got TB, in the NHS how does that hospital deal with it? Only if that person is diagnosed as shedding bacteria will they be placed in a single room, given anti-TB drugs for two weeks, then put back in a general ward. None of the nursing staff have to wear masks – it's not a big drama – and that's if somebody is shown to be shedding bacteria! Shambo hasn't even got to that stage. He may not even be infected! Why can't they do more tests? Is he going to infect all the cows in Wales? Is he going to infect every single piece of wildlife running around the country?

It's absolutely laughable their approach. OK, kill Shambo, kill all the cows, but TB stays! He's not been in contact with any cows from neighbouring farms. None of our other cows shows any signs of

TB, so where did he get it from if he's got it? It must have fallen out of the sky! Kill him and it's still in the sky! This is the absurdity of this whole approach.

I'm sure all of you are very intelligent people. The government doesn't seem to be very intelligent at all. What they are saying is that their policy – their failing policy – and their economics is more important to them the right of you to worship God by celebrating the sanctity of life. They are prepared to run rough-shot over your rights in order to uphold Adharma and their economics... now are you going to be timid? Are you going to go cap-in-hand to the government begging them to listen to you, or are you going to stand up and say, 'We will not accept the desecration of our faith and of the sanctity of life.' Don't be frightened, be proud of what you believe in.

It is very unfortunate when those who are meant to be representing the Hindu organizations in this country are measured with their words because they are worried – are they going to get a grant from the government for this, are they going to be invited to sit on this or that committee? What are they doing? They are sacrificing what they are meant to be upholding for their own self-importance.

Anybody who is a representative of Dharma should not be a timid person! They should be forthright and have the ability to say, 'This is not acceptable. You are not permitted to do this – find a solution!' That is the sort of language that is needed in this instance so that the government realizes that they can not kill. They talk about put-

ting an animal down – it's very nice fluffy language – what they mean is execution. It's killing a life and that life has Paramatma embodied within it, that life is sacred. Do not allow the government to do this. Do not allow them to desecrate your faith.

Please keep an eye on what is going on. Check our website on a regular basis. We will be starting having pujas in the covered area outside Shambo's pen from tomorrow (Monday) onwards. If we need your assistance we will ask for it over the internet and through the Hindu community. Please support us. We are not involved in mass demonstrations and waving placards saying 'Save Shambo' here and 'Save Shambo' there! We will celebrate the sanctity of life by worshipping God. That is what you do well, that is what we do well, and the government has forgotten one important thing in this equation – they have forgotten that this drama is created by God.

This is all God's drama. Not our drama, not your drama, not their drama. This is the leela of the Lord. You hear about the leela of Krishna, the leela of Murugan. This is the play of Lord, to create maximum drama. The Divine Mother is a drama queen, She loves drama! When somebody wants to make something an issue She says OK, we'll make this a really big issue – She stirs everyone up, makes it such a big drama that they wish they'd never started the drama in the first place! She is Maha-Shakti. She is the energy of the whole Universe! Murugan is Her son. He holds in His hand the Vel, the weapon of ultimate destruction, to destroy the forces of Adharma which are trying to interfere with worship of God.

Do you think for one minute that the Lord is not involved in this drama? But the drama is an opportunity for you to realize who God is, to realize the extent and power of the nature of Almighty God. God isn't just in the gopuram when you come to the temple. God is embodied in every single life-force. God is the elements. God is nature. God is in you. God is in all of us. God is even embodied in the members of the government but they don't realize it! Maybe after this drama has unfolded people will step and say, 'What was this all about, all this fuss about one silly bull'.

But what the fuss is about is to make people step back and say, 'What does the sanctity of life mean in this day and age where everyday there's bombs, where everyday there's killing – and yet we take no notice of it because it happens all the time?' Yet this one bull called Shambo has gone all over the world – he was even on the Brazilian television national news two days ago and people are talking about him everywhere!

You see the drama of God? Create maximum drama! And the drama hasn't reached its pinnacle yet, there's more to play out! Enjoy the drama! Become a part of the drama! But take your responsibility that Mother is giving you – that the Lord is giving you – to act in accordance with Dharma. Don't just talk about it. Don't just listen to what we are saying... but act on what we are saying! Then you will also discover the purpose of this drama which is to discover your divinity by identifying with God in his Universality.

BLESS YOU.

Further reading:

Shambo discourse 10/06/2007