

I am so fortunate!

By Parvati, New York

The summer of 2007 will be forever etched in my heart and mind as “the summer of Grace”. There are quite a few reasons why this is, but one reason is the “I am so fortunate” series of songs.

Guru composed the first song of this series on 25 June 2007 for the guards:

*I am so fortunate, I am so fortunate,
To guard my Lord Supreme's
Golden Heart-Gate.*

Within the next 48 hours he composed eight more songs in the series. Guru seemed to put a lot of significance to the songs and asked my singing group to learn the songs and to repeatedly perform them. When he composed the 10th song of the series, he asked that I put together a little song booklet and make enough copies “...for everybody. Because everybody should feel that he is fortunate, she is fortunate.”

It was a full one and a half-months later (after Celebrations) when Guru asked if we could “bear to be more fortunate”. Of course we said “yes” and Guru composed more songs for the series.

On 7 September, I received a phone call at work from Paree. Guru asked her to call me and tell me the words to the 20th song which he had just composed:

*I am so fortunate, I am so fortunate!
God knocks my head off when I enjoy
self-doubt lemonade.*

Guru seemed to both enjoy the humour of the phrasing of that song and, at the same time, to take the song very seriously.

Guru composed the 21st and 22nd song in the series on the morning of 8 September 2007. I'd like to relate two stories about that event.

The first story connected with these two songs is that Alo Devi was in the car with Guru when he taught them to my singing group. When he began, he explained that he thought he had finished with the series (completing number twenty the proceeding day), but that more songs were coming to him. Hearing Guru's lament, Alo sympathetically suggested that perhaps he could come up with a new theme for a new series of songs. Guru replied, 'I want to stop, but what can I do? God is telling me to continue with these.' [Quote is from memory, not verbatim]

The second story is that, apparently earlier that morning, Guru was contemplating the lyrics to the songs, and the phrase “life-acceptance God wants me to desiderate” came to him. He was certain that he had seen the word “desiderate” before, but had a little concern that perhaps it wasn't a proper word. So, he called Vidagdha, who is well known for her command of English, and asked if the word was correct. She quickly consulted one of her dictionaries but did not find it there. But Guru felt sure that he had seen it. Later, before teaching us the song, he expressed to Paree and me how he was sure it was a proper word, but could not confirm it. Later, Vidagdha did find the word in the expanded version of the Oxford Dictionary. Yet another example of Guru's stunning mind-brilliance!

Over the past months I have come to the conclusion that the phrase “I am so

fortunate” is not just a cute line with many rhyming potentials, but a powerful mantra. When I am in my mind and feel abandoned and confused by Guru's passing, I remember how much focus he put on this series of songs and I am convinced that it was not coincidental to the timing of his Mahasamadhi. Yes, we have to mourn the loss of Guru's beautiful, charming and illumining physical presence, but ultimately we have to focus on not the loss, but on the very good fortune in being his disciples.

Now, in addition to singing the “I am so fortunate” songs, I also try to implement the phrase into my vocabulary. Once when I said to my brother “you are so lucky...” he interrupted me and said, “I am not lucky, I am so fortunate.” It is true that it is a subtle shift in language, but it is a powerful shift in how it feels to say it. The phrase carries a **conscious and specific Grace** — as well as a sense of gratitude.

Considering how important these songs seemed to be to Guru in the months just preceding his Mahasamadhi, it is interesting to reflect upon how the phrase — the mantra — “I am so fortunate” can help us. Needless to say, Guru has accomplished an infinite number of significant manifestations during his lifetime, but I somehow feel that these songs were given to us specifically at this time to assist us in coping with Guru's passing.

Certainly, the last song in the series calls us to resist wallowing in our loss, to feel his Grace, and to hold aloft the banner of his mission:

*I am so fortunate, I am so fortunate!
God says to me,
“I want you to be My bravest soldier
and not vegetate!”*