



# Rose Petals

Extracts from  
Sri Babuji's Satsangs

## *In the Orbit of the Magnet*

GURUJI: You have asked this question a hundred times, "What actually happens here? What is your path? Is it not a path of surrender? Is it not the path of love? If not, then what is it? *What's happening!*" [Guruji laughs] It seems nothing is happening – and it's true!

I told you before and I will tell you again the example of the magnet and the piece of iron. We are all like those pieces of iron. What differentiates the iron from the magnet? In the magnet, all the molecules are in order, properly polarized. Every molecule has a north pole and a south pole – they're actually polarized that way. In the piece of iron, the molecules are not polarized, there are no poles, no order, so each molecule's magnetic field is counteracted, is resisted by another molecule. In fact, all the iron molecules are potentially magnets. The magnetic power is there, but it is retarded, not expressed; it's suppressed. In the magnet, it is different. It is exactly the same materially – nothing is changed – but each molecule is in order, polarized north to south, aligned, focused.

So, in our hearts, we are like the iron molecules. We have so many different pulls with no alignment or order, only different molecules of attraction and desire in conflict with each other. "I want money, I want comfort, I want a good house, I want to be with my family, I want to experience the comforts of the West, I want spiritual fulfilment, I want nirvana." We have so many desires and each one conflicts with another, pulling in the opposite direction. We have so many different pulls, pulling us from different directions, that the so-called magnetic force is lost.

So how to make a piece of iron into a magnet? By putting it in constant touch with the magnet – the Satguru – and rubbing it on the magnet again and again. The magnetic force embedded in the Satguru will gradually polarize the different pulls. Not that the number of molecules is changed. If there are ten million molecules in the iron, they won't become even ten million and one, nor will one be lost. There will be exactly the same number but simply their direction will be changed, their attitude will be changed, they'll become properly polarized, harmonized. They are aligned, put in order.



Hyderabad, RTC Mantap, 1998

And what *sadhana*, what spiritual exercises, what techniques has the piece of iron done? Has it done anything? Has anything changed? In fact, it has changed: it has been transformed into a magnet. But where was the transformation? What has happened? Has the piece of iron done it or has the magnet done it?

We wash our clothes and put them on the line in the sun. They become dry. How? By contact with the sun, that's all. They must be in contact with the sun. If you put them in the house or in a bucket of water, will they become dry? No. Our effort is only to put them outside on the line in the sun. And the only effort of the iron is to be in contact with the magnet, frequently in contact. Not just once, "Yes, I did it, but nothing happened!" – it won't happen like that! In the process the iron may feel some disturbance and say, "Oh my God, this is too disturbing, I don't want it!" Again you try. At first it feels as if something were being lost, but after some time you realize the iron is not losing anything. And nothing is being added – no more hair, no more nails, nothing is added. [Guruji laughs] You are as you were, but something has changed – you're becoming magnetized.

DEVOTEE: Does it mean every pull should be oriented towards love of the Satguru?

GURUJI: That is what happens. You want a job, but it doesn't come in the way of your love for Baba. You ask, "Baba, I want a job." When the job comes, your love towards Baba grows. "Oh, Baba has given me this job." Or you are sick and you ask Baba, "I want to be healthy." Then you become healthy. "Oh, Baba has given me health." Nothing is in conflict: your health, your asking and Baba are aligned in perfect order. They are in perfect harmony.

So our whole life, and all that we are doing, will be gradually turned and focused towards that. We lose nothing, nothing changes, but everything becomes oriented towards that. Then so-called spiritual growth, so-called magnetism will also come, but not by losing anything. So the path will be happy – this is what I say. Can you say the piece of iron has "surrendered" to the magnet? Or that just by being itself the piece of iron can make itself into a magnet? Or by simply being there not doing anything, that the magnet can make the iron another magnet? No, it is the contact. The effort to put ourselves in contact is needed.



GURUJI: It is said, "Intrinsically you are divine; you are that, you are this," but we don't actually know that. We have it but we don't experience it. Yes, a piece of iron is intrinsically also a magnet, but it doesn't express or experience its magnetism. Just as it is with a piece of iron – how it becomes a magnet – so it is with us. The way is, we have to seek a magnet – which in our case is the Satguru.

So what is the difference between the magnet – the Satguru – and the one who seeks it? The basic difference is this: with the magnet, the order, the integration has been achieved, and here it has not. That is why from the Satguru's point of view everything is the same. He has already achieved that harmony, so he sees no difference. But from the seeker's point of view, "No, no, no! We are pieces of iron, you are a magnet," they say.

DEVOTEE: Is the magnetic force the same as love?

GURUJI: Yes, love. Just as a piece of iron is drawn to the magnet, a seeker is drawn to the Satguru, and in a human piece of iron the magnetism is experienced as love.

DEVOTEE: Does the Satguru give magnetism?

GURUJI: It's not giving. It is already there in the piece of iron. So he only awakens it. Or by just changing the molecules to a certain order, the seeker realizes that he's already a magnet.



GURUJI: How to make a piece of iron a magnet? By being in constant touch with whatever you think is a magnet. Baba is our magnet. Try to be with him mentally, and if possible, physically, in close proximity – the touch!

That is what great saints like Ramana Maharshi taught. Beautifully, Ramana Maharshi actually called Arunachala a magnetic mountain. He was so much attracted to it that once he arrived there he never left the place, even after he had become a magnet himself. Arunachala was his magnet and he stuck to it like a piece of iron. If this was the practice of even a great saint, a *siddha* like Ramana Maharshi, then what about us? Did he need to be always at the feet of his object of love? Was it needed for Baba to be at his guru's tomb? "This is my guru's place. I want to be here." They showed us: your guru is the magnet. Baba is our magnet. Baba is our guru and we are all pieces of iron. Let us try to "rub" our actions, our thoughts on that magnet – everything that we have – and we'll become that! Do you follow?



DEVOTEE: For those of us who are not able to be in the physical presence of the Satguru, would you say something about other ways of contact and what they mean?

GURUJI: The real contact is to be in the magnetic field. What transforms a piece of iron into a magnet is not the actual magnet, it's the field. Some people, if they can't get contact, need an extender. Suppose there is a computer and a wireless modem is put somewhere on the first floor but you can't get the signal here on the ground floor, what will you do? You'll put an extender here [Guruji laughs], another modem, which will make the signal stronger, that's all. So... anything that keeps you in the field of the signal. Are we in the field? One has to explore it in different ways. I don't want to name them. Instead of me listing them, you explore it!

DEVOTEE: Do you mean the energetic field?

GURUJI: In that analogy, yes, it's an energetic field. But it could be something else. It could also be an emotional field, because what is actually happening here is emotion. With an actual piece of iron it is just an energetic pull. But we are not pieces of iron, we are human beings. We have a heart, we have feelings, we have love, we have hatred. So how we experience the field is as love – an emotion. So where that particular emotion is fanned, where it increases and becomes stronger, where you are more and more aware of that emotion, yes, that is the field.



DEVOTEE: Is it necessary for everyone to stay with the physical form of the Satguru all the time?

GURUJI: Whether it is necessary or not, we can't stay because there are other pulls. In fact, it is not necessary.

DEVOTEE: After a while, when the mind gets focused on the Satguru's form, doesn't that magnetism start to flow even if he is very far away? It seems that in some cases there is such a strong recognition that a person can go anywhere without feeling a loss of the magnetism.

GURUJI: In that case they are in the magnetic field! If you really feel that you are many miles away, then you are away. [Laughter] But if you realize that the guru's magnetism is there also, you have not really gone away from him.

It is not the problem of whether the Satguru's magnetism extends to that extent; it is our problem of whether we experience the magnetism. If you put a magnet and a piece of iron at a certain distance apart, the magnetic pull is there but it won't draw the iron nearer. Then, if you bring them closer, the iron will be pulled. It is not that previously the magnetism was not

there, but that the other pulls were so great that the iron was pulled back. The moment the iron is drawn, it experiences the magnetism. That is what Baba himself said. He sat twelve years just looking at his Satguru, focused totally on him. He said that his guru always loved and protected him wherever he was. And when his guru asked him to go, with that awareness, with that experience, he moved.



GURUJI: The attraction that a piece of iron has towards the magnet is experienced as love. The piece of iron loves the magnet. That is why it always goes near. And the magnet – even more than the iron – also loves [the iron]. That is why it draws it to itself. Actually, it is the magnet which draws, which is active, although it seems as if the piece of iron is active because it's moving towards the magnet and the magnet is static, not doing anything. But the magnet is moving it. So it is statically dynamic.

That is why I feel Ramana Maharshi's way of describing Arunachala as a magnet is so apt. He used to call Arunachala a magnetic hill. "A big magnet," he used to say. I think this is why he called it a magnet. The way it attracts is similar to what happens around Baba. If you also want to become magnetized and experience that harmony and get rid of your disorder and entropy, then you have to put yourself in the orbit of a magnet.

DEVOTEE: Is being in orbit enough or does the iron need to touch?

GURUJI: It's enough. Being in the orbit is enough. He'll take care of the rest.

DEVOTEE: But should we be satisfied with just being in orbit and not to touch?

GURUJI: If the dissatisfaction is real, you'll draw nearer and nearer in a closer and closer orbit. Eventually you merge with the sun, you become one with it. There is nothing then, no orbit at all.



GURUJI: Now you have a hundred pulls in your heart, a hundred desires, a hundred needs, as you said, "partial goals, small pulls, small goals". Our heart is full of these molecules but they are in conflict with one another. By coming in contact with a magnet, what happens is all these pulls come into order, into perfect harmony. Nothing is lost and nothing is added, but you gain! You become a magnet! You get that power of the magnetism. Everything is in perfect harmony, perfect integration. That is grace.

On its own the piece of iron can't do anything, so it needs a magnet. That magnet is called a Satguru. Baba is the magnet. We are all pieces of iron. By constantly thinking of him, being in contact, being in his presence, we make this piece of iron a magnet, in a fulfilling, happy, and harmonious way. Complete fulfilment is our goal and we are all racing towards that goal! And when we get it, it becomes grace. And that "G"-factor is the guru [laughter], that which makes the race the grace – guru-G! [laughter]



Guruji's voice

