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INDIAN SPIRITUAL LEADER VISITING HERE

"In you—Japan—I see the dynamic body of Asia, and the glowing breath of Asia. You do not belong to the past. You are constantly moving towards a higher light. This is indeed a great blessing. You give birth to the ever-new. The ever-new is yours."

A spiritual leader and teacher who has dedicated himself "to serve God and humanity," Sri Chinmoy Kumar Ghose of Bengal, India, is making his first visit to Japan, a country in which he has been interested since childhood.

After being in a spiritual community in India, for 20 years, he went to the United States and has resided there during the past five years. Today he has a spiritual center in New York where several hundred disciples "from 18 to 82 come twice a week and meditate on God."

There are four other spiritual centres in Connecticut, Miami, Puerto Rico and Jamaica.

Countless numbers of people are burdened with anxieties in the complex world of today, but those who come to the spiritual centers are taught “concentration, meditation and contemplation.”

Through this they are helped “to gain inner peace—to overcome worries, fears, doubts.”

“They come to me for guidance and I give them inspiration,” Sri Chinmoy Kumar Ghose said. “I kindle the flame of aspiration in them.”

His spiritual path is called AUM, a, San-skrit term from the Vedas representing the “Name of God” in three aspects — “A” for God the Creator, “U” for God the Preserver, and “M” for God the Transformer.

In his form of Yoga, the Indian teacher places emphasis on three attitudes in relation to God—Love, Devotion, and Surrender.

“People are not using Love properly,” he declared. “They are using Love to possess and be possessed. Real Love is something that expands and liberates and gives us the feeling of true oneness of the entire world.

“We need a new world,” he continued. “And for that we need a new consciousness. When we give to God what we have and what we are, we immediately grow into a new and divine consciousness.”

Sri Chinmoy Kumar Ghose is not only a teacher and scholar. He is also a writer, singer (two of his spiritual albums have been recorded, one in English and one in Bengali), and lecturer.

He has lectured at Harvard (on “The Vedanta Philosophy”), Princeton, Yale, and other leading American universities. On his way to Japan, he spoke at Berkeley.

Sincerity is the quality that he values most among his disciples. He admitted that he was “very strict” in his teachings and it is only after a four-month trial period that prospective disciples are given a personal interview. He is not interested in mere

numbers and "I do not take hippies or alcoholics among my students," he explained.

On Sunday, October 26, he is to speak before the Ramakrishna Vedanta Society of Tokyo on "Illumination."

From here he plans to go on to speaking engagements in Manila and Singapore, followed by a brief visit to India before he returns to his New York headquarters. Since coming here earlier this month, he has been writing down many "Observations" about Japan. One of them has been given at the beginning of this article. Another of his "Observations" is:

"China offered to you—Japan— what she had: the mind's height. India offered to you what she had: the heart's depth. Europe offered to you what she had: the arm's strength.

"You offered to yourself what you had: the message of self-awakening. And now you offer to yourself and to the world at large what you have: the flowering of a creative spirit."