Opening up a window to the wide world

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela: Children of Sahyog, an orphansage supported by the US-based Miracle Foundation, laid their hands on a computer keyboard on Tuesday for the first time.

Not surprisingly, they welcomed their new playmate with a wide-eyed enthusiasm. Around 55 children aged between five to 10 years, literally pounced on the computers as soon as the technical team finished with the installations.

Their awe-struck demeanour soon turned to one of extreme concentration as they bombarded the technical team with questions on how to operate the machines. Some of them were quick enough to learn to tap on the keyboard the name of their benefactor expressing their gratitude. "We had only heard about computers in our school, it is like a dream come true," said Kalpana Kundu, one of the children a student of Class III in St John's school, Biramitrapur. Ranjit Kerketa another kid from the happy bunch said: "After the computers were installed we have stopped playing with other things and now the only thing we want to use are the computers."

The computers were donated by AMD Ltd, a multinational chip-making firm as part of their corporate social responsibility initiative.

Children try out the computer at the Sahyog orphansage in Rourkela

Caroline Boudreaux, founder Miracle Foundation, USA, who was present during the commissioning said: "Computers are a window to the world and they would help these children in a big way. Software to help children learn subjects such as English and mathematics have been installed."

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Getting Intoxicated with Love of God

Sufi poets often compare love with wine because both intoxicate. However, while wine causes self-forgetfulness, love leads to self-realisation. The behaviour of the intoxicated and the lover are similar; each disregards the world's standards of conduct and each is indifferent to the opinion of the world. But there is a world of difference between the course and the goal of the two: One leads to subterranean darkness and denial, the other, love, gives wings to the soul for its flight to freedom.

The drunkenness of the drunkard begins with a glass of wine which elates his spirit and loosens his inhibitions. It gives him a new view of life that promises forgetfulness from his daily worries. He goes on from one glass to two glasses, to a bottle; from companionship to isolation, from forgetfulness to oblivion which in reality is the original state of God, but which, with the drunkard, is an empty stupor. And he awakens in a dawn of futility, an object of disgust and ridicule.

The lover's drunkenness begins with a drop of God's love which makes him forget the world. The more he drinks the closer he draws to the Beloved, and the more unworthy he feels of the Beloved's love; and he longs to sacrifice his very life at his Beloved's feet. He, too, does not know if he sleeps on a bed or a gutter; and becomes an object of ridicule; but he reaps in bliss, and God the Beloved takes care of him.

One out of many such lovers sees God face-to-face. His longing becomes infinite; he is like a fish thrown upon the beach, leaping and squirming to regain the ocean. He sees God everywhere and in everything, but he cannot find the gate of union. The 'wine' that he drinks turns into 'fire' in which he continuously burns in blissful agony. And the fire eventually becomes the ocean of consciousness.

In love there can never be satisfaction, for longing increases till it becomes an agony which ceases only in Union. Nothing but union with the Beloved can satisfy the lover. The way of love is continual sacrifice; and what gets sacrificed are the lover's thoughts of 'I', until at last comes the time when the lover says, 'O Beloved! Will I ever become one with you and so lose myself forever? But let this be only if it is your Will'. This is the stage of love enlightened by obedience.