

Beyond Words

A reflective discourse and interactive evening
focusing upon words and silence.

by Ruth Harring, Ph.D.

Thursday, February 26, 2009

7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

at the

Sambodh Center for Human Excellence

6363 N. 24th Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49004

The inspired wisdom of India's sages offer the following peace mantra, chanted prior to the teaching of the *Veda*, India's holy scriptures:

om vān me manasi pratiṣṭhitā |
mano me vāci pratiṣṭhitam-āvīrā-vīrma edhi |
vedasya ma āṅīsthaḥ: śrutam me mā prahāsīr: |
anen-ādhitēn-āhorātrān saādadhāmi ṛtam vadiṣyāmi |
satyam vadiṣyāmi | tan-mām-avatu | tad-vaktāram-avatu |
avatu mām-avatu vaktāram-avatu vaktāram | |
om śāntiḥ | śāntiḥ | śāntiḥ |

Source: Aitareya Upanishad, Rig-veda

The meaning of the *mantra* is as follows:

*Om. May my speech be rooted in my mind;
May my mind be rooted in my speech;
Brahman, reveal thyself to me.
O, mind and speech, enable me to grasp the Truth that the Vedas teach.
Let not what I have heard forsake me.
Let me continuously live my days and nights in my studies.
I think Truth; I speak Truth. May that (Truth) protect me.
May that (Truth) protect the teacher;
Protect me; protect the teacher; protect the teacher.
Om Peace be, peace be, peace be.*

Ruth's presentation touches upon a broad array of associations and themes including: words and the mind; lower and higher uses of speech; the poets & sages reflections on words & the inexpressible; poetry; music; nature; mantra; and silence. The evening closes with a meditation.

Suggested Donation: \$10

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