

A BON
VOYAGE

A BON VOYAGE

BABUJI



INSPIRED BY
THE INDIAN MASTERS



PUTLI

Accelerating Peace

w w w . p u t l i . l i v e

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A BON VOYAGE

‘W e all are after love, happiness and peace. We all are in search of the three above – knowingly or unknowingly. Those who realise that they are within themselves, succeed; others suffer. Material things are required, no doubt. But, they alone can’t give love, happiness or peace, unless we have the right potentiality within ourselves to use them. Acquiring that potentiality - stepping towards those inner beauties is the real progress. All else is like running on the fields - it doesn’t matter how far we run or how long we run.

We have to climb up - vertically, that is progress.’

(Taken from my first work ‘Need of the hour’)

Here is a bon voyage to those inner realities.



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About the author



Babuji is a young writer. Right from his childhood he is after true spirituality and a serene social structure. He had read many books on this and observed the truth as follows: 'The Truth is the same for everyone; it's the same in everyone. But, the distance we travel mentally from it varies from person to person. That's why, there prevail thousands of revelations about the Truth. When the distance between the mind and the Truth reduces and completely nullified, we realize that we are not distinct from the Truth'. He says: 'Only a realized being can formulate a doctrine. They are here to bring clarity in everything. If any chaos emerges out of the doctrine, it is not because of the doctrine but by the minds which wrongly understood the doctrine.' He supports true secularism. He was inspired by the teachings of Sri Paramahansa Yogananda and took Kriya Yoga initiation from his Master's Yogoda Satsanga Society of India.

Though he had penned more than ten books, the ones which he wants to promote and to get translated in other languages are 'God is in our land' and 'The Moral Tablet'.



The word 'land' in the title, doesn't refer to any geographical region; it refers to the intuitive inner space of each and every being. He himself had translated this book into his mother tongue Tamil. This book got released in the World Tamil Conference held at Cambodia in the year 2018. The condensed version of common morals which he calls 'the moral tablet', tries to support the universal peace through the attainment of individuals' peace. The global version of the moral tablet was released in Shanghai in 2019.

He also has a Trust organisation by name PUTLI to spread these works. He expands the Trust name as follows: 'P' stands for Purity; 'U' is for Uniformity; 'T' stands for Truthfulness; 'L' stands for Love; 'I' stands for Introspection of 'I'.

He says: 'When Purity is established in mind, it results in uniformity of thoughts, words and actions. This state is known as Truthfulness. When it is felt and expressed naturally, we call it Love. This love (which is based on Purity, Uniformity and Truthfulness) is the representation of the omnipresent 'I', which is God.

He is a family man; a simple being. He is the one who has been trying to execute the principle 'Do your duty and don't look back or forward for the results'. But he too has some wishes. He wants to see a 'scams and abuses free' nation, filled with unity, unbroken culture and unexploited nature; he wants to see the above throughout the world. He wishes that India should act as a role model to the world in preserving and enjoying the world peace. By practicing



one's own religion truly and correctly, one achieves purification of mind and thus realizes the brotherhood of all souls despite linguistic, sectarian and other differences. He strongly believes that through this common sense of brotherhood and love, one can attain unwavering peace in the self and also can encourage the universal peace. His books are written only on this context in various dimensions and depths, over a period of two decades.

– The Publisher

Phase I

Life is a bon voyage. Everything comes in it. Even when one doesn't want, everyone is moving towards something- towards good, bad or boredom! A few swim slow. A few swim fast. A few swim back. A few swim front. And a few swim on the same spot! But I believe my voyage has a move towards a definite but unknown shore. I am being guided by the light houses on the way and I check myself that I am on the right way. Here is my way in rhymes...



The Light

Joy and sorrow in the half dark plain,
The flow of debris into the brain,
Of them, two are green, two are red;
This and that - all are dread.
When I stay away saying,
“Oh, no - I don’t want these”
Aha, everything disappears!
When I go a little distant, further a little distant,
I can see the light in the far crescent!



All in the game

Father,
If You put this on a diamond thrown,
It shall sit with an emerald crown.
If You put this on a dirty street,
It shall, on the given seat.
If You make this a man of honor,
It shall be so, in the given manner.
If You make this a man of terror,
It shall make no error.
Whatever You say this abides,
You are the Father, this is a child.



The Mountain

Here a man compares the kind of a mountain with that of a man and finds a big difference. He also finds the reason for the difference.

Honorable Mountain!
You are grown to the sky,
but talks nothing of your high,
Here the wolves of little height
Talk loud of their empty might.
You stand with eternity
And keep the tranquility.
Here the changing zeros
Call themselves heros.
You give others whatever you hold
And preserve your greatness untold.
Here, even a one-rupee donor,
Advertises his honor.
Why this difference?
O, you are great - not only in size,
But also in prize!



Truth Triumphs

They punched on head
And their hands got red!
They beat with a stick
And the stick got split!
They spit on the roses
And the trash on their faces!
What's the reason?
Time shows the track
Today or tomorrow
Truth bounces it back!



Ma, Do You here me?

It was a dreadful shower,
Each drop contained a river,
Everything got flooded, it's all over.
We are alone...
In our Home.
Ma! I feel thirsty,
Can I get some water?

Phase - II

I see things to the end. Things are not always the same as they look. A fool may look wise and a wise may look like a fool. A strong man could look weak, a weak person may boast to be strong. A culprit looks innocent and an innocent looks guilty. A decided failure becomes a sudden success and a sure success becomes utter failure. On the way, we mess up with so many relationships and bother too much for the changing things. But how many of us bother for the One who accompanies us throughout the journey unconditionally?

Let us try to find Him here!



The Strength

This is an Indian folk tale. Those days cock fighting was a famous gambling in India. Even now, we can see it in some rural areas. Once upon a time, there lived a king who was fond of cock fighting. Every year he arranged a cock fighting festival and he himself took part in it. He wanted to have a very well trained rooster for himself. He enquired about the best cock trainer in the nation. He was told about a man near to his place. The king personally approached the cock trainer and handed him a healthy cock. He commanded the man to give a legendary training to the cock. The man took the king's order.

One month passed. The king, out of uncontrollable zeal, went to the cock trainer and enquired about the condition. The man replied: "O, Maharaj, our cock is getting vigorous. He can not control his wrath. He flies upon the roof and searches for his rival." The king was happy to hear his remarks. The king asked: "Can we fix the date for the cock fighting?", "No, Maharaj, let some more days go."

Another month passed. The king went to the cock trainer for the second time. "How is the cock doing now?" The man replied: "Your Majesty. Our cock is as strong as before. But he does not fly to the roof in search of rivals. He just stays cool, but if he happens to listen even to a vague move of



another cock, then it is the end of the other one - no one in this earth is to stop this.” The king asked the cock trainer: “I think this is the time to fix the date for the cock fighting festival.” “No, your Majesty, kindly give me some more time.”

After two months the king visited the cock trainer again. “I hope now you have a favourable answer to the festival. How is our cock anyway?” The trainer replied: “He is doing good. He looks very calm. He neither flies to the roof nor fights with the cocks that he comes across. He studies his rival and decides for himself whether the rival is worth fighting. If he thinks that the other one is weak, then he just lets him go. Maharaj, now you can fix the date.” The king was confused. “Now, let me know this. Are you giving training for the fighter or the sage? I really do not know what I am going to do with your saintly cock!?”

The man replied: “Your majesty, now, our cock doesn’t need to be arrogant, he doesn’t need to be noisy. He doesn’t need to fight at all. The very sight of our cock will make his rival run a mile away.”

This is ‘the strength’.



Generosity

Some days back, I read the story of Saint Thulsi Doss - the saint who showed generosity and his broad love to a thief. He excuses a thief who robbed gold utensils from him, besides the saint offers him more wealth. This generosity changes the thief. It touched my heart that I felt like showing my generosity to someone. After reading it, I came out of my room.

A few were looking after their sheep in our fields. One man was moving from our well riped mango tree towards the coconut tree hiding something inside his towel. Then he sat under the coconut tree hiding himself from my gaze. Bapre! He looted the mango and was eating it under the coconut tree. I wanted to teach him a lesson. I thanked God for having given me a chance so soon to prove my generosity. I shouted from the mango tree: "Do you want another mango?" This was the way Thulsi Doss corrected a thief. I thought he would fall at my feet for having stolen a mango. Then I would get a chance to forgive him through my 'kind' words. He couldn't understand me. The boy with him asked, "What?" I shouted again louder "I said, 'do you want another mango?' ". The boy and the man approached me and sat under the mango tree.



Nothing was with him! He was empty handed! But he didn't say anything about the mango. "It is very hot. Kathri (the hottest days of the summer) started yesterday, do you know that?" I tried to hide my 'generosity'. "Ya, it is hot, but the Kathri starts only today." He took the correction. "What about your dry lands? Better to sow paddy this time. It's already the time, you know?" I said that I would not know. Then he kept on giving his suggestions. Their cattle had gone a mile away. He urged the little boy, "Hey, our cattle are far away, let's make a move". The boy got hold of a fallen ripe mango. It was partly eaten by birds. He gave it to that man. That man returned the mango to the boy, "You eat it".

He didn't ask any permission for it, of course, he doesn't need to ask any permission. It's me who promised them a mango. "You are lucky, we sat under any tree we come across, you take rest, Babu, we gotta go." They disappeared.

I wanted to teach someone generosity and learnt the same for myself.



The Trustworthy

In the years 1999 and 2000, my family had a tough time. On seeing a magician who was trying to clear the problems in a friend's house, I was prompted to take the help of this man to find out whether anything goes wrong with us. This was the greatest mistake I had ever done for the first and last time. With his tricks he tried to make us believe that something went wrong. But we could see that nothing went wrong actually. He was interested in matters other than money and showed special interest in our home. He asked many questions about our home. About the plants we breed, the cattle we keep, the places where we keep them and so on. He asked casually and we answered casually. But we didn't give him a chance to give his way of help. He had no other choice except to leave. But he told us that something would happen within 30 days. That something happened in the last day.

The target was our cow. She had always been kind -to me- in particular. She would identify me in a mass and I could locate her in a herd. Ours is an unconditional affection. She doesn't expect me to give her food and I do not expect her to give me milk.

18-11-2000. Around 11 pm, our cow was making strange noises in the shed east to our home. As we hurried to



her shed, we found that she was in trouble. She gasped for breath. She was flat on floor, her head hung down; she couldn't lift her head up. Already she was carrying a baby. I neared her and tried to touch her forehead, saying "Nothing will happen to you". On hearing my voice, with all her strength, she lifted her head up to feel my touch. She saw me tearfully and kindly, as if she were waiting for me to say something. Immediately she dropped her head down and gradually stopped breathing. My father examined and said: "She is no more." I couldn't believe this. Everything was over in a few minutes. No one could trace out the actual reason for her death. The villagers said that it might be due to the bite of some poisonous snake.

This was a heart break to me, it really was. This was not an ordinary death of a dear one. I felt that I really lost something in myself due to my own hasty action. Unknowingly I had been a reason to her unnatural death and harmed myself. Then everything went wrong afterwards - my health, job, relationships, money matters- everything went wrong.

I learnt a great lesson from our cow. Don't ever seek, even in dream, the help of crooked methods. Seek only God. Trust God's powers. He would surely respond sooner or later. Be patient and believe only God.



Strength and Weakness

I was waiting for my turn. It was a job of different discipline. Any way, I just wanted to give a try. I stood in a long queue, listened to a small discourse, got seated for some time and atlast my turn came.

I suppressed my yawn and tried to look active. I shook hands with the interviewer. After formal introduction, the interviewer put this question casually:

“What are your strengths?”

I was very much puzzled of this question. “You mean in Software or generally?”

“Generally...”

I took my own time to answer this question. I sighed, trembled...”I don’t remember any thing now”. He looked at me differently for this answer. Then I realised that I must say something as my strength. “Well...I am good in communication.” I said this from stomach, I believe he heard this communication! Then he asked, “Are you sure?”

“Yes”.



“What are your weaknesses?”

Once again I took my own time. I could not tell anything in particular. Then I realised that I need to tell something. “In the place where I worked previously, in the farewell party, one of my friends said that he couldn’t find anything...as you told ..you know...weakness...in me.”

“O, that’s nice”, he appreciated. The interview ended quickly. Of course, you could guess the result!

I came out and started thinking about those two questions of strengths and weaknesses. What do I have here as strength? If I have anything as strength, it is God-the One who directs, controls and commands. If I have any weakness, it is ego - the thing in me that deludes me from knowing my Strength.



Give a try!

I feel like writing something. But there is no topic in my hand now! But I feel like getting something down. What to write? How to start? I told myself, ‘Just give a try!’

It may be a big epic, but it should have a beginning – definitely a small beginning. It could be a long journey. But it ought to have a first step – however small it may be.

And so I am writing here. But it is not going to be an epic or anything big! It is a short essay about starting something! Yes, I got the topic now ‘Give a try!’

Now a days, people suffer a lot, not for that they don’t know the way out but for that they don’t come forward to put the first step towards the way out. Either they are astonished of the distance to be covered or doubt their ability of changing towards the better. Confidence and Initiative - both are required to achieve something great. And the pity is many of us do not want to achieve anything great. A normal man wants to have reasonable education – just like others, wants to have a loving wife and family – just like others, wants to have a comfortable life – just like others. He doesn’t come forward to think life in other terms. He seldom remembers that one day he has to meet the so called death – just like others. One day he will be left



alone – just like others. One day he will be born again in pain and ambiguity – just like others!

The wise considers all these and more. He takes initiative to work out the mysteries of life. It may take quite a long time, may be more than a life. But, he realises that he has to make the first step at least now. And he makes it. He meets obstacles and hurdles with confidence. He proceeds. He proceeds gradually and one day says in realisation, “I am free – I have nothing more to acquire!”

If he hadn't come forward to put the first step, the tiny step, towards realisation, then he might not have crossed the 'big distance', the big distance will remain big, and he will remain in the same spot – just like others.

So, this is the time to put the first step towards realisation. Make the first step. The so called other end – The Grace of God- will put a hundred towards you! Whatever the goal is, nothing will accrue without efforts and Grace.

Give a try. Do your part and leave the rest to God.



Fake masters

When we have a precious thing, there comes a duplicate also! This applies not only to material products but also to spiritual concepts and persons. The concept and the one who prescribes it would seem to be spiritual, in reality they are not so. They will not lead us to the divine, rather they will make us more miserable. In the recent times, in the wake of 21st century, we could see such ‘spiritual masters’ in the country - in the north and the south.. Actually, they are not masters, they call themselves masters. So long as there are people who are prepared to believe anything for granted, such personalities will exist. We have to be wise enough to avoid and protect ourselves from such persons.

Here are a few guidelines for identifying fake masters.

1. Money oriented: Such persons and their organisations would be very much keen in collecting money in the name of fees, donations, etc. They will act exactly like businessmen, they will be prepared to be harsh- if need be, so far as money making is concerned. Such persons are not spiritual. Actually, all spiritual masters would need money to operate their organisations. But the way, they get it would also be noble and clean. If a ‘spiritual organisation’ fixes rates for their ‘services’ that too without negotiations, then



we have to understand that they are not spiritual. Generally, such organisations wouldn't render any wholehearted and unconditional services to the human kind in times of need. If at all they do any humanitarian service, it will be for name sake or upon fulfilling some conditions.

2. Show business: If a 'spiritual master', likes extravagant show business and self publicity, then we should know that he is not spiritual.
3. Masked face: The master is multifaceted. He may not like to show them all. But none of his faces would try to wear a mask. He wouldn't have any story to hide from the society. He may be secret in preserving some spiritual aspects, but he has absolutely no necessity to suppress, dilute or divert his social status. If a 'spiritual master' has two faces in the society, one before the masses and one behind the screen, then he is not at all a master. Such person is less than a normal human.
4. Promising easy Mukthi: If a person promises and invites public, saying that he would give liberation overnight or in a short period, of course, after collecting money for the 'liberation', then we must understand that such a person is fraudulent. Even if he gives 'it' at free of cost, it wouldn't be on the true concern for the people, but would be 'an initial free offer' or 'close off sales' that every businessman uses to give to get more business and attention. Liberation



is not a matter of buying or selling nor a matter at someone's disposal. It is something, each individual has to work out of his own, through the grace and guidance of a true master.

5. Rituals for material benefits: If a person relies on too much thanthric rituals, then we have to conclude that he is not spiritual. If a person attracts people, promising material benefits like wealth, health, beauty and so on, then we should understand that he is not a spiritual man. At the most, such persons may have some powers combined with some spiritual knowledge through external sources like books. Some thanthric rituals are made to bind the weaker souls and to gain more sidhis. We have to be careful with such persons.
6. Play of politics: If a person plays politics for his own personal reasons, then he is fraudulent. If a person relies on his material supports of wealth and stronger communities than to the strength of moral values, then he is no more than an ordinary politician. The true masters had interfered in political matters, only for the sake of good for all people. If a 'spiritual master' tries to divide and play politics among people, for his own reasons, then he is a hoax.

If we can find even any one of the above in a 'master', then we should recognise that such a person is a fake master. They are in no way related to the religious life.



Who is real Guru?

Adhi Sankaracharya, in his Viveka Choodamani, says: “The one who has versatile understanding in Vedhas (religious scriptures), who is sinless, who is not subject to desires and the disasters thereto, who is specially acknowledged among God realized beings, who dwells in the super consciousness state, who illumines in peace like the flame without the help of any wood, who showers compassion which is causeless and is unfathomable like a sea, who is a true relative to the noble people who worship him, is indeed a good Guru (Spiritual Master).”

Phase - III

The spiritual aspirant doesn't go opposite to the material world, he goes along with it - but in a distance. He acts according to the situation naturally. He is not affected by the so called circumstances. He is flexible and learns truth from all around. He remains tough, when he is expected to be tough; he remains soft, when he is expected to be soft. Soft or tough, he makes it with his own plough; big or small, he is someone for all.



In a new place...

I was in Delhi for some examinations. I finished the examinations on 8th Jan 2002. I still had two more days to spend, since I booked the return ticket only on 10th. I had been staying in the railway dormitory for the past two days. It was 9th January. I decided to kill the day in sight seeing. I extended my stay for one more day. I got the dormitory 212 and the bed no. 2. When I went with my luggage, the locker 2 was already locked by someone, so with the permission of the dormitory in charge I took the locker 3 and put my black carry bag inside it.

Around 9 am I came out and had a long day travel - visiting Red Fort, Qutib Minar, Rashtrapathi Bhawan, Parliamentary House, The Lotus temple, Raj Ghat, The Gate Way of India and more. When I returned it was 6.45 pm. I was tired. I needed rest. I went to my bed and laid down. After one hour I got up and opened my locker to put my latest purchases in my bag. First I tried with the key with which I usually open. It didn't open. Then I tried with the alternative key given by the locks vendor. It opened. But what I saw was someone's luggage! It was not mine. I got puzzled. My locker had been locked but what I saw was someone's luggage. I had a few valuables inside my bag and above all I kept all my original certificates inside it.



In a few minutes a youngster came in and exclaimed, “who opened my locker?” I asked him, “I should ask this question to you. How can you open my lock and replace my luggage?” Then he cooled down and told me that when he came to the dormitory the locker no. 3 was open and that it was not having any luggage inside it. Then we checked with each others timings. He had come with two more friends and they all had taken beds 3, 4 and 5. They had come 45 minuets later to my departure. So something had happened in the mean time. He told me that it was a coincidence that both locks looked similar. And since the quality was poor, it got opened to another key.

I became serious and I immediately took this to the notice of a railway officer. He came and asked a few questions to the servants and to the young man in Hindi. I don't know what he asked since I don't know Hindi.

Then the officer left without giving any clear answer to me. Then I went down to the Assistance and explained what could have happened. I told the man in the assistance that I doubted a few servants of the dormitory and that I was prepared to go to police if need be. Then he came upstairs and inquired the lady servant who had been in duty during the period in question. She played innocent. The railway man could do nothing and asked me to see the higher authorities. I went to the station master, he directed me to the Dy. Station Superintendent Commercial. He took me to the Assistance cell again and asked the same man to whom I made the complaint earlier to attend to my problem. This time the assistance man asked me to check my locker



again. He told me that my luggage might be there in my locker. He was so confident. I went upstairs jumping two steps for a leap, but when I opened the locker 3, it was empty. With the same speed I came down. My neighbor bed, who had worked in navy, was standing there to extend his stay. He knows both English and Hindi. I explained the problem to him. He talked with the Assistance man in Hindi and requested him to help me.

The Assistance man became a little ‘serious’ and pointed at me and said something to my neighbor in Hindi. I asked my friend what he was saying. He said, “He says that you are drunk or should be a drug fiend. He says that you had placed your luggage in locker 4 and are searching it in no. 3.” I denied it and told him that I was very much sure that I placed my luggage only in locker 3. My friend conveyed my reply to the service man. Then I was asked to write down the colour, size and contents of my luggage. I noted only important things and left out the items like soap, kerchief and socks.

Another officer joined us. We four went upstairs. We were standing before locker 4. It was having some other lock. Once again I denied that it was not my locker and that it was not my lock. The assistance man asked me in Hindi, “You just open it.” And one of the friends of the locker 3 asked me. “What is the color of your bag?” I said, “Black”. “You had the English daily inside it, right?” I said “Yes”. “It is here” he said, pointing to the locker 4. (How come he knew that there was an English daily in a bag about which



he knew nothing and that too inside a closed locker?!) Then my friend had my key and tried to open it. He couldn't. Then some one tried and it opened! There I had my black bag with all its contents!

The assistance man and the servants gave a bit louder notes on me. My friend asked me, "Are you happy?" I said "perfectly". "Then give the lady servant hundred rupees," said my friend. I wondered, "why should I?!" He said, "then pay rupees fifty." It was rather an order and my friend was with me for about one hour in the process of getting back of my luggage. So I gave fifty rupees to the lady maid. Everyone left giving hot notes on me, saying that I put my luggage in one place and was searching for it in another place.

I and my friend sat on my bed. He asked, "I think you are confused." I told him, "I am not confused, some one had erred knowingly or unknowingly and I can prove it." He asked me, "how could you say that?". I replied him, "you know about the missing things I wrote down in the list. In that I never mentioned about the English daily. But the young man inquired me before opening the locker whether I had the English daily in my luggage. How come he knows that?"

My friend's eyes opened wide, "ya!" The three youngsters vacated the dormitory, there time was over, and the locker 3 advised me to be careful with my locks. I told him smilingly, "I have to be a little more careful with people!" He too smiled. He wished me all the best and left.



As a matter of fact, the people whom I met there were more kind and loving to me. We have a few indifferent persons every where. We got to be careful - especially in new places.



Got the bus

8.30 pm. I was on my way back from a relative's place. It was a long travel, I had to catch many buses and was standing in a nearby town for the last bus which could take me home. I was sick then.

A bus came. We signaled for a stop, but it didn't stop. The conductor inside the bus shouted, 'It goes to the shed'. In a few minutes, another bus came. It also went to the shed. We saw some 7 or 8 buses, they all went to the shed.

It was 9.30 pm. There was no facility to sit. All people, young and old, were standing with discomfort in the hope of getting a passenger bus. A few people stopped some other vehicles and got lift. I too would have done that. After all, my residence was only a few kilometers away. But I was sick. Besides, I thought for a while of the aged persons and young children. How would they go? The right solution was getting a bus that could carry all the people to their appropriate destination.

I talked to the people. "Let us go to the shed and ask the officers to send a bus." No one considered my idea. The shed was only a furlong away. Some said that the officers might not help us. Some were still confident of getting a passenger bus.



It was 10.30 pm. I decided to take up the issue on my own. A bus came slowly. I got into it. The conductor and driver shouted, “Hey, this goes to the shed.” I replied, “I too want to go to your shed. Let me come with you. I have to talk with your people. “They permitted me to go with them. I was stopped at the entrance. A few officials were standing there. I went to one of them and placed my request. “Sir, I am coming from the bus stop. We have been standing there for a long time. We will be grateful to you, if you could arrange some bus, to the near junction, atleast.”

The officer replied, “We can’t do anything now. Do one thing. Write a complaint of what you had said now. Give it to me tomorrow. We will bring it to the notice of the BM. He will take care of the issue.”

It was a teasing reply. I know about my spirits. But still I talked to him humbly. “Sir, it is not the solution for the present. There were many aged persons, children and ladies. Where can they go in this dark?”

The officer talked the same thing in a high pitch. I decided to come out before they throw me out! I came out. There, a bus was coming with full of passengers. I couldn’t believe it. It stopped at the entrance of the shed. And all the passengers got down in a fiery mood. I asked one of them, “Does this bus go to the junction?” He replied, “No, they will not arrange a bus unless we ask. A sick guy came here to ask. We came to join him.”

He didn’t bother to hear my answer! I kept quite and stood in a corner. The mob of about 50 people of all age



group got in. The stronger people talked in their language with full vigor. The officers had no other go except to arrange a bus from the shed to Arambakkam - far to the nearby junction. We made it, atleast!



An elephant story

My boss found me to be silent where I had all reasons to fight. He is true. I had been busy all these days with some other work. But I realised that as a common man I should act back when my honor is maliciously tested - let it be the working place or home. Of course, it is more of a defensive fight. I never tend to hurt others in the first instance. When I hold the shield of perseverance, whatever injury caused by others goes back to the origin.

When I make mistakes knowingly or unknowingly, I face the consequences silently. Some times, I remained patient, even when I was blamed for no reasons. I hadn't given importance to it, as I was busy with a more important work. I don't want to be ruffled over trivial issues. I was in no way affected by such blames though. I realised that this should not become the trend. I should act back when some one wants to test the honor of my position and job. In 2004, in the place where I was working, I had such an instance.

One day, a senior person who often wanted to 'play' with me came with an issue. I was asked to check the current net worth of a business. It doesn't come under the area of my operations. I told him that I was busy (and I was!) and the fact that I might not know it. He claimed that I should have known it since I am a commerce graduate.



I asked him why he didn't know it. He protested that he was a science graduate. I told him, "I completed my commerce degree some nine years back. I hadn't had touch with any sort of accounts all these years. I won't say I don't know anything. I can work out it any way."

He gave me the particulars. I had to return them instantly because those papers were not related to the current year. So he lost a chance of 'putting me in pressure'! He talked to a staff who was standing near to us, "You should work. Don't ever think that you can get the salary without doing any work." I asked him, "To whom you are saying? Do you mean to say that I don't do any work?" He replied, "I don't mention you. I am talking in general." I could see that he tried to refer me. I too felt like talking in 'general'!

I know him. He is of the nature who proclaim that they are the only performers. Sometimes he tries to share the credit of the work done by others. I told a story to one of the staff who stood near to us. Our friend was keenly listening to me. "I want to tell you a story. There was an elephant. And there was an ant on the elephant. The elephant had to cross a wooden hanging bridge. Due to the weight of the elephant the bridge was jumping like anything. Atlast, it made it somehow. After crossing the bridge, the ant on the top of the elephant exclaimed to the elephant, "Ah, I was really trembled. How dangerously the bridge shaked due to OUR weight?"

The other man laughed for he knew what I was trying to say. The senior man understood it a bit late and became



nervous. “Do you mean to say that I am the ant? I depend on my own self and no one else. You are the ant.” On seeing his tension, I consoled him smilingly, “Why are you tensed? I was talking in general. I would say, the whole team is the elephant - there is no separate entity such as ant. We all are part and parcel of one big elephant. Which part of the elephant we form is the only criteria. Is it tusk or tail? Whatever it is, still each one of us is a part of the big elephant. The parts of one being should co-ordinate with each other; they shouldn’t quarrel with each other.”

For the first time in my experience, my senior friend kept quiet as a note of acceptance!



An interview

I applied for a post in the IT field in a fortune five hundred company. The number of post is just one. I got through in the written test and was asked to appear in the interview. The interview was scheduled at Faridabad, Haryana on the 15th of March 2002. I reached Delhi the previous day. From Delhi, it takes an hour to reach Faridabad. The interview starts at 9.30 am. I woke up early in the morning and hurried to the station. I got the 8 O clock train and reached Faridabad around 9 am. I thought I was safe in time.

I made several inquiries and came to the main spot of Faridabad. I came to know that the interview place is some where far from the place where I was standing. I thought of hiring a rickshaw. A young rickshaw man came to my sight. I called him. I told him, "Sector 13". He couldn't understand English. He asked, "Sector theese?". I took it for granted to assume that 'theese' could mean thirteen. "Yah, sector thirteen – ten plus three". I sat back comfortably and glanced at the streets of Faridabad. Ten minutes passed. When I looked at the street board, it read Sector 28. After a little while we were crossing sector 29. I was puzzled. I really was not sure of the destination. I stopped the rickshaw man and asked him in English where he was taking me to. "Theese". I stopped a cycle man. Fortunately he knew



English. He revealed that ‘thesee’ means thirty. I had hardly 10 minuets more. I hired an auto rickshaw and checked that the auto driver knew the address.

In ten minutes I was on the spot. I was thinking that there could be hardly three or four candidates, since the number of post required was just one. But to my astonishment there were candidates numbering to almost thesee! But the thing that troubled me was my empty stomach. I was really hungry. In the hurry burry, I hadn’t taken anything in the morning. I didn’t eat well the previous day also.

First scrutinisation of the certificates took place. Then candidates were called one after one for personal interview. I was very happy when the meals token was issued to us for the lunch around 12 pm. The officer who issued the lunch tokens said something in Hindi. I stood up and asked a girl near to me, “Can we go for our lunch?” She said calmly, “We are not supposed to have lunch before the interview gets over. That’s what he said.” But the interview went on and on. Since it took too much time, the remaining candidates who hadn’t attended the interview were asked to come after their lunch. It was really a soothing news for me! It was 1.30 p.m. I had a very good meal and went back to the waiting hall. I was called around 3 p.m.

I went inside the room and greeted by all. There were seven people. First I had been asked to say something about myself. I said something about myself. Then one gentleman checked my technical knowledge. Then another man questioned me what were my hobbies. I said everything



except writing. One of the gentlemen said, “You have said in your application that you are a writer, and you are doing your post graduation in journalism...”

Then I acknowledged, “Ya, so far as writing is concerned, it is not my hobby, it’s a part of my life...”

One gentleman interfered smilingly, “yes, that is what a hobby is – it’s a part of life”. I said to myself, ‘a hobby may or may not involve public interest, but mine very much involve public interest; and I am not writing – I am made to write, for how long I don’t know...’. The man asked me, “You write on what?”

I said “On spirituality”. “Well, had you published anything?” “Yes, I had published a part of my writings in web under the title ‘Need of the hour’”. I also told them my previous big URL. The interviewers put an end to the hobbies story and began to check my knowledge in general and current affairs. They checked my geographical knowledge. Then began my tough time! They asked about the latest awards given in Journalism in USA and about the persons who received them. Then they asked about the recent elections held in the world. They also checked my knowledge about India. To many of the questions I told ‘I don’t know’. To a few, I said right answers, to a few I gave wrong answers, to some questions I struggled to give any answer. As a whole, it was a pathetic show! At last, I declared, “I have got only a fair idea about the world”. One of the gentlemen said with little seriousness, “You say that you are doing journalism...if you really want to do some



justice to journalism, then first acquaint yourself with the latest happenings of the world.” I nodded. That job was not related to journalism anyway!

The interview was over. The gentlemen bid good bye smilingly. I came out smilingly. The father of the next candidate looked at me and said, “Hope you had a good time inside...!” I smiled back.

A reasonable knowledge in current affairs would do for the job concerned here. But they expected me to be extra ordinarily knowledgeable in current affairs. What have I to do here with the name of the then president of Zimbabwe? This was one of the questions asked to me. Three days after the interview, I came to know that the then president of Zimbabwe was put down from the throne in connection with some corruption. These stories keep on changing. One should try to acquaint the knowledge that remains eternal. To say about the knowledge that these gentlemen want me to acquire, they never stand at one point. History changes, leaders change... some change shortly and some in a long run, but they change one day. We don’t need to bother too much for these temporary scenes. We need to bother about them –only to the extent we need to. I should look for something greater to achieve and something tougher to know.

I don’t need to tell about the result of the interview! I got some other job later. Thereafter, I didn’t include my writing experience in my resumes! I gave up the journalism course also. This work is in no way related with journalism. I



realised that I don't need to travel extensively like journalists
-for writing. I just need to sit in silence and travel inside.



A bank issue

The one who has given an end to God, can take up any role, even that of James Bond, if need arises! He won't lose things to adamançy and falsehood. Here is an instance.

In the month of May, 2002, I came to know that an IT concern was conducting a job oriented course. I went for an enquiry. There I was told about two courses. Course 1 was very much a job-oriented course, as explained by the counselor, for which they conduct interviews and select the students. The IT concern had tied up with other IT industries for the recruitment process. They give the job orders to the selected candidates before the commencement of the course, which has a duration of 14 days. These were the things told by the IT Company. The second course doesn't give any job guarantee and implies so many contingencies. It doesn't have any job oriented tie-ups. The cost is more, more than double of the cost of course 1 and we need to pass seven exams. Classes last for seven weeks. At the end of every week we have one examination. So, it is obvious that regular attendance is essential as each day counts a lot. I was very much keen about a job. So I preferred to take course 1 and appeared in the interview held in the third week of May. I failed in that and dropped my plans.



After a week or so, I got a call to my home from the IT concern asking me to enroll for the course. I told the counselor that I didn't get through in the interview. The counselor told me 'it is not a problem' and asked me to 'come prepared' for the registration.

I went to the IT company the same day night with a blank cheque. But, when I was about to enter the amount, I came to know that it was not for course 1, but for course 2. I told him clearly that what I needed was a suitable job. I told him that this was the only money left out with me to decide my future. I expressed my doubt of my own abilities in getting through the examinations. The counselor convinced me and promised me a job. He assured me that he would help me personally to get a job and would see that I 'sit on the chair'. But after the Cheque had been signed, his behavior changed. He told me that he would help me but it was upto me to get through in the exams. He didn't show interest to know how I got the money and how far it is important to me. And he also made it clear that the question of job arises only when I pass the examinations. Under utter shock, I asked him when the classes start. He said that the classes had already started and that one day was over. I was very much shocked to hear this. I felt that I was trapped. I understood that I was made to enroll in the course – not for a job but to add one more number to their batch.

Then I started working with the remedial measures. The next day, I issued stop payment letter to my banker.



Meanwhile, I got a job in the next month (June 2002) in a sales associate of an MNC Bank. After a week I came to know that my banker didn't effect my stop payment order.

When I approached my banker to know the status, the official who received my stop payment order asked me to join the IT course. The IT Company also tried to pull me back. I was stubborn in my stand. My banker came to know that I am working for a MNC bank. It is in this bank that the IT company has its operating account. It was only then my banker showed recovery measures to correct their mistake.

But in the long run, they made themselves 'safe' and completely left the recovery steps. The money that I lost was a part of an accident compensation. I didn't want to let it go for no reason.

Unfortunately, I didn't have any acknowledgement for my stop payment letter. My banker might argue that I didn't make any stop payment and that they were trying to help me only on humanitarian grounds. So, I had to take it seriously and decided to approach the Consumer forum. I needed an evidence for all that happened to me. In the second week of June, I borrowed a pocket recorder from a friend and went to the bank with the device. I talked to the Branch manager over my stop payment. He talked more than enough! I got his words recorded. The audio recording clearly showed that the mistake was in their part. I didn't tell anything to the bank people about my recording. And I gave them more than a month time to work on their



mistake. Nothing good happened. They just played cool as if nothing had happened.

Then in the month of August 2003, I filed a suit against the bank and the IT Company - detailing everything – including my audio recording. In my suit, I made the following points clear.

- I issued the stop payment letter.
- The first opposite party, my banker failed to effect the same due to some reasons.
- Because of my banker's mistake, the cheque had been passed for clearance.
- The second opposite party, the IT concern took advantage of it and is trying to pull me back.
- I was the sufferer.

The banker didn't expect this. He accepted the receipt of my stop payment letter and his mistake in his very first reply. My banker opted for an outside settlement. I got back my money at last and bid farewell to the banker!

Phase IV

Religion is not distinct to life, it goes along with it. More one is religious, more he expands, more he gets clarity, more he breaks the fetters of differences. The religion is like the magic wand which helps one cross the world of worries; it takes one to the kingdom of bliss, then gets dissolved. There is no physical travelling. The expansion, the right understanding about the self happens internally through religion. After we reach the right place, all differences including those related to religions dissolve in Atma Gnana (Self Realisation).



Ideal Marriage

One day I asked my mother, “Should I get married?”

Mother: “Every mother and father would want their son to get married.”

Myself : “You say it as a parent. But, I feel it could be a disturbance to my real progress.”

Mother : “ I will not tie you up and drag you to the marriage hall. As a parent, I have to do my duty. The rest is left to God. If God so wills, you and I can not do anything. But, let me tell you that marriage may not be a hindrance to your spiritual progress.”

Myself: “If it is so, then why Swamy Vivekananda, Sri Paramahansa Yogananda and Swamy Sankaracharya didn't marry?”

Mother : “Being a Sanyasi is not an easy task. Lots of patience and perseverance is required for that. The Sanyasis have that seed from their birth itself. I know that you do not have that strength (I too know that - I am a layman by all means! I just wanted to know how my mother answers such questions!). Everybody can not become Sanyasi. So, don't get down to argue that Sanyasam alone is the way. The Guru of swamy Vivekananda was a family man. The Param Guru of Sri Paramahansa Yogananda – Sri Lahiri



Mahasaya was also a family man. Even Sankaracharya had to experience the marital love through a different body in order to win Queen Sarasawani in a debate. If you go still back, the sages and yogis who lived in forests too led family life. Their contribution to the world in terms of wisdom and love is incomparable. So, it is wrong to say that a family man will not advance in spirituality. “

“Further, it is your duty to preserve your race. If everyone decided to take-up Sanyasam, then you would not be talking to me now.”

Myself : “If I engage myself in family life, I will get bonded. How would I come out of it?”

Mother : “Lead the family life with a sense of detachment. You will not get bonded. Come out from the delusion of bondage.”

Myself : “How can I say that I am free when I am tied? How can I say that I am pure when I am amidst dirty water?”

Mother : “Be like the water on lotus leaf. But why do you call it dirty water? It is pure milk. You can make curd, butter and ghee out of it. You can see the complete whole. But it’s true that you would get something else if you spoil the milk - if you yield to sensuality! People use to call the family life dirty if they make mistakes. And they call it sweet when they meet the fortunes of their present and past deeds. Be balanced. Lead a disciplined life. Then, the changes in the family life will not affect you. Whatever you are, wherever



you are – be truthful to God. He will take care of the whole of your life.”

My mother opined that the argument wouldn't end. Getting married or getting Sanyasam depends on the strength of the individual. My mother gave the outline of an ideal family life (which I call 'The moral tablet') for individuals who have opted marriage.



The Surrender

In the year 2002, a famous astrologer predicted my life as follows: “You have the worst astrological signs. You might have led a horrible life. Your life as a whole should be pathetic. You will face insults and failures equaling death. Probably, you wouldn’t have a longer life span. Only God can save you. So, you got to surrender yourself to God.” He also prescribed some ritual for the surrender.

I thought of telling the astrologer that I had already surrendered to God. What he said could be true. But such things could not affect me. I am surrendered to God, so I don’t need to fear for anything. But my parents wanted me to take the ritualistic surrender as told by the astrologer. So, I took the ritualistic surrender also.

If one relies on one’s true self, then he can face anything big, anything horrible. He can win the so called destiny. He can run over all the obstacles. This is the situation placed for me. Whatever may come, whatever may go, I won’t lose anything. Because, I don’t own anything. If one surrenders to God and abides to His words, then no success or failure can touch him. Rewards and abuses are nothing to do with him. He is concerned about the role to be played – not to the results.



And I looked back to see how far God falsified the astrologer's predictions. Yes. Nothing is impossible for God. He can change the worst to the best, the weak to the might, the dead to life. There is no limit to His Grace.

While talking about surrender, we got to see who surrenders what and to whom. Surrendering is not an easy thing. It is not a joke. We can't grab the wealth of others and surrender it to God! We can surrender only the thing that we own. When we see the material things, we don't own them permanently. They come half the way and leave us half the way. This applies even to our bodies. They don't stay forever. They are not our permanent possessions. And there is no meaning in surrendering something which we don't own, something that gets destroyed in the course of time.

Then, what is the permanent thing? Answer for this question and for the next is the same. The next question is 'who surrender?'. In pure consciousness, the spirit in us that activates everything, alone remains permanent. If at all there is something to surrender, then it is spirit. And we are this spirit. Then the last question arises 'To whom?'. The king will not surrender to a servant. We will surrender only to a superior being. When we realize the spirit in us (this is not an easy task!), then we would not find any other greater personality or being. So, we surrender ourselves to the ever new, ever blissful, all pervading spirit which is not distinct from us.



‘Anyatha Saranam Nasti’ – The one who gives refuge to you is not elsewhere but in you.

Father, Take away all the ‘I’s in me;

If still there is an ‘I’, it is not I – but Thee.



Faith in God

Faith in God. This needs more clarification. Faith doesn't mean blind acceptance. Faith is not a matter of mind; it's a matter of heart and consciousness. If one tries to reason faith through intellectual or analytical skills, he would never be successful. Faith sprouts in heart. Having faith in God is not an easy task. One should never think that by having faith in God, he is doing some favor to Him. It is not so. It is He who showers Grace on us and lets us have faith in Him. The grandest boon of God could be the establishment of faith in Him in one's heart. Through this, one can reach anything and everything. To have faith means to be unconditional. We should not do business with our Father.

Having faith in God is equal to having faith in one self. It is there even within the one who says, "There is no God". It is there even in a mad man. It is inherent in everyone – whether one accepts it or not. That's why the realized beings could awaken the faith and cure the imperfections of any one including the mad and ignorant.

The problem starts when a person wants to glorify his faith before others. The glorification should happen internally. The faith in God gives importance to the development of one's own Godliness than to the development



of faith in others. When the first thing is achieved, the second happens automatically.

Thus, Faith in God is not a matter of accepting or rejecting something; it is a matter of proving something – not to the world, but to the self.



Ma and me

One day, I told my mother with frustration. “Ma, why does the world go crazy behind flesh and papers? Love, truthfulness, humanity – these are becoming rare now.” My mother replied: “The nature of the world itself is like that. We can not change it. Enmity, hatred, indiscipline – these were present even in the golden periods. We can not completely eradicate them.”

I asked her, “Then why do noble beings come and ask the world to change? Don’t they know that it is of no use?”

My mother replied, “We can’t say all those who listen to them follow what they say. It may be of no use to many. But those who listen – those who try to follow them, find a way out. And there are people who find a way out. They may be very less in number. But God doesn’t overlook these people for the reason that they are only a few. That’s why He sends noble beings.”

I asked her, “What about the rest?”

My mother replied, “God is not idle. He is watching everyone. He demotes all those who go against humanity to lower lives. They lose the opportunity of getting a human birth again. In the course of natural evolution, they will



have to cross so many millenniums to see human birth again – if at all they deserve it.”

I asked: “As a layman, what should I do to ensure a human face in my next birth?”

She gave a list of principles as given under,

- “1. Strive to feel Godliness
2. Live in harmony with nature
3. Revere your parents
4. Live to the rule of one man is to one woman
5. Don’t hurt living beings.”

and continued, “Practice these principles. You can ensure human birth – the six sensed being.” Mother added: “Those who practice these principles sincerely can get even superhuman births.” (The plants and trees have only one sense – Insects have two senses – Reptiles have three senses – Birds have four senses – Animals have five senses – and we humans have six senses. As the lower sensed beings are unaware of the knowledge of the higher sensed beings, humans are unaware of the knowledge of the superhuman beings.)

These points had been discussed in detail under ‘The Religious Culture’ of ‘Vedhic Religion’ in part 3 of Thus Spake India.



How to face offenders?

“Love all.” For a layman this appears to be not possible at certain occasions. How can I see God in a man who by all means tries to put me down? How should I react with such persons? For a layman it is not an easy thing to love everyone equally. How should one react at such circumstances? Here we have some stories from our scriptures with regard to this. The following story is from Baghawan Ramakrishna Paramahansa.

Some persons keep on harming us even when we try to keep ourselves away from them. If things go wrong continuously, Baghawan Ramakrishna Paramahansa advises us to show them a rude face. Here is the story. A snake was giving much trouble to a village. It bit who ever came on its way. The people went to a saint for help. The saint went to the snake and said, “Don’t bite the villagers.” Due to the power of his words, the snake became harmless. It never bit anyone there after. The village children came to know about this. All their fear got disappeared! In turn, they started harming the poor creature. They threw stones on it. They beat it with sticks. After some days, the saint came to see the snake. He was shocked on seeing the miserable



condition of the snake. It crawled to his feet and sighed with pain. The saint told the snake: “You little creature, I ordered you not to bite. I did not say – ‘don’t hiss’. When someone tries to harm you frighten him by your hissing sound and protect yourself. The snake learnt the lesson. It hissed at the harming people. Then no one dared to near it. The snake lived happily.

But, we can’t hiss at every one, particularly when the opponent is more powerful! What should we do at such occasion? Here is another story of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa.

There was a saint in the outskirts of a village. He had disciples and was teaching them the way of living. One day he told his students that God is in every living being. He said “...so be loving and respectful to all.” In the evenings, the students used to go to the near by village to fetch food. When they were in the street of the village that evening, a man was running out on the road shouting “Hey, an elephant got mad and it is coming in this way. All of you, get away from its way.” On hearing this, all people except one student ran to a safer place. The student standing on the road thought this way: ‘Guruji said that God is in everyone. So, He must be there in the elephant also. Why should I get afraid of this elephant God? Instead I would show my love and respect to this elephant God.’ So, he stood in the middle of the road and welcomed the mad elephant. The next moment, he found himself in a far away field with stars above his head. The elephant had just thrown him away. He



got injured and was taken to the ashram. The saint asked the students what happened. The students explained the incident. Then the master looked at the injured student and asked, "Why didn't you run to a safer place?" The student replied, "Master, you said that God is in every one. He is in the elephant also. Why should I get afraid of the elephant God?". The Master replied: "Well, there is no doubt that God is in everyone. He is also in the man who gave you the warning. Why did you ignore the words of this messenger God? It was God who actually gave you the warning." Then the student realized his mistake. Just get rid of the way of evil minded persons. A layman has nothing to do to fight or correct such persons. This is the lesson for the layman.

But it is not the same for the man who had realized God. He sees God in all. And it is the evil that flees away on seeing him. He 'hunts' the evil through his love and wisdom. Sway Vivekananda, when he was on a tour to England, visited a dairy-form of one of his admirers. He and others were walking amidst cows and oxen. Suddenly, an ox freed itself and in a fiery mood ran towards them. On seeing it's dreadful mood, every one flew away. Swamy Vivekananda didn't show even the slightest gesture of fear. He just stood where he was and looked at the ox. The ox came near to him; on seeing his majestic stature and firm gaze, the ox got cooled and became calm. This is not a story, it is a real incident! Here lives the real strength. This is strength. Any one can blow one's head into pieces with the help of weapons. But how many can drive away evil through fortitude and patience? Is this not something wonderful to



acquire? (The rulers who take care of the security of the whole nation face their problems in a different way. But, as per our scriptures, the rulers too must give priority to peaceful methods for solving problems.)

So, it is not simply running away for every sneeze of the rival! If you are confident that you can give medicine to one's restless thoughts through your dauntless peacemaking smiles and gazes, then go ahead!

In times of helpless situations, the Brahmin (believer in God's power) relies on God. The Kshathriya (believer of one's own power given by God) takes on the rival and faces him face to face. The Vaisya and Sudra (the dependent on the stronger and wiser people) go for external help. In all these methods, God helps the sufferer according to the nature of the problem. The pessimist or the believer of evil forces goes for crooked methods, indulges himself in terrific activities and ruins himself. Be anyone except the last one.

Love doesn't mean adjusting oneself to all adamant activities. At times, we may need to be strict and rigid to correct our dear ones. We may need to be rigid with ourselves to keep ourselves righteous and clean. Discipline is inevitable in love. Righteousness precedes love.



The significance of Sasthras

MY mother was reading a Sasthra about the Structure of an ideal home. In that it was stated that the trees or plants that give red flowers should not be grown in the south east corner of the house. It was also stated in the book that if they are grown in that direction, it will cause harm to the residents of the house. We had a beautiful red flower tree in the south east corner of our home. My father used to pick the red flowers every morning for his morning pooja. After reading the hint given in the sasthra, my mother decided to replace the little tree. My father had no remarks. But I didn't consent to her idea. She promised that she would remove it and plant it in the opposite corner. She also believed that it would grow in the new place so that we would not lose it.

I was not o.k. with her proposal. I was opposing it continuously. One day morning, she executed her proposal. She called a servant; uprooted the little tree; it got split into three parts and she planted them in three places. She was not listening to me. Of course, she was doing it for the 'welfare' of the family. So, for her, what she did was right.



My mother's act kindled my soul's compassion. I am not o.k. with this sort of sasthanas. I picked the book which taught her this undesirable lesson and put it in flame. I showed the burning book to my mother. She cried alarmingly, "What the hell are you doing? You are burning the sasthanas..."

I told her, "I don't need this sasthanra. I don't want to be happy at the cost of other's suffering. I would prefer to suffer, rather. If you continue to read this book further, you may do many harmful things. We can't take all sasthanas as sasthanas just for that they are titled as sasthanas. Some of them are helpful to spirituality. Some of them are related to materiality. We should consider only the spiritual sasthanas. We may perform the rituals, santhis given in them. But we must check that it is not causing any harm to others. If it does, better forget the sasthanra and leave the matter to God. He will take care of it."

I continued, "You yourself oppose the practice of killing animals in Sakthi temples. Actually, they are in some sasthanas. Can you do it just for that they are permitted in some scriptures titled as sasthanra?" She said, "Never." I added, "This is what the sages and saints have been teaching us. We can't accept any sasthanra that asks us to harm other living beings. Many sasthanas lost their originality and were miscomprehended to a great extent. Adhi Sankaracharya, once happened to cross a festival where the people tried to kill a lamb as per their traditions. Swamy stopped them and asked them to take him in the place of the lamb. The ignorant people agreed to the alternative sacrifice. One of



the disciples of Swamiji came in time and rescued Swamiji and the lamb. What I am trying to say is we should be wise enough to take the essence of sasthanas and should ignore the rest. Once we surrender to God, we don't need to fear for anything."

My mother felt guilty and said, "I will never do it again, Babu. I will not do any ritual that causes harm to others."



A Way out

One of my office colleagues came and asked this question. “Babuji, the sexual impulses bother me a lot. It is becoming a big problem to me. My friends give wrong suggestions to me. I don’t want to have dirty hands. I want my wife to be pure. So, I too must be pure. But, these temptations are teasing me to the extreme. Tell me a way out.” He is a young lad, unmarried.

I told him. “The only way that I know is meditation. Let me say how. Just by willing to be good, one can not be good. The external forces and the internal forces would keep on trying to lead us in the same habitual path. If we want to break it – if we want to have our own life style – then we need to have strength, we need to have guts to face anything that questions our way. You can get it in meditation.”

“You need to be regular in meditation. Just after a few days, you can’t expect the results. You have to be patient to see the changes and you have to be regular and stubborn in your practice. This is very important. There are some guidelines for meditation like one should do it only with an empty stomach. You can find them in scriptures.”

“Another thing you should do is that you must restrict the environment that you feel bad to your desired life style.



We can't completely ignore the practical world and run to the forest. 'In this era, the road to holiness necessarily goes through the world of action'. This is a saying of an eminent personality and it is true. At the same time, we have to check that we are not affected by the environment."

"Now...about meditation...". He interferred and said, "I don't know anything about meditation." I asked him, "Do you have faith in God?". He said "Yes". I continued, "Meditation is not just sitting idle. Talk to God. But this will not be an easy thing in the beginning. You will get all the things in mind that you do not want to remember. But never give up. Amidst trial and error, continue your meditation. Talk to God as you talk to me. I may not understand your problem in the same way you want me to understand. You may not understand what I am saying in the same way I want you to understand. But God listens to all. He knows your problem even in the absence of your telling. Just tell Him, "God, I don't know anything. I don't know to meditate, I don't know to control my emotions. Guide me and lead me in the right direction."

"If you ask with faith, you will get the way open."

I asked him, "Do you read spiritual books?". He said "No". I told him, "Develop the habit of reading spiritual books." He said that he admires Swamy Vivekananda and his works. I asked him to keep reading Swamy Vivekananda's books.

I wished him good luck and closed the talk. Now a days, regular communion with God has become a practical



necessity to ensure true happiness and peace. From the ages past we have different methods of God communion. Attending prayers, reading sacred books, listening to sacred talks, visiting sacred places, seeing sacred beings. (Of all the methods, the one which is accepted as the most direct link to God is meditation.) So, everyone should undertake a convenient method to go higher in the consciousness.

* * *

An aged friend raised the following doubts in writing after reading the above chapter. The doubts and the answers are given below :

What is your advice to non believer of God?

The same - Meditation. The one who meditates need not be a believer of God. He believes in the realization of the self within rather to the unknown 'God'. In due course, he realizes the relationship between the self within and 'God'. Initially, the one who meditates need not be a believer of God. It's enough, if one could believe oneself. The rest will happen in the right practice of meditation.

Is not going to brothel the best option? Why not?

It is also an option for the one who wants to quench his senses the animal way. But the one who approached me wanted a better option; he didn't want to go to brothel house. He wanted to be pure. Those who do not bother about controlling their senses would go any where they want. But, for a person who wants to be pure, I can not point the door of a brothel house.



How can one control the senses after seeing all types of filthy pictures in the media?

It would be a hard task for any one to keep calm when he is roused by the 'filthy' media. If he really wants to control his senses, then he must keep himself away from the persons and media that tempt his senses. He should show atleast the slightest attempt of opposition to the bad media. Gradually, he may conquer the media one day. But the stand of 'I want to see all filthy information – I also want to be pure' is not possible.

What is the best method of self control?

As already said, for me, regular meditation is the best method of self control. But it is not the only method; any thing that makes one forget about oneself and about one's limited personality (definitely I am not referring to Chloroform!!) is a method of self control.

Is there any other alternatives?

Please refer to the last passage of the essay in question and the previous question as well.

Is God expert of sex problems?

Oh, yes! As per the Bible, Adam and Eve are allowed to enjoy everything except the taste of flesh. When the evil snake tempted them to go for it, they lost their control and erred. As the result, they got separated from the direct relationship of God. God punished them with the worst attribute of flesh – death. Those who are away from the



consciousness of sex are closer to God. Those who sincerely want to get away from the bondage of sex, have only one doctor – God. Because, He alone can bestow the permanent medicine to the snake bite called sex. But how, when and to whom He would give the medicine is up to Him. Of course, this answer is for the believers of the Bible, God or the Self. For those who do not believe anything, or for those who do not bother about conquering the sex appetite, I do not have any answer, neither has God!

Who is God? Where is God? What is God?

Only God or the one who had found God can answer these questions. To get the answers for the above questions, start asking these questions from your soul - not through your lips; seek the answer sincerely. The true seeker gets the answer.



Argument over the Commandments

Develop your Godliness, Preserve the purity of nature, Revere your parents, Live to the rule of ‘one man is to one woman’, Don’t hurt living beings.

These are the rules prescribed by my mother for humans to ensure the human face in the present and in the forthcoming lives. I encrypted them in a stone and named it The Commandment Stone, as per my mother’s wish. I placed it in Sri Valeeswara Swamy temple. I told this to a Christian friend. He didn’t take them blindly. He started asking questions.

“Do you mean to say that these five points are the standards of God?” I said, “Yes.” He continued, “Would they be enough? Assume that a school boy derives some other commandments of his own, puts them in a website and declares that they are the commandments of God. Say for example, “Do your duty,” “Never tell lies” What is your answer to him? Can you say that he is wrong?” I replied, “Whatever rule you form, it can be brought under any of the five commandments. Say for example, the rule ‘never tell lies’ can be taken under the commandment 5 ‘Don’t



hurt living beings.’ One would not lie if he knows that it would cause harm to others.” He continued, “Using logic we can put all the commandments under one commandment. It is not a difficult thing to do so. Can you say that your commandments would give one salvation?” I said, “The first commandment itself will give one salvation. But it is not such an easy thing – it is not just a commandment, it is the very purpose of human life. The other commandments are only to help the purpose of the first commandment.”

He asked, “One of the commandments asks one to be loyal with one’s spouse. Say, I am going to remain single throughout my life. What is your answer to me? Will you say that I will not progress spiritually since I am not following one of your commandments?” I replied, “That commandment is meant for the laymen who do not know to rise above the instincts. If you are confident and strong enough to live without a woman, it’s well and good. You are a bit closer then.” He argued, “So. It is only for laymen – not for all.” I asked him, “What do you think about the ten commandments of Moses? Are they for laymen or for all?” He replied, “They are for the least to the best – for the servant to the king – for each and every being. They are from God.” I asked him, “Well, one of the commandments asks one to love the neighbor. Say, I have deserted myself and I don’t have any neighbor. I am leading a secluded life in a forest. Now, what have I to do with this commandment?” He kept silent for some time. I continued, “I thought you would ask me to treat whatever being that I find by my side as my neighbor. Anyway, one can always find loopholes in any



commandment. What I mean by layman here is a spiritual layman. One may be a king in the earthly life. If he doesn't have spiritual consciousness, he is still a layman. These five commandments are basically for a spiritual layman."

Then he asked, "Who is God?" I said, "You are." He was shocked, "Me? Dead ... Do you mean to say that I am the one who created the worlds?" I replied, "Of course, yes. The science of yoga says, within every being there is a creation. Based on one's karma, one creates one's own world. If one acts with the influence of delusion, he makes himself miserable. If he acts with the influence of the spirit, then he advances to a higher level of consciousness. (I enumerated the various levels in the path of the eightfold yoga.) Gradually, he goes beyond the perception of mind, identifies everything related to the mind and senses, as a dream and comes to know that he and God are essentially the same eternally."

Here, it is appropriate to bring a doubt raised on another occasion. The question is this: In the Hindu scriptures, the creation or nature has been referred as Maya – delusion, that which seemingly exists but actually does not. Your second commandment is to keep the creation pure. Is it not enough, if one keeps the inner faculties pure? Why should one bother about something which is unreal and delusive? My mother's answer is this: It is of utmost importance to keep one's inner self pure. In fact, the inner faculties like mind are also a part of creation. But, it doesn't mean that other things should be destroyed or be kept unclean. One



has to keep both the inner and outer environment clean. God has given us this creation to learn things, to learn our true selves. But we are trying to know everything else except our soul – the Jeeva. In our perennial efforts and curiosity, we are ruining the learning ground and ourselves. And it's true that the world is nothing but a dream. But it is for those who have awakened; who are unaffected by any sort of Karma (action) and remain stable in their consciousness. The world is very real for those who are caught up in the maze of mind. So far as we dream, dream is real to us. So far as we do actions, the world is real to us. We should be wise enough to identify the difference between the actions that bind us in the dream state and the actions that don't.

Then he asked another question which seemed to have no relevance with the commandments. "What role do your demigods have in the path to God?" I replied: "I don't know more about the demigods. What I know is that they symbolize one or more specific qualities of God. As per the yogic science they all are within oneself. The yogic scriptures in Hinduism talk in detail about this – how the creation is associated within oneself. One doesn't need to find them externally. But I will not criticize a person if he prefers to start his searching through external means. Some day, he will get proper guidance from God for He is in both internal and external means of worship. The more important thing is the sincerity that he shows for God."

We talked about many things in religion. His attention was fixed in finding faults in the traditions, religion of this



nation. He was not prepared to take any justification from me. I saw that his attention was always fixed on only one thing. "If one is true, the other should be false, because the truth is only one. I am right – so you should be wrong." I told him an example to let him understand that there could be different paths to the truth. "You say, $2+3=5$. We can put it the other way also as $4+1=5$, $0+5=5$. Though, the result is the same, how we derive it, differs. He refused to accept any logic that questions his belief. That is the way he was taught! Then I asked him finally, "I think, you are of the opinion that the religion and life of this nation are not leading one to God." He nodded happily. I said, "You are wrong," and nothing more. I felt that I had nothing more to say to this friend.

The national boundaries have nothing to do with the Truth. I am not to hurt the faith of friends of other religions and nations. But still, it is better for my countrymen to know that this is the place where the traditions and the religion are revered and understood in the right sense by many individuals from the ages past.

While religion remains a bundle of most commonly ACCEPTED principles in many other places, it grows here as the most widely PRACTICED & PROVEN path. It's only because of the reason that it leads one to the Truth, it lives for eons despite a thousand intrusions and religious attacks. Even a thousand more intrusions and attacks cannot touch its base. Because, here religion doesn't live by politics,



business or accumulation of numbers but by practice of proven principles.

The next day he showed some notes of lessons related to forgiveness. He said, “This is the toughest commandment I face. I have been trying to forgive, practically how far it’s going to work out, I don’t know.” I could easily feel his expression of his attempt of forgiving me! I told him the snake story of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa (given in ‘How to face the offenders?’ in ‘A bon voyage’) and concluded that in practical life, it would not be advisable to keep on ‘forgiving’ when someone keeps on hurting you.

Later I thought to myself:

B does something wrong to A. If A says to B, “I forgive you” – probably for the reason that he feels unhurt or for that he doesn’t have the strength to act back – actually it means, ‘I am not acting back’. By preserving forbearance, A is relieved from the effects of the acts he might have done in the absence of his forbearance. Through ‘forgiving’ B, now A has protected himself. But, B still bears the risk of facing the consequences of his own actions. He alone should work out to relieve himself from them. And God alone can free him from the consequences.

It is not just someone forgiving B and making him free. If at all someone could effect forgiveness, it means, the ‘someone’ is not just someone but an authority of God or God Himself. It also means, the one who is forgiven is not just someone but the one who deserves the forgiving as per the judgment of God.



One can never forgive the other so long as one believes that the other is a sinner.

First of all, who are we to forgive? Say, someone did some criminal offence to you and was brought before the court of justice. Let us assume that he was proved guilty. Now can you forgive him? Can you say to the justice, "Leave him free, I forgave him for what he had done ." You can't. It is the judge who has to decide.

He keeps the register of all offences even if we fail to register them in the court of His justice. Even when we are personally hurt by an offence, we don't have the authority to forgive others. It is God – only God – who can forgive. At the most, out of pure love, we can ask God to forgive the offenders. Even Jesus Christ, at the time of his crucifixion prayed to God for the forgiving of the offenders. He didn't say, "I forgive them." He prayed, "Father, forgive them for they don't know what they are doing." When an offence is made, one can do only any of these three. Act back, keep quiet or pray God for forgiving the offender. The last thing will happen only when one has pure love for the other.

I don't need to act back or ask for God's Pardon for what my friend has spoken of the eternal religion, for they could never make any offence to this all loving religion or to myself. Father, guide him and me in our conscious levels.

Loka Samastha Sukino Bavanthu (May the denizens of the world have happiness).



“I am that I am”

Alexander, during his stay in India came to know about the greatness of the saint Dandamis, a sage in the forest. He sent one of his military personnel to fetch the sage to his court. The military man found the place of the humble sages's simple hermitage. He asked the sage rather forcibly, “Our king, the son of Zeus, wants to see you. You are expected to come with me. If you comply, then our king will reward you. Else, he will behead you.” The sage replied, “if your king is a son of God, then I too am. I have nothing to get done through your king. If he wants something from me, then let him come here. I have no need to see your king.” The messenger talked in anger, “He is the emperor of the world and I am his messenger.” The sage replied: “There are still nations on this earth that have not heard of your king's name. How can you call him the emperor of the world? Even then, he is not at all strong enough to face the one who is the emperor of the self.” The sage added, “If Alexander was not satisfied with his present captured nations, let him cross the river Ganges, to see a land that could sustain all his men.”

The commander returned and told the message of Dandamis to Alexander. Alexander couldn't meet the sage. As Dandamis predicted, the 'son of Zeus' could never cross



the river Ganges. He had to drop the idea of capturing any more India and he changed his direction towards Persia. Though, the king couldn't get Dandamis, he managed to take one true yogi - a disciple of Dandamis, Kalyana (called 'Kalonas' by the Greeks), with him on his return. At Susa in Persia, the aged Kalonas entered into a funeral fire and burned himself alive before the whole military people. He didn't make any sign of pain. He didn't even change his position while the fire was absorbing his body. He also predicted Alexander's death as he said to him before entering into the fire, "I will see you in Babylon." Alexander died in Babylon. The master's promise to Alexander also makes it clear that the masters are committed to guide their disciples through out the material life and also after it.

The sages like Dandamis and Kalonas proved that they are more powerful than the emperors of the universe. Because, they know who they are. They know that they are not the bundle of flesh and bones, but the spirit which is indestructible, ever existing and all inclusive. So they said, "I am that I am – Be as you are."

The above phrase appears familiar to all. We would have thought of this phrase one time or the other, especially when we don't like to be judged or advised by others!

Only a very few personalities have said, "I am that I am." All else are not what we are but what our circumstances want us to be! It is for this reason that we are facing problems. It is not just saying by lips. It is saying by heart



and soul. When one realises the Self, then one can say “I am that I am”.



Temples of India

Here, we are going to see how idols and other symbols originated in India and how far they are important to the various classes of people. Obviously, this is also related to the religion of the nation. Now a days, the symbols and temples are taken as the subjects of violence and indifference. Here a critical account was made on the true meaning and purpose of this sacred culture.

“Great spiritual and philosophical ideas in the Upanishads are today with us, converted into household worship in the form of symbols. Thus the various symbols now used by us, all come from the Vedanta, because in the Vedanta they are used as figures, and these ideas spread among the nation and permeated it throughout until they became part of their everyday life as symbol” says Swami Vivekananda. This is how symbols originated in India. It would be a different subject if we go deep into the meaning of these symbols. I am restricting my study to the basic structure and significance of idol worship in temples.

Temple Structure:

Agama is the scripture that gives rules for temple structures and festivals. They also talk about subtle truths about body, soul and God. They talk about the subtle force, which alone exists when everything else is vanished.



They also tell about the relationship we all have with the subtle force. Each sect has its own Agamas. We have inner meaning for each part of the temple.

Totally, we have 28 Agamas in Saivam, 64 in Saktam and 108 in Vaishnavam. The scripture Kumara Tantra also stands as the base for the construction of certain temples.

The Gopuram (tower) where various personifications of the universe are sculptured, is said to be the 'Virat' (Physical Cosmos) form of God. Similarly, the Asthana -Mandabam, Nirutha Mandabam, Bali - Peetam, Maha Mandabam, Artha Mandabam, Garbagraham, Vimanam, Moortham and the various idols in the temples have some inner meaning. We are not going to see them here, any way! But, I must point out a vital point here. These temples are built in relation to the organs of the human metabolism and with our solar system.

Temples have proved to be the resorts of the people in need. In those days huge temples with strong walls had been built in order to refuge the people in times of war.

Big temples give means of living to the poor people of the locality. The poor people get employment opportunities in the process of temple worshipping and ceremonies. History proves that temples had given refuge in times of natural calamities like floods. Temples also had been the centers of education and cultural arts. Temples had been the places of justice.



Above all, temples serve one's moral needs and protect one from evil forces. Temples illumine the eyes of wisdom and love. What we need is better understanding and proper worshipping. We may not need more temples, but we need more right knowledge about temples. The following is the manner one worships a Saivite temple. It's a live commentary!

“He is entering the Raja Kopuram. He salutes to the Virat form of God. He washes his feet, face and hands in the Theertha Kulam (Pool of holy water) to clean his body and mind. First he bows to the God of Cosmic Vibration, Sound (Aum) - Lord Vigneswara. Before the altar, he lies down and sacrifices all his desires and the effects of his past actions. Then he walks through the mandapams. As he crosses the first prahara he feels that he is removing the body sheath of the soul. As he crosses other mandapams he feels that he is removing the sheaths of life force and mind. Then he enters into the sheaths of wisdom and bliss. Then he gets the permission from the Guards - Vahana and Dwarapalas. Then as a spirit, he enters into the Moola Graha, gets the sight of God through Arathi (lighting of camphor or gee) and is taught of the spiritual nature of God; by feeling it through hands and touching the hands on his closed eyes, he establishes his oneness with God.

He comes out of the Moola Graha and worships God in His various forms as the Creator, as the Savior and as the Destroyer. He bows to the Invincible Mother - Goddess Durga. Then he bows to the Lord of silent Bliss - Lord



Sandeswara and tells Him of his visit to the temple. He bows to the Lingothbawar - God without a beginning and an end. He bows to the Eternal Master - Guru. In this manner he circles the Moola Graha three times. Then he comes out of the Moola Graha and goes to the shrine of the Mother of Nature. He gets into the Moola Graha and prays to the Mother to clean his soul and to let him feel the presence of the Home eternally. He circles the shrine of the Mother for three times. Then he comes out and pays his homage to the nine planets in the solar system.

Then he sits in silence for some time. Then he comes back to the altar and offers whatever things he feels like having at the feet of God and prays to Him to take care of everyone. He comes out of the temple and sees the temple tower again and reminds himself that God is in every being of His material, astral and causal creations. He bows to the Virat form of God and resumes the job with the peace that he earned in the temple.”

The temples are the symbols of the Truth. But they too are subject to changes and decay since they are amidst the changing things. The temple of body, the temple of home, the temple of world everything ruin. In the beginning, spirit alone exists. During the course of time spirit alone exists. At the end, spirit alone exists. Temples tell this truth. The one who beholds this Truth worships the symbols of the Truth as Truth Itself. He may not need to search for the symbols any more as he himself become a symbol of Truth. For him, there is no difference between the symbols and the meaning



they refer to. Others may not know the significance of the symbols. But it should be remembered that the way these symbols are treated exhibits the peace and happiness of the surrounding environment.

Phase V

- * Don't try to be like everyone.
- * Don't expect everyone to be like you.
- * Know yourself and make the best of yourself.
- * Whatever you are, where ever you are, whoever you are - leave one end to God.
- * And strengthen this end.
- * Because this is the only end that decides all other changing ends.
- * ...and this is the only end that is going to be with you throughout this life and even after that.



The Path

I went to an ashram in Tamil Nadu. I asked a monk there about the methods of meditation being taught in that place. I was given the following reply: “We don’t teach any specific meditation technique here. Our Master only prescribes love and service. If you want to elevate yourself – just help others. It can be a very simple help – but it might hold a great value to the one who receives it. When you keep serving your environment without any selfish motive, naturally you will be elevated spiritually; your third eye will open. If you sit in meditation to help yourself – to achieve self realization just for you, it is selfish. Without caring for those around you, you can never advance spiritually. Instead, try to bring smile in the faces of those around you. This is true spirituality.”

I have some contrasting views here. First I would like to define what meditation is. Meditation means the silent attempt being made willfully to dwell in the consciousness of one’s true Self. If one sits in silence and asks for prosperity or power or for any inferior motive other than self realization, then it is not meditation. We can name it ‘prayer’, ‘penance’ or something like that. So, the true intention of meditation is to rise above so that one can pull those who are underneath.



Those who sit in meditation try to help everyone through their intense prayers and proximity to God. They put serious efforts for self realization, when it is achieved, they see just not 'one self' – but the Self of all. This is the path of Gnana. So, the meditator is not selfish; he is Selfish. What the monk said earlier is the path of love. The one who is helping others is truly helping oneself.

We had already seen about the paths to God. We have four standard paths – Bakthi, Karma, Gnana, Yoga. Again they are brought under two broader categories – Wisdom and Love. The one who opts the path of wisdom, works for everyone in a different phase. He sees everyone within himself. The one who opts the path of love works for everyone in yet another phase. He sees himself in everyone. But the test is the same – unselfishness. The effect is also the same – the undiluted compassion. This is the ultimate reality. All true paths accept this.

But, how one realises this reality, do vary widely. Everyone has this pure compassion – naturally, we only need to realize it. If the realisation doesn't involve or yield soul compassion, then it is not realisation at all. As Sri Yogi Ram Surat Kumar says 'what is knowing everything, knowing everything means, loving everything.'

Whatever may be the path, all that is required is sincerity and truthfulness in analyzing one's own strengths and weaknesses; the ability to find out and to accept one's own mistakes; the efforts to correct the errors; the steadfastness



in the path – ‘keep on keeping on’ as Sri Paramahansa Yoganandaji puts it.



My mother on temple worship

My mother used to go to our village Senniamman temple quiet often. I asked her: “You seem to be aware of your Atman; you had experiences. Do you still need to go to temples?”

My mother replied: “As long as mind is there, we need to do Sadhana.”

I asked her: “Do you mean to say that going to temple is a sadhana?”

My mother: “Of course, yes. But I don’t go to temple for material benefits, you know. So long as you go to temple with plain love, for the goodness of the soul, you can call it a ‘sadhana’.”

Myself: “You call God as Mother. But uncle (her brother) said that all mothers are not the same. There is a tiger mother. There is also a cow mother. Tiger mother will not be good to the cows and calves. So, what mother are you worshipping?”

My mother: “There is only one Mother. It is the same mother that looks as a tigress to a few and as a cow to



a few. It depends on how one looks at Her. If one has the qualities of the tiger, he sees a tiger mother. If one has the qualities of a cow, he sees a cow mother. I am always seeing an all loving, caring Mother.”

Myself: “Why is that every one doesn’t get the same experiences in temples or in any other sadhana?”

My mother: “It depends on how much empty space they have inside. If it is filled with unnecessary desires and emotions, there won’t be any space for God to fill it with His love. If it is empty, God occupies it as His own.”

Myself: “Do you mean to say that all should go to temples to empty their mind?”

My mother: “Empty your mind, clean your mind, master your mind– use any such words, you need an instrument to do that. It could be an image, a guru or even your matured parents. Without an instrument, the mind won’t stay in one place. Even those who are advanced in sadhana falter sometimes. The mind is so tricky. Surrender it at the feet of God. Temple is also a resource to do that. When your mind is in control, self realization is at your disposal.”



Quest for a nick

At one point of time, I was busy in selecting a nick name for myself.

I asked my mother whether I can take the name ‘Sthitha Pragna’. It means the person who is highly balanced. She said that I didn’t deserve it. She added that I was still under the influence of delusion. She said, “You are writing about the influence of delusion in the path to God as you experience it. You write about the dos and don’ts as you experience them. You write from darkness with the light of the Truth. Am I right?” I admitted to what she was saying. Then I asked her whether I can take the name ‘Yogi’. She said that I didn’t deserve that name too.

Then I thought of a more suitable nick - zero. When I told it to my ma, she laughd. The zero gets value only when the real number leads it. The real is God, we are just zeros. And He gives values to the zeros. The most important thing is His leadership, not the values He gives. When I go away from the real, I only count the zeros that follow me, all summing up to a great nullity. When I feel the presence of the real, I only look at the real. All the zeros that follow boost up the value. What strength can one claim of one’s own except the Grace of God? Mother liked the reasoning but asked me to wait.



I thought of a more comprehensive nick name - Bharathan. Bharathan was a great king of India whose mighty and sovereignty were spread and admired across the nation. It is only after his name that the nation got a name 'Bharath'. In general terms, the word Bharathan refers to the one who resides in Bharath. I took the name only in this context. I told this to my mother. She appreciated the reasoning but didn't give wholehearted consent to it.

Then I got a nickname in a dream. It is 'Ambalavanar'. My mother was o.k. with this. Ambalavanar means the Cosmic Dancer. He dances within me; He dances within everyone's soul. Whether we accept or not, we all do EXIST, so is He! I kept this name in web site for about two years, but I was not convinced of my level of realisation with regard to this name. I approached my mother again.

She said: "Why are you so crazy about a nickname? Just by changing your name, you can not change yourself; you can not escape from the consequences of your actions. You know, your name itself is a nick? All the material names that we derive are used to identify only this perishable body and petty things. Our real identity goes with the spirit that remains nameless. So, you don't need to search for another nick. What you think of yourself i.e Babuji is none other than your nick. Put it somewhere in the work. I want the name that I put to you to appear in the work." I didn't waver again; I just executed her words.

I added the following words to my name within brackets: 'inspired by Sri Paramahansa Yogananda'. His



works influenced my thoughts and literary works. Though he had been serving in another continent, I am sure, there would not be a day during his physical stay in which he failed to think of and speak about India. He taught me to realise how lucky I am for having been given the opportunity to take birth in the soil of India. India might look depressed in social and economical perspectives due to so many factors that have been existing for centuries. Still, the spiritual aroma of India is still alive and we all have the responsibility to keep it hale and healthy for the future generations.

Since, all these works revolve around the culture and spiritual thoughts, rooted in India, portraying the truth that stands common to the whole world, I feel it is of great onus to think of and revere this Great Master who brought the spiritual ideologies of India to the world in their true colors. I am obliged to do it.



Seek God

The humanity is in trouble. That's why we see draughts, floods, earth quakes, wars and other natural and unnatural calamities. "What we need is humans", says Swamy Vivekananda. A great quality of mind stuff or a good physical structure would not make one human unless he knows to love himself and others.

God is the source of all expressions from the most fundamental to the ultimate. Thus, it is clear that what we all try to know, to achieve, to enjoy and to become – is God. And it is the Truth – being the only thing common to all, irrespective of religions, cultures, languages and nations. And only through God, one can reach Peace, Love and Bliss.

The core aspect that makes up a human is the quest of God. This is the very quality that separates man from other creatures. It is only a man who can think of God, soul and His universal being. Scriptures say that even animals and other creatures too can show devotion to God. But they don't have vicharana – quest. The human life is meant to feel God in and beyond His creation. The Sanathana Dharma teaches man to live this way. When we have more people in this category, then we will have less problems in the world.

Only the quest of God or Self Realisation can change the base of evil tendencies. "I am not doing any harm" is a good



principle, but it is not the remedy. It will not take one near to God. Serve all and struggle to love all – is the remedy. This is the very basic quality of a human. Only such people are near to God.

Putli Bai gave a great human – a Mahatma, who by his every breath strengthened discipline, natural living and non-violence through the influence of inborn love. May the PUTLI Trust give humans! I am not a great being to give instant solutions. This is a layman. All that I can do to my nation is to be an ideal human who respects and practices the principles of this nation. I must keep on trying to practice what I learn as good, only then I may be called a human. It is not enough to have one human here and there. May God guide and command everyone in the world to be humans. This is the way to recover the nation and the world.



Spread the news that God is in our land

I came to the conclusion that I should try my level best to take the spiritual vitality of India to the common people. This way, we can spread the news that God is in ‘our land’ – God is in everyone. I thought of many options for doing this. I thought of delivering the spiritual books from temples, I thought of donating spiritual works, I thought of placing spiritual magazines at the public gathering spots.

I enquired about the possibilities of bringing these ideas to practice. Of course, every option had some pitfalls. Through the discussions with those around myself I confirmed two points.

The first one is about the interest in spirituality. A decade or two back, those who strived for spiritual wisdom couldn’t reach the right sources for known reasons. Now, we are developed in all ways. All spiritual knowledge is available now, at a stroke of a key. But, no one is prepared to strike the key. Most of us are behind something else. So, even if I give all the spiritual books of India freely at every



door step, there is no guarantee that they will open the books and read them with sincerity. So, we can't think of a door-to-door delivery business in distributing the spiritual wealth that requires sincere attention and contemplation. Still, increasing the availability of such scriptures is a positive step in the spreading of the message. We have it already in many places and formats. I decided to distribute only the key points in a nutshell.

The second thing is any moral or spiritual message can be best spread through one's own example. It would be suitable to quote Gandhiji's words here. He said, 'Be the change you want to see in the world'. The practice of love has more reach than preaching of love. The living God in India in the form of realized beings will speak up for the message – silently. This has been happening since the origin of human race. We really don't need to struggle to prove others that God is in everyone. It's enough if we could try to prove the divinity within ourselves. The trying is more important, the result will take care of by itself.

Feeling the news that 'God is in our land' is religion; it's personal. Spreading the news that 'God is in our land' is a moment. Only those who had felt/are trying to feel God in their lands can do this job. Those individuals do not need to talk anything for spreading the message. Their mannerism and aroma will do the job. We need such dedicated persons in more numbers.

Those who have passion for spiritual awakening and global welfare are 'the dedicated' in my terms. They have to



prove this by adhering to the five morals pointed out ('The Religious Culture') as follows:

DEVELOP YOUR GODLINESS:

All masters say that humans and other beings are divine in nature. The humans have the high potentiality to realize this fact. So, humans are expected to develop their understanding about their own divinity. This is the main purpose of a human life.

How one does this may vary from person to person. One may not accept the existence of 'God'. But no one can deny the existence of 'Godliness'. Because, it is there within everyone – even within the one who denies the idea of 'God'. In one, the Godliness may express out as unconditional love; in another, it may get expressed as wisdom of the Self. In yet another, it may blossom as fortitude. Simplicity is also an expression of Godliness. These all are Godly qualities. And the one who has faith in God and has experienced the truth behind one's faith, has yet another inexplicable interpretation for 'Godliness' that he or she alone can comprehend. Instead of searching God elsewhere for transitory material boons, try to develop Godly qualities within yourself; one day, you yourself will become God. This moral reminds one of one's inborn aspirations for Self/God realization. The ultimate goal of human life is only this. The message 'God is in our land' points/reminds this ultimate goal. This is the primary moral that aims at removing all negativities that prevail in the humanity.



LIVE IN HARMONY WITH NATURE:

The aspirant should be prepared to protect the environment around him. He should encourage and use organic products. He should ensure the protection of trees. Besides, he must plant a harmless tree sapling in his home premises and should nurture it for himself as a token of acceptance of this second moral. The condition of the plant will tell him the level of his dedication in the spreading of the message. If it grows well, it means he is also growing along with the message. If the tree is dull, it means he must put extra efforts to protect the tree and his own spiritual development.

NEVER HURT LIVING BEINGS/BE KIND:

The aspirant should not cause any harm to the living beings. He should be a vegetarian, strictly speaking, to prove that he takes up the moral of non-violence in his personal life.

REVERE YOUR PARENTS:

The aspirant shouldn't overlook the elders, parents in particular. He must ensure that his parents are happy in the right way.

FOLLOW THE RULE OF ONE MAN IS TO ONE WOMAN:

The aspirant, if he is married, should ensure that he is tied up with legal and loyal relationship with only one



woman. He should restrain himself from changing woman to woman.

If our care towards universal peace needs to be true, the base thoughts that emerge within ourselves should also be true. If one has contrasting thoughts inside and poses as if he has lots of interest on universal peace, there is no use in that. It is like having all the diseases inside and still showing off as healthy.

Therefore, the dedicated people should show interest in both external welfare and internal awakening.

There are some basic requirements for being awake internally i.e spiritually. Spiritual literatures talk volumes on such requirements. Let us see five of them here. They are: Purity, Unity (Stability), Truthfulness, Love and Introspection. Purity in thoughts, Stability in purity, Truthfulness in stability, Unconditional Love as the base of truthfulness and the Self Introspection to check all of these – these qualities are required for self awakening. When the self introspection becomes biased, we need someone in tangible form to educate these qualities, to correct our errors and to guide us in the path. That someone is Guru (Spiritual Master). Guru may be of any religion; the only qualification of an ideal Guru is that he is self-realised. If one couldn't have the Guru, he may plead God directly and pray for guidance.

Thus, through self introspection, faith in Guru and devotion to God, one can establish purity, stability, truthfulness and unconditional love in one's heart; one can



get one's ignorance and ego destroyed; one can remain what one really is. This is the base of self awakening. Eagerness to work for world's goodness is the path of love. Desire for self realisation is the path of wisdom. If one remains truthful to any one of the above, the other will accrue automatically.

These morals are not something new. They existed at all times of the history and still exist. Those who follow all the above morals WILLINGLY are really spreading the message of India. Through their exemplary life, they can open up a new life for many around them. This is the actual way of spreading the news that God is in our land.

India talks to the individuals. She bothers to boost up the spiritual and moral values of the individuals. If the individuals play their roles well, the all other groups will be doing well. So, India has been talking to individuals in one way or the other for time and time again.

Social reforms, material prosperity and political strength – these have been sought in India to some extent. But, the moral and spiritual values of the individuals are going down and down. Her voice to the individuals is sounding almost inaudible, due to the inappropriate policies of some individuals who have much influence over other individuals around them. They have led the nation far away from her original track. The individuals should once again come back to their own good old path.

Reminding all individuals of their ulterior nature is the purpose of this work. Whenever I talk to families, educational institutions, political parties and such other



associations, actually I am talking to the individuals of those groups. India wants to retain her religious culture through dedicated individuals. Of course, this is the role of India in the bringing up of the better world.

India wants everyone to recognize and celebrate their Godliness. She wants everyone to try in their own ways. 'Catch hold of an idol or try without an idol; do actions or stay away from actions; be emotional or be discriminative; be all of these or none of these; but, keep trying in some way or the other to recognize and celebrate Godliness; keep trying to feel the divinity inside you and everywhere'. This is the message of India. The religion and culture are knit around this realization.

It also prescribes supportive morals for individuals in their part for bringing peaceful families, society, ecology – to say in a single word – a peaceful world.

Let us have ideal humans, ideal nations and a better world. May the world denizens live in happiness.

“Many great works of art, poetry, and music are inspired by astral memories. The desire to do noble, beautiful things here on earth is also often a carryover of astral experiences between a person’s earth lives.”

- Sri Paramahansa Yogananda

THIRUCCHITTRAMBALAM

(SALUTATIONS TO THE LOTUS FEET OF THE
SUPREME INDWELLER)



