

## OM SAI RAM

### WELCOME TO THIS QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

#### Q. 351, "TRUE DEVOTEES ARE NOT AFFECTED"

February 27, 2025

*The following text contains excerpts taken from Prof. Anil Kumar's book "Seeking Within," pg.116-120.*

*Prof. Anil Kumar Kamaraju was chosen by Bhagawan to spread His Message and Mission. He has travelled extensively in India and abroad and has answered countless questions and cleared doubts based on Swami's Divine discourses and his personal interactions with Bhagawan. Most importantly, Prof. Anil Kumar guides us effectively on how to connect to the Inner Sai.*

**Q. Who is a living Guru now that Swami has left His form? Do we need a living Guru?**

**A. Prof. Anil Kumar:** *Guru* has no birth and no death! Teachers are born and teachers die, but *guru* has neither birth nor death. Shirdi Bhagawan is *Jagadguru*. Shirdi Bhagawan is *Sadguru*. What did He say? He said that His bones will speak, that His tomb will speak! The moment you enter Shirdi, all of your problems are solved.

And what did Baba say? "Puttaparthi is truly heaven on earth!" That's what Baba said! He said, "The moment you come here, I shall wipe all your tears of grief so that you will shed only tears of joy and jubilation thereafter! Leave all your burdens at My Feet! Go back filled with Ananda!" That's what Baba said. So, Baba has not 'left' because He never 'came'. He has always been ever-present!

***Adi Madhyanta Rahithudu  
Anaadi Vaadu  
Taanu Chavaka Champabadaka  
Anthata Alarunatti  
Anthata Alarunatti  
Sarva Sakshi  
Adi Madhyanta Rahithudu***

***He has no beginning,  
He has no end,  
He is not born to die,  
Nor can He be put to death,  
He is eternal!  
Sadguru is the Reality, Sadguru is Existence,  
Sadguru is not mortal, but immortal.***

**Q. Now that Sai Baba is in the state of Mahasamadhi, what do you think is the impact on the Sai Bhaktas and the Organisation, as Baba is a very strong figure for His bhaktas?**

**A. Prof. Anil Kumar:** The framing of this question is itself wrong. Here it is said, “Baba is in the state of *samadhi*.” Wrong! *Samadhi* is a transcendental state. It is the state that you reach at the higher levels of meditation as you progress along the spiritual path and it is within everyone’s experience. But to say that Baba is in ‘a state of *samadhi*’ is wrong because He is always in that state. He is always steadfast. He is always balanced. He is always transcendental and beyond the senses. Therefore, He is not in ‘a state of *samadhi*’. No, no!

Then the second part of this question is about the impact on the Sai *bhakta* (devotee) and the Organisation. The impact on the Sai *bhaktas* I feel is not going to be something new that would affect their devotion. Many people all over the world are experiencing Swami’s miracles today, more than ever before. I have authentic proof and addresses to supply to any number of doubting Thomases. We are all brothers, so I don’t blame anybody for doubting. Nevertheless, I have been successful in challenging doubting Thomases for quite a long time. So, for the sincere bhaktas, this present situation has no effect at all.

But for those who are in between – not yet sure about Sai, His life and His message – they will be affected. It is good if they are affected. At least their fate will be decided now; either they will decide to follow Him or they will stay on the other side of the fence. This type of person is present in every field, particularly in politics. So, those who are undecided are politically motivated in the field of religion. Those who are political in this way – with self-interest, self-glorification and self-praise as their motivating force in religion – will experience an impact. They will be naturally influenced by the situation of Baba leaving the physical body. But I know this is not the quality of a sincere devotee.

Here is my attitude: Come what may, this is the line I have chosen. I am not like a fellow in an orchestra who will play an instrument anywhere, wherever he is called. I am not a fellow like that. I have a commitment and I will hold on fast to that. Come what may, we can’t lose anything because we don’t aspire for anything. We don’t use our religion and faith for personal prospects or to advance our name or fame. So in fact, we are not at all affected. That is my answer.

**Q. Prof. Anil Kumar, what kind of advice would you give to people who are mourning because they could not see Swami for ‘a last time’ – people who could not make it to the 2010 pilgrimage and who didn’t see Swami just before He left?**

**A. Prof. Anil Kumar:** There are three categories of people who fit that description. The first set is those who have never met Swami at all. The second set is those who had seen Swami, but could not see Him in the year 2010. The third set is those who were very intimate with Him for decades. So we have these categories of people, grouped

according to their exposure to the Divine. But I think it is not the duration of exposure that matters. Unlike the workplace, it is not seniority that counts.

What matters is the intensity of your feeling, the profundity and depth of your love for God, not the number of years you spent in His proximity. Here is a simple example. We have not met Lord Rama. Have you ever met Lord Rama? I don't think so. But we do love Him and worship Him. We have not met Krishna either but we worship His picture. We love and worship both Lord Venkateshwara and Shirdi Bhagawan, though we have not met them either. So, it is the intensity of the feeling of love, respect, devotion and adoration of the Lord that counts, not merely the years spent with Him.

***Q. Can you give any words of solace for the people who have never seen Swami and for those who have seen Him but didn't get to see Him at the end?***

**A. Prof. Anil Kumar:** Those who have seen Him should live up to His expectations! Even for those who were with Him for a long time, if they don't live up to His expectations, their time with Him is just meaningless! Divine investment wasted! If those who have seen Him and met Him for a long time don't carry the values He stands for, it will not speak well of them. Those who have come to know of Him later, who never saw Him, but have read His biography or seen His pictures – they are 'fresh stock'. They will begin with new dimensions of experience and new awareness of consciousness – very fresh!

***Q. I love your words: 'Divine investment' and 'fresh stock'. They give a lovely descriptive feeling. The Italian community, as well as the world community wants to know how to cope with this feeling of being 'orphaned'? This is the word I have picked up from many of the questions received. They feel as if they have been orphaned. What words can you share with them?***

**A. Prof. Anil Kumar:** Becoming an orphan only happens at a family level. 'I lost my father' or 'I lost my mother'. But gradually, one confronts that negative feeling and overcomes it. After a period of time, the orphaned person decides to be a worthy son in the community; "I want to bring a good name to my family and to my parents." So similarly, instead of mourning, crying or feeling that you are an orphan, you can try to live as worthy devotees of Baba, so that the whole society will look at you and say: "Here are the marvellous devotees of Baba! What an impact Baba had on their lives!" That should be the situation.

Prof. Anil Kumar continues to help us improve our understanding and awareness in the next session. Thank you for your time.

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