

OM SAI RAM

WELCOME TO THIS QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Q. 349, “ WHERE IS SWAMI NOW?”

January 30, 2025

The following text contains excerpts taken from Prof. Anil Kumar’s book “Seeking Within,” pg. 104-108.

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. When is Baba going to come back?

A. Prof. Anil Kumar: Some people say He will be back in 14 days, while others think He will be back in one year. My answer is, “He has not gone anywhere, so how can He come back?”

I may say about myself, “Since I have come here, I’ll go back.” But He has not come here from anywhere; in fact, He is everywhere! So, my answer is this: As He has not gone anywhere, there is no question of His ‘coming back’!

Q. Will all activities continue as before, even though Swami left His body?

A. Prof. Anil Kumar: Activities will not only continue as before but they will grow multiple times. Why? Baba is not the physical body. Who is He then? He is the energy; He is the in-dweller. He is the One who encourages you, who gives you creative impulses and intuitive insights. He is all that energy.

He has given us an example: A bulb gives us light. Why does it glow? It is because of the electric current, which is passing through it. If the filament is burnt, the bulb is useless. However, whether the bulb is burning or useless, the current is still there. The electric current is there, even if you remove the bulb.

So, Baba is like the electric current: He is always there, whether in the body or not. He continues like the electricity. So He is always there. Therefore, there is no decline in our activities. We shouldn’t doubt that.

Q. What was the last message of Baba?

A. Prof. Anil Kumar: God has no first message or last message. His message is eternal. Is *Bhagavad Gita* the first message or the last? It is an eternal message! Similarly, Swami's first message is also the last message.

So, what is Baba's message in one sentence? Love is God, God is Love. This will continue as long as the moon and the sun shine!

Q. What is the immediate effect of Swami's physical withdrawal on Prasanthi Nilayam?

A. Prof. Anil Kumar: You should never use the word 'death' in respect to Baba and other Avatars. We die, but they 'withdraw' from the physical body.

To answer the question, there is no effect. All programmes are going on as per the normal schedule. *Nagarsankeertan* and *bhajans* are going on as usual. Nobody has left Prasanthi Nilayam.

On the other hand, the *Mahasamadhi* has been built in white marble stone with a golden border. That is like the Birthday dress of Baba. So what is the Samadhi? It is the resting place of Baba. He is resting there and seeing His children.

Q. I want to visit Parthi, but my wife says that Swami is not there.

A. Prof. Anil Kumar: Oho, gentleman! The reverse is the case with others! The husband says that Swami is there while the wife says that Swami is not there. There lies the beauty of *samsara*. If there is absolute unanimity and agreement, then life has no interest. There should be opposition. Life is a matter of paradox. It is the irony of life, like day and night. Opposites go together; your husband says that or your wife says that. The next day we agree or disagree. Such are family matters!

Q. Now that Swami has left His body, can we do abhishekam (a ritual of ablutions and symbolic offerings) to His statue?

A. Prof. Anil Kumar: The question has taken for granted a point with which I beg to differ. This point is that "Swami has now left His body." But Baba clearly says, "You are not the body." So, how can He be the body? Yes, after death, the body has to be left; nobody is exempt from this. There is no exemption for anybody.

Now, if we say that Swami has left His body, that is only our observation. It is only a physical, superficial, external happening, an event. It is better to say, "Swami has dropped His body."

So, can we do *abhishekam* to His statue? Well, the statue is different from the physical body. Perhaps most of you know the meaning of *lingam*. It is one sign or symbol of Divinity. We do *abhishekam* to the *lingam*. There is nothing wrong in doing that.

Similarly, we can do *abhishekam* to His statue. (I don't think anybody ever did *abhishekam* to His physical body.) When you do *abhishekam* to His statue, you identify Him with Shiva and the Shiva *linga*. You hold the awareness that it is only an idol, but this idol will take you to the ideal. Travelling from idol to ideal is the purpose behind *abhishekam* and so there is nothing wrong in doing *abhishekam*.

Q. So many people, especially in recent times, are claiming that Swami has told them that He is residing at their places. Some are even inviting devotees to come and visit them, because they claim He is there. This means Swami is no longer in Puttaparthi. Where is Swami now?

A. Prof. Anil Kumar: *Aha!* Many people are now claiming His presence at their place. They are fools, not knowing that He was already there. They are only claiming it today because they only noticed Him today, not before. Swami is already present in our residences. This is not a claim. It is a fact; that is the reality and experience of omnipresence.

So, some are inviting devotees to come and visit their places; "Please visit Baba at my house." He is not a doll, a showpiece or a showcase! This is like an invitation to view the flooring in a wonderfully built house. "Anil Kumar, see the flooring!" *Arrah!* Why should I go and see the flooring?

Let us suppose that delicious food is ready at my house, including my favourite hot pickles. Now suppose someone invites me to go to their place for a meal and I go. Who is the fool? Not the fellow who invites me! I am, because I know those delicious items are at my own place. The other man may invite me, but why should I go?

Similarly, the implication is that if someone invites you to see God here, it means that God is not there. You are asked to see the Divine at their residence. But God cannot be only somewhere, in just one place, which implies that He is missing in another place. He is everywhere and anywhere. So these are non-spiritual, irreligious, inexperienced, and ignorant questions concerning the presence of God.

We can confidently answer by saying, "God is equally present with me." His often-repeated quote is this: "God is in you, with you, above you, below you, around you."

There will be more spiritual wisdom for all of us in the next session.

Thank you for your time.

OM SAI RAM