

SAI PEARLS OF WISDOM

PART 30-A

OM SRI SAI RAM

PRASHANTHI SANDESH SUNDAY PODCAST

SRI RAMA BRAHMAM

Once it so happened, a big man by virtue of his position and devotion, came towards me and said, “Anil Kumar, be careful. Don’t take things for granted. Staying with Swami is something like walking on razor’s edge. You should walk through the fire and see that you are not burnt. It is a challenging thing. You must be highly careful.”

These are the words from a very elderly gentleman, highly experienced devotee and an able administrator of the whole of Brindavan, today called ‘Trayee Brindavan’, there in Whitefield, at Bangalore. This gentleman’s name is Sri Rama Brahmam.

Rama Brahmam served as a caretaker of Brindavan until his last breath. When he took over charge, when Swami asked him to be there as the caretaker, it was almost a forest. There were no lights also, and snakes often made their appearance. He used to carry the torch with him and move around. That was the condition then. Today, it has become the heart of the city.

Conditions then were totally different. And there were no buildings around excepting Swami’s place (residence). That’s all. And this Rama Brahmam is known to me since long. And Swami wanted me to take charge as the Principal of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning at Bangalore in the year 1989.

THE GUIDANCE OF SRI RAMA BRAHMAM

I know Rama Brahmam very well and he was a resident of Brindavan campus. I was staying next to his building there in the bungalow allotted to me. I used to visit him every day and seek his guidance and noted every point he said. And today I believe I could have successful tenure of office there in six years it is purely because of the guidance of Sri Rama Brahmam. Of course, the Divine inscrutable will is there, but this gentleman served as a powerful instrument in the hands of Swami by advising me from time to time.

One day Rama Brahmam said, “Mr. Anil Kumar, there may be a situation when you may be asked to get out of Brindavan. Swami is a perfectionist. He will not tolerate any simple mistake. The punishment is total. He will ask you to quit your bungalow and get out.”

And then I said, “Sir, Is that so? Is He so harsh? Then what do you want me to do when He asks me to get out?”

And Rama Brahmam said, “You come out of your bungalow, but don’t leave Bangalore. You sit at the gate, sit down. Wait until Swami calls you back. He is full of kindness, full of mercy. Our dear God cannot bear the suffering of anybody. He asks you to get out and He wants you to obey His command. But watching you waiting for Him, His heart

melts and immediately calls you and permits you to go back to your residence. This is one thing that Sri Rama Brahmam told me.

"WHEN SWAMI SAYS ANYTHING, YOU SHOULD DO IT IMMEDIATELY."

And the second point he said was, "When He scolds you, don't look that way and this way. Just look straight, right, straight onto His face and pray for His mercy. 'Swami, pardon me if I committed any mistake. Please be kind to me.' That is how you should pray. But if you look that side and this side, well it only means Swami will certainly take it that you are a man of ego. After ego you want to see people how they react when Swami is scolding you. That He doesn't like. Simply pray to Him. That is the second caution he told me.

And third thing he told me was, "When He says anything, do it implicitly, immediately, don't delay," and gave me his own example. It seems Swami wanted him to come to His room one day in Brindavan. This gentleman Rama Brahmam was holding flask in his hands, thermos flask. So he kept it aside in a separate room and reported to Swami.

"Swami, You called me?"

Swami said, "Not now, I called you **then**. You should have come immediately. But you have taken time to keep the flask in a separate room and took time to come to Me. No, I called you **then**, not now."

This Rama Brahmam told me and he said, "When Swami says anything, you should do it **immediately**. You should not take time. You should never delay and Swami will be very much upset with you," and narrated his experience.

GRACE OF SWAMI

In Brindavan they were getting ready to have a borewell there for water. Sevadal were working there with the crowbars, trying to dig the ground. But they could not get water. But that way, Rama Brahmam happened to pass by that. The sevadal people requested him, "Sir, Sir, would you come and help us?"

So Rama Brahmam, the elderly man, went there, took the crowbar and hit the ground. No water. Instead he fell on the ground.

Rama Brahmam always wears white dress, pure white dress, as white as anything else, pure white. Because this man, this Rama Brahmam fell down, the whole of his dhoti and shirt got completely spoilt, full of this mud and slush because he fell down on the ground. What to do?

Then it was time for him to go to Brindavan and report to Swami. Then he went there. And then Swami called him. What he did was, he changed his dress and reported to Swami.

"Swami, You called me?"

Do you know what Swami said?

"Rama Brahmam, had I not been there when you fell down, you would have got your hip bone completely fractured and you would have suffered like anything. I was there at that time and saved you. When I come to the rescue of my devotees immediately, and you people take your own time to report to Me when I want you, when I call you."

This is what Rama Brahmam told me. So just as Swami responds to our prayers, immediately we need to attend to his command, to the duties assigned to us, as and

when they are commanded or given to us. This is the lesson that Sri Rama Brahman told me.

SWAMI'S DRESS GROWS IN SIZE

And once he also mentioned his experience. Swami it seems gave him His dress. You know Swami is so thin, 5 feet 3 inches, very lean, very thin. He gave His dress to Rama Brahman to wear. Rama Brahman is tall, well built, hefty personality, hefty personality. How can he wear His dress? Swami's dress may not fit. His hand also won't go in because he is such a well built man. But Swami insisted, "You wear this dress."

So he started wearing. By the time he was trying to wear, he was feeling breathless, because the shirt was so tight because Swami was so thin. He was saying, "Swami, Swami, I am breathless, breathless."

Swami said, "Eh! Come on, wear!"

Rama Brahman told me, "Anil Kumar, as I was wearing, believe me or not, all that *angi*, that dress of Swami that I wore, started increasing its size on its own! Gradually, slowly it was increasing, and at the end it was a perfect fit to me," he said.

And he said, "Never it happens. Never it happened. How is it a garment stitched to grow as you are wearing, as you put on? Do you find any garment growing in size?" That had happened. That's what Rama Brahman told me as one of his experiences.

"DON'T WORRY, HE IS WITH ME."

And later he also narrated another incident in his life. To the extent I remember, he has three sons and two daughters, I believe. And Swami once called him and said, "Rama Brahman, you and your wife go to your place immediately."

And called Rama Brahman aside and told him, "You lost your second son. Don't tell your wife until you go there. Come on, both of you go."

It takes about 19 hours to reach his place. Swallowing all the misery, all the pain within himself, he was crying within, and went along with his wife to his native place. By the time he reached there, the body was there and all relatives around. Both of them cried bitterly and somehow attended all the rites they're supposed to do.

And then both of them returned back to Brindavan. Seeing Swami, his wife wept bitterly, "Swami, You have taken away my son, which we never expected, Swami. How unfortunate we are! How unkind You are, Swami! What happened to my son?" Because she is the mother of a grown up son, naturally.

And Swami said, "Don't worry, he is with Me."

And Rama Brahman's wife said, "Don't say that, Swami. How can he be with You? No, no, no. We have lost him. Why do You say that?"

And then Swami said, "Don't cry. You both go into the interview room," Swami said.

Both of them went into the interview room. There they saw their son! They were stunned to see him! They spoke to him for a brief time and came out of the room, and that boy disappeared from there, vanished from there. This is personal experience of Sri.Rama Brahman.

It is said in *Bhagavad Gita* and *Upanishads* that we all are from God, in God and will be back to God. So when Swami said, "He is with Me," it only means what? He has gone back to the source. This is the experience that Rama Brahman narrated to me.

THE KINDNESS OF RAMA BRAHMAM

These narrations I can never forget in life because they helped me to continue to stay there. They are something like precautions. They're something like certain important principles to be observed to help me.

Incidentally, I may mention to you that Sri. Rama Brahman is a very big businessman earlier, before coming to Brindavan, big tobacco merchant. Tobacco merchant. He earned crores of money, crores of money. To put in his own words, "I didn't have time even to count the currency I earned in those days." But, it so happened that he lost all his properties, and both husband and wife came to Brindavan. It was at that time Swami made him the caretaker of the whole of Brindavan, and wanted them to stay in one of the residences specially provided for them. And he stayed there till the last moment of his life.

Rama Brahman was such a sincere man, a man of devotion. And I said, "Sir, you said, 'Swami will be upset with you, and He may ask you to get out and all that,' would you tell me some details?"

And Ramam said, "Anil Kumar, there are two gates you would have observed to Brindavan - one near the railway gate, another at the other side. Swami asked me to get out, and I came out of this gate. Still I didn't experience that gate. I was kicked out ten times."

Well, I was wondering, "Why should you be kicked out. Swami, what is the reason, Sir? Why did Swami ask you to go?"

And Ram Brahman said, "Mr. Anil Kumar, I never committed any misake because I was defending all the boys staying in the hostel. Poor boys, they have come all the way to study, and their parents have sent them this long." So when Swami asks, 'Is this a good boy? (I said,) "Very good boy, Swami."

Swami said, "You are bluffing. That boy is a stupid! First, you get out!"

"So I faced all punishments because I was defending the boys there. I didn't commit any mistake at any point of time." That's what Rama Brahman said. That was his kindness. That was kindness.

"THERE IS NO DARSHAN THIS MORNING"

He also narrated (to) me another very funny incident. He said Swami asked, "Rama Brahman, you go and tell in the shed that there is no darshan this morning."

So Rama Brahman came out and announced to devotees that there is no darshan. Walking behind him, immediately Swami came, but slowly walking behind him, laughing loudly, and showing some signs that, 'Rama Brahman has gone mad,' and He gave darshan.

At that time I asked, "Rama Brahman, sir, when He asked you (to say) that there is no darshan today, and He gave darshan, are you not upset with this? Don't you look like a fool to everybody?"

Then Rama Brahman said, "We should not think like that. Remember, that we are instruments in His hands, that we are privileged and blessed to be a participant, an actor in this Divine drama, that I could be an instrument to provide enough of fun, humor to my Lord, that I am very happy (about)."

“So feel happy, that’s all, because you are given a role to play and you made Swami laugh. What more you want?” That’s what Rama Brahmam *garu* said. That’s still ringing in my ears!

Therefore, these are the guidelines given to me by him.

ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND THAT HE IS GOD

And one thing I will tell you. Once he said, “Anil Kumar, I saw you joking with Swami, laughing with Him. But remember always that He is God. Don’t take things for granted. Supposing in my case I look at Him as Lord Shiva, with three horizontal stripes on the forehead as Lord Shiva. So keep in mind that He is God, and then behave. That’s what he said.

These things I want to share with you slowly, week after week, as God willing.

Sai Ram