

Sai Pearls of Wisdom

PART 32 A:

AMAZING THRILLING EXPERIENCE

May 6, 2022

**Om Sri Sai Ram
Prasanthi Sandesh**

Om Sri Sai Ram!

Prasanthi Sandesh welcomes you.

I recall a wonderful experience, the like of which I have not heard from anyone during this period of 50 years of association with Swami. I don't know why He blessed me with such a rarest, wonderful experience. This I want to share with the Prashanti Sandesh family.

To begin with, I was appointed as the Principal of Baba's college at Bangalore in the year 1989. From that year, I served there as the Principal till 1995, for six years. It was then that I was transferred to Puttaparthi as a professor of Bioscience in Sathya Sai University. According to the transfer orders, in strict obedience, I shifted from Bangalore to Puttaparthi. Soon after I landed here, Bhagavan sent word that I should stay in the Staff Quarters. I stayed there in the Staff Quarters, shifted all the luggage, and had completed just one month of my stay in Puttaparthi, just one month.

Then suddenly I received a phone call from my friend. He is from Kavali of Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh, very well known to me, my closest friend, by name Sri Aduri Srinivasa Rao. He is very well known to all devotees in Andhra Pradesh as he served as the District President of Nellore, and later as the Zonal Coordinator of Nellore, Chittoor, and Prakasam Districts in Andhra Pradesh, although Srinivas is also my bosom friend. He called me on phone. I was in Puttaparthi.

He called me from Kavali, Nellore District, "Anil Kumar, where are you?"

I told, "What, Srinivas Rao? I am in Puttaparthi, don't you know that? I was transferred from Bangalore to Puttaparthi. I am in Puttaparthi right now. I joined here one month back. I am here right now." That is what I said.

And Srinivas said, "What! You are there?"

"Yes, I am here."

Then Srinivas Rao started telling me the whole story, which was subsequently published in journals, and I narrated this event in front of Bhagavan. Let me tell you the gist of it.

It seems a lecturer from Kavali, a colleague of Srinivas Rao, a very young man by the name of Madhusudhan Rao, got married, and his wife's name is Nirupama. The newly married couple wanted to go to Bangalore and spend some time there and then return. So Madhusudhan Rao told Srinivas Rao, "Sir, I am going to Bangalore. I am going with my wife. We will be there on a short trip."

Then Srinivas Rao told him, "Look here, Madhusudhan Rao, better you go to Whitefield also. You can see Swami's college there. You'll see Swami's students' hostel. You also can go to the college campus, and meet Principal Prof. Anil Kumar there in his office. He is very well known to me." That is what Srinivas Rao told him.

"Sir, when you said that, I will certainly meet him as I'm also Baba's devotee."

So saying, the couple, Madhusudhan Rao and his wife Nirupama, left for Bangalore. Well, they went round the city, Lalbaugh Gardens and Cubbon Park. They went to many good places, going sight-seeing. And then they came to Whitefield, Brindavan. They were very much surprised to see the beautiful buildings there. Swami's constructions are quite typical. They are quite different, His unique style. They started wondering, seeing these beautiful buildings. They went there and also saw Swami's building, *Trayee*, Swami's residence building there, and then they saw Swami's students' hostel.

And then this Madhusudhan Rao started enquiring, "Where is Principal Prof. Anil Kumar?"

Somebody said, "Sir, you go this way straight. You will see the College building there. There you will see him in his office."

Accordingly, the newly married couple, Madhusudhan Rao and Nirupama, came to the college and they came straight to my office. And Madhusudhan Rao saw me, and I received both of them and spoke whatever little I know, particularly with reference to Swami's message to newly married couple.

Besides that, I offered them coffee and some snacks, in a silver glass and silver plates. They were very much surprised because they might not have expected this hospitality. Then I took them personally round the campus. I showed them the various departments. At the end, I gave them vibuthi packets, kum-kum and turmeric packets, and suddenly asked the peon to order a taxi for them to go to the city.

Accordingly, the taxi came there. I went up to the car and then I presented them a diary also. And they took the diary. They did namaskar to me, and they sat there in the car, went to the hotel, straight to Bangalore where they were staying. They went to their room and came back to pay money to the taxi driver. But the taxi was not there. The taxi driver also was not there. They were very much surprised. So they concluded that Prof. Anil Kumar must have paid money for the taxi so that fellow left, ok.

Then from Bangalore, they returned to Kavali, where this boy Madhusudhan Rao was working as a lecturer in that college. Having returned from the trip, this Madhusudhan Rao met Srinivas Rao, my good friend about whom I was talking. Srinivas Rao Garu.

“Thank you Sir. We met Prof. Anil Kumar. We spoke to him. He was so kind. He spoke to us very nicely. He offered us snacks and coffee in silver glasses and silver plates. And not only that Sir, he has dropped us there in the city and arranged for a taxi.”

Srinivas Rao was very happy. “Yes, yes, I know! Anil Kumar is my good friend. He is like that.

Then he said, “Madhusudhan Rao, you saw Anil Kumar in Bangalore?”

“Yes Sir, I saw him. I enjoyed his hospitality. He gave me this diary also.” He has shown him the diary.

Then Srinivas Rao said, “No, Anil Kumar is right now there in Puttaparthi. But you say you went to Bangalore and saw him, enjoyed all the snacks and coffee, and received this diary. What am I to believe? You be here. I’ll call him on the phone and verify.”

Immediately Srinivas Rao gave me a ring. I picked up the phone, being here in Puttaparthi, and Srinivas said, “Anil Kumar, where are you?”

“I am here in Puttaparthi.”

Then Srinivas Rao said, “How is that you are there in Bangalore and yet entertained your guests in Brindavan?”

“I do not know, Srinivas. Probably Swami must have entertained them in my form. He must have given His blessing in my form. What am I to say? I am in Puttaparthi, as you know.” This has surprised me. This literally shook me.

This is only to let you know that Swami can take any form, because all forms are His. “*Ekoham Bahusyam*.” He is the only one who is present in all of the forms. Though it is not a surprise that He can take any form, when it comes to me, it takes me to the top of the world! Baba appearing in my form?! Baba appearing like Anil Kumar there in Bangalore, to entertain guests, and present the diary? I am very grateful to Swami, but this is only to let you know, with no sense of pride and in all humility, that Baba will take

any form. Baba can bless anybody in any form. This is what I wanted to share with you, though this is a personal story.

Then I would like to pass on to another, very interesting experience. In Andhra Pradesh, there is one place by the name of Guntur. These Guntur district office bearers came to Brindavan, Bangalore, to have Baba's darshan and to invite Him to visit Guntur. Bhagavan mercifully asked them to be seated in the Kalayana Mandapam, adjacent to Swami's residence. All of them were seated. Seeing me from a distance, Baba said, "Anil Kumar! Your district people are here. You also go there." He said.

Then immediately I went there and sat along with those people. Swami slowly walked and started talking to them very nicely, enquiring of everybody, "Where do you come from? What do you do?" He went on enquiring what are their Sai activities at their respective places?

And then suddenly Swami said, "Where is the driver? You all came by bus, I know. But where is the bus driver?"

Then the District President by the name of S. S. Prakash Rao said, "Swami, the driver is not a devotee. He is there.

Swami said, "Is he not a devotee? What do you mean? He has My photo there in the bus. You might not have noticed it. If he is not a devotee, why should he keep My photo there in the bus?"

Then District President said, "Swami, it is Shirdi Baba's photo, not Your photo."

"What nonsense you speak! You mean to say Shirdi Baba and Sathya Sai Baba are different? Don't you know Sathya Sai is Shirdi Sai?" And He sat.

Then I picked up the message, and ran to bring that driver into Swami's presence. Swami asked him, "Oh, why did you not come? Why are you there?"

And the fellow said, "Namaskaram, Swami."

Then Swami said, "Look here driver, you are smoking heavily. If you smoke cigarettes like that heavily, at this rate your health will be affected. Your lungs will be spoiled. The whole family depends on you. You're a driver, and with your earnings you maintain your family. Nothing should happen to you. You should stand as a strong support to your family. Stop smoking, stop smoking!" And calling him to come very close to Him, He waived his hand and blessed him with vibhuti.

This I am sharing with you only to let you know that though there is Shirdi Baba's photo in the bus, Swami called the driver and blessed him, and told our District President, "You say that Sai Baba's, Shirdi Baba's photo is there? Don't you know that I am

Shirdi?" That's what Bhagavan said. This miracle is still so fresh and green in my memory, so I wanted to share with you.

Thank you. Meet again.