

**Sai Pearls of Wisdom,  
Part 37-A**

**HE IS THE LORD SRI RAMA  
Oct. 29th, 2022**

**Om Sri Sai Ram  
Prasanthi Sandesh**

Om Sri Sai Ram.

Welcome to Prasanthi Sandesh, Sai Pearls of Wisdom.

Whenever devotees call out to Swami with fervour, He immediately rushes to their aid even if He is physically far away. Just as a mother showers affection on her child, Sai Matha showers love on all Her devotees. She saves them from material and spiritual downfall and uplifts them. The devotees may recall many such incidents where they have experienced Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's affection.

This is one such incident when Swami was young in Madras. One day, He told His devotees, "Very soon I will go and give *darshan* to one devotee who has served Me in My earlier incarnation." Soon after this, Swami one day fell on the ground and His body became stiff like a wooden log. The devotees around Him were worried. Suddenly *Vibuthi* started oozing out of the sole of His left leg. Words in Hindi and Marathi could be heard from Swami's mouth but the tone of His voice was different and sounds like that of an old man. Soon He came back to His normal self and sat down. He told the devotees, "I had gone to Shirdi to give *darshan* to Abdul!"

When some devotees enquired at Shirdi, they were told that Abdul from Shirdi had passed away at the same time. Who is this Abdul Baba? This Abdul Baba was originally from Nanded in Maharashtra. He came to Baba in the year 1908 probably for Sainath's *darshan* and stayed there permanently. Until Sainath took *samadhi*, Abdul Baba lived in Chavadi. He used to work all day and regarded as *Seva* of Sainath. He used to especially like the task of sweeping Masjid Mai and lighting the lamp. Besides this, he did a very important task. While in the Dwarkamai, whatever Sainath spoke or whatever instructions He imparted, Abdul had a habit of making a note of everything in his personal diary.

After Sainath's *samadhi*, he spent his time reading the Holy Quran and continued to reside in the Dwarkamai till his end. To reward Abdul for his *Seva* to the previous body,

to bless him with *darshan* at the time of his death, the *Bhakta-vatsala* Sri Sathya Sainath went from Madras to Shirdi and merged the devotee in Himself. That's what our Bhagavan is!

Sri Sathya Sai Baba helps all of us to cross this ocean of life. While crossing this *Bhavasagara*, devotees undergo suffering, pain and fear. But with Sri Sathya Sai's constant guidance, they are able to reach the shores of bliss and peace easily.

At the tender age of 14, Sri Sathya Sai declared His Avatar-hood and taught His first *bhajan*, '*Manasa Bhajorey Guru Charanam.*' *You can cross this turbulent ocean of life only by meditating on the Guru's Feet.*

There is a very touching story that exemplifies this truth. Yes, it really exemplifies this truth! Fundamental truth!

Smt. Amala Shankar, the famous dancer and director, went to Puttaparthi in August 1997. In the month of November, she was to perform '*Maha Manava*' a dance-ballet based on the life of Buddha in Prasanthi and this was the purpose of her visit. She sat in *darshan* along with other ladies, only as a mere formality. She had no devotion for Swami. In fact, she had an adverse opinion. As Swami arrived in *darshan*, she observed His graceful walk and she felt as if He was floating. As He approached closer, seeing His Divine form, her negative opinion started changing. Yes!

When Swami finally came to her and said, "Oh! Udaya Shankar's wife?" she was astonished.

"How could He recognize me amongst all the ladies?" she wondered.

Swami pointed His finger towards the interview room and walked on. Amala Shankar did not grasp the meaning of His gesture. So the lady sitting next to her told her to go to the interview room. When she went along with others to the interview room, Swami pulled a chair and asked Amalaji to sit on it and said, "Your knees pain a lot! Your left knee especially is more painful, isn't it?" Then He enquired about the rest of her family members. He was most interested in her son, Anand Shankar.

Swami suddenly said, "Remember Anand is very important in your life!" He uttered this sentence four times.

Then He asked her, "What do you want?"

She said, "Your blessings!"

Swami immediately materialized a crystal *Japa mala* – rosary and gave it to her saying, "Here are your blessings, take!"

In November 1997, Amalaji went to Puttaparthi to perform the dance ballet, *Maha Manava* on the occasion of International Ladies Day. Swami liked the ballet. The following year, in November 1998, she again went to Puttaparthi to perform the dance ballet '*Sita Swayamvaram*.' At that time, her son Anand Shankar and daughter Mamata Shankar also accompanied her.

Just prior to the performance Swami came to them, held Anand Shankar's hands in His and said, "You will be with Me!"

Earlier in the first interview, Swami had told Amalaji, "Anand is very important in your life!"

While talking to Anand on this occasion He said, "You will be with Me!"

Nobody understood the meaning of these two sentences at that time. The dance ballet was a success. Swami liked it, so they were immersed in happiness. Amalaji continued her visits to Puttaparthi. In March 1999, all of a sudden, Anand had to undergo a surgery. After the surgery, Amalaji prayed to Swami. Swami called her to Puttaparthi, but did not speak to her for 8 days. On the eighth day, Swami called her, gave her an air ticket and asked her to go to Calcutta immediately.

Her son Anand had passed away. Amalaji had lost her Anand who was the bliss of her life, who like his name was always joyous and made others happy. This was like a thunderbolt on her. Someone who was with Amalaji said to Swami, "Somebody should accompany her."

Swami exclaimed, "Nobody else will go with her!" He told Amalaji, "I myself will accompany you."

Through the entire journey, she could feel Swami's presence with her. She was peaceful and detached as if she was going for the last *darshan* of somebody else's son. She looked out from the aircraft and could see black clouds below and the clouds above were emitting golden rays. Amalaji felt Swami telling her, "These black clouds of calamity are below you and God's grace is over you, is over your head! This is life! How you accept it is up to you!"

While speaking about this tragic episode, Amalaji speaks in a calm and detached way. She says, "Today I have realized why Anand was important in my life! Bhagavan Baba showered His grace on me. He also gave me the *Atmic* strength to tread the right path. Swami tells us to keep doing our assigned tasks. I am doing it now and will continue to do so until I merge with God!"

Just like Swami helped Amalaji Shankar, may He give us all the strength to overcome our sufferings! This is our prayer at His Lotus Feet.

*Avatar* means 'to come down'. God comes down to earth in human form so that it is easier for man to attain Him. Bhagavan Sri Krishna has proclaimed, "Wherever there is a decline in *dharma*, I incarnate in order to establish righteousness!" Whenever God incarnates, He has the powers of omnipresence, omnipotence and omniscience.

The *Poornavatara* has 16 *kalas* – 16 aspects or potencies. The present incarnation Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is an embodiment of all the powers mentioned.

Sri Sathya Sai says, "If I had come holding the *Shanka* – conch, *Chakra* – the wheel, *Gada* – mace and *Padma* – lotus, you would have run away from Me or kept Me in a museum. If I come as an ordinary person like you, you would not have taken notice of Me at all! Therefore I have taken this human form and I perform miracles from time to time to reveal My glory. I have incarnated to establish righteousness. The principles of truth, righteousness, peace, love and non-violence dwell in Me. To attain Me, you must be truthful, follow righteousness, obtain peace through love and you will become an embodiment of peace!"

To hate someone is also a type of violence. Swami always says this, "Don't try to understand Me! None can ever understand Me! Instead making efforts to attain the eternal bliss, make all efforts to attain that eternal bliss that I shower on you."

See this wonderful statement. Of course you don't mind if I repeat. "None can ever understand Me! Instead make efforts to attain the eternal bliss that I shower on you!"

Swami mentions four important points here. One, Bhagavan, any incarnation, attracts His devotees through *Chamatkar* – miracles, so that, that will bring in them *Samskar* – a kind of refinement that would make them to take to service – *Paropakar*, benevolence and finally bestow on them *Sakshatkar*, meaning self – realization.

Therefore having been drawn by His *Chamatkar* – *leelas* or miracles, they take to service – *Paropakar* and then they finally experience *Sakshatkar* or self – realization, while in the process *Samskar* – refinement, a change naturally happens!

This is what Swami said during one of His discourses. Swami says, "I only want your love. I can give My life for those who give me pure love. Those who have full faith and pure love, I am willing to do anything for them!"

Here is a small story exemplifying Swami's Avatar-hood. During 1972 Summer Showers courses at the Brindavan Ashram; Mother Eswamma was also attending the course along with some other lady devotees. The course was in its 11<sup>th</sup> day. Early in the morning, Eswamma rushed to Peddabottu. Peddabottu is another senior lady who served Swami even while He was in Shirdi, and exclaimed to her.

Eswamma exclaimed to her – to this old grand lady Peddabottu this way. "Oh! Do you know our Swami is really God!"

On hearing this, Peddabottu, a lady devotee, burst out laughing.

Eswaramma asked her, "Why are you laughing?"

Peddabottu replied, "I am laughing because finally you are convinced that Swami is God!"

Peddabottu further said, "Tell me what happened!"

Eswaramma said to her, "You know, for the last 3-4 days, I have been unwell. Yesterday I had fever and I was unable to sleep at night. Swami came to me!"

Stopping her Peddabottu intervened, "Did He come in your dream?"

Eswaramma said, "No, no, no, no! He came to me in person and asked me how I was feeling. I told Him that I had a body-ache. As I was saying this, I saw Him as Prabhu Ramachandra, Lord Sri Rama with a crown on His head and a bow in His hand! I wanted to bend down and touch His Feet. But I was so weak I could not get up. In a moment, Swami resumed His normal form. Smilingly, softly He materialized *Vibuthi* for me and went away!"

Many devotees around the world have had similar experiences which can come only from an *Avatar*! What is different from, what is different about Sri Sathya Sai *Avatar* is that His power of love brings about transformation of the heart which is the biggest miracle!

Thank you! Sai Ram!