

**Sai Pearls of Wisdom,
Part 45-D**

**TORTURED, PAINFUL SUFFERING
June 12th, 2023**

**Om Sri Sai Ram
Prasanthi Sandesh**

Om Sri Sai Ram

Prasanthi Sandesh, Sai Pearls of Wisdom welcomes you.

Well, we have been learning lessons from Baba's life – the challenges He faced, the tolerance, the forbearance, the courage He had at that tender age. Let me proceed in the same wavelength.

We heard that He was bitten by a scorpion. What is the mystery of the so-called scorpion bite? Was there a scorpion at all? Many of the physicians who treated Him could not find venom in His blood, and their diagnosis boiled down to Raju being emotionally high strung.

As He passed in and out of consciousness, it appeared to all that He was not His own self. But His behaviour was not of that ordinary psychiatric patient either.

For a society steeped in superstition, this was looking more and more like a case of possession. Possession by a spirit for good or for evil, it was not yet clear. The small body was going through rigorous of preparing itself to hold a blessing rarely experienced or recorded in man's long history!

In order to allow the Supreme Will to emerge victorious and to announce its divine presence, the body had to suffer in countless ways, in countless ways. Yes! Raju, our Baba preoccupation continued and the patience of the family soon ran out.

Seshama Raju sent a message from Uravakonda. As you know, Seshama Raju is His brother – that Raju had already been too long out of school. It was time He resumed His studies. His father, His uncle and the wise men of the village were very anxious. Some elders advised a change of place.

A family conclave strongly endorsed the idea that Raju was possessed by a spirit, for His horoscope had revealed this to an aged Pandit in Kadiri. Kadiri is a nearby town. It

is probable that Makineni Venkatasamy, who lived near Kadiri, could have informed Raju's parents about a famous herbal doctor, Muppoor Appaiahswamy, who belongs to the neighbouring village adjacent to Kadiri, Brahmanapalli, who could treat Raju better.

Kondama Raju, the grandfather, was the only one who demurred, advising a longer period of waiting. Nobody bothered to ask the (his) opinion. In accordance with this decision, a huge party of the immediate family left Puttaparthi, taking Raju in a bullock cart driven by the maternal uncle, Chandramouli. They started from Puttaparthi at daybreak travelling through Bukkapatnam and Mudigubba.

Muppoor Appaiahswamy, who specialized in the treatment of mental diseases, had a magnificent reputation for having cured no less than 7 insane people; himself living an austere life like a true Brahmin.

Apparently this determined doctor used rough and ready cures in keeping with physical prowess, and thought that Raju's illness needed drastic measures. For whatever reason, his treatment was torture.

The boy stayed with Muppoor Appaiahswamy for the treatment. To begin, a barber by name Chinna Gorappa, a barber of the neighbouring village, tonsured Him. Raju's hands were tied and He was fastened to a stone pillar. Appaiahswamy made 4 deep X (in two) marks on His head with a knife.

After this, Appaiahswamy took the boy to a nearby place called Bogga, where a stream of water flows all the time and collects in a small well. He was made to sit on the lowest step. A 101 pots of water were picked up and poured on His head from above.

Next, the X mark or in two marks on His head were smeared with a terrible pungent paste made up of pepper powder, lemon juice and garlic, and was rubbed in vigorously. Turmeric powder mixed with castor oil was applied on the top of it. Raju was then returned to Appaiahswamy's home.

There He was made to stand for 1½ hours neck-deep in a pit into which buffalo dung and boiled neem leaves and leaves of various herbs were poured. He was then given a bath and made to lie down. He was covered with thick blanket until He sweated and then collyrium was applied to His eyes. Consequently, His eyes and face were swollen.

A thin iron rod was then heated to redness and the boy was branded with 3 marks behind the neck, 2 on each leg and 2 on each hand. Pills prepared from various roots were given to Him as internal medicine. The boy did not take all the medicines, but secretly gave some of them away to others. See the horrible torture! We cry after going through this note!

The visit to the herbal doctor lasted 2 days. Seeing Raju's swollen face, His sister Venkamma was so distressed that she removed her only earrings and gave them to the

doctor to extricate Raju from the ordeal. Raju asked His relatives to prepare a certain remedy which when applied reduced the swelling.

The escapades of the herbal doctor exasperated Eswaramma. She couldn't understand why her loving son Raju had suddenly taken to weird inexplicable ways. She wished He would return to His former lovable self. To fulfil her wish, the group visited the famous Narasimha Swamy temple in Kadiri, praying for Raju's cure and resumed their journey back to Puttaparthi.

Again a disaster struck! A snake bit Raju. The snake was killed immediately. But Raju resurrected it and chided it to confine itself to its habitat and not come out in the open.

Once back home, they made the sick boy lie down on the veranda while they went inside to refresh themselves.

Raju's head was full of scars, telltale marks of the nightmarish treatment. Many curious visitors had already gathered to see the result of the trip to the doctor. Some expressed concern, while others chuckled in ridicule.

Suddenly a big eagle was noticed circling above the house. The villagers took it as a bad omen and moved it away. The bird then descended and circled closely above Raju's head. Everyone was alarmed watching the bird make 3 circles and fly away. Soon people noticed that Raju's head was clean. The scars had mysteriously disappeared.

None understood the implications or the emerging life pattern in these passing incidents. The family also called Mantra Lakshmana, an occultist from Bukkapatnam, to come and treat Raju. Upon agreeing, he gave the family a long list of things necessary for the treatment. Again Baba pointed out items missing from the list, but did not allow Lakshmana to treat Him.

During this time, Raju was strangely given to violent ways, very uncharacteristic of His nature. He would have tremendous surges, surges of energy and would throw things about. People would try to restrain Him, complained that He was suddenly possessed with great strength. Typical of the times, they pronounced that Raju was possessed!

At Eswaramma's request, his uncle Chandramouli would take care of Him when this happened. Once when people thought Raju was behaving in a crazy manner, they confined Him to a room for a few days. Food was given through the window. Chandramouli felt badly about this and wanted to feed Raju himself.

As you know, Chandramouli is the maternal uncle of Raju, our Baba! Though others protested, Chandramouli opened the door and went inside and was able to feed Him. Yes, after great difficulty!

Witnessing his success in administering the food, the family requested him to give Raju some herbal medicines. This proved more difficult. It would be more difficult with Raju refusing to cooperate. With others physically restraining Him, Chandramouli tried to pour medicine into His mouth.

Raju's hands were held but His legs were free. A flying kick left Chandramouli short of 2 teeth. His face was swollen for many days.

Another day Chandramouli saw Raju levitating along with a small wooden plank on which He was seated. At the time, believing Raju to be possessed, he did not think of the occurrence to be a miraculous one.

For weeks, Raju did not talk to anyone. He behaved like a crazy boy. His head was always bent low. Whenever He got down (from His) cot, He fell down.

But towards the end, one day He said that He had eaten food, and His hand actually smelt of very tasty food. He closed His palm tight and asked all of us to open it. We tried our best, but no one could open it.

Afterwards He opened it Himself. In His hand was a flower, a few coconut pieces, some *Vibuthi* and sugar candy. The elders asked Him why He was behaving in such a manner.

"Tell us who are you?" they asked.

"On Thursday, bathe and clean the house! I will tell you!" said Raju.

But He did not tell us anything that day.

This clearly shows the kind of ordeal, the torture and the suffering that Raju, our beloved Bhagavan, went through in His childhood. They were all the days of challenge and (yet) He could come out without any complaint.

We will continue in the next session.

Thank you for your time.