

**Sai Pearls of Wisdom,
Part 46-C**

**URAVAKONDA EXPERIENCES MIRACLES
July 14th, 2023**

**Om Sri Sai Ram
Prasanthi Sandesh**

Om Sri Sai Ram.

Prasanthi Sandesh, Sai Pearls of Wisdom welcomes you.

Well, after the summer holidays, the school at Uravakonda re-opened for the new session. Raju went along with His brother to the school as if nothing at all had happened. It is only then that He actually attended school. He became the leader of the school prayer, a role He had played since He was a small boy, delighting the teachers with His mellifluous voice. The teachers admired Him and vied with each other to teach in His class – Manchi Raju, Tammi Raju and Mehboob Khan, being especially fond of Him.

Venkamma recalls that Raju was admitted to VIII Standard in the high school at Uravakonda and that His claim of being Sai Baba and the news of His miraculous powers has spread to the people there.

In those days, singing of a prayer composed by Rabindranath Tagore began daily sessions in schools established by Annie Besant of the Theosophical Society. The same prayer was sung in Raju's school also. I will give you the English translation.

*Moment to moment, Thy creation call resounds
Hearing Thy magnanimous words,
Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, Muslims and Christians
Come from the East and West
To Thy throne
Making the Garland of Love
Hail to Thee, Who unites all humanity!*

That's how the song goes – the song which speaks of the unity of religions, peace and tolerance. The basic philosophy of Indian life was destined to become the forerunner of the National Anthem years later.

One Thursday, as Raju was playing and talking to some of His classmates in the worship, He raised His hand and waved yellow coloured rice grains! Yes, usually used for worship – hence regarded as sacramental, fell on the heads of His companions.

Abdul Qadir, the student leader, came to know of it and asked Raju where He had got the rice and how it had emerged from His hand. Raju spread His right palm and pointing it with His left index finger, showed Abdul Qadir the mark of a lotus in the centre of His palm.

Well, on Thursdays, Raju was known as Sai Baba (to) the visitors of His brother's house and later at the house of Anjaneyulu, the Excise Inspector. Raju would go home early on Thursday afternoons with permission from the teachers to get ready for *pooja*. The *pooja* would begin after 5 in the evening and would go until 8 or 9 at night.

Often there were no classes on those afternoons, because most of the teachers, holding Him in high regard, would leave school to attend *pooja*. Often people would seek His counsel, bringing their problems and worries. After *Arathi*, He would materialize *Vibuthi*, sweets and fruit, and distribute them as *prasadam* to the devotees. He also answered questions, most of them before they could be asked!

Even His Headmaster struck by the reigning glow on Raju's face, bowed his head in salutation to Him. Though many gathered at the house for *prasadam*, the Headmaster and teachers like Manchi Raju, Tammi Raju, V C Kondappa and Sesha Iyengar, came to listen and benefit from Raju's spiritual wisdom. Many teachers including Pere Raju, who wrote poems about Him, and H S Venkataramana, named their children after Baba, while some others were afraid and treated Him as a Divine being.

In those days, the people of Uravakonda also felt devotion towards Him and performed rituals, *poojas* and attended *bhajans* in large numbers.

Well, outside of school hours, Raju would advise His classmates how to live a noble life. He would collect a group in Subramanya Temple and teach *bhajans* and songs on Sai Baba of Shirdi. The name Sai Baba of Shirdi thus became a link for the world.

Raju's following was unquestionable. The boys would sometimes neglect their homework, and (were) spending their evenings singing *bhajans* or following Raju. The elders, supported by irate teachers, often punished them for misbehaviour, (and) who were beaten countless times.

K Sitarama Rao, His classmate, would say later that Raju was much scolded by His sister-in-law for neglecting His studies. "You are not even a Brahmin boy like Your friends!" she would shout at Him.

"They at least can ask for alms moving from door to door, whereas You cannot even do that! If You do not study well, how are You going to live?"

Afraid of inciting (the) wrath of the elders, the boys would post one Miran Moinuddin, MOINUDDIN, to act as a watchman whenever they planned a big *bhajan* meet. Even an elder was sighted, Moinuddin would alert the boys and the *bhajans* would end abruptly. For discharging this duty, he would be allowed an extra helping of the day's *prasadam*, earning himself the nickname '*Prasadam Bhakta*', 'devotee of consecrated food'.

Years later, Moinuddin would visit Puttaparthi to have Baba's *darshan*. He stood near a statue and looked at Baba with intense longing. Baba spotted him from a distance, came near and asked, "Is that not '*Prasadam Bhakta*?' When did you come?"

Moinuddin was beside himself with joy, that Baba still remembered him in the old intimate way.

Many would come to seek His help. On one occasion, a Muslim horse-cab driver lost his horse. He was greatly distressed as his livelihood depended on the horse and he would go hungry unless the animal was found. Someone suggested he go to Raju.

When he came there Raju said, "Go to the grove on the outskirts of the town, about a kilometre and a half away. Your horse will be found grazing there!"

The driver did as directed and found the horse as Raju had Himself said that he would.

Well interestingly, a similar episode took place during the times of Sai Baba of Shirdi when another horse-cab driver lost his horse and in a similar fashion, Sai Baba helped the poor man to recover it.

Well, in another incident, a teacher reported the loss of his pen. Raju instantly named a certain servant as the culprit. The teacher protested and vouched for the servant's innocence and honesty. However, he searched the servant's belongings in the latter's absence. The pen was not found, but Raju explained that the servant had sent it to his son in Anantapur, and a detailed enquiry soon confirmed Raju's words.

See, the Divinity is revealed right from the childhood!

Disgusted with his crippled son, secretly took him and left him in a far off place. It's an incident concerning a Brahmin. Later when he felt repentant and looked for the son, he was missing. He went to Raju who told him that in 3 days, he would get news of his son and in 8 days, he would return. As predicted, a letter arrived from a local government officer informing the father that his son had been found and in a week the boy was brought home.

There were a host of such predictions and all turned true. So many people began to perform *pooja bhajans* in His presence. Seshama Raju was not happy about this, for he was anxious that his brother should complete His studies and carve out a career for Himself. He insisted on Raju being formally educated. Raju used to comment that the Telugu *pandit*, His brother, did not know anything about Him.

Raju's teacher, Manchiraju Tammiraju, was greatly drawn towards Him. Raju would answer his questions on philosophy which also brought the other teachers to Him. On Thursday, Raju told them to ask questions. There was a great commotion as the teachers vied with one another to ask questions. Like an adept scholar, Raju answered all their questions.

H S Venkataramana was a science teacher and Assistant Headmaster at the Uravakonda school. His eminence in teaching earned him the President Award. He scorned and challenged Raju's claim to Divinity.

Raju was unruffled and told him in His inimitable gentle voice, "Conduct any experiment or test that you like. Then decide whether to believe or not to believe!"

Then Venkataramana took a coconut and said, "I will break this coconut now! Can You tell me how it will break?"

Raju said, "It will break into 5 pieces!"

When Venkataramana broke the coconut, there were exactly 5 pieces. Even then, he didn't have faith in young Raju.

Once, he was suffering from an acute stomach-ache which no doctor could cure. Some of the teachers suggested that he go to Raju who by that time has started to cure diseases. Venkataramana's stubborn pride did not allow him to go to his student.

When his wife approached Raju, He asked her, "How is your husband's stomach-ache?" Materializing some *Vibuthi* and giving it to her, that very moment Venkataramana's stomach-ache disappeared. Finally convinced, he changed his attitude and became Raju's foremost disciple. Many others followed and became devotees as well.

The Headmaster, T Lakshmipathy maintained stringent discipline and as a teacher, was very systematic. Being a devoted man, he held *bhajans* in his house every Sunday. His daughter Lalitha would recall that Raju attended the sessions and took the lead in singing.

"His song '*Karunakara Karunincharava...Karunakara Karunincharava*' still rings in my ears! The whole day was spent in *Upasana*, and in the evenings there was *pooja*. He even materialized a rose for my mother. I went to school with Raju and played with Him in the evenings."

Raju's bountiful acts of Grace had begun. He would bless the sick with *Vibuthi Prasadam* and they were cured. To dispel the doubts that He was none other than Sai Baba of Shirdi reborn, He would often materialize not only pieces of the robe or *kafni* wore by Sai Baba of Shirdi, but also pictures of Him!"

On Thursdays, Bhimdela Hanumantha Reddy, one of Raju's classmates, wanted to talk to Him. Although he waited for long time, Raju did not look at him. In his anger, he threw at Raju whatever came to his hand.

When the Headmaster heard of this incident, he had Reddy's food stopped in the hostel as punishment for his outrageous offense. This came to the notice of Abdul Qadir, the student leader.

How Swami pardoned him, we will know in the next session!

Sai Ram!