

**Sai Pearls of Wisdom,
Part 47-B**

**AVATAR DECLARATION
August 20th, 2023**

**Om Sri Sai Ram
Prasanthi Sandesh**

Om Sri Sai Ram

Sai Pearls of Wisdom – Prasanthi Sandesh welcomes you.

Seshama Raju's wife, Susheelamma, in the month of October, went to her native place because schools were closed at that time. She went to her mother's house in Kamalapuram with their two young children. Raju and His brother stayed behind in Uravakonda.

One day, there was a telegram for Seshama Raju saying, "Baby serious! Come immediately with Sathyam!"

They were having lunch when the telegram arrived. Instantly, Raju went into trance. When He opened His eyes He said, "She will be alright by the time we reach Kamalapuram!"

This proved correct for the child was playing when they reached Kamalapuram that evening. His wife explained, "At 11'o clock in the morning, a *Sadhu* came! He must have just got down from Bombay – Madras train, for He said that He came from Shirdi. He gave *Vibuthi* and blessed the child who became well again soon enough!"

Seshama Raju remembered His brother's trance exactly at that time in Uravakonda and knew who the *Sadhu* was! Raju stayed for some days in Kamalapuram, where many had the chance to see some of His miraculous powers!

Well, after they returned to Uravakonda, the Deputy Inspector of Schools, the Health Inspector, the Public Works Engineer, some Municipal Councillors and Businessmen of Hospet, HOSPET, near Hampi sent a joint invitation to Seshama Raju to make a trip to their city with his famous brother. Seshama Raju, taking advantage of the Dasara holidays, decided to visit Hampi with a big party.

B C Kondappa accompanied Baba in this trip. At his insistence, a photograph of Raju was taken in Hospet. It shows Raju as a simple lad, wearing a four-cubic dhoti and half-sleeve shirt, with cropped hair, sitting on a chair.

Raju, as Baba, would recall in later years. “While I was in Uravakonda, the Municipal Chairman of Bellary, Rama Raju, came to see Me!”

He told Seshama Raju, “We shall take this boy to Bellary and keep Him with us during the holidays!”

He added, “Seshama Raju, you treat this lad as an ordinary boy? That is not so! The effulgence on His face and His purity have moved my heart! There is Divine effulgence within Him. Don’t be deluded! You may also come with me and stay with us!” said the Municipal Chairman of Bellary.

“The Municipal Chairman took us to Hampi. Do not consider what I am going to say now as something boastful, fanciful or exaggerated!” Baba said.

The entire party went into Virupaksha temple!

“If I had said I would not come with them into the temple, others might feel angry or offended. I said I had stomach-ache and did not wish to go into the temple!”

“All the members of the party, including Tammi Raju, went in. They were about 40 or 60 persons. Rama Raju was thinking only of God and nothing else! He entreated Me repeatedly to come with him. I was very small boy then! He held both My hands and pleaded, ‘Please come!’ But seeing My firm resolve, He did not press further.”

“Inside the temple, *Arathi* was being offered to the deity Virupaksha. But the idol was not there! Only I was in the shrine!”

Seeing this, Seshama Raju was angry. He thought that having refused to enter the temple, I had surreptitiously entered and taken the idol’s place. This he felt was gross sacrilege. The Municipal Chairman, however, did not think in that manner at all. He felt Raju is Virupaksha and Virupaksha is Raju.

“Seshama Raju came out of the temple and found Me sitting there. He was all suspicious. He sent someone inside to find out whether I was there, while he himself stayed outside to keep a watch over Me outside. I was inside the temple as well as outside! Seshama Raju felt very happy internally, but he did not speak to Me about it, treating it as a unique experience for himself!”

This experience is known to many people indicating that Swami is everywhere. When He visited Virupaksha temple, while He was outside the temple, He was also noticed inside the temple at the altar.

Well, Baba went on to narrate. “Then they brought Me to Bellary. While staying there for a few days, the Municipal Chairman introduced Me to various officers, speaking highly about Me! I was not addressed as Swami in those days, but only as Raju. Some of the officers seemed to feel that the Chairman was making much of a small boy like Me and even tried to make fun of it.”

“Before bringing Me to Bellary, the Municipal Chairman got a shirt and a pair of shorts made for Me. I am so small even now! You can imagine how much shorter I was then! In those days, it was fashionable for young boys to have a pin for their shirt collar. The Municipal Chairman wondered what else to give Me besides clothes. He went to goldsmith and had a gold collar pin made for Me in an hour.”

Pinning it on My shirt he said, “Raju, You should remember me whenever You wear this pin!”

We returned to Uravakonda by bus. Two days later, the school reopened. I was going to school. On the way, the collar pin fell from the shirt! It could not be found.

Then I sang a song, “The loss of the collar pin freed Me from the attachment to worldly things!” I sang. This is the meaning of the song that He composed then, in Telugu.

*“While going to school,
After returning from Hampi,
Baba’s collar pin could not be found.
That was the day of transformation!”*

The loss of the pin was the cause of a big change.

I quote: “The link with worldly ties had gone in the form of the pin. The pilgrimage to Hampi also served its purpose. Freedom from *Maya* was attained!”

“That day...” Baba continues, “I left home! Attachment to worldly objects is a kind of *Maya*. When these objects are given up, there is freedom from *Maya*!”

Raju returned to Uravakonda from Hampi, making a clear path straight to the house of His teacher, Tammi Raju, who would speak thus of the event.

I quote, “With Him, came the Commissioner and his wife, Narasa Raju, and a large number of others, totalling more than 25 persons.

He called out to Koteswaramma, “*Ammayi*, give all these people tiffin snack and coffee!”

The poor lady was taken aback. She looked at Raju in fear, for the quantity of food and the drink was grossly insufficient.

Raju said, “Don’t worry! The tiffin will suffice. Serve these people first!”

“My wife started distributing! It sufficed for the entire party and for our family too! See the miracle! How the limited food got multiplied enough for the people who gathered there as per instructions of Bhagavan!”

The next day was the 20th of October. Raju appeared to be lost in reverie right from the morning. However, He managed to get ready for school. Narasimha Das and Subbu Ratnamma accompanied Him to school.

Young Raju was strangely pre-occupied. Half way through the school day, His spirit revolted and the decisive break from the normal life took place. He returned home, threw down His school books and dramatically exclaimed, “I am no longer your Sathya! I am Sai!”

Susheelamma, His sister-in-law who had been busy with the grinding stone, came out from the kitchen. She saw this dramatic gesture and was curious. Before she could investigate what happened, she was almost blinded by a strange radiance that she witnessed behind the young boy’s head. She closed her eyes and shrieked.

Raju addressed her, “I am going! I don’t belong to you! *Maya* has gone! My devotees are calling Me! I have My work! I cannot stay any longer!” And so saying, He turned back and left in spite of her pleading.

Seshama Raju hurried home on hearing all this.

Raju told him, “Give up all your efforts to cure Me! I am Sai! I do not consider Myself related to you!”

Neighbour Sri Narayana Shastri heard the noise. He listened and realizing His unusual seriousness, he ran in. The bewildered Susheelamma entreated Narayana Shastri to talk to Raju and find out what had happened. Narayana Shastri saw the splendour of the halo and fell at Baba’s Feet.

He too heard the historic declaration, “*Maya* has left! I am going! My work is waiting!”

According to Seshama Raju, I quote: “I was coming off and on at certain times to *Abbayi* (meaning the boy, referring to Raju) these days. Here after, I am He!

Seshama Raju then knew that Raju was now fully Sai Baba and no longer His brother!

Seshama Raju was stupefied, “What was this new thing happening now? Raju had already created enough problems and now there was this new story of devotees and work for humanity!”

There was so little time and so much to do! Raju with His wily and enigmatic ways might suddenly decide to go somewhere out of reach. His parents has entrusted Raju to his care. Somehow, he had to contain Him until the parents could come.

Raju moved out of the garden of the Excise Inspector's bungalow and sat on a rock in the midst of the trees. People came into the garden from all directions, bringing flowers and fruits. The place was resounded with the voices of followers, singing in chorus the lines that Raju taught them.

The first prayer He taught them was, as many still remember,

***'Manasa Bhajorey Guru Charanam
Dustara Bhava Sagara Taranam'***

*Mediate, O mind on the Feet of the Guru!
It can take you across the difficult sea of worldly life!*

That's what we call 'Avatar Declaration Day,' October 20th, 1940.

Many believe this school incident to be the first time when Raju revealed His identity as Sai Baba and He was called a great Guru! Hence the second incident is considered Grand Declaration!

Thank you for your time. We shall meet again.