
MAHIMA YAMUNA

(Miracles done by Shri Datta Swami)

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HIS HOLINESS SHRI DATTA SWAMI

CONTENTS

SHRI DATTA SWAMI—A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY	1
SIGNIFICANCE OF MIRACLES	14
Introduction	14
Need for Miracles	15
Swami—The Performer of Miracles.....	22
THE GREATEST MIRACLE—HEALTH THROUGH KNOWLEDGE	28
Scholar in Distress	28
Swami’s Explanation	29
DIVINE VISIONS	31
First Miracle	31
Swami as Lord Datta	31
Atma Lingam (Wave of Radiation)	36
Vishwarupa—the Cosmic Form of the Lord	37
Swami as Lord Brahma	38
Swami as Lord Krishna	39
Swami as Lord Rama.....	40
Swami as Lord Narasimha.....	41
Swami as Lord Venkateshwara.....	41
Swami as Lord Padmanabha.....	43
Swami as Lord Shiva.....	43
Swami as the Divine Mother	44
Swami as Shri Shirdi Sai Baba	44
Swami as Shri Satya Sai Baba	47
Swami as Shri Narasimha Saraswati	48
Swami as Adi Shankaracharya	48
Swami as the Sun.....	49
Appearing in Different Places Simultaneously.....	49
Other Visions	51
GREAT SOULS RECOGNIZE SWAMI	54
Great Sage Reveals Swami’s Identity.....	54
Whom Angels Fail to Recognize	55
Midnight Meeting with Goddess Kali	55

Shri Ganapathi Sachidananda Swami	56
Divine Lady Sees Swami	56
Eight Incarnations of Lord Datta	57
MIRACULOUS HEALINGS	58
Raising the Dead	58
Swami Cures Brain Hemorrhage	59
Curing a Peculiar Disease	60
Curing Paralysis	60
Saving a Boy	61
Curing Headaches	61
Swami Cures Many	62
PROTECTOR OF DEVOTEES	67
Guardian in Badari	67
Giving and Protecting Jobs	67
Preventing Accidents	68
Devotees Escape the Bombing of Iraq	69
Controlling the Sun	69
Swami Brings Rains	70
Protection in Cyclones	71
Converting Loss into Profit	72
Stopping Devotee's Transfer	72
Legal Help	73
Karate Lesson	73
DEVOTEES TEST SWAMI	74
Who is the Fool?	74
Saint Tests Swami	85
More Tests	86
OTHER MIRACLES	89
Fragrance From the Lord	89
Prophecies Come True	92
More Miracles	94

Chapter 1

SHRI DATTA SWAMI—A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

H. H. Shri Datta Swami is a complete incarnation of the Lord (Pari Purna Avatara). He has come to this world to preach Divine Knowledge to mankind. In the past incarnations of the Lord, this wonderful Divine Knowledge was not revealed to its fullest extent. Today, more than ever, there is a real need for this wonderful Divine Knowledge. The situation is rather peculiar. People are not ignorant about the true knowledge. They are highly intelligent. Their minds have been sharpened by the advancement in science and technology. They know the truth but they do not like it. They want to reach the true goal by the false and convenient path. For this purpose they have twisted the meaning of the scriptures. Humanity stands divided by a number of religions and religious sects. Therefore there is a dire need at present, for Lord Datta Himself to come down and reveal the true knowledge to the wonderful people. He has come in the form of His Holiness Shri Datta Swami to give this Divine and special knowledge to us.

Birth of a Great Soul

Ancient history of Nagulvaram. In the south Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, in Guntur district, Vinukonda taluk, is a small village called Nagulavaram. This place has an ancient history. Thousands of years ago, the illustrious and righteous King Parikshit, of the Pandava dynasty, ruled India. In a moment of weakness, he once insulted a sage called Shamika. The sage's son, Shringi, cursed the king to die within seven days from the bite of a snake. Parikshit realized his mistake, since there was no sin greater than insulting a sage of the stature of Shamika.

Faced with his impending death, the king was filled with renunciation. He left his family and kingdom and went to the forest in the refuge of Sage Shuka, who preached the Holy Bhagavatam to him. The news of the imminent death of Parikshit sent tremors among the wise ones. The great sage, Kashyapa, rushed to the rescue of the king. In the meanwhile Takshaka, the serpent king was dispatched by the heavenly executives to deliver the fatal bite to Parikshit and fulfill the curse of Shringi.

Takshaka, knew that he would be unable to kill the king if Sage Kashyapa were protecting him. He made up his mind to seek blessings of

success from the sage and dissuade him from protecting the king. He met the sage in what is now the village of Nagulvaram. In the past, this village was the abode of snakes. Takshaka respectfully received Sage Kashyapa and gave a cow in donation to him. He requested the great sage to not protect King Parikshit. The king had committed a sin and Shringi's cursed had to be fulfilled otherwise it would be a violation of the Law of Dharma (justice). Sage Kashyapa finally agreed with Takshaka. He blessed Takshaka and went his way.

King Parikshit was immersed in the devotion of the Lord by listening to the Holy Bhagavatam preached by Shuka. He had given up all his worldly attachments. When Takshaka came to deliver the fatal bite, Parikshit was prepared. He attained salvation.

Swami's ancestors. In the same village of Nagulwaram, in recent times, lived a devout Brahmin (priest) called Sri Koteswara Sastry. He belonged to the lineage (gotra) of the same Sage Kashyapa. He spent his entire life repeating the name of the Lord (Rama nama japam). Even when he passed away, the name of the Lord alone was on his lips and his fingers were counting the rosary. His second son, Sri Veerabhadra Shastry is a poet in Sanskrit and Telugu and has written more than a hundred books in telugu. He is also a great astrologer. His wife is called Hanumayamma.

Two distant cousins of Sri Veerabhadra Shastry, were evil sorcerers. They were skilled in black magic and had terrorized the whole village. They had the power to kill people with a mere look or the utterance of certain words or mantras. They used to worship ghosts, evil forces and demons. Cemeteries and cremation grounds used to be their haunts. According to some people's estimate, they had killed hundreds of people including over three hundred children, using their evil powers. They were sworn enemies of Sri Veerabhadra Shastry and had cast an evil spell on Sri Veerabhadra Shastry's family that his lineage may come to an end. As a result of the spell, seven children in the joint family, which included Sri Veerabhadra Shastry and his two brothers, had died.

The eighth child. When Hanumayamma was pregnant with the eighth child in the extended family of Sri Veerabhadra Shastry, there was a lot of anxiety for the survival of the infant. On Sunday, phalgun shukla vidiya, in the early hours of the 4th part of uttarabhadra, makara lagna, vyaya year, (February 24th 1947) a Son was born to Shri Veerabhadra Shastry and Hanumayamma. As soon as He was born, the two evil sorcerers, who had tried to destroy the family of Sri Veerabhadra Shastry, died all of a sudden. The two sorcerers were paternal uncles of the newborn Child. With their death, the evil influence on the family and the entire

village ended. The Child was not christened (namakarana) till the age of 7 years because the family was still afraid that the Child may not survive; the earlier seven children had died only after they were christened. Little did the family know that this Boy was none other than the Lord Himself and that He would be known as Swami (master, Lord) or Datta Swami in the future. There are several parallels between the life of Lord Krishna and Swami. Lord Krishna was the eighth child of his parents. Swami was the eighth child in His family. Lord Krishna's maternal uncle was a very cruel king and had killed the elder siblings of Lord Krishna along with innumerable innocent people. In Swami's case, it was His two paternal uncles who were cruel and had killed Swami's elder siblings and cousins apart from hundreds of other villagers. Owing to the similarities between Lord Krishna, and Swami, His paternal aunt named him as "Venugopala Krishna Murthy".

Early Life

Swami the prankster. As Swami grew up to be a young boy, He brought life and enthusiasm in His family and the whole village. His enchanting pranks at once entertained and exasperated His parents. His mischief was very similar to that of Lord Krishna. Like Lord Krishna, Swami too was fond of butter and curd. He too would collect a band of village kids and sneak into neighbors' homes to steal butter and curd. His whole day would be spent in playing with His band of friends, teasing villagers and breaking their earthen pots. His friends adored Him and considered Him as their leader. In spite of His incessant mischief, He was the heart-throb of the entire village. Occasionally, some villager would complain to Swami's parents about His being a perfect menace. But on the whole they tolerated and even enjoyed His pranks.

Another reason why the villagers tolerated Swami's mischief was that Swami's family was greatly respected in the village. Their ancestors were landlords in the village. The elder brother of Sri Veerabhadra Shastry, (Swami's paternal uncle) was an Ayurvedic doctor and a very generous and compassionate man. He would treat many poor villagers free of charge. He was almost like the village headman to them. Any new person visiting the village was automatically a respected guest of Swami's family. Therefore the villagers did not mind if a little boy from that family did some mischief at their expense.

Swami's upanayanam. When Swami turned seven, just a few days after His christening ceremony (namakarana), His father decided that it was about time that his son got a little serious. With a view to reduce the

mischievous of Swami and instill some discipline in Him, His father performed the upanayanam ceremony for Swami. The upanayanam is the initiation of a child into the traditional study of the scriptures. A large ceremony was performed and food was distributed to the entire village. After the upanayanam, Swami's father started teaching Sanskrit to Swami. He started by teaching eight verses from the epic, Raghuvamsha of Kalidasa. But from the ninth verse onwards, Swami started revealing the meanings of Sanskrit verses without any further teaching. This happened when Swami was seven years of age. The father was taken aback by the extraordinary talent of his seven-year-old son. However he was worried and thought that Swami was possessed by a 'Brahma Rakshasa', the ghost of a scholarly demon, and that as a result, Swami could suddenly expound the Sanskrit epic without any prior study. His father performed several rituals and the chanting of mantras (sacred hymns) so that Swami might get rid of the 'Brahma Rakshasa'. He had no idea of the divinity of his son. When Swami related this to His devotees, many years later, He jokingly said that His father did not know which 'ghost' had possessed Him. Swami said that He was possessed by Lord Datta, whose original form is described as that of a ghost called 'Avadhuta Datta Digambara Pishacha Rupa'. Lord Datta in this form is Lord Shiva, who is known as the ruler of all ghosts.

Swami the extraordinary. Thereafter, Swami began composing shlokas (verses) in Sanskrit on His own. The ancient and intricate Sanskrit language gushed forth from Swami's pen. Swami started writing poems, epics, stotrams (paean) and philosophical books in hundreds. Sanskrit scholars were dumbfounded seeing the compositions of Swami when He was barely eleven years old. Great scholars like Sri M. Satyanarayana Sastry and Sri Tatacharya compared the works of Swami to those of the legendary Kalidasa. Sri Vavilala Venkateswara Sastry, a great philosopher, appreciated Swami extensively. Sri. D. Prabhakara Sastry and Sri. J. Venkateswara Sastry recognized that Swami's genius was out of the ordinary. They realized that it was not genius but it was Divinity.

Swami the astrologer. From the age of ten, Swami used to tell the future. Initially, people thought that He must have inherited some of His father's astrological skills. However two incidents convinced people of Swami's divinity rather than astrological skills. Once when Swami was present by His father's side, a farmer from the neighboring village of Kookatlapally, came to them and invited them to his daughter's wedding. Swami suddenly said that the bride would die immediately after the wedding. Everyone in Swami's family was shocked. They scolded Swami for making such an outrageous statement. The farmer, who had come to

invite them, was speechless. Yet he proceeded with the wedding of his daughter. After the wedding was over and when the bride prostrated before her in-laws, to receive their blessings, as per tradition, she immediately fell down dead. This incident became the talk of the town.

Another incident took place when Swami went to visit His uncle in Kundurti. In His uncle's house, Swami took a diary and wrote that His aunt would pass away due to cholera on a particular date. He signed the same with the date of prediction. On the predicted day, Swami's aunt died of cholera. Swami's uncle had not seen the note that Swami had made and signed in the diary and came to know of it only later on.

Swami the student. Swami was exceptionally brilliant in His studies. He completed His bachelor's degree at the age of sixteen and proceeded to the prestigious Allahabad University for His masters and PhD. During His five-year stay in Allahabad, He would wake up at 3.00 am every morning and walk to the holy river, Ganga (Ganges) to perform severe penance. He would first bathe in the holy waters. Then He would make a mud idol in the form of a Shiva Lingam, hold it in His left hand and shower it with the holy water of the Ganga with His right hand. This, He would do standing on one leg in the water till 7.00 am. At the end of it, Swami would immerse the mud idol in the river and proceed to the university to attend classes and do His research. Every full moon day (pournima), Swami would go to the holy city of Varanasi (Banaras) which is just a few hours away from Allahabad. There, He would worship Lord Shiva by performing the Rudrabhishekam.

By the age of seventeen, Swami had completed His Masters degree in chemistry. He continued working towards a PhD. Swami worked in the laboratory for His PhD for only thirty days and completed His thesis in a few months after joining the PhD program. His thesis was titled "A New Supersonic Technique for Metallurgical Testing". It was a very short thesis and contained only thirty pages. Swami was inspired by Newton and Einstein, whose ground breaking theses in their time, were very short. Swami did not want to submit a watered down thesis running into hundreds of pages; He instead wanted a short, power-packed thesis with an original idea. His professors were extremely impressed with Swami's thesis, His original work, and His brilliance as a researcher. However they could not accept His thesis that soon. The university had a rule that the minimum time frame for the completion of a PhD degree should be twenty months. Swami was obliged to wait for that period before He could submit His thesis.

Swami the Vedic scholar. Swami spent this time, enacting another divine drama in this world. It was a particularly important phase of His life from the point of view of His Divine Mission on earth. He would go to the university every morning but not to the chemistry department; He would go to the G. N. Jha Research Institute, which was in the campus. In this famous institute there are hundreds of thousands of original palm-leaf manuscripts of ancient philosophical texts including the Vedas, Brahmasutras, Bhagavad Gita and commentaries of great ancient masters on the scriptures. Swami would study them all day. His colleagues in the chemistry department would joke that His admission to the chemistry department was a mere formality; He was always to be found in the G. N. Jha Research Institute. They would add that Swami was not a research scholar in chemistry but a scholar in Sanskrit and philosophy.

The director of the G. N. Jha Research Institute was Dr. Umesh Mishra, a great scholar and a spiritually advanced soul. He was the ex-vice chancellor of the Sanskrit University of Darbhanga. He was a purva mimamsaka (ritualist) by belief. He had once performed the ashwamedha yajna (fire ritual involving a divine horse) in Darbhanga. During the ritual a divine horse had actually appeared in the fire altar. Dr. Mishra was able to take a photograph of the horse. While studying the ancient manuscripts in the G. N. Jha Institute, Swami would get into scholarly spiritual debates with Dr. Mishra.

These debates were a recapitulation of the same great debate that had ensued between Lord Adi Shankaracharya and the great ritualistic scholar Mandana Mishra. Lord Shankara's point of view was theistic and consisted in accepting God as the Creator and Controller of creation. Mandana Mishra's point of view was that human effort and actions yield proportional results independently and that there was no need to bring God into the picture. The historic debate had lasted twenty one days and finally Mandana Mishra had accepted Lord Shankara's point of view. He totally surrendered to Lord Shankara and became His disciple. Mandana Mishra later became famous as Sureshwara.

Likewise, in the debate between Swami and Dr. Mishra, Dr. Mishra finally accepted Swami's point of view. He even gave a certificate signed by him to Swami, accepting that Swami's point was correct. During His stay in Allahabad, Swami would also engage in debates and discussions with many other great scholars.

There is a reputed Vedantic philosophical magazine published in Varanasi, called Prabha. Swami wrote an article in it on the commentary of a particular Brahmasutra. The Brahmasutras are condensed aphorisms

which contain the entire Vedic knowledge in them. However interpreting and understanding the Brahma Sutras is very difficult since it requires a comprehensive and fully assimilated knowledge of the entire Vedas. Only the most advanced students of Vedanta are able to study the Brahmasutras. Swami wrote the article on the Brahmasutra (1.1.4), “*tat tu samanvayat*”. He gave one hundred interpretations of the term ‘*tu*’. His article was so exceptional that it transcended the level of usual scholarly Vedantic writing. Impressed by this article, Sri Karapatra Swami, the head monk-teacher (Pithadhipati) of the sacred seat of learning at Varanasi (Kashi Pitham), invited the young Swami to take up monkhood (sanyasa) and become the next head monk-teacher (Pithadhipati) of the Kashi Pitham. Varanasi is the holiest city of the Hindus. It is where the scriptures have been taught, preserved and propagated from generation to generation for several thousand years. It is the abode of the greatest scholars and saints in India. The opportunity of becoming the head monk of this ancient and sacred seat of learning, is extremely rare and prestigious. Swami was offered this position, when He was not even out of His teens. However, when His father came to know about this, he did not accept the offer. Swami was his eldest son. He was not going to let his eldest son become a monk. He wanted Swami to carry on the name of his family. It is indeed our good fortune that Swami did not take the offer at that time. Otherwise we would not have had the opportunity to know Him so closely and live with Him.

Swami upholds Sanatana Dharma. In India, a sacred event called the Mahakumbha Mela is celebrated at certain holy places. It is an event with astronomical significance and it occurs every 12 years. At this time, over a million people congregate at these holy spots to have a ritual bath in the holy waters. It is also the time when great scholars, sages and holy men come out of seclusion and interact with each other. Rare jewels of Divine Knowledge are exchanged. At the time of the Mahakumbha Mela in Prayag (Allahabad), situated on the confluence of the three holy rivers, Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati, a heated argument took place between the followers of Arya Samaj and those of Sanatana Dharma. Both are sects of Hinduism. Arya Samaj believes in Formless God (Nirakara) whereas the Sanatanas believe in God having form (Sakara) and God coming down as a human incarnation (Naravata). At the age of 16, Swami entered the debate on the side of the Sanatanas. He argued with the great scholars of Arya Samaj in Sanskrit. Following is an excerpt from that argument:

Swami: Do you believe that the Lord is Omnipotent?

Arya Samaj: Yes, all religions accept this.

Swami: Then you would also accept that He has the power or ability to come down as a human incarnation so that devotees can see, talk and interact with Him. When sincere devotees yearn for serving and interacting with Him, He fulfills their desire and takes a human incarnation.

Arya Samaj: No, interaction such as talking, seeing and living with Him would be possible only if He were to have a form. The Vedas say that He has no form (“*nastiya pratima*”, “*arupam*”). They also say that He cannot be seen with one’s eyes (“*nacakshusha*”). These quotations clearly prove that God is formless. Therefore it is not possible to interact with Him.

Swami: However, the Vedas also say elsewhere that the Lord is available to direct perception (“*yat sakshat aparokshat brahma*”, “*pratyag atmanam aikshat*”). The Vedas thus testify that one can see the Lord with one’s own eyes. What you call formless is not the Lord but the undefined power of the Lord. It is true that the Lord is beyond any form and beyond the reach of the mind and intellect. Yet the same God created the universe which has form. Every religion agrees to the fact that the Lord is Omniscient (all-knowing) and Omnipotent (all-powerful). If it is true that He is Omnipotent, then He, who is beyond all forms, can take up any form by His Will. If there is even a single form that He cannot take up, then He is not all-powerful. Therefore the Lord can take up even the human form. He can take up a human form and come to earth as a human being—the human incarnation of God or an Avatara. Not only that He can do so, but He has also done so in every age and continues to do so even today.

Arya Samaj: Even if it is accepted that He could take up a form if He so wished, we argue that He does not need to take a form. Why would He, who is beyond all forms, need to take a form, and a human form at that?

Swami: The answer to this is simple. He comes to the world for the sake of His devotees. The devotee is a jivatma (soul with subtle body) ‘wearing’ the physical body and living in a physical world. Such a human individual can perceive only physical things on earth. He has five senses, which are his only means to knowledge or perception. No being can perceive the Lord in His absolute nature, since He is beyond the reach of the mind and beyond form. However God appears in each world (or plane of existence) in a form that is perceptible to jivatmas in that world. The human

being, who is in this world, cannot perceive the Lord in His Cosmic Form or in the different energetic bodies that He takes up in the upper worlds. When the jivatma leaves the physical body in death, it goes to the upper worlds (heaven or hell). Here it takes up an energetic body. In the upper worlds the physical body is replaced by the energetic body, which becomes the medium of interaction in those worlds. Being in the energetic body, the jivatma is able to perceive the energetic body of the Lord in the upper world. However while jivatmas are on earth they possess physical bodies and hence can perceive only other physical objects and bodies. For humans on earth the energetic body of God is generally too subtle to be perceived.

Only human beings who perform penance for a long time can see the energetic body in visions in this world. In these cases too, the energetic body of the Lord has to be intensified so that those humans can perceive them. The intensified body does not remain for long and disappears by diffusion in a short while. Such energetic bodies cannot live and talk with us for a long time and cannot be touched by us.

When human beings who are extremely devoted to God, yearn for Him, the Lord, in all His compassion comes down in human form to satisfy His devotees. In the human form alone, can the devotee serve the Lord, feed Him, live with Him, talk to Him and love Him fully. One cannot serve, love, or talk to the Lord in the Cosmic Form, as the Formless Power or God in an energetic body. The only other option for a human is worshipping an idol, which is not the Lord but represents Him. It is like a person separated from his or her loved one, holding the photograph of his beloved to his heart. The photograph is not the same as the loved one but it represents the loved one and offers a means to approach that, which is otherwise inaccessible. The representative idol or picture of the Lord is not the same as the Lord. You may pretend that you are feeding the idol, decorating it, loving it and so on. However worship done to the idol can never reach the Lord. The idol or image being inanimate cannot respond to that worship or devotion. Thus in reality, you have no opportunity to serve, worship, decorate or praise the Lord as the Formless One, in an energetic body or in the form of an idol. No matter how devoted you are, you can never attain fulfillment in your devotion and worship. You can never be satisfied by your worship. The

only way that you can actually serve, worship, love, talk and sing to the Lord is when He comes down as a human incarnation (Avatara).

In any case you (followers of Arya Samaj) do not accept idol worship since worshipping idols is not the same as worshipping God. However what you need to understand is that worshipping God as the Formless One is not a better option either since the Formless is also not God; it is His Formless power. Worshipping the Formless is also representative worship and in that sense is no different from idol worship.

In fact, one cannot worship God in any way other than through a medium. The human body of a human incarnation of the Lord is a medium to worship Him. However from the point of view of humans, it is far superior to any other medium that the Lord takes up, since interaction, service and direct worship is possible only through the human body of the incarnation.

The Lord has the power to come in human form and He comes in human form. Devotees desire such a form. Who are you to come between the Lord and His devotees? If you cannot accept the human form, you are free to not worship it. You can continue to worship the formless aspect of God such as energy or formless space. But keep in mind that it is not direct worship of the Lord. You are only worshipping the power of God and not God Himself. It is mere representative worship; the formless aspect is only the power of God. When the devotees worship the Lord in human form, they worship God directly. The human incarnation is said to be God-in-flesh.

With this argument the proponents of Arya Samaj fell silent.

Swami the unifier of the three philosophies. Once, Swami had a debate with the head monk of the monistic tradition (Advaita Matha Pithadhipati), on the Brahmasutra commentary (bhashya). The monistic tradition to which the Pithadhipati belonged asserts that the individual who seeks God is already the Lord Himself. There is no essential difference between the Lord and the individual soul. It is only an apparent difference. Due to Ignorance (Maya) the individual has forgotten his real nature. With the right knowledge each individual will realize that he is the Lord Himself and that the Ignorance never existed.

Following is an excerpt from the debate that Swami had with the Pithadhipati:

Pithadhipati: In the Chandogya Upanishad (in the Vedas), the father blessed his son, Shvetaketu saying “*Tat-tvam-asi*” (you are That). This means that the individual (the son) is already, the Lord (Brahman). Shvetaketu was an ordinary individual. Is there any contradiction in the fact that an ordinary individual (jiva) can be called the Lord (Brahman)?

Swami: ‘*Asi*’ is the verb in the sentence quoted above. It commonly means ‘to be’. Therefore you interpreted the above sentence as an identity—the individual is identical with the Lord. However, in this case, the verb ‘*asi*’ is used in a slightly different sense. It is used in the sense of ‘shortly going to become’. As per Sanskrit grammar, the present tense can be used to indicate the imminent future (avyavahita bhavishyati lat). The sentence shows the intensity of love of the father who is also the preacher in this case. Thus the father in the above context tells his son that the son will shortly become one with the Lord. The father means that the son will soon have God realization.

As Swami said this, the Pithadhipati saw Swami as Lord Dattatreya (the Lord as the Creator, Sustainer and the Destroyer of creation). He felt exceedingly happy and said to Swami that He alone was capable of unifying the three philosophical traditions (trimata bhashyas). The Vedas are the Hindu scriptures and the revealed Word of God. There are three schools of interpreting the Vedas. The three schools are called the monistic (advaita), qualified monistic (vishishtadvaita) and dualistic (dvaita) schools. Although all the three schools place the final authority in the same Vedas, they have very different views on basic philosophical concepts relating to God, the spiritual goal and the spiritual path. Centuries have passed but no successful effort has been made to unify the three philosophies. It seemed a task beyond the capacities of any human being. Swami achieved this great task by writing works in Sanskrit such as ‘Trimata Samanvaya Bhashyam’.

Swami gets a doctoral degree. At the age of 19, Swami obtained a Ph.D. in chemistry, which is a record of sorts. He was invited for a postdoctoral fellowship position in Ohio State University, USA, but Swami refused it since He did not want to travel abroad. He instead accepted a one-year senior research fellowship granted by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), in Allahabad. After that, Swami took up another appointment as a postdoctoral researcher in Madras University.

Swami the professor. At the age of 30, Swami became a professor in chemistry. He leads a simple life as a professor in K. L. Engineering

College, Vijayawada, India. He has published many original research papers in internationally acclaimed journals. He is a rare combination of a scientist and a spiritual genius. He is a strong proponent of a rational approach to spirituality. In His eyes, science and religion are not different. In fact, He says that a rationalist can easily be a spiritualist.

Swami lives with His wife, Smt. Jayalakshmi Narasakumary. His three sons are named, Anjaneya, Veerabhadra and Vatsararushi. His youngest child is a daughter by the name of Hanumayamma. While living in the world, Swami, teaches Divine Knowledge to devotees and ordinary people.

Swami among ordinary people.

In the earlier part of His life, Swami used to engage in talks, discussions and debates with scholars well versed in Sanskrit and Vedanta alone. However in the latter part of His life, He turned His attention to the common man. He wanted to uplift the lives of normal people living and struggling in the world. He wrote several books such as 'Datta Vedam', 'Upanishad', 'Datta Guru Bhagavad Gita' for the followers of knowledge (jnana marga) and hymns and songs such as 'Gopi Gitalu' & 'Bhakti Ganga' for the followers of the devotional path (Bhakti marga). Swami's message is that one should avoid wasting time in watching television, movies, reading novels or indulging in gossip. Instead, one should spend time usefully in the spiritual effort (sadhana). The greatest sadhana is serving the Lord with full love and devotion without expecting anything in return. It means loving the Lord in spite of all the good and bad events in our life.

Practical spirituality. Swami is a practical spiritualist. He practices what He preaches. He has committed Himself to the mission of spreading the Divine Knowledge of the Lord, in intellect, mind, words, and deeds. He has donated His intelligence and words in the form of Divine Knowledge. He has donated His mind and words by spontaneously composing and singing several devotional songs, which represent devotion or love for God. He is continuously sacrificing His action (karma samnyasa) by giving divine discourses, answering the questions from devotees, singing devotional songs and writing books on spirituality. It is surprising to note that He once gave a divine discourse in Mumbai for 14 hours non-stop! He had written more than a hundred books in Sanskrit on spirituality by the time He turned sixteen years of age. Later on He has written several books on spirituality in different languages. All these are glorious examples of His sacrifice of work (karma samnyasa).

Even after all this intense work and sacrifice, Swami says that His devotees are greater than Him since they sacrifice the fruit of work (money) for the mission of the Lord. But it is a great secret that Swami has sacrificed His entire life's savings for the sake of the mission. His family lives only on the income of their ancestral property, not on Swami's income and savings.

Swami preaches that one should have the sole bond with the Lord and that one should be detached from family bonds. In order to preach this by example, Swami did not go to His home for one full year and did not allow any of His family members to meet Him either. He did this only to prove His point that internal detachment is essential in spirituality. Swami says that the over-attachment to these family bonds obstructs the formation of the bond with the Lord and breeds intense selfishness. Selfishness is the cause for all fighting and corruption in the society, which lead to social injustice. Both justice in this world and a place in Brahmaloaka (highest heaven) are simultaneously achieved if one has complete internal detachment from family bonds. The Lord is pleased by detachment from family bonds on two counts: one, that it establishes justice in the world and secondly because it enables the formation of an infallible bond with God. The formation of the bond with God leads to service of the Lord, which in turn takes the devotee to Brahmaloaka. Swami says that salvation does not mean liberation from this physical world, but it means the liberation from blind family bonds.

Chapter 2

SIGNIFICANCE OF MIRACLES*By**His Holiness Shri Datta Swami***Introduction****Maya—the creative power of the Lord**

The creative power of the Lord called as Maya, itself gets modified to form creation. This modified Maya is called as nature or prakriti. The Lord can control nature with His Maya. Everything in creation follows certain natural rules. These include the rules discovered by science and those, which are not yet discovered by science. Nature functions mechanically and independently as per these rules. It does not need the continuous supervision of the Lord through His power, Maya.

Individual souls, being part of creation, are subject to these rules of nature and depend on them. Maya, on the other hand, acts according to the will of the Lord. It is in the hands of the Lord. Using Maya, He may make effects on nature that are beyond the usual rules of nature. Therefore Maya is also called as the super-natural power. When God uses His super-power, Maya, on nature, it appears as a miracle to us. E.g. Water normally flows downhill under the influence of gravity. This is a natural law. Now the Lord could use Maya and make it stand still. This would be called a miracle. Thus interference of the Lord's Maya (super power) with natural laws is called a miracle.

The miracle shows that the entire creation is just the will of the Lord (*iccha matram prabhoh srishtih*). Maya underwent modification to become creation by the Will of the Lord. Miracles prove that creation functions independently according to the laws of nature only because of the Will of the Lord. At any point, the Lord can use Maya to bypass the natural laws and control creation as per His Will. The Lord also has the power to destroy creation at the end of the cycle of creation. Miracles are practical demonstrations to preach this divine concept. Thus, miracles are tools to preach divine knowledge.

Supernatural powers and humans

The power to perform miracles is extremely dangerous in the hands of human beings. No person other than the ringmaster can control the lions in the circus. The lions will kill an ordinary person. Similarly the power to perform miracles will ruin a devotee. Some individuals perform severe penance (tapas) and obtain certain limited superpowers from the Lord. Actually these powers can be controlled only by God. No individual can completely control them. The possession of such powers creates egoism in a person. He uses them to perform miracles and get fame. He wants to be worshiped by the world as God. However using miracles for such a purpose certainly destroys the person. In the epics, we have stories of demons performing severe penance to get superpowers from God. They get the powers and use them for selfish ends. Finally the same powers lead them to their destruction.

Kartaviyarjuna, was a beloved devotee of Lord Datta. He had tremendous superpowers. He thought that he was invincible and became egotistic. Blinded by his ego, he could not recognize Parashurama, who was backed by the Lord's power. The result was that he was defeated and killed by Parashurama. Then Parushurama became egotistic and his pride was broken by Lord Rama, who was an incarnation of the Lord. Lord Rama too was once defeated by Hanuman, who was an incarnation of Lord Shiva. Hanuman performed several marvelous miracles. Yet he was free of selfishness and pride. This was because he was an incarnation of the Lord. He was the ringmaster who could control the lions of miracles without being hurt by them.

Need for Miracles

When the Lord comes down in human form, sometimes it is essential to perform some miracles for the sake of certain deserving devotees. For the highest devotees, miracles are not necessary. They believe in the Lord and are devoted to Him even without miracles. Also, miracles are useless for persons who are not devotees and are so egoistic that they will not turn to God even if they see miracles. Miracles are necessary only for devotees who are in between these two levels; those who mostly have faith but sometimes have doubts. Krishna did not show His Divine Cosmic Form (Vishvarupam) to Radha, who was the highest devotee. Duryodhana was the other extreme. Even though the Lord showed Him the Divine Cosmic Form, he did not change. He continued with his evil ways and fought the war against the Lord. The miracle of showing the Cosmic Form was useful

only in the case of Arjuna, who was generally very devoted to the Lord, but at a particular moment had some doubts.

The human incarnation of the Lord performs miracles to prove that God exists in that particular human body. However superpowers and miracles are not the essential identifying characteristics of God. They are only associated characteristics. As mentioned earlier, superpowers can be given to any person, good or evil, if he does adequate penance and asks the Lord for the boon of those superpowers. Therefore if someone has certain superpowers, it does not necessarily mean that he is a human incarnation of God. The crown of a king is an associated sign of the king; it can be given to anybody. Suppose a king is very generous and gives his crown in donation to a beggar. The beggar cannot be called the king just because he possesses the crown. However the physical form and features of that king are his essential identifying signs. They cannot be donated to anyone. Wherever they are, the king always is.

When devotees or even demons perform rigorous penance for getting superpowers, the Lord grants them the powers. Suppose a child pesters his father for a golden ring. The father, in frustration gives it to the child. Some robbers see the ring on the child and kill him to get the ring. The Lord is the Father of all souls in creation as per the Bhagavad Gita (*Aham bija pradaha pita*) When His children act stubborn and insist on getting those powers, the Lord reluctantly grants them their wishes. Unfortunately, they are unable to handle the powers and are destroyed by them.

When demons or ordinary persons, who have superpowers, perform miracles for their selfish ends, a lot of people foolishly think that those persons are incarnations of God. However, great sages do not get fooled easily. They do not accept a person as an incarnation of God just by seeing his miracles. Real devotees of the Lord too are not impressed by such miracles. Sita did not accept the evil Ravana in spite of his miracles. On the other hand, Lord Rama, who was an incarnation of the Lord, never performed miracles in public. In His lifetime He performed only one miracle in the presence of Sage Vishvamitra and His brother, Lakshmana. Both of them were deserving devotees. The miracle that He did was that He touched a certain stone by His foot and that stone became a lady called Ahalya, right before their eyes.

On several occasions, even when there was an emergency, and performing a miracle would be justified, Lord Rama, avoided performing it. On one such occasion, Lord Rama's brother, Lakshmana, was knocked unconscious by the attack of a deadly weapon in the war. He was sure to die if he did not get help soon. Yet Rama, who was an incarnation of the

Lord, did not do any miracle. Hanuman, who was also an incarnation of the Lord, but in that incarnation had taken the role of a servant of Lord Rama, had to perform a miracle. He flew to a certain mountain, a thousand miles away, picked up that mountain and got it to where Lakshmana lay. The doctors were able to go up the mountain and search and obtain a particular rare divine herb that could save Lakshmana. When Lakshmana was saved, Lord Rama wept with joy. To a casual onlooker, it might have seemed that Hanuman was the Lord and Rama was his servant, whereas the reverse was true. In this divine drama, it was as if the king had forced the servant to sit on the throne, while he himself acted as the servant.

Scholars and miracles

Great scholars and sages of the past did not give any importance to miracles. When Lord Shankara entered the house of Mandana Mishra even though the door was locked, the sages, Vyasa and Jaimini were present there. They were not at all surprised by the miracle. In fact, Mandana Mishra, who was a scholar, got angry and scolded Shankara for entering his house like that. Later the same Mandana Mishra entered in a scholarly debate with Shankara. The debate lasted for twenty-one days. At the end of it, Mandana Mishra was defeated. He recognized Lord Shankara as an incarnation of Lord Shiva and became His disciple. His recognition was not based on the miracle that Shankara performed but on His divine knowledge, which was revealed during the course of the debate. This divine special knowledge is the real form and the essential identifying sign of God according to the Veda (*satyam jnanam anantam brahma*). It is inseparable from Him.

Selfish devotees and miracles

Most people, if they had been in the place of Mandana Mishra, would have fallen at the feet of Shankara as soon as He performed the miracle. Who is interested in divine knowledge? All that people want, is the power of the Lord; not the Lord Himself. They want to use that power for solving their worldly problems. This path is called as pravritti. People who follow this path do not care for the real form of God. They are also not interested in being near and dear to the Lord. They are only interested in getting their own work done.

Suppose a person wants to get his work done from a government office. All he needs is to get the signature and approval of the officer. He is not interested in meeting the officer, talking to the officer or making friends with him. Since he is only concerned with getting the officer's signature, it is adequate to give the relevant documents in the hands of the officer's

assistant or secretary, who can have them signed by the officer. Once the job is done, he will not even remember the name of that officer. If such a person actually happens to meet the officer, he will show false respect and politeness to the officer. He will put up an act of being friendly with the officer. The only reason he does so is because he wants to get his work done. He is a follower of the path of pravritti. These followers of pravritti show false love and devotion to the Lord only in order to obtain some selfish benefit. The ape-king Sugriva, was devoted to Lord Rama for the sake of getting his lost kingdom back. He promised to help Lord Rama in return. After that work was completed, he went back to his kingdom and forgot about Lord Rama.

A real devotee wants only God and not His power. This path is called as nivritti. He does not aspire for any selfish benefit from the Lord and neither does he care for any miracles. Thus miracles are not required for a true devotee. A true devotee has only one bond—the bond with the Lord. He is detached from all other worldly bonds; even the bond with his own life. Radha was so madly devoted to Lord Krishna that she never cared for her own body. She fell on the burning sand in summer and died crying for Krishna. She only desired the Lord. For her there was no necessity of miracles.

In case of more ordinary devotees, who are interested in solving their worldly problems, the Lord uses His superpowers to remove their difficulties and bring happiness to them. However He does so with the hope that the devotees will gradually be transformed from the path of pravritti to the path of nivritti. The devotee who is extremely agitated or disturbed due to some worldly problem needs some relief. The Lord will provide it by using His superpowers. He rearranges the cycles of the deeds (karma) of the person. According to the law of karma, a person has to enjoy or suffer the results of his actions. The difficulty or problem that the person is facing at present is the result of some bad deed performed by him the past. The Lord uses His super powers to postpone that bad result to the future and prepones some future good result to the present time. However due to the rearrangement there is a loss incurred. The bad result of the present time, which was postponed, gathers interest and grows in magnitude while the good result, which was preponed to the present time reduces in value. It is like a penalty for a premature encashment of a fixed deposit.

Ultimately there is no escape from the law of karma. All that such a rearrangement does is that it gives the person an opportunity to turn towards God. God expects the devotee to take this opportunity. He expects that once the problem is solved and the devotee has some peace of mind,

that he will give up his attachments and self-centered desires and turn to God. The devotee, unaware of this whole invisible technology, thinks that in response to his prayers, God cancelled the bad result (problem) and created good. In fact, it is only a rearrangement.

Now if the devotee, after getting his immediate problem solved, changes and follows the path of nivritti, then the Lord actually transfers the bad results of His devotee's sins on to His own human body and suffers for the devotee's sake. Canceling the results of sins of an individual altogether, is a serious violation of the law of karma. The Lord does not allow such an outright violation of the rules of nature. Therefore He suffers for His devotees' sake. If the son of a policeman commits a traffic offence, the father cannot let the son go free. As a father, he wishes to protect his son but as a policeman, he is bound to follow the law. Therefore he will pay the fine for his son's mistake. This is the way of the Lord.

A real devotee will never accept that the Lord suffer for his sake. Therefore, the Lord suffers for His true devotee without the devotee's knowledge. Although He mostly suffers secretly, He demonstrates this phenomenon of transferring of devotees' sins on to His body, in a few cases. In incarnations of Datta like Jesus, Sai and many others, the Lord suffered in this way.

Undeserving devotees, whose love for the Lord is false and who are only concerned about getting rid of their own problem, plead and cry to Him to solve their problems. They try to exploit the Lord and pressurize Him into giving boons and removing their pains. They do not understand that in doing so they make the Lord suffer. Some who know it, just do not care as long as their job gets done. The Lord is the Ocean of Compassion. His heart melts quickly when He sees His devotees in pain. There is a danger that He may even take up the suffering of undeserving devotees on Himself. In order to avoid His exploitation by false devotees, the Lord keeps the control of taking up His devotees' sins in the hands of His most sincere servant, Kalabhairava. Thus even if the Lord is forced by false devotees to take away their sins, Kalabhairava will not allow it. If the Lord shouts at Him for disobeying Him, Kalabhairava will shout back. This is the meaning of the very word Kalabhairava. If the servant listens to the Lord's scolding at that time and allows the Lord to transfer the sins of undeserving souls, the Lord will be angry with Him inside. He will dismiss the servant when He returns back to heaven. Kalabhairava's job is to make sure that the Lord is not made to suffer for some undeserving soul. Therefore he will allow the transfer of sins of only the most deserving devotees. The Lord gives Kalabhairava such instructions before coming

down to earth, since the Lord knows that this earth is a very dangerous place, full of false devotees.

Lord Krishna brought back to life, the son of His teacher Sandipani. However He did not do any such thing when His own sister's son, Abhimanyu, died. In fact even when His own sons died, He watched them in silent pain but did not interfere in the cycle of karma. Ignorant people think that the Lord cancels the punishment of sinners by using His super power. If He did such serious violations of the law of karma, all the great sages and divine angels, who are constantly meditating on the Lord, would be shocked. These great souls are highly evolved devotees and are very dear to the Lord. The Lord will not do anything to shock them or disturb their meditation on Him. He will not let His own image in their hearts get damaged. Moreover the law of karma has been created by the Lord Himself. Breaking it is an insult to the Lord. The Lord will not act in any manner so as to insult Himself. The Lord in human form will try as far as possible to avoid performing miracles. However people are attracted very strongly to miracles. They approach Him and pressurize Him to do miracles for the sake of their selfishness. They will exploit the Lord for their selfish benefits. This leads to the violation of the law of karma.

Distinguishing between devotees

There is another important reason why the Lord does not do miracles. If He did a lot of miracles then everyone would believe that He is the Lord. However if He rarely performed miracles or not performed any, then the faith of those who claim to be His devotees would be tested. Only real devotees will believe in Him, when the Lord does no miracles. These devotees identify the Lord based on His essential characteristic of Divine Knowledge. They do not care for any miracles. They do not aspire for any benefit from the Lord. They do not expect the Lord to violate the law of karma for their sake and last of all, they will not tolerate the Lord suffering for their sins. They will only focus on serving the Lord through their own efforts (sacrifice of work for the Lord) and wealth (sacrificing the fruit of work for the Lord).

If the Lord in human form performed many miracles then it would be too obvious to people that He is the Lord. Then they would serve Him even if their faith were not total. There would be no way of differentiating a true devotee from a pretender. The answer to a mathematical problem in an examination is never revealed. If it were revealed, then all students would score 100 percent marks. There would be no way of distinguishing and rewarding the good students. On the other hand if the Lord were to totally

behave like an ordinary human being, then no one would pass the test. No one would even be able to identify Him. Therefore He reveals Himself partially. It is like a hint given to solve a mathematical problem. He appears as a mixture of man and God. Thus some people are able to identify Him and pass the test while others are unable to identify Him and fail the test. He behaves like God in order to attract people to Him. Then He behaves like an ordinary human being to filter out false devotees.

The cosmic miracle

The whole universe itself is a miracle. It is the modification of God's mind. Maya is the mind of the Lord. The mind is His energy or power. This power is the 'substance' out of which the entire universe is made up. This Maya (mind) is the water and all the objects of the world are only waves in this Maya. Since the Maya is inseparable from the Lord, you could generally say that the Lord (Brahman) is modified into the world, remembering of course that the Lord does not actually get transformed into the world. When you imagine a certain city, the city takes form in your mind. You are not modified into the city. Only your mind is modified. As your mind changes, so does the city change. Your mind is under your control. So that city of your imagination is also under your control. Maya, controls all creation. The Lord controls Maya. Therefore the entire creation is under the full control of the Lord. The wish of the Lord itself is Maya. All miracles are only the wishes of the Lord. The Lord may wish to follow certain rules of nature. In such a case, we do not call it as a miracle. But when the Lord wishes to break a certain rule, we call it a miracle.

Again, one should remember that the power to do miracles could be granted to anyone. Therefore it is not a definite distinguishing characteristic of the Lord. Super powers are associated qualities, like ornaments of a person. The person may choose to wear ornaments or not wear them. Some incarnations display a lot of miracles while others may display few or none. Lord Krishna exhibited a lot of miracles but Lord Rama did not.

Miracles and the recognition of human incarnation

A cow should be recognized by its physical characteristics, not by the presence of the cow-bell on its neck. The bell can be put on the neck of any other animal as well. The Lord should be recognized by the Divine Knowledge that He possesses. This Divine Knowledge has the capacity to produce infinite bliss and infinite love for the Lord in your heart. Thus knowledge, bliss and love are the essential signs to identify God.

Miracles may sometimes be useful to distinguish the Lord from an ordinary scholar. However, some scholars may also perform miracles.

Ravana was a scholar and also performed miracles. But his knowledge could never generate infinite love and bliss in the heart of anybody. A scholar, who preaches spiritual knowledge to us, may generate a trace of love and bliss in our hearts. Some people may even get fooled into thinking that the scholar is an incarnation of God. Here we must remember that the bliss and love that a scholar produces in our heart is very limited in quantity and intensity. What the Lord produces is infinite bliss and love. Therefore true divine knowledge that generates infinite love and infinite bliss in your heart is the only characteristic sign of the Lord. The Lord performs miracles only when absolutely necessary. Ordinary souls who have super powers, perform miracles for cheap exhibition and fame. Ravana was a demon and he performed many miracles for his selfish interests and fame. Lord Rama, on the other hand avoided performing miracles unless there was an extreme necessity and even in that case, he performed them secretly. Lord Krishna did not perform any miracle in the Mahabharata war, except in the case of hiding the sun, which was necessary to save the life of Arjuna. In fact, He made it appear as if a cloud had covered the sun. Miracles are a violation of natural laws and justice (dharma). The Lord avoids breaking these rules since no good administrator likes to break his own rules. Even if he breaks them for the benefit of an exceptional devotee, he will do so secretly, otherwise even undeserving devotees will bother Him to do the same for them.

Swami—The Performer of Miracles

It is correct that Swami performed these miracles. When I say Swami, who do I mean? The name of this human body is Venu Gopala Krishna Murthy. By body, I mean, the composite of three bodies (outermost physical body, inner subtle body and the innermost causal body). Swami means the Lord. The Lord dwells in this human body. Datta means the Lord given to the devotees through the human body. For most of my devotees this human body itself is transformed into the Lord. Therefore, for these devotees there is no human body. Only the Lord exists. This Lord, they call as Datta Swami or Swami. I declare to such devotees, that I have performed these miracles.

Some other devotees think that I am a mixture of both Swami (Lord) and a human body. Some others think that Swami is in heaven and His power alone has entered My human body. For these two types of devotees, I say that Swami (Lord) performed these miracles and not this human body called as Venu Gopala Krishna Murthy. In any case, Swami (Lord) alone performed these miracles. This is what the readers should remember. The

human body cannot be given the credit for the miracles. It is only a medium required for the Lord to interact with people in the world. If this point is forgotten, the reader will be attacked by jealousy. This disease of jealousy is like a viral fever, which will take down the strongest person in no time. It will result in another disease called egoism. The devotee who is free of jealousy (asuya) is called Anasuya. The devotee who is free of ego is called Atri. Lord Datta, or the human incarnation of the Lord is available only to the devotee who is both Atri and Anasuya.

Lord Datta

Datta is the human incarnation of God, who is present in your time, before your eyes, for receiving your service. You get this extremely rare opportunity because you prayed for it. Divine (energetic) forms of the Lord such as Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva are also Datta, but only for souls who are in energetic forms themselves. A soul in an energetic body can perceive the Lord in an energetic body. Humans on earth, who are in physical bodies, can perceive the Lord only in a physical body.

Now all human incarnations of the Lord are Datta, however we have to understand an important point. Incarnations that lived in the past such as Rama, Krishna, and Jesus were Datta, but only to human beings who lived in that time. You are not able to perceive, interact with or serve those past incarnations of the Lord, so they are not Datta for you. You have to find that human incarnation of the Lord who is present in your time, in front of your eyes, with whom you can interact and whom you can serve.

You are unable to recognize and accept the Lord Datta, who is before your eyes because of two factors:

- 1) The body of the Lord is the same human body as yours and likes always repel each other.
- 2) You are able to see human incarnation right before you without any difficulty. He simply comes before you without any fanfare or fuss. This leads to casualness and negligence, owing to which the devotee is unable to recognize the human incarnation as God Himself.

Rama and Krishna were objects of such negligence and casualness in their times. People around them thought that they were mere human beings who were related to them as brothers, sons, husbands or friends as the case might have been. As humans are prone to neglecting the Lord in His human incarnation, so are souls in energetic bodies, towards the Lord in an energetic body. Daksha, was a soul in an energetic body. He did not recognize that Lord Shiva, who is the Lord in an energetic body, is the Lord Himself.

Therefore, unless you fully realize the meaning of Datta and unless you believe that the Lord performed these miracles through the human body, you cannot enjoy the miracles. In fact, initially, Swami was against performing miracles, because such exhibition invariably attracts undeserving and shallow devotees by the thousands. Swami would rather be a merchant, who possesses a few rare diamonds of devotees, than being the owner of stone quarry with heaps of useless gravel and pebbles.

Devotee's insistence

A certain devotee, who loved and served Swami like a mother, continuously pressed Swami for two years, to show some miracles. At last Swami agreed and showed some miracles. Some devotees recorded these miracles and wanted to publish them as a book so that ordinary human beings would get attracted to Swami. At least for the sake of miracles, they would approach Him and would be uplifted and benefited in course of time. However Swami refused to publish His miracles. The reason is that miracles attract people who are interested in the power of God in order to solve their selfish desires. Such people do not really love God. Even if God uses His super powers to satisfy a certain burning desire of such devotees, new desires will sprout in them. When they find a way to satisfy their desires, all desires will become burning desires and demand immediate satisfaction. There is no end to this. They will go into a repetitive cycle of growing desires and solving them at the Lord's expense. Fire is never satisfied by pouring oil (ghee) into it. It flares up even more. (*"na kamah..."*). Yet My devotees persisted. Finally Swami agreed to publish the miracles. They were published in this book titled "Mahima Yamuna: Miracles, the Dark River Yamuna".

Light and darkness

The waters of River Yamuna are dark indicating the ignorance of the shallow devotees, who are attracted to miracles. They are not real devotees. When Swami gives a vision to such a devotee, he sees a brilliant light. This radiance is the same radiation that comes from the sun or a powerful electric bulb. It is not different at all. It is as good as seeing the shining sun. Sunlight and the light in that vision are one and the same. They are both created by the Will of the Lord. Therefore, the realized soul sees the entire universe, which is full of brilliantly shining bodies as the greatest miracle of the Lord. He does not want to see any other lights, which are far smaller and duller.

Every human being is fond of seeing the Lord in a radiant form rather than in a human body. The ordinary human form is very boring for humans.

Therefore humans like to see even other human forms as forms of light on the television screen. The human body is made out of five elements (space, air, fire, water and matter). Light energy (fire) is only one of them. Thus the human body is a mixture of light and other four elements. Now the way most people would like to see God, is in the form of only one element, namely light.

A shirt made out of terylene (an artificial yarn) is a status symbol in some places, whereas, locally grown cotton is considered ordinary. Suppose most people wear a terycot shirt, which is a blend of terylene and cotton. They all yearn for a pure terylene shirt. Now even if the prime minister comes wearing an ordinary terycot shirt, he will not be respected. On the other hand an office-boy wearing a pure terylene shirt will be greatly respected. This shows the shallowness of those people, who decide the worth of an individual based on his external shirt rather than his internal value. The pure terylene shirt represents the energetic body which is made up of one element alone; light. The human body is compared to the terycot shirt, which is a blend of the element light, and other elements. Thus, Krishna, the Lord in a human body is neglected by human beings. Even a ghost, which is just an ordinary soul that has taken up an energetic body after death on earth, is respected. The reasons why people are so attracted to energetic forms are:

- 1) Energetic forms are quite different from the human body.
- 2) The energetic body can have peculiar forms like having three heads and six hands etc.
- 3) The energetic form appears only for a very short while.

Compared to energetic forms, the human form of the Lord thus has disadvantages. Therefore, people are prone to negligence and casualness towards human incarnations of God. This is what Krishna says in the Bhagavad Gita, “*avajananti mam*” Initially Arjuna was not convinced that Lord Krishna was the Lord, since he could only see Lord Krishna’s human body. When Arjuna saw the energetic body of Krishna (Vishvarupam) he was finally convinced. Yet afterwards, he doubted again thinking that maybe the vision was only an illusion. This proves that miracles can only temporarily convince devotees.

Cabaret in the Divine Cinema

In cinema halls in India, tickets to the lower level of seats called ‘stalls’, cost less and are bought by people, who are least interested in the finer aspects of the movie. Their primary objective is watching the cheap cabaret dances, which are so common in Indian movies. They just want to

hoot, pass comments and enjoy themselves. People with finer tastes usually occupy the 'balcony' seats, where the audience is generally more interested in the main aspects of the movie such as the story line, performance of the actors, cinematography, etc. They do not care for the cabarets in the movie.

Divine knowledge and devotion constitute the main aspects of Divine Cinema. Miracles are like cheap cabaret dances; they are thrown in, here and there, to attract low-class devotees. The balcony-class in spirituality contains very few scholars and devotees. They are only interested in knowledge and devotion. Their goal is not achieved by getting visions and miraculous healings. So they are not interested in the miracles.

Benefit of miracles

People think too highly of miracles. However, what they should enquire into is what benefit they get from the visions? Suppose you watch a king in a royal parade through the streets. You may feel happy that you saw the king. But beyond that temporary excitement, what actual benefit do you obtain from having seen the king? Merely seeing him does not mean that he is pleased with you. If he were pleased with you, it would be an actual benefit since he would shower riches on you and grant you positions and titles of power and prestige. Hence it is more important that the king be pleased with you than merely seeing the king. Even if you had never seen the king, but if he were highly pleased with you, you would get benefit from him.

Similarly, seeing visions of the Lord should not be our aim; our aim should be to please the Lord. The powerful demon, Ravana saw Lord Shiva in visions. Yet he met with an untimely death along with his entire family. Rama, on the other hand, did not get any vision of Lord Shiva, but lived long. Shiva is considered to be the Lord of longevity and the One, who prevents untimely death. He is the Conqueror of the Death (Mrityunjaya).

People get illnesses or problems as results of sins committed by them in the past. Whenever Swami removes illnesses or solves a problem of devotees, people think that Swami, as the Lord, (or the Lord through Swami) cancelled their sin using some special powers and therefore, the problem was solved. But this is not the truth. The sins of people cannot be simply cancelled. The problem or illness from which the devotee is suffering, is converted by Swami into some illness of His own body. He suffers for the sake of his devotees. This is the reason why Swami goes to several places for a few days; so no one notices how much He is suffering and from what illness.

In conclusion, real devotees do not like to have visions, which are of no use to them. They also do not like to get their problems solved because they know that the procedure of solving problems of devotees, involves the Lord suffering for the devotees' sins.

Chapter 3

THE GREATEST MIRACLE—HEALTH THROUGH KNOWLEDGE**Scholar in Distress**

There was a scholarly priest, who was delivering a discourse on a philosophical scripture called Ashtavakra Samhita. In that scripture, there was a certain verse which can be translated as follows: “The mother and the son of this birth are born as wife and husband of each other in the next birth, owing to the attachment of the mother to the body of her son.” The scholar simply could not accept this outrageous statement due to the social stigma associated with this idea. Preaching this statement to people was out of question for he would surely get beaten up if he were to do so. However, the statement, being in the scriptures, could not be simply ignored or rejected as being false. The scholar was extremely distressed because he could not resolve the conflict and understand the verse. He consulted many other scholars hoping that someone would come up with an acceptable interpretation of the verse. However nobody could satisfy him.

Some scholars suggested that he just skip that verse and move on to the next one. However this particular scholar was a true seeker of the truth. Neglecting what he could not understand or just blindly accepting it, was not an option for him. He had to know the true meaning of the scripture. He had to know the truth even if it was hard to accept. He was looking for some authoritative scholar who would explain it to him. However none of the scholars, he had met could help him. Upset and helpless, he began neglecting his food and health. He fell ill and remained in bed for six months. Finally, in desperation, he gave up food until he could get his answer.

Meeting with Swami

It was in this state when someone mentioned to him about Swami, telling him that Swami was an incarnation of the Lord and that if there was anyone who could solve his problem, it was Swami. He was carried to Swami, where he asked his question to Him. Swami offered him some coffee and food. However the scholar refused saying that first he must have the answer to his question. Swami was amazed and extremely pleased to see this man who was so committed to knowing the truth that he had given

up his food and sacrificed his health for its sake. Swami said, “People approach Me only to satisfy their worldly desires but here is a true seeker of the Truth”. Swami convinced the scholar that He had the answer to the question and would certainly explain it to him at length if he ate well first. Finally the scholar agreed.

Swami’s Explanation

After the scholar had eaten some food, Swami explained to him the meaning of the verse as follows “In a movie, two actors acted as mother and son. In another movie, the same two actors acted as wife and husband. In reality, the two actors are totally unrelated; they are neither mother-son, nor are they wife-husband. Before the movie the two actors were unrelated, after the movie they are unrelated, but only during the movie do they temporarily pretend to be related. That which does not exist before and after the shooting of the movie, does not exist even during the time of shooting. The mother-son and wife-husband relationships are totally unreal. In each of the movies they are only co-actors or co-employees of the same movie producer. The employer-employee relationship between the movie producer and actors remains before the movie, during the movie and after the movie. It is the only real relationship since it is a relationship whose scope is beyond the unreal movie.”

Swami continued to explain, “Relationships between souls in this world are unreal, because these relationships did not exist in the previous birth and will not exist in future births. Therefore, they are both temporary and unreal. The only permanent relation that a soul has is that with God, the Producer of this Cosmic Cinema. This relation is permanent and real. It was there in the past, it is there in the present and will remain in the future. When a person dies here on earth, his soul with its subtle body (past impressions and feelings) leaves the gross body. The gross (physical) body is left here and gets destroyed. As soon as the soul leaves the body, all relationships in this world are also left behind. The soul retains no memory of who his parents, spouse or children were in the past birth. However, the bond with God remains. Our attachment to worldly relationships is foolish. When Abhimanyu, the brave son of Arjuna, died in the Mahabharata war, Arjuna was overcome with grief. He decided to stop the war. Lord Krishna tried His best to convince Arjuna to stop grieving unnecessarily but Arjuna would not understand. Finally, in order to show the impermanence of all worldly relationships, Lord Krishna took Arjuna to heaven. There Arjuna saw Abhimanyu enjoying the pleasures of heaven. Arjuna ran to Abhimanyu and embraced him. Abhimanyu was surprised and asked

Arjuna “Who are you?” Arjuna told him that he was Abhimanyu’s father. Abhimanyu replied that he had had millions of births and in exactly which birth was Arjuna his father? Clearly Abhimanyu remembered nothing about his past birth and relationships. Arjuna saw the uselessness of attachments in this world. He had seen the proof that all worldly bonds are unreal”.

When the scholar heard this explanation, he fell at the feet of Swami crying. He had finally understood the true meaning of that scriptural verse. He praised Swami, “You are undoubtedly Lord Datta. No one can explain the scriptures as You have, O Guru Datta!” The scholar returned home, in great happiness and recovered completely. Swami had cured the illness of this devotee entirely by the power of Divine Knowledge. He did not need to transfer the suffering of the devotee’s body on to His own body. This was indeed the greatest miracle.

Chapter 4 **DIVINE VISIONS**

First Miracle

Tears on a picture of Lord Datta. Swami has said from the very beginning that He has come down to this world to propagate knowledge and devotion; not to perform miracles. Yet, Mrs. Bhavani, wife of Mr. C. Balakrishna Murthy, had been pressing Swami to show a miracle for a very long time. Finally, Swami agreed. One day while worshipping a picture of Lord Datta, Swami asked Mrs. Bhavani and Mr. C. Balakrishna Murthy, to look at the eyes of Lord Datta, in the picture. Both of them looked at the eyes of Datta. Suddenly two streams of tears started flowing from the eyes of Datta in the picture. Smt. Bhavani and her husband were astonished. Bhavani touched the tears and shouted, “Look how cold these tears are! They are just like ice-cold water!” The tears stopped flowing as soon as Bhavani touched them. However, the marks of the tears remained on the picture throughout the day. Swami told them that the tears were cold since Lord Datta was happy with them. This was the first miracle performed by Swami. The news of the miracle spread and Swami performed some more miracles.

Swami as Lord Datta

Seethamma sees Lord Datta

Mrs. Seethamma is one of Swami’s devotees in the Krishna Lanka area of Vijayawada, India. She is a neighbor of Mr. C. Balakrishna Murthy. One day Swami appeared to her with three faces, six hands and a golden colored body. The three faces represent the three aspects of the Lord, namely, creation, maintenance and destruction. The Lord as the Creator is called as Brahma. The Lord as the Maintainer of creation is called Vishnu. The Lord as the Destroyer of Ignorance and evils is called Shiva. Lord Datta is the Lord who includes all these three aspects. He is the Trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. This Lord comes down as the human incarnation and is called as Datta. The lady was so shocked by this vision of Lord Datta that she went into a semi-conscious trance for three days.

Devotee describes vision

Swami went to the residence of Sri. G. Sivarma Murthy, retired Secretary of Khadi Board, in the Khadi colony at Tirupathi for three consecutive days to sing devotional songs. On the third day Swami gave a vision of Lord Datta to Mrs. Srivalli, the eldest daughter-in-law of Sri. Sivarama Murthy and asked her to describe the vision to the devotees present there. Smt. Srivalli announced in a loud voice that she was seeing Swami as Lord Datta having three faces and six hands.

Vision on deathbed

Mr. Subramanyam, a bank employee in Vijayawada, was very intent on having a vision of Lord Datta. He asked permission from Swami to go to Ganagapur, which is an important center of pilgrimage for devotees of Lord Datta. Swami told him that there was no need of going to Ganagapur since he would get a vision of Lord Datta within a month. In the meanwhile Mr. Subramanyam fell seriously ill and was on his deathbed. While on deathbed, he saw the vision of Lord Datta as predicted by Swami. Lord Datta appeared to him with three faces and six hands. The surprising thing was that all the faces of Lord Datta were none other than the face of Swami. Before dying, he told about this vision to his wife and told her that Swami was none other than the Lord Himself.

Devotee touches divine wheel

Mrs. Bharati, an artist on the All India Radio (A. I. R.), is a strong devotee of Swami. She had been yearning for a vision of Lord Datta from Swami for a long time. Finally, one day Swami blessed her with the vision she wanted.

Following is the episode in her own words: "I had been pleading to Swami for a long time to show me some miracle. He always seemed to show miracles to His devotees in Vijayawada and not to me. One evening at about 8.00 pm, I went to visit Him. There were several others in the room, who had also come to meet Swami. After meeting Swami, I stood up to take His leave. Suddenly I saw two bright lines of light appearing on the face of Swami. I was wonderstruck and looked at Swami in amazement. Slowly His face got divided in to three faces. All the three faces were His own image. I saw a brilliant Shiva Lingam (a symbol representing the wave nature of energy) on the chest of Swami. Then I found the shining disc of the Lord (Vishnu Chakram) rotating around His index finger. I suddenly became conscious about other people around me. I could not help wondering if they too were seeing what I was seeing. However they all

seemed casual and were obviously not having the vision. I asked some devotees to stand in my position and look at Swami. They stood and looked but they saw Swami as usual.

Then Swami became serious. He told me that a divine vision is not a cinema to be shown to all. I realized my mistake and went and sat down near Swami, with my eyes completely fixed on the Vishnu Chakram, rotating around His finger. It was giving off different colors of light. Swami explained to me about the significance of the five colors that could be seen. I was particularly interested in knowing about the red, blue and white colors surrounding the wheel. Swami told me that those three colors represented Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva respectively. The three colors together represented Datta, who is the trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva together. Swami stated that the power of the wheel is always at the edge. This means that Datta or the ultimate Lord alone rules over the cycle of karma (deeds) and kala (time), and that they get their power through Him alone. He said that the five colors in the wheel represent the five elements that make up creation. Therefore the Vishnu Chakram represents the entire creation. Thus Swami was explaining the entire spiritual background and significance of the vision.

While He was still explaining, a doubt entered my mind that perhaps this vision was merely an illusion or my mind's imagination, since others could not see it. I looked again at the divine disc Vishnu Chakram, which was rotating with unimaginable speed. I decided to clear my doubt then and there. Ignoring what Swami was explaining, I stretched out my finger and touched the Vishnu Chakram. I received dreadful shock and I fell down with a loud cry. I lay unconscious for about an hour, I was told later. When I came back to consciousness, my heart was still beating wildly. Swami put His hand on my head and asked me to walk. I walked for half an hour. I felt somewhat better. For three days I could not bend the finger with which I had touched the Vishnu Chakram. My heart kept beating irregularly. Worried about my heart, I went to a cardiologist for a checkup. He told me that I had probably received some intense electric shock.”

After giving this vision, the body of Swami was also very weak for one month. Swami told some devotees that His nerves were burnt like a fuse wire after taking excessive current. All the devotees were sad that Swami was suffering. They requested Swami to not give any more visions to people. Swami told them that His body is as normal as the body of any other human being. It can get hurt or pained as anyone else's body. The shirt of a king and the shirt of an ordinary person are both made of cloth. They both can be cut by a blade.

Wheel of light

One day Swami was sitting in the house of Shri. Bhima Sankaram. He was talking to Smt. Padmaram on the phone. Padmaram, who lives in the town of Ramachandrapuram, asked Swami to show her a miracle right then. Swami scolded her for her foolish desire since only devotees of a low level desire for miracles. Then Padmaram told Swami that she did not need to see the miracle herself but that He could show a miracle to the people around Him. They could later call and tell her about it.

Smt. Rama, the sister of Smt. Padmaram lives in Singapore. She had come to Vijayawada to see her other sister called Padma, who is a neighbor of Sri Bhima Sankaram. Rama did not know anything about Swami and she visited the house of Sri Bhima Sankaram casually to meet his wife as soon as she reached Vijayawada. Her sister Padma had not told her anything about Swami and therefore Rama did not even know Swami. This point should be noted because she had a vision on seeing Swami without even knowing Him. Some people think that the visions that devotees get are hallucinations or imaginations created by their own minds due to their extreme devotion. This possibility is clearly disproved because Swami was totally unknown to Rama when she got His vision.

It was midday when Smt. Rama entered Bhima Sankaram's home and looked at Swami. She saw a glorious wheel of light rotating slowly about Swami's head. The wheel had a five-colored radiance. Fiery sparks were flying from it. She was terrified. Her whole body began to shake and she ran away to her home nearby. She was so scared and confused that she fell unconscious. It was night by the time she was able to speak about the incident to her family. Everyone in her family then visited Swami. Rama was so scared of Swami that she stood away from Him and refused to come close. She told her sister Padma that the burning wheel with sparks flying all over could appear any moment. She was afraid that they would burn her.

After reassuring Rama that there was no need to fear, Swami revealed to her a secret about her previous birth. Rama was a dancer in her previous birth in the temple of Sri Rangam. She used to dance before the Lord, aspiring for a divine vision from Him. That wish of hers was fulfilled now. Swami then asked her to telephone Smt. Padmaram and relate this incident to her. Padmaram was very happy, since her wish was fulfilled. Later Swami jokingly said to Rama, "How fortunate you are! You have seen the Divine Wheel of Light! I am not as fortunate because the wheel was behind My head and I was unable to see it." Rama had a good laugh about it. It helped reduce the stress she was under.

Foot prints of Lord Datta

On 30th November 2001, it was the festival of Datta Jayanti or the birthday of Lord Dattatreya. A big function was carried out in the shrine (temple) on the top floor of the house of Sri Bala Krishna Murthy. After the function, a sacred bed for Lord Datta was decorated so that Swami could sleep on it. Swami usually sleeps in this shrine, on the bed decorated for Lord Datta, whenever He stays with Sri Bala Krishna Murthy. However that night Swami came downstairs and said that he would sleep downstairs and not upstairs in the shrine since He wanted to show a miracle. The shrine was closed that night. When it was opened in the morning, large footprints were seen on the bed that had been decorated the earlier night. Swami told that the footprints were of Lord Datta, who had first incarnated in the treta yuga or the second age (in the four-age recursive cycle of creation). Swami told that based on the size of the footprint, one could imagine how large Lord Datta might have been and how large people in general were in the treta yuga. The footprints on the bed remained for a long time and people flocked to see the huge footprints. The footprints were photographed and the photographs were distributed to devotees.

Appearing in the picture of Lord Datta

Mrs. Suguna, a devotee of Swami, doubted how Swami gave so many visions to people. While talking to her friends she commented that such visions were mere illusions of the weak-minded. She said that no one could trick her and make her see illusions, since she had a very strong mind. Later she went to a temple of Lord Datta along with her friends. All of them were prostrating before the picture of Lord Datta, when suddenly, Suguna saw Swami in place of the picture of Lord Datta. Swami was laughing. She was shocked and thought that it was her imagination, but she saw the same thing again and again. Then she told about her vision to her friends and since then became a strong devotee of Swami.

Lord Datta in the fire altar

Shri Satyanarayana, in Vijayawada, is a true devotee of Lord Dattatreya (Lord Datta). He participates in discussions of divine knowledge with keen interest, for hours together. He gets so absorbed in divine knowledge that he even forgets his sleep. One day Swami was performing a traditional fire ritual-sacrifice. Shri K. Satyanarayana was sitting very close to the fire altar. Suddenly he saw Lord Dattatreya in the flames. He was very much surprised at this vision.

Atma Lingam (Wave of Radiation)

The Atma Lingam is a symbol representing the Lord and His cosmic energy. This symbol is generally associated with Lord Shiva. Swami showed the Atma Lingam in His heart at the stroke of midnight to Phani, who is one of Swami's closest devotees. It appeared as a wave of brilliant radiation. A rolling OM-sound, which is the primal (first) sound of creation, was heard. The vision went on for about twenty minutes. Phani touched the Atma Lingam with his fingers and his fingers started radiating the same light! He fell unconscious for three days.

Below is Phani's description of this unforgettable incident. "It was a certain Monday of the month of Karthika (according to the Hindu calendar); a day, particularly auspicious for worshipping Lord Shiva. In the evening, Swami spontaneously started singing hymns on Lord Shiva. All the devotees joined Him. The singing went on till about 11.00 pm. All the devotees took their leave and went to sleep. However I remained there, sitting humbly at Swami's feet. I generally go to bed only after Swami goes to sleep. Swami forced me to go to bed since it was getting late. However I insisted on keeping up as long as He was awake. Swami scolded me for disobeying Him but I refused to go and sleep. I sat there quietly pressing His feet. Swami started singing a hymn on the Atma Lingam. Swami composes all these devotional hymns on the spot.

It was midnight, when an intensely bright wave of radiation appeared in the form of a Shiva Lingam on the chest of Swami. The whole room was filled with a brilliant white light more powerful than anything I have ever seen. Swami's whole body was radiating a heavenly light. Everything around me was vibrating with a constant OM-sound. The vision lasted for about 15 to 20 minutes. I tried to hold the Atma Lingam in my hands. Since the Lingam is not made of matter but out of intense energy, my fingers penetrated it. I drew my hand back and looked at my fingers. My fingers too were shining as if covered by mercury. As soon as I touched the Lingam, it slowly reduced in intensity and started disappearing into the heart of Swami. I was extremely thrilled. However soon a weakness came upon me and I fell unconscious. I apparently did not wake up for three days".

Next morning, Swami told other devotees "Last night Phani saw the Atma Lingam. It is the first wave of thought of the Lord, which results in creation. In the past Ravana got a similar vision; however, what Ravana saw was only a representative image of the actual Atma Lingam. For the first time since the beginning of creation, the original Atma Lingam was

shown. Phani is an incarnation of Adishesha, who is represented as the thousand-hooded cobra in the heavens. He is the closest servant of the Lord. It was therefore that he could withstand the vision and manage to survive even after touching the Atma Lingam. Any other ordinary mortal would not have been so lucky.”

All the other devotees felt very bad that they missed this great miracle as they went to sleep early. However Swami told them that nobody could get such a divine vision unless one truly deserved it.

Vishwarupa—the Cosmic Form of the Lord

Guru Pournima, is the birthday of Sage Vyasa. It falls on a full moon day. This day is celebrated as the ‘Day of the Guru’, when all teachers and especially the Guru or the spiritual teacher is worshipped. On one Guru Pournima day, Swami gave a 3-hour long discourse. While giving the discourse, He suddenly stood for five minutes. At this time, Mrs. Seethamma and Mr. Ajay, who were sitting there, saw the exact same vision which left them spellbound. They both saw the whole universe in Swami. This vision was given in the past by Lord Krishna to Arjuna on the battlefield of Mahabharata. Even after seeing the vision, Mr. Ajay and Seethamma kept silent about it. At the end of the discourse, Swami asked the two of them to explain about their vision to other devotees.

They related their experience in the following words: “We saw Swami as a huge figure radiating a brilliant light. The faces of all the deities and sages could be seen on both sides of the face of Swami. A golden chariot was standing behind Swami. Arjuna was seen prostrating at the feet of Swami. The whole universe was seen within Swami.”

Swami told devotees that the same vision was seen by two different people at the same time. Other devotees could not see anything unusual. This proves that such visions and miracles are not mere illusions or mass hypnosis. Swami chooses what vision to give to whom. Earlier that day, before Swami arrived to give the discourse, Seethamma had been talking about the vision she had a few days ago, with other devotees. She described the vision of Lord Datta who appeared golden in color. Ajay had remarked that Swami gave visions only to her while some other devotees including himself were not that fortunate. Swami mentioned about this conversation also as one of the reasons for giving the simultaneous vision.

Swami as Lord Brahma

Where the Lord rests

In the house of Shri C. Balakrishna Murthy, Swami often gives spiritual discourses in the evening to devotees. After the discourse, He retires in the upstairs room, which has been converted into a shrine (temple) of Lord Datta. In the shrine is a bed meant for the Lord. Swami always sleeps on it. One day, soon after the discourse, Swami entered that room as usual. He closed the doors and was getting ready to sleep.

Sri C. Balakrishna Murthy was very curious to see how Swami slept. He came to the door and tried to peep through a crack in it. He was shocked when Swami suddenly opened the door and told him in a serious tone “Do not try to peep in and see Me once I close the door.” So saying He shut the door. Sri Bala Krishna Murthy told all his family members that no one should try to see Swami while He slept.

One night Mrs. Sri Lakshmi, the eldest daughter-in-law of Bala Krishna Murthy, could not contain her curiosity and actually managed to peep through a window of the room in which Swami was resting. Following is her experience in her own words. “I always respected Swami as a saintly and scholarly person. However my father-in-law (Shri C. Balakrishna Murthy) told me that Swami is Lord Datta Himself. I could not get myself to believe it at all. I could not help thinking that He is only an ordinary human being. The upstairs room of our house, which had been converted to a shrine for Lord Datta, has a bed for Lord Datta that I personally make every night. I place a picture of Lord Datta on it every night and imagine that I am putting Lord Datta to sleep. When Swami visits us and occupies the shrine-room, He sleeps on that bed meant for the Lord. I was pained because I felt that the impure feet of an ordinary person were polluting the divine bed of the Lord”.

“My father-in-law had told me that Swami did not want anyone to peep into the room, where Swami slept. However I did not care about his instructions. I wanted to look inside and prove to my father-in-law and the family that there was nothing extraordinary about Swami; either when He was awake or when He slept. As I peeped into the room, I was amazed to see Lord Brahma (God as the Creator) in the place of Swami. His Divine Radiant Form was lying on the bed radiating brilliant light more intense than a thousand light bulbs. I was almost going to fall unconscious. Somehow, I managed to keep standing. I strained my eyes to see Swami through the intense light. He appeared snow-white in color. Swami had His hand on His forehead and appeared to be in deep thought. This was

apparently His normal mode of sleeping. His eyes were open and He was staring at something above. His eyes looked slightly pinkish color. I ran away in extreme fear and excitement. I remained speechless for an hour”.

When all her family members enquired what had happened, Sri Lakshmi finally revealed her experience. Next morning, all the family members stood outside Swami’s room respectfully with folded hands. Swami opened the door and smiled. He said referring to Mrs. Sri Lakshmi, “She has seen Lord Brahma. The intense radiance that she saw is called Brahma Tejas.” Later Mrs. Sri Lakshmi asked Swami what he was thinking about when she saw Him in the room. Swami replied plainly, “I was thinking about how to uplift My devotees.”

Swami as Lord Krishna

Clearing Vasumathi’s doubts

Smt. Vasumathi did not believe the divine visions shown by Swami to Phani. She told Phani that the vision of Atma Lingam that he had seen, could have been an illusion. She also expressed doubts about the visions of many other devotees. Swami wanted to remove her illusion. On one Krishna Ashtami (the birthday of Lord Krishna), amidst all the festivities, devotees of Swami made Him sit on a chair and were worshipping Him as Lord Krishna. Smt. Vasumathi was also present there. Swami looked at her and smiled. He asked her if what she was seeing was an illusion. Suddenly Smt. Vasumathi burst out crying, “O Swami! I see You as Lord Krishna Himself. I see the divine flute in Your hands. I also see the same Krishna, playing the flute in every part of your body. I see Him in Your feet, hands, shoulders, chest, neck and everywhere. No, this is not an illusion. This is real. I have never seen anything so real! Please forgive me for my ignorance”. So saying, she fell at the feet of Swami in complete surrender.

She was so overcome with emotion that it would have been dangerous for her life. She lay there unconscious and shivering. Realizing her condition, Swami placed His hand on her head and she recovered immediately.

Padmavathi’s wish fulfilled

Once Swami conducted a seven-day festival in remembrance of Lord Krishna. In these seven days Swami gave several discourses on Lord Krishna. Swami also sang several devotional songs, composed by Him on the spur of the moment. He also sang Sanskrit verses from the Bhagavad Gita. Smt. Padmavati, had been attending the celebrations with a lot of interest sitting right before Swami all the while. She is very devoted to Lord

Krishna. She had also been asking Swami for a vision for a long time. On the last day, when the seven-day celebrations were about to end, Swami suddenly rose from His seat and stood before her. He waved His hand saying “O mother! Look at Me at this moment, while this celebration is about to end.” She looked at Swami. He appeared as Lord Krishna. She later described to other devotees what she had seen, “Swami appeared as Lord Krishna Himself. There were three vertical lines on His forehead, (tripundra tilakam) as one would normally expect to see on the forehead of Lord Vishnu. (Lord Krishna was an incarnation of Lord Vishnu). Surprisingly, at the centers of the three vertical lines, there were three shining stars. His shining golden crown was decorated with a delicate peacock feather. In His outstretched hand was the divine flute, whose music had enchanted the Gopikas of Vrindavanam”. Smt. Padmavathi was so dazed with the vision that she was unable to speak that day. She spent most of the day weeping, making her family anxious. It was only the next day that she was able to tell her experience to others.

Swami as Lord Rama

Ayodhya is the birthplace of Lord Rama. On 15th March, the foundation ceremony of a temple of Lord Rama was to be conducted at 2:15 pm in Ayodhya. It was a national event and the prime minister and other dignitaries were expected for that occasion. At that time, Swami was staying in the house of Mr. Venkateswara Rao at Vijayawada, which is about 1000 km away from Ayodhya. A lot of disturbance was expected in Ayodhya since there were some communities opposed to building the temple there.

Swami was singing devotional songs. While singing, he was making hand gestures as if he were shooting arrows with a bow (Lord Rama, was the greatest archer of all time). Swami said “I have shot nine divine arrows, which I got from My Guru, Vishwamitra. Now fear not, for there will be no disturbance in the function.” According to the epic, Ramayana, Sage Vishwamitra had given Lord Rama several divine weapons (arrows) to destroy demons.

Later all devotees were waiting anxiously to hear any news about Ayodhya that day. Swami said that the foundation ceremony in Ayodhya took place at 3:30 pm instead of the scheduled 2.15 pm, and that everything went off peacefully. This news was announced on the television only later, at 4.00 pm. Apparently, some dignitaries were delayed and the program had to be pushed ahead to accommodate for them. Swami had told this news before it was announced on the television or radio. Swami said that He had

given Seethamma a divine power by which she could see all the events in Ayodhya as they were happening. Seethamma described the whole scene in Ayodhya to the devotees present. She also told them that she could see Hanuman, the great ape-devotee of Lord Rama and several monkeys who had come to witness the event.

Swami as Lord Narasimha

One day Shri. Ajay a very close devotee of Swami, asked his wife to prepare a particular sweet drink called 'panakam'. She was busy and did not pay much attention to his request. In the evening Swami arrived at their home and asked Ajay's wife to prepare the same drink for Him. He told her that panakam is the favorite drink of Lord Narasimha. Lord Narasimha is the ferocious form of the Lord. Swami told her that He was in the form of Lord Narasimha at that time. He also told her that He had tried to tell her to make that drink for Him in the morning through her husband, Ajay; however, she had not understood His request. Other devotees were surprised to note that Swami knew about this incident that took place between Ajay and his wife. None other than the two of them knew that Ajay had asked her to make panakam that day. In this incident Swami did not give anyone the vision of Lord Narasimha, but all the devotees understood that He was the one who spoke through Ajay that morning and asked for the drink.

One day Swami told His devotees "People are killing fish in the sea and animals and birds on earth for food. When God has given a lot of grains and vegetables for food why should people kill innocent living beings unnecessarily? The sea is the father and earth is the mother of mankind. Both are angry with humans. The earth will shake with anger and the sea will drown these people." As He said this, Swami appeared as Lord Narasimha to Smt. J. Bharathi. She was terrified to see the fierce form of Lord Narasimha. The vision was very frightening. Just a few minutes after this vision, a powerful earthquake took place off the coast of Indonesia. It whipped up massive tsunamis in the Indian Ocean, which hit the coastlines of several countries with gigantic force and left nearly a hundred thousand dead.

Swami as Lord Venkateshwara

Phani sees the Lord of Tirupathi

Some devotees have seen the face of Swami in the idol of Lord Venkateshwara in the famous temple at Tirupathi. Phani, a great devotee of

Swami had a spectacular vision of Swami as Lord Venkateshwara. It was an interesting incident. Phani was forced by his parents to attend an interview for a very good job in Chennai. Some fourteen candidates were short-listed for the interview from two hundred applicants and Phani was among them. There were four vacancies and Phani ranked second in the preference of the employers. Therefore he was certain to get that job. However Phani was unwilling to accept the job because it meant that he would have to live in Chennai, away from Swami. His parents wanted him to take the job. It was noon and Phani was waiting for the final interview with a conflicted mind. Swami appeared as Lord Venkateshwara before him and asked, "Shall I give you this job?" Phani replied, "No, my Lord. Just give me the opportunity to serve you." Immediately after that, Phani was called in for the interview. Needless to say, Phani rejected the offer at the end of the interview.

On the same day and exactly at the same time in Vijayawada, Swami was talking with Phani's parents. He told them, "I offered a job to Phani in Chennai just now, but he refused it". When Phani returned back from Chennai to Vijayawada, he verified Swami's words by revealing the exact date and time of the vision. He realized that Swami is Lord Venkateshwara. He had appeared as Lord Venkateshwara to him in Chennai, while several hundred miles away, He was talking with Phani's parents in Vijayawada at the same time.

Later when Phani went to Mumbai (Bombay), several devotees of Swami asked Phani how Lord Venkateshwara looked like in his vision. Phani replied "The face of Lord Venkateshwara was that of Swami. His divine conch (Shankha) and divine disc (chakra) were present, one on either side of His head." He could not describe the incredible vision in any greater detail than that. The devotees in Mumbai were extremely eager to know how Swami appeared in that vision.

Then by the wish of Swami, Shri Sharma, another devotee of Swami, who is an expert photographer, took a picture of Swami decorated as Lord Venkateshwara. When Phani returned from Mumbai, and saw this photo, he was astonished to see exactly the same form of Lord Venkateshwara as he had seen in the vision. Actually neither Swami nor Shri Sharma had been told about the conversation between Phani and devotees in Mumbai. As soon as Phani saw this photo, Swami told him, "Send this photo to those devotees who asked you how Lord Venkateshwara looked in the vision. Tell them that this is exactly how He appeared before you."

Vision at Tirupathi

Smt. Kalavathi went to visit the famous temple of Lord Venkateshwara at Tirupathi. When she looked at the idol of Lord Venkateshwara, she saw the face of Swami on either side of Lord Venkateshwara. When she returned, Swami asked her if she had had any vision in Tirupathi. Kalavathi was confused, firstly by the vision and secondly by how Swami came to know of her vision. She kept silent. Finally, when Swami insisted, she told Him about the vision.

More visions in Tirupathi

When Shri Phani and Shri Ajay went to Tirupathi, they saw a bright radiance around the idol of the Lord. Overjoyed by the vision, they sang a devotional song composed by Swami on Lord Venkateshwara. As they sang the song, they saw Swami at the heart of the idol of Lord Venkateshwara. What caught their attention was a curious fact that in the vision, Swami was wearing a red sweater; one that Swami actually wears in winter.

Swami as Lord Padmanabha

One day Shri G. Lakshman from Mumbai was sitting in his living room. Suddenly Swami appeared to him as a gigantic figure, several times larger than a multi-storied building. Then the same vertical personality of Swami lay horizontal and appeared as Lord Padmanabha, on the bed of the thousand headed serpent (Adi Shesha). Ananta Padmanabha is the Lord lying in the mythical Milk Ocean on the thousand-hooded serpent, Adi Shesha. The vision lasted an hour and Lakshman was highly excited. Actually, the earlier night, Lakshman had been listening to divine knowledge from Swami throughout the night. Swami was pleased with his genuine interest in divine knowledge. Swami said to Lakshman early in the morning “I want to give a vision to you”. Lakshman said that he did not need to see any miraculous vision since divine knowledge itself is an infinite vision. Swami kept silent. Later He gave this vision to Lakshman and told him that Ananta Padmanabha represents the infinite true knowledge as said in Veda (*satyam jnanam anantam Brahma*).

Swami as Lord Shiva

Swami was in Shri Sailam, which is a holy place for the devotees of Lord Shiva. Other devotees including Shri C. Bala Krishna Murthy were also with Him. A great saint called Baroda Maharaj was also staying in the temple. This saint never used to take any food except a glass of milk at

midnight. One morning, Swami told the devotees that He had given a vision of Shiva Datta to Baroda Maharaj. Shiva Datta is the same three-faced Lord Datta, but with the face of Lord Shiva in the central position instead of Lord Vishnu's face.

After saying this, Swami visited the temple along with the devotees. As soon as Baroda Maharaj saw Swami, Maharaj stood up and caught hold of Swami. He began singing joyously, "Today, I have seen the vision of Datta". He held the hands of the Swami and sang and danced for a long time. Devotees realized the truth in the words of Swami, when He had said that He had given a vision to the saint.

Swami as the Divine Mother

One day, a devotee called Mrs. Saritha, came from Guntur, a nearby town, to visit Swami. In the evening, Swami was singing devotional songs along with all the devotees. Suddenly she became extremely thrilled and ran towards Swami. She fell at His feet with respect and humility. Devotees were wondering what had happened. She later told other devotees, "I had a vision of Swami as the Divine Mother, Lalita, decorated with divine jewels. When I fell at the feet of Swami, I saw that His feet were decorated with turmeric and golden anklets, which are so characteristic of the Divine Mother. The vision was so impressive that its memory is fresh as ever in my mind. It was certainly not an illusion".

Swami as Shri Shirdi Sai Baba

Swami advises Purna

Smt. Purna is a devotee of Shri Sai Baba and lives in Rajmundry. Once when she was in her house, Shri Sai Baba appeared to her in a vision and said, "You should sit in this prayer room and worship Me". Later this lady happened to visit Swami. Surprisingly, Swami told her the same words that Sai Baba had told her in her vision. He gave His photo to Purna and asked her to worship Him sitting in the prayer room of her own home. She had not even mentioned about her vision of Sai Baba to Swami. Swami further stated that He and Sai Baba were one and the same. She was astonished. Swami also told her that there was no need of traveling so far to visit Him, since He was always with her.

Vishwanath sees Sai Baba on deathbed

It was the day of Guru Pournima. Swami gave a divine discourse in the evening. There were several devotees attending the discourse that day. After the discourse, a sweet fragrance of lotus flowers arose from Swami's

body. It spread all over the room and lasted for twenty minutes. After that a fragrance of camphor came and lasted for 10 minutes. Then a fragrance of sacred ashes (vibhuti) came for 10 minutes. Swami explained that the three different scents represented Lord Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva respectively. He concluded the function with that explanation.

As all the devotees were slowly dispersing, a young college student named Vishwanath walked up to Swami and sat near Him. On seeing the boy Swami sang a devotional song on Shri Rama and asked the boy to worship Shri Rama. The boy was surprised. He was a devotee of Shri Rama and had later become a devotee of the late saint and human incarnation of God, Shri Shirdi Sai Baba. He had not told Swami anything about his background. He had not even been introduced to Swami. He wondered how Swami knew about his devotion to Lord Rama

Soon a conversation began between the two of them as follows:

Vishwanath: Swami, can You please give me a vision of Shirdi Sai Baba?

Swami: I do not have capacity to give you a vision of Him. You go to Puttaparthi. Meet Shri Satya Sai Baba. He can grant you, your wish. When He blesses you, please pray to Shri Satya Sai Baba for My sake too.

Vishwanath: Alright Swami, I shall do as You say.

Looking at the sincere devotion and obedience of the student, Swami, out of compassion decided to fulfill his wish right there. He asked Vishwanath to go and sit by the wall at the end of the room and instructed another devotee to switch off the light. In the dim light, Swami lay on the couch, rolling from side to side as if uneasy and suffering from some disease. Then He spoke to Vishwanath.

Swami: Vishwanath, what do you see now?

Vishwanath: (sobbing loudly) O Lord! I can see Shirdi Sai Baba Himself.

Swami: What is Sai Baba doing?

Vishwanath: Sai Baba looks very sick. He is on his deathbed. He is having a lot of trouble breathing. But His eyes are glowing with a heavenly light.

Lakshman sees Swami as Shirdi Sai Baba

One day Shri Lakshman visited Swami. Swami was singing a song on Shri Shirdi Sai Baba. Lakshman suddenly saw Sai Baba in place of Swami.

A fragrance of camphor came from His body. The fragrance remained with Lakshman for three days.

The verse in milk

Swami appeared as Shirdi Sai Baba to several devotees in the past. Recently He appeared as Shirdi Sai Baba to Shri. K. Lakshman with the smell of camphor. The next day, a devotee from Hyderabad (Smt. Sarada) came to see Swami. In her house, letters in Telugu appeared in a bowl of milk kept as an offering before the picture of Sai Baba. The words were visible to all devotees. Devotees copied all the words that appeared in the milk. The words added up to a short verse. Sarada brought that verse with her when she went to meet Swami. Surprisingly what Swami said in his discourse that day, was exactly the essence of that verse. When Swami was told about the words that appeared in the milk offered to Sai Baba and that the verse was also the essence of Swami's discourse, Swami said "I am a dog at the feet of Sai Baba. Sai Baba says "Allah Malik (God is the master)" but I say "Sai Malik (Sai is the master)"".

Swami often speaks in this way by which He hides His own divinity. This is the characteristic way of Lord Datta. Swami also says "Datta is Jnana (Knowledge). Vinaya (humility) is the fruit of Jnana. So Datta is always humble and speaks with all submissiveness. Datta will not stay where egoism exists".

Swami often says that he is the dog at the feet of Shri Shirdi Sai Baba. Devotees did not like it and requested Swami to not speak like that. Swami explained, "If you read it in one direction, it is DOG. If you read it in the opposite direction it is GOD. If a person who is full of egoism and jealousy comes to Me, I say that I am a DOG. If a devotee with full faith comes to Me I say that I am GOD. So the pointer of the 'egoism-jealousy meter' reads from 0-100 depending on the people coming to Me and the meter appears to My eyes. According to the reading on this meter, I play the appropriate cassette. I have five cassettes, according to which say that I am a Dog, Devotee, Messenger, Incarnation or God respectively. If the jealousy and egoism of the visitor is 100%, I say that I am a Dog. If it is 75% I say that I am a Devotee. If it is 50% I say that I am a Messenger. If it is 25% I say that I am the Human Incarnation of God. If it is 0% I say that I am God Himself. Thus, there is a gradual transformation from 'Dvaita' (duality) to 'Vishistadvaita' (qualified monism) and to 'Advaita' (monism). According to the visitors' level of absorption I have to play the appropriate cassette. If the visitor has 100% egoism and jealousy and if I play the 5th

cassette, which says that I am God, the visitor will leave Me at once shouting that I am mad and egoistic”.

The discourse of Swami on the day that Sarada arrived, can be summarized as follows, “God comes down in human form only. The Gita says the same as ‘*Manusheem...*’ The Gita also says ‘*Bhutejya yanti...*’ i.e., if you worship stones you will be born as stones. The Veda says ‘*Natasya Pratima...*’ i.e., God does not dwell in statues. Worship (sixteen Upacharas) can only be done for the human incarnation and not for statues. The statue is only for seeing and remembering the past incarnations of God as said by the Veda, ‘*Drastavayah*’. It is just like seeing the photograph of a person, who is no more here. The photograph is required because it is difficult to clearly imagine the person who is not before you”.

The verse in Telugu that appeared in the milk offered to Sai Baba is as follows:

niraakarun, akaaramu leni nannu—madi nilputa kasthamanuchu
 pratimal chitramulan, ekaagratha kuduru nandaka oka rupuniga nilipi
 pujinchamatanna, pujinthuru verrulai
 nenchhi akaaramu daalchi yeduta nilchi spurthi nicchinan
 aa silalan kolthuru, chitramunu nilpedaru, nannu gurthincha leni
 mimmu kaanchi chitramaitiraa.

The translation of the verse is as follows:

“I asked you to meditate upon statues and photographs, because it is difficult to concentrate on God, who is beyond imagination. But you are mad. Even though I have come down in human form to preach, you leave Me and still worship those statues and photographs. You are not recognizing Me in the human form. So I have become a photograph (I died) to satisfy your madness”.

Swami said “My discourses show authority from the Vedas, Sastras and the Gita. Scholars can understand and appreciate them but common people cannot appreciate them as much. So to give authority to My discourses in the eyes of laymen, Shirdi Sai Baba has written these poems in the milk since many people are devotees of Shirdi Sai Baba. Now they will believe My discourses easily”.

Swami as Shri Satya Sai Baba

Smt. Priyamvada, is a lecturer in Hyderabad and her husband is a doctor. They are close devotees of Shri Satya Sai Baba, who is an incarnation of the Lord living in Puttaparthi, India. Swami once visited Smt. Priyamvada’s house and stayed with them for three days. While

talking to Him, the couple indirectly asked for a proof of His divinity. Swami merely smiled but kept silent.

The next evening, devotees gathered in their house for singing devotional songs. Swami was sitting in a chair behind the crowd of devotees. One lady, by the name of Smt. Gita, who was also a devotee of Shri Satya Sai Baba, entered the hall late. She had long desired to go to Puttaparthi and see Sai Baba seated on the silver throne. However her wish had not yet come true. As soon as she entered the hall, she looked at Swami. Swami appeared to her as Shri Satya Sai Baba. The ordinary chair, on which Swami was seated, appeared as a silver throne. She ran towards Swami and prostrated at His feet. She was wondering how Shri Satya Sai Baba had come from Puttaparthi. Later she told Smt. Priyamvada about her vision.

Swami as Shri Narasimha Saraswati

Food for one, serves eighteen

Shri Narasimha Saraswati was a great saint and incarnation of Lord Datta. On one memorial anniversary of Shri Narasimha Saraswati, Swami, with eighteen devotees, was singing devotional songs in praise of the great saint. On that day there was only enough food for Swami. At noon, there was a ceremony in which food was to be offered to Shri Narasimha Saraswati. Swami asked all the devotees to join Him for lunch. The devotees told Swami that there was only enough food for Him and that they would go to their own homes and have lunch. Swami moved His hands around the vessel containing food. He said that when Shri Narasimha Saraswati had similarly moved His hands around a vessel containing food, a thousand devotees could be fed from that vessel. He added that feeding eighteen devotees was but child's play. The vessel was opened and food was served. Needless to say, that there was more than enough food for all eighteen devotees. The food simply multiplied as it was being served leaving eighteen satisfied devotees.

Swami as Adi Shankaracharya

Smt. Seethamma was suffering from a headache for a long time. When she visited the house of Shri C. Balakrishna Murthy to see Swami for the first time, she was shocked to see Swami as Adi Shankaracharya (Lord Shankara). Golden rings were coming from the sky and were entering in to the head of Shankaracharya. After this vision, her headache disappeared forever. However Swami suffered with a terrible headache for three days.

Swami as the Sun

Smt. Venkata Lakshmi visited Swami. When she looked at Him, His face suddenly turned into a ball of fire more powerful than the sun. She was terribly frightened. Swami laughed at her. She turned around and began to run away. While running, she looked back at Swami hoping to see the same vision of the sun again. Swami mockingly said “You cannot watch a movie twice on the same ticket” Then Swami asked her to explain what she saw. She said that His face was brighter and hotter than the hottest summer sun.

Appearing in Different Places Simultaneously

Experience of Mrs. Manga

Mrs. Manga, a devotee of Swami, was once traveling from Mumbai to Vijayawada. Before leaving, she called up Swami and asked Him to accompany her on her journey. Swami was in Vijayawada at that time. Swami agreed and appeared to her in the train. However she alone could see and talk to Him. Swami was sitting before her and constantly talking with her. Other passengers thought that she was mad because she was apparently engaged in serious conversation with no one! When the train reached Vijayawada station, Swami got down from the train and went away.

On another occasion, Mrs. Manga asked Swami over the phone to appear in His original form before her. Swami agreed to appear to her soon. A short while later, when she was going to the bathroom, and opened the door of the bathroom, Swami was right there in a frightening form. He was snow-white in color. His eyes were red and head clean shaven. He was stark naked. This was the form of a ghost, which is called as ‘Datta Digambara Pishachya Rupa’ in the scriptures.

Mrs. Manga got the fright of her life and did not open the door of that bathroom for several days. Only after Swami assured her that He would not show her that terrible form again, did she start using that bathroom again. Swami told her that she should not have asked to see His original form, which even angels fear. He told her that that form represents His severe and harsh form.

Swami appears in three places simultaneously

The day after the experience of Mrs. Manga, Swami proved His presence in three places on the same day and at the same time. Swami traveled to a city called Guntur, to deliver a lecture at a college. He was put up in the college for the night. On the same night, He was present with His family in Narasaraopet, which is a different town, where He slept with His

family. A neighbor of Swami, in Narasaraopet even talked with Swami for half an hour that evening. Also on the same night, Swami attended the annual gathering of a college in a third town. In that town, He traveled in the car of a devotee and slept in his house that night.

Therefore, on the same day and at the same time, He was present in three different places and there were witnesses in all three locations, who swear that they not only saw Him but that He slept with them that night. Swami told devotees that Shri Narasimha Saraswati was simultaneously present in eight villages on the same Deepavali-festival day. The next day, Swami gave a vision to Smt. Seethamma as Shri Narasimha Saraswati and also as Shri Akkalkot Maharaj, who was another incarnation of Lord Datta.

Visualized in absence

Devotees were singing devotional songs on the top floor in the house of Shri C. Bala Krishna Murthy. Swami was not present there. One devotee called Mr. Balakrishna, who is the grandson of Shri C. Bala Krishna Murthy, was present at that time in the house downstairs. He went upstairs to attend a phone call where he clearly saw Swami sitting and singing amidst His devotees.

Balakrishna was surprised and came downstairs to tell his mother that Swami was there upstairs. His mother was confused because she had not seen Swami come into the house. However there had been an important phone message for Swami, so she told Balakrishna to go back upstairs and give Swami the message. Balakrishna went upstairs only to see Swami absorbed in singing. Thinking that disturbing Him was inappropriate, Balakrishna decided to give the message later.

When the devotional songs were over and all the devotees came downstairs, Balakrishna's mother asked Sumathi, a certain devotee when Swami would come down. Sumathi replied that He would come down shortly. Saying thus Sumathi left for her home. After almost all devotees had dispersed, Balakrishna's mother asked some other devotee when Swami would come down. She was taken aback when the other devotees said that Swami had not been present for the singing that night. Unable to believe what they told her, she called Sumathi, who only a while ago had told her the Swami was there. Sumathi picked up the phone in her home and said that she herself had not come for the singing that night at all.

The devotees quickly understood that it was another divine drama played by Swami. Next day, when Swami came to their house, Balakrishna told Him about the last night's incident. Listening to the story, Swami burst into laughter.

Swami appears to devotees far away

Some devotees met Swami at Kurla railway station, Mumbai, and talked with them for ten minutes. Swami told them that He had just arrived in Mumbai from Vijayawada. Yet He had never left Vijayawada where He had been with His devotees all the time that day. Vijayawada and Mumbai are separated by nearly a thousand kilometers.

Swami appeared

Shri G. Lakshman heard about the golden light that appeared on Swami's face while some devotees were taking His photograph. When he visited Swami in Vijayawada, he asked Swami to show him the golden light. Swami said to Lakshman, "Why do you want to see just the light? You will see Me. Go to Mumbai." When Shri Lakshman returned to Mumbai and entered his living room, he saw Swami sitting in a chair. He was shocked and was about to say something to Swami but He disappeared immediately.

Swami attends wedding

Swami was invited to a marriage of relatives of D. Sundari. Swami promised that He would attend the marriage in some other form. On the day of the marriage Smt. Lavanya saw Sundari three to four times and she appeared normal to Lavanya. But exactly at the time of marriage (muhurtham) Swami entered the body of Sundari. Lavanya saw Swami in Sundari. She was so excited that she started weeping continuously mentioning the name of Swami. When Sundari returned back to Nandhyala along with the marriage party, she saw Swami in the photograph of Shri Satya Sai Baba for a long time. Swami was laughing and one of the flowers kept on the photograph fell in the hands of Sundari.

Other Visions

Electric arcs and colored rays

One day Swami was invited to the house of Shri A Seshadri, who is a leading auditor in Vijayawada. Swami was received well in his house. Smt. Lalitha, wife of Shri A. Seshadri, touched the feet of Swami respectfully. In doing so she received a powerful electric shock as if from a high voltage wire. Their daughters, Ramya and Divya, who were present there, saw electric arcs coming out of Swami's body. They kept watching Him in fear and respect, until the electric discharges slowly died down. Swami's entire body became radiant white in color like white-hot metal heated due to the electrical arcs.

After some time, Ramya and Divya observed many colored rays coming from the hand of Swami. Then they saw an intense pink-colored light coming from Swami. They also observed a pink colored halo around the head of Swami. Swami told them that the pink color indicated the divine love of the Lord. Swami explained that the many colored rays are formed by the mixing of the three fundamental qualities, of satvam (purity), rajas (activity) and tamas (inertia). White represents satvam, red represents rajas and blue represents tamas. The infinite variety in creation is due to the mixing in different proportions, of these fundamental qualities. Swami also explained that the electric arcs emanating from Him represented various concepts of divine knowledge. The final white body that He took up, indicated that Swami is the embodiment of divine knowledge. The family was very happy on hearing these interpretations of the miracle they had just seen. Shri A. Seshadri often holds good spiritual discussions with Swami and is proficient in the logical analysis of divine knowledge.

Lip movement in a picture

One day Ajay asked Swami to show him a miracle. Swami agreed. That day Ajay was offering a sweet dish to a picture of Lord Datta. To his surprise, the lips of the Lord in the picture began to move as if He were eating the sweet. Ajay was shocked and just sat still in front of the picture for an hour. That very night, Ajay's wife too asked Swami to show her some miracle. Swami showed a small light to her for 5 minutes. The light slowly moved and merged in the picture of Lord Datta. This happened when she was preparing a curry. She was so engrossed in watching the light merge with the picture that by the time it was over, the curry that she had put on the stove, was completely charred.

Glow overwhelms cameraman

Once, devotees planned to take a photograph of Swami. As Swami sat to have His picture taken His face began glowing with a brilliant golden light. The glow was so intense that the cameraman, Shri Sharma, stared at Swami open-mouthed, unable to move. When he was prompted by others to quickly take a picture of the miraculous vision, he said that the glow was so brilliant that the flash would not work and the film would get overexposed. Seeing the helplessness of Shri Sharma, Swami reduced the intensity of the glow. When most of the light had faded and only a slight glow remained, Shri Sharma could take a picture. The picture that came out showed a slight golden color to Swami's face.

For another picture, Swami was decorated as Lord Venkateshwara. Devotees applied some face powder to Swami's face. When the Shri

Sharma (cameraman) looked at Swami through the lens, Swami appeared blue in color as Lord Venkateshwara is supposed to look. Shri Sharma was astonished and looked directly at Him. But Swami appeared normal when looked at directly. He again looked through the camera lens and Swami looked blue in color. Finally, He took the picture of Swami as Lord Venkateshwara, in which Swami appears blue.

Monument of deities

Swami has appeared as Lord Vishnu, Lord Rama Lord Ganesha, Lord Shiva, Lord Krishna, Lord Hanuman, Lord Venkateshwara and Lord Datta to various devotees. He has also appeared in female forms such as Goddess Saraswati, Goddess Lakshmi and Goddess Lalita. At Ramachandrapuram, while singing devotional songs in a gathering, a bright halo was seen behind the photo of Swami. On the day of Good Friday from 10 am to 3.00 pm Swami suffered the pains, which Lord Jesus underwent on the cross.

Chapter 5

GREAT SOULS RECOGNIZE SWAMI**Great Sage Reveals Swami's Identity**

Shri Shivananda Maharaj is known to be a great sage. He has several divine powers and can create objects at will. Some devotees, who doubted Swami took Him to meet Shivananda Maharaj. When Maharaj saw Swami, he said, "He is the Lord Datta, whom people search everywhere". Looking at the devotees, Maharaj said, "Lord Datta is in Him constantly. He is not an occasional visitor to Swami's body, who comes and goes, but is ever-present".

One of the devotees present there, was under the impression that Lord Datta comes in to Swami to accomplish some work and leaves Swami whenever the work is done. His belief was based on the statement given by Swami "Datta enters Me whenever a work is to be done and leaves Me whenever the work is over like an electric current entering a wire".

In fact, Swami had deliberately said so since it is not easily acceptable to most devotees that He is Lord Datta Himself. Devotees suffering from the diseases of egoism and jealousy, are unable to accept the human incarnation of the Lord. Therefore Swami sometimes refers to Himself as a devotee of the Lord. At other times He may refer to Himself as one in whom God visits occasionally, or one in whom God dwells permanently. The different versions are for different devotees having progressively lower egoism and jealousy. Only to the highest devotee, who is completely free of egoism and jealousy, does He clearly declare that He is the Lord Himself. The particular devotee had taken one of the various versions of Swami's identity and had literally thought that Lord Datta visited His body only on occasion.

Maharaj looked at this devotee and told him, "If you think that Lord Datta enters Swami only on occasion, you have totally missed the truth. You have fallen into quicksand. Understand this very well; Lord Datta stays in Swami all the time."

Thereafter, Maharaj garlanded Swami and praised Swami as Lord Datta by shouting "Jai Jai Datta—Victory to Lord Datta". Maharaj further added "Lord Datta has come down in this human form and is writing books about Himself".

Whom Angels Fail to Recognize

Once, Phani was walking along a street in Mumbai. He was thinking about Swami. Suddenly he heard voices from above. He looked up in the sky and to his amazement he saw several angels and sages discussing something loudly. He listened carefully and noticed that they were talking about Lord Datta. They were saying that no one can recognize Him when He incarnates on earth; not even angels and sages. One of them was asking “Who is this Swami on earth, who walks with a bag hanging from one shoulder? This Swami is changing the rules of creation!” Some other angel replied “He is the human incarnation of Lord Datta, who has come down to propagate divine knowledge to the world. He is covered by a very thick veil of Maya. Nobody can recognize Him. Even sages and angels like us cannot recognize Swami.”

The surprising fact is that on the same day and at the same time, Swami composed a new song in Vijayawada and began singing it. It goes thus, “*brahmarshirva devova syat dattatreyam kojantati?*”. It means “Be he an angel or the highest sage, who can recognize Lord Datta?” When Phani returned to Vijayawada, Swami welcomed him with this very song and had a good laugh.

Midnight Meeting with Goddess Kali

One night Swami was sleeping in the house of Mrs. Seethamma. At midnight, Seethamma woke up hearing some voices from Swami’s room. She was confused as to who would be talking to Swami at that hour. Unable to contain her curiosity, she peeped into the room through a window. She saw that Swami was speaking with a lady who was sitting opposite to Him, with her back towards Seethamma. Unable to see the face of the lady, Seethamma could not recognize her. However it was obvious that she was no ordinary lady. She was definitely some Goddess. She was wearing a blue sari, a golden crown and exquisite jewel-studded ornaments.

Seethamma thought of opening the door and entering the room. However she was afraid that the Goddess might vanish. So she continued listening to the conversation between the two of them through the window. She recounted later, “I was not sure who that Goddess was. I thought she was the presiding deity of our village. I tried to follow their conversation but could not understand much since they were speaking Sanskrit. Swami was speaking in an authoritative tone, while the Goddess was speaking very politely and submissively. After some time the Goddess disappeared. After

she left, Swami still sat there with closed eyes. I closed the window and went back to bed”.

“Next morning, I asked Swami, who the divine lady was. Swami told me that she was the Divine Mother Kali”. Kali is the ferocious and terrifying form of the Divine Mother. Seethamma asked Him what the conversation was about. Swami replied, “Kali wanted to destroy humanity through the dreaded disease, AIDS. I prevented her from doing so saying that the time had not come for it. I assured her that I would change humanity through My Divine Knowledge and that she should wait for some more time”.

Seethamma said that she regretted not being able to see the Goddess’s face. Swami replied, “If you had seen her face, it would have been the last thing you ever saw. No ordinary person could see the terrifying form of Kali and still live. I knew that you were peeping through the window. We both knew it. Therefore I did not allow Kali to turn back and look at you. I knew that you were thinking of entering the room. So I immediately removed that idea from your mind and prompted you to go back to bed.”

Shri Ganapathi Sachidananda Swami

A famous saint and incarnation of Lord Datta, Shri Ganapathi Sachidananda Swami, once said, “Lord Datta will be born in India as scholar. He will write several books and the books will become world famous. This is predicted in a Nadi book”. Devotees of Swami believe that Swami is the very same author referred to by Shri Ganapathi Sachidananda Swami. Shri Ganapathi Sachidananda Swami asked for three sets of all the works of Swami and kept them in His personal library. There is also a mention of such a scholar in the prophecies of Nosterdamus.

Divine Lady Sees Swami

Shri. Ramanath Iyer at Mumbai, goes to a divine lady, who is possessed by Goddess Durga at around 7.30 p.m., on the day of every Durgaashtami festival. At that time, the divine lady gives the holy ‘Arathi’. On a recent Durgaashtami day, he was a little late. When it was time for the Arathi, the devotees gathered there requested the divine lady to give the ‘Arathi’. Just then Swami appeared before her and asked her to wait for a minute since Ramanath Iyer was on his way and was just climbing the stairs. As Ramanath Iyer came upstairs, the divine lady narrated about her vision to the devotees. She said that Swami is always with Ramanath Iyer, wherever he goes. Ramanath Iyer was surprised when he heard this because, sometime back, Swami had told him that He would always be with

Ramanath Iyer. So the promise of Swami was proved to be true by the words of this divine lady.

Eight Incarnations of Lord Datta

Swami asked Shri C. Balakrishna Murthy to write books on the life histories of seven great incarnations of Lord Datta namely: Shri Ganapathi Sachidnanda Swami, Shri Satya Sai Baba, Shri Shirdi Sai Baba, Shri Akkalkot Maharaj, Shri Manik Prabhu, Shri Narasimha Saraswati and Shripadavallabha. After writing these seven books, Shri C. Balakrishna Murthy, wrote an eighth book on the life history of Swami. It is interesting to note the significance of the fact that he mentioned Swami as the eighth incarnation of Lord Datta and Swami's name is Venu Gopala Krishna Murthy. Lord Krishna was the eighth son of His mother. The number eight and the name Krishna are both common between Swami and Lord Krishna. Lord Krishna was also the eighth incarnation of Lord Vishnu.

Chapter 6

MIRACULOUS HEALINGS**Raising the Dead**

Past incarnations of the Lord have performed this miracle of raising people from the dead. Bringing a dead person to life is a very serious violation of the natural law. The Lord in human form does not do this miracle frequently. Even if He does it, He keeps it secret. The Lord does not want to be known as one who violates His own laws. He violates His laws only in exceptional situations, in order to benefit His real devotees and that too when there is no other alternative. Swami told some devotees, “Lord Krishna brought back to life, the son of His teacher, Sandipani. The boy, whom he brought back to life, was a very deserving soul and the circumstances were extraordinary. Lord Krishna did not publicize the event. What He told most people was that the boy was drowning in the water and had drifted to a faraway shore where he was lying unconscious, next to a black man. He (Lord Krishna) had merely rescued the boy from the black man. Actually the faraway shore was the after-world since the boy had died. The ‘black man’ was none other than the Lord of Death, Yama, who is supposed to be black in color. Thus Lord Krishna tried to make the incident appear as a case of an ordinary rescue.

Later, in the Mahabharata war, Abhimanyu, the son of Lord Krishna’s sister died in the battlefield. Lord Krishna’s sister, Subhadra, prayed to Lord Krishna, to bring back her dead son. She quoted the incident of bringing back to life the son of Sandipani. She thought that since she was the sister of the human form of the Lord, He would certainly violate the natural law and bring back her dead son. However the Lord knew better. He knew that Abhimanyu, the dead warrior hero, who was his nephew, did not deserve to be brought back to life since he was a demon reborn as a human. Abhimanyu had died a hero’s death on the battlefield and was sure to reach heaven. So Lord Krishna refused the request of His sister. He told her that He did not have any powers to bring the dead to life. He told her that the incident of saving the son of His teacher, Sandipani, was a case of an ordinary rescue.

Many years later, when the mission of the Lord on earth was completed and it was time for Lord Krishna to give up His mortal body, He arranged the hunting accident, in which a hunter mistook Lord Krishna to

be a deer and shot Him with an arrow on His foot. Lord Krishna did not save Himself from dying for He knew that the mortal body was impermanent while He was the Ruler of life and death. Similarly, Lord Jesus, raised Lazarus from the dead, but died on the cross Himself. He did not save Himself even when Roman soldiers mocked at Him and challenged Him to save Himself, if He really were the Savior”.

Swami too performed a miracle of raising a dead person; however, He kept it secret. He revealed the incident to His devotees but not the name of the person He saved. He revealed the name of the person only to Shri Ajay as proof. The incident took place as follows:

The son of a devotee breathed his last around midnight. The house of this devotee was far from the town and the mother had not been able to take the child to the hospital on time. The grieving mother fell at the feet of Swami and cried pitifully for hours. She begged Swami to bring back her son. Swami told her that it was against the laws of nature and justice to do such a thing. However the mother was beyond consoling. She was going into a state of shock herself and would not have survived. All the other family members were devastated by the death of the child.

Finally Swami stood up and said “I am the Creator, Sustainer and Destroyer of this entire creation. Life is only a small part of creation, which consists of inert energy in living beings. Life is called para prakriti. It is under My control”. Then Swami walked over to where the dead boy lay, uttering several times, the sacred words, “*Aham Brahma asmi* (I am the Lord)”. Then He touched the boy. Immediately, the boy came to life. He was free from illness and in a few minutes was happily playing about in the house. Then Swami told the mother and the other family members to not reveal the incident to anybody. Swami allowed the mother to reveal her identity only to Shri Ajay and describe the incident to him. Thus other devotees would know about the incident without knowing about the identity of the devotee.

That devotee told Shri Ajay that after Swami brought her son back to life, He tried to dismiss the incident saying that it was no miracle since the boy was perhaps just unconscious and woke up when He touched him. She also told Ajay, that she would not be fooled by such statements since she knew for sure that her son was dead and that Swami had brought him back to life in front of her eyes.

Swami Cures Brain Hemorrhage

One day, Swami told Ajay, regarding his wife, Smt. Nagalakshmi, “Today, the divine chariot is coming to take away your wife’s life. Let her

be ready to leave". The same day, Smt. Nagalakshmi suffered from a brain hemorrhage. A CT scan was immediately done and the doctors found a very large clot of blood in her brain and they also found that some critical nerves were ruptured. Doctors said that chances of her surviving were almost nil. They expected her to go into a coma and die any moment. Ajay approached Swami for help. Swami applied sacred ash on her forehead and asked the doctors to repeat the scan. To their astonishment, the blood clot in her brain had totally disappeared and the ruptured nerves had miraculously healed.

Smt. Nagalakshmi survived but remained paralyzed. Ajay could not go to work because he had to look after her. On the Thursday following this incident, Swami told Ajay to go to work without worrying about his wife. To everyone's amazement, that very day, Smt. Nagalakshmi walked freely and was able to talk and interact with everyone as usual. Her doctors were stunned and claimed that such a sudden recovery was something they had never seen in their whole careers.

Curing a Peculiar Disease

Shri Subbarao is a retired income tax officer, living in Machalipatnam. His son was suffering from a peculiar disease; he could not bear the smell of his own sweat. The son was an engineering student. Unable to withstand the smell, he wanted to commit suicide. His father approached several doctors but they could not help him. Then they took him to different saints to see if their blessings could cure him. Unfortunately there was not even a trace of improvement. Finally, they approached Swami. The father wept and pleaded to Swami to cure his son. At first Swami expressed His inability to cure the disease because the father had told Him that his son could not be cured even by some great saints that they had approached. However the father would not let go. He clung to the feet of Swami and begged Him to do something.

After a long time, when neither the father nor Swami would yield from their respective stands, Shri C. Balakrishna Murthy intervened. He prayed to Swami to help the father, who was crying for his son. Finally the heart of Swami melted and Swami applied sacred ash (vibhuti) on the forehead of the son. At that very instant, the disease disappeared.

Curing Paralysis

Smt. Satyakumari is considered to be a spiritually advanced person by those who know her since she has some supernatural powers. She even has some followers. She once came to see Swami in Hyderabad. As soon as she saw Swami, she was shocked to see a beam of intense radiation coming

from Swami. She remained still as if hypnotized, with her eyes set on Swami. Lord Datta, possessed her and began to talk through her. Swami asked her, “Who are you?” She replied, “I am Lord Datta” (It was Lord Datta speaking through her). Swami asked her, “Then who am I?” She replied, “You are me and I am you”. She repeated this thrice. After that Swami released her.

He told her to be careful about her health that night, around midnight. True to His word, she suffered a paralytic attack at midnight. Her followers called Swami immediately. Swami transferred her disease to Himself and she was immediately relieved from it. However, Swami suffered with the disease for the whole night.

Saving a Boy

A boy named Srikar is a devotee of Swami. He respectfully prostrates before Swami whenever he sees Him. Once, Srikar fell seriously ill. His parents wept before Swami. Swami stood before the boy and made some signs in the sky. The boy recovered immediately. When devotees asked about the meaning of those signs, Swami told them that Srikar was about to die. The messengers of Yama, the Lord of Death, had come to take his soul away. With those signs, He had instructed them, to spare his life and go away.

Curing Headaches

Hand of ice

Shri Ajay was suffering from a terrible headache. Swami touched his head with His hand. Ajay felt as if it were a block of ice. His headache suddenly disappeared. However, Swami suffered with a headache for three days.

Headache balm

A devotee called Smt. Bhavana was suffering from an acute headache. She decided to try a home remedy. She prepared a paste out of dried ginger to apply on her forehead like a balm. Swami saw what she was doing and told her to apply that paste on His forehead instead. Bhavana did not understand why Swami would want the home-made balm on His forehead. Yet she did as He said. Her headache disappeared almost immediately after applying the balm on Swami and Swami developed a severe headache. It was then that she realized why Swami had asked for the balm.

More headaches

Swami applied sacred ash to the foreheads of Smt. Srilakshmi and Smt. Bhavani and their chronic headaches disappeared that very instant. Swami transferred the headache of Smt. Vasumathi to His left foot and relieved her of it instantly. Swami removed the headache of Smt. Seethamma. It appeared as a yellow light when Swami removed it and was seen by Smt. Seethamma too.

Swami Cures Many**Relieving spinal pain**

Shri Ramana, a devotee of Swami in Hyderabad woke up in the middle of the night due to a sudden and unbearable spinal pain. He cried for Swami. In a fraction of a second, he was relieved from the pain and Swami who was in Vijayawada started suffering with the same pain immediately.

Pains of surgery

Smt. Vasumathi underwent surgery and was in terrible pain after it. Her husband approached Swami at 9:00 pm and requested Him to help her. Swami agreed and blessed her. Immediately an electric spark passed through her body and the entire pain disappeared.

Removing cheek pain

Smt. Shrutakirti, a devotee of Swami, was suffering with severe pain in her cheek. She prayed to Swami for relief. Swami appeared in her dream and conducted an operation. He also applied a black colored ointment on her cheek. The next morning her pain had disappeared.

Boils of a cobbler

One day Swami was having food in the house of Shri Bhima Sankaram. All of a sudden Swami said that a certain cobbler, who was His devotee, had been badly burnt in a fire accident. The cobbler had boils all over his body. Swami declared that He was going to transfer the boils of the cobbler onto His body. As He spoke, boils started appearing all over His body. Swami suffered with the boils for three days while the cobbler's burns got cured completely without any medicine.

Saving from death

Smt. Rama, a devotee of Swami, fell seriously ill in Hyderabad and was taken to the hospital. She was in a critical condition. Swami told her relatives in Vijayawada, about her condition, even before anyone was informed about her illness. Swami sat in meditation for six hours in

Vijayawada. Smt. Rama recovered immediately. She says that Swami saved her from the jaws of death.

Vomiting blood

Shri C. Balakrishna Murthy, who is Swami's first devotee, once was taken seriously ill and began to throw up blood. Swami said, "He is my sincere devotee. I will take his disease". Swami transferred his disease on His own body and started vomiting blood. Shri Balakrishna Murthy was cured.

On another occasion, Shri Balakrishna Murthy started suffering with a stomach ulcer. He could not even eat a morsel of food. He sat at the feet of Swami and prayed sadly "O Swami, You have cured this type of disease in your previous incarnation, as Shri Narasimha Saraswati. Please cure the same disease now." Swami was eating rice mixed with a spicy pickle. Swami offered the same food to him. Shri Bala Krishna Murthy's wife objected to it since the rice and the spicy pickle was sure to make his condition even worse. Yet Swami insisted and gave that food to Shri Bala Krishna Murthy, who ate it with full faith. The disease disappeared on the spot and Shri Bala Krishna Murthy began eating normally from that day onwards. However Swami developed an ulcer and suffered with pain. Swami suffers from a stomach ulcer to this very day. Swami told devotees later, "In a certain feast, Shri Narasimha Saraswati had also asked a devotee suffering from stomach pain, to eat food that was sure to worsen the devotee's condition. The devotee ate it with full faith in Shri Narasimha Saraswati, and got cured. Since Shri Balakrishna Murthy referred to this miracle, I had to perform the miracle in the same way".

Power exceeding science

Miss Lakshmi, a student of Swami, argued with Swami saying that science was the ultimate and that there was no power beyond science. Swami argued that there is indeed power beyond science. The student showed Swami a patient suffering from a severe ulcer. He had been unable to take even a morsel of rice for the past six years. Medical science had somehow managed to keep him alive. However the doctors could not cure him. Jyothi asked Swami to cure the patient if he indeed possessed powers beyond science. Swami asked the patient to give a fruit to Him with his hands. The patient gave a banana to Swami, which Swami immediately ate. The patient was relieved from the disease immediately and could eat full rice-meals from that time on. However Swami had to suffer for the patient's sake.

Swami suffered the entire disease of this patient in one day. So intense was His suffering that it was unbearable for anyone to watch Him suffer. Swami lay on a bed tossing in pain. He was tossing in pain so violently that the bed in which He lay got damaged.

Giving voice

Shri Anjaneya Sharma lost his voice due to paralysis. He approached Swami. Swami started singing devotional songs and asked Shri Sharma, to sing along with Him. Needless to say that Shri Sharma sang very well. Swami then told him that a voice is given to a human being only to sing the glory of the Lord.

Curing a heart attack

Smt. Kameshwari suffered from a heart attack and was taken to a hospital in Hyderabad, where she was being prepared for an emergency surgery. In the meanwhile her daughter, Smt. Lakshmi, fell at the feet of Swami in desperation and prayed to Him to save her mother. Swami explained to her that death was inevitable and that there was no need to be overly emotional about it. However the daughter was inconsolable. Finally Swami said, “I will save her now but you should not remain attached to her anymore. Your mother’s heart will be cured and she will live, but you should give your heart to the Lord. You must love God alone and not your mother from now on. If you promise Me this, I will save your mother”. Lakshmi promised Swami.

Swami asked Lakshmi to request the doctors to re-examine the patient before operating on her. The doctors did likewise and were puzzled to see no symptom of a heart attack. They immediately discharged the lady.

A few days after this incident, Smt. Lakshmi was on her way to see her mother. Swami met her on the way and told her that she was still attached to her mother. He reminded her that she had promised to love God alone and yet she loved her mother more than God. She had broken her promise. Smt. Lakshmi was disturbed and told Swami that she was only visiting her mother but her mind was completely focused on God. Swami told her that one should do one’s duty without attachment. He told her that she could do her duty by visiting her mother and providing for her but without attachment. Her heart should be given to the Lord alone. Today, ten years after the incident, Smt. Kameshwari still lives without any heart problems.

Curing high fever

In Vijayawada, Smt. Padmaja's daughter had a very high temperature for several days. It would not come down in spite of medication. Padmaja did not want to inform Swami about it because she knew that the only way that He would cure the fever was to take it upon Himself and suffer instead of the child. But her daughter's condition was getting worse and she was not responding to medication. Finally around midnight, in desperation, she prayed to Swami, who was in Hyderabad at that time. Gradually her daughter started feeling better and her temperature went back to normal.

Next morning, Padamaja called Swami to thank Him for curing her daughter. A devotee answered the phone and informed her that Swami had been taken ill just past midnight, on the previous night, and was suffering from a very high fever. Padmaja was filled with remorse. She could not forgive herself since she had forced Swami to suffer in order that her child may be cured. Swami later consoled her saying that it was all right that she had prayed to Him to help her child since the child was in a critical condition and there was no alternative.

Curing insomnia

One night, a devotee called Venkata Lakshmi, had a vision of Swami in which His face was glowing like the sun. She was so shocked that she lay sobbing for a long time and was unable to sleep. Seeing her condition, Swami emanated a sweet fragrance of lotus flowers to pacify her. The fragrance spread all over her home. Venkata Lakshmi became peaceful and happy. Her daughter had insomnia and had not been able to sleep that night as well. Swami applied sacred ash on her forehead and the child glided gently into the most blissful sleep she had ever had. She no more suffered from insomnia.

Devoted boy saved

The son of Smt. Seshu Kumari was suffering with rheumatic fever and was admitted into the hospital. The doctor told her that her son's condition was very serious and that he would have to stay in the hospital for at least a month. The boy had to appear for a public examination in a week. His performance in that examination was crucial for him to get admission to the college of his choice. His near and dear ones were afraid that he might not be able to appear for the examination. But the boy was a strong devotee of Swami. The boy and his mother prayed to Swami. Swami appeared before the boy in the hospital and gently massaged the body of the boy. He recovered almost instantaneously. The doctors were truly amazed

to see such a dramatic improvement and discharged the boy from the hospital.

Fever cured instantly

Miss Nalini is a very sincere devotee of Swami and often gets the fragrance of lotus flowers and sacred ash. Once she was suffering from a fever with a severe headache. Swami relieved both her fever and her headache instantly.

Chapter 7

PROTECTOR OF DEVOTEES**Guardian in Badari**

Smt. Padmaja, Shri Venkateswara Rao and their family, are devotees of Swami. They went on a pilgrimage to Badari, which is in the Himalayas. The road to Badari is a very difficult and treacherous mountainous road. Landslides and road accidents are very common in that region. However Swami assured them that He would accompany them in invisible form. When they returned from the pilgrimage, Swami asked their younger daughter, “Did you not see me at one place on your journey?” The daughter agreed and told everyone that on their way to Badari when the bus was going through a particularly dangerous stretch, she saw Swami walking by the side of the bus. The bus right behind their bus skidded and plunged into the deep valley. The family believed that Swami alone protected them from danger on that fateful day. He fulfilled His promise and protected their bus from mishap on that mountainous road.

Giving and Protecting Jobs**Ramana gets a job**

The parents of Shri Ramana prayed to Swami that their son may get a good job. Swami said, “I will give him the job as per your wishes, but you should join My service thereafter”. The parents agreed. Ramana got a very good job within a month and his parents joined the service of Swami.

Protects devotee’s job

Once Shri Ajay came to Swami and told Him that Ajay’s elder brother’s employer was going to remove his (Ajay’s) elder brother from his job. Swami closed His eyes and said, “But My elder brother, Hanuman, says that your elder brother is in the wrong and not his employer. Go and verify the truth”. Ajay asked his elder brother to tell him what actually happened and whether his employer was justified in asking him to leave the job. His brother finally confessed that he had started the issue by asking for a pay-raise and had threatened to resign if he did not get it. The employer was annoyed and told him that he would rather remove him from the job in that case. This was quite unexpected for Ajay’s brother who certainly did not want to lose his job. Defeated, he went home and did not report to work

the next day. His guilt had prevented him from facing his employer and settling the issue.

Later, Swami told Ajay “My brother, Hanuman, has gone to the employer and pacified him. Let your brother approach his employer without fear”. Heartened by Swami’s divine assurance, Ajay’s brother approached his employer. The employer calmly told him “Please join your job” without referring to the past.

Preventing Accidents

Train derailment stopped

Swami was staying with the family of a devotee called Shri Gopi in Tirupathi. Shri Gopi was out of town and was due to arrive in Tirupathi on a certain day. At 10:00 am that day, Swami suddenly closed His eyes and said to the wife and parents of Shri Gopi, “Lord Datta is going out for some urgent work”. After half an hour, Swami opened his eyes and said that the work was over and that Lord Datta had returned. The family members asked Swami what the urgent work was. Swami told them that they would soon come to know.

Mr. Gopi reached late that day. He came in and told his family excitedly that God saved his train from an accident. At about 10.00 am, Gopi’s train had suddenly stopped. An unknown person had apparently waved a red shirt as a flag and stopped the train. When the engine driver got out, the person had shown him that the tracks had been damaged by someone. All the passengers were stranded there on the track till the railway authorities repaired the track and the train resumed its journey. As Gopi narrated this incident, his family looked at Swami with awe and gratitude for they knew who the unknown man, who prevented the accident was.

Train stops for devotee

Smt. Malati, a devotee of Swami, and her son reached the railway station when the train had just started. They ran to catch the train. Her son managed to get in but Malati was unable to board the train. Her father, who had come to see them off, was also running with her. The train had picked up speed and she knew that she would not be able to catch it. In desperation, she remembered Swami and cried out, “Swami”. Swami immediately appeared before her. She was taken aback when the train, which had almost left the platform, suddenly applied brakes and stopped. When she got into the train, other passengers, who had seen her trying to catch the train, told her “You are very lucky; surely, God stopped the train

just for your sake”. Malati knew that Swami had indeed stopped the train for her sake alone!

Scooter on autopilot

Swami told Shri Phani that he would need the help of Swami on the following day. Next day, Shri Phani was down with a fever. He was forced to go out on his scooter for some important work inspite of his condition. The traffic was heavy as usual on Indian roads. Phani was really not in a condition to ride the scooter. He was feeling very dizzy and his head was spinning. He lost control and almost passed out while on his scooter. This was when a great miracle happened. He felt that although he had no control over the scooter, it was apparently controlling itself like an aeroplane on autopilot. Then he realized that Swami had possessed him and was controlling the scooter for him. Weaving his way effortlessly through the dense traffic, he reached home safely. Phani could barely stand when he got back home. He remembered what Swami had told him the day before. He had indeed needed Swami’s help and Swami had saved his life.

Devotees Escape the Bombing of Iraq

Smt. Gayathri, her husband and her daughters live in Kuwait. They were planning a trip to India in July 2003. In January 2003, Swami told them that they would have to come to India in March. They were puzzled as to why Swami had said so. Meanwhile tension was mounting in the Persian Gulf and a US attack on Iraq seemed imminent. By March, newspapers were predicting the air raids on Iraq to start any day. Hastily, Gayathry and her family made plans to leave for India to escape the war. Devotees in Vijayawada were worried about the safety of Gayathry and her family, and prayed to Swami to protect them. Swami told the devotees “Unless Gayathry and her family reach India, the bombing will not start”. Finally, Gayathry and her family landed in Hyderabad, India, in the early hours of 20th March 2003. As soon as they landed, they got the news that the bombing by the US forces had just started in the Gulf.

Controlling the Sun

One summer day, Swami was performing a special Vedic sacrifice called Brahma Yajna. Commonly, Vedic sacrifices are performed by burning ghee (clarified butter), food and other materials in a sacred ritual fire-pit. However Swami condemns such sacrifices and explains that such sacrifices are un-Vedic. He explains that the purpose of the fire in a sacrifice is to cook food and not burn it. The sacrifice consists in the host

donating food thus cooked, to deserving persons to satisfy the fire of their hunger. He says that this is the real Vedic sacrifice that used to be performed by the ancient sages.

The day Swami performed the Brahma Yajna, food with ghee was cooked on the fire and offered to devotees. The function began early in the morning. It was an exceptionally hot morning and the day promised to be hotter. The devotees were worried by the idea of facing the hot sun throughout the sacrifice since the function was planned outdoors, given the large number of devotees.

Swami was chanting Vedic hymns since dawn. By 7.00 am the sun started becoming unbearably hot. Swami stopped the chanting and explained to the devotees that the sun was desirous to see this special sacrifice so He had allowed the sun to see it thus far. However for the sake of the comfort of His devotees He would now send the sun away. Saying this Swami stared at the sun. Immediately, black clouds appeared from nowhere and covered the sun. The sun did not come out for the next six hours till 1.00 pm. By that time the function was over and most devotees had gone back home. From 1 pm until evening, the sun shone with twice the intensity. Swami told the devotees gathered there that the sun was making up for the six hours that he was forced to hide behind the clouds. The Veda says “*bhishodeti suryah*”, which means that the sun rises only due to the fear of the Lord. Is this incident not sufficient to understand that Swami is the human incarnation of the Lord?

Swami Brings Rains

One year, the summer was particularly severe in Vijayawada. The rains were late and several states were in the grip of a drought that year. Oppressed by the heat and drought, some devotees prayed to Swami. Swami came out of the house, looked at the sun and sang a devotional song on Lord Datta. Immediately, black thunderclouds appeared and there was a downpour. From that day onwards summer ended and the rainy season began. The next year too, the summer was unbearable and there was a drought. Again on the request of devotees, Swami brought rain and ended the drought. But the third year, even though devotees prayed, Swami refused to bring rain saying that He should not interfere with nature so often.

In 2002, there was not even a drop of rain. Devotees prayed to Swami for rain. Swami asked the devotees to sing devotional songs. Swami said that rain would come down immediately on the request of His devotees. While devotees were singing devotional songs, some saw Swami engaged

in a conversation with Kalabhairava. Kalabhairava is one of the closest servants of the Lord. He represents time. He is the controller of creation, the enforcer of the rules of nature and works according to the rules laid down by the Lord. He normally works independently and the Lord does not interfere with his functioning. Only under exceptional circumstances does the Lord overrule Kalabhairava's decisions in order to save really deserving devotees from trouble. That day, during the conversation, Kalabhairava was not visible to the devotees present. However following is the conversation that took place:

Swami: You must respond to the request of My devotees.

Kalabhairava: But last year You said that you would let nature take its course and that You would not interfere.

Swami: That is true. I am not interfering. But My devotees are asking for rain. You are also My devotee. A devotee should respect other devotees.

Kalabhairava was very much pleased with the argument of Swami. As soon as the devotional songs were over, there was loud thunder and lightening followed by heavy rain. Devotees were overjoyed and danced in the rain singing devotional songs.

Protection in Cyclones

Bus ride in a cyclone

Shri Ajay was returning to Vijayawada from Machilipatnam. On the way, his bus was caught in a severe cyclone. All the devotees back home were worried about him but Swami told them, "Ajay is in the eye of the Sudarshana Chakra. Nothing will happen to him." Swami compared the cyclone to the Sudarshana Chakra or the Divine Disc of the Lord. Ajay reached home safely. He told others that it was truly a miracle that he and his fellow passengers survived the cyclone. Due to the high winds and torrential rain, visibility was nearly zero. Trees and poles were falling on the road. Debris was flying everywhere. Yet the bus escaped any accident. In fact several times, large trees crashed onto the road just after their bus passed.

Flooding prevented

A cyclone hit Vijayawada. The house of Shri Sharma is in a low-lying area. Residents of that locality were on alert that night since water was likely to flood their homes. Shri Sharma prayed to Swami that night and went to bed. The storm continued, showing no signs of reducing. It

unleashed torrents of rain. At midnight, Shri Sharma awoke and saw Swami sitting by his side. Swami told Sharma to sleep without fear. Sharma went back to sleep. Next morning, Sharma woke up to find that not a drop of water had entered their home. As he stepped outside to survey the locality, he found that large areas around his home had been flooded. In fact, water had entered the homes of many of his neighbors. Surprisingly, it had also entered houses, which were at a higher level than his own house. He thanked Swami with all his heart for protecting his house from flooding.

Converting Loss into Profit

Shri Ajay is a manager in U.T.I. Smt. Padma, a devotee of Swami and a client of Ajay, had some money bonds with the U.T.I. One day, when the stock market rose she wanted to sell her U.T.I. bonds. However some important documents could not be found on that day. Padma's husband blamed Ajay for misplacing the documents. Next day when the documents were found, the stock market had gone down. The gain that Padma and her husband had expected would not be achieved and they would instead have to incur a loss.

Worried by the prospect of a loss, Padma approached Swami. Swami told her not to worry and assured that He would raise the stock market by the next morning. He told her to sell her bonds that day. Next day, the market made a sudden rise and Padma gained much more than she had expected. She was very happy and grateful to Swami for converting her loss into a profit.

Stopping Devotee's Transfer

Shri G. Lakshman and his wife, are great devotees of Swami. They live and work in Mumbai. Once, when Shri Lakshman's wife went to Vijayawada to visit Swami, He told her that He would grant her one boon. She could choose what she wanted. When she returned to Mumbai, she came to know that she had been transferred to Pune. She had a government job and so the transfer was unavoidable. The transfer meant separation from her family; therefore, she was not keen on it. She decided in her mind to use the boon granted by Swami to stop her transfer. With this resolve she went to work the following day only to find out that her transfer was cancelled by the authorities, even before she could say anything about it. The boon given by Swami had worked.

Legal Help

Shri. V. Sudhakar (U.S.A.) was worried about a legal case. Swami told him that he need not worry about his case and that he should instead think about propagation of the divine knowledge of Swami. But Sudhakar was still constantly worried. Swami assured him again and again that He would solve the problem. Swami told Sudhakar that He had selected him for Swami's service because he was a very sincere person with a crystal clear mind. Swami also said that Sudhakar was connected to Swami even in his previous births. When Sudhakar was returning to USA from India, Swami told him "I am Lord Rama. I will not break my word. I am sending Hanuman with you. Hanuman will solve your problem and will come back". As soon as Sudhakar went to USA his problem was solved. He is now sincerely propagating Swami's knowledge. His sister Smt. Gayatri is also doing the same work sincerely. Swami told her "I know that you are very sincere and I am very confident of your service. So I am giving the certificate of your service now itself".

Karate Lesson

A person who was a karate expert, was harassing Dr. Annapurna in Cochin. Swami spoke through a devotee and threatened the harasser. However the harasser was not scared since he was a karate expert and could defend himself. However immediately he was subjected to a severe rash all over his body. When he apologized to Dr. Annapurna, he was relieved from the rash. Finally he said to Dr. Annapurna, "Your Swami is indeed very powerful".

Chapter 7
DEVOTEES TEST SWAMI

Who is the Fool?

A gentleman called James Christopher (alias Jeeva) contacted Mr. Surya Narayana who is a devotee of Swami. Jeeva told the sad story of his life and spiritual pursuit to Suryaji. He said that he was a 55 year old Australian settled in Germany and had followed over ten spiritual masters. He said that he had sincerely followed their philosophies and practiced as per their instructions but had always been disappointed and cheated. He yearned to experience a trace of bliss in his life that was slipping away fast. He claimed to have a burning desire to see the Truth. He expressed a desire to verify if Swami was indeed a human incarnation of God. He said that if he were able to verify it, that he would serve Swami in His mission. He also asked several questions to Swami and Swami answered all the questions. These answers are of great relevance to all sincere devotees. Swami also gave detailed instructions on how a devotee could serve Him.

Later Jeeva admitted that he was not James Christopher and had only played a trick on Suryaji and Swami by pretending to be a sincere devotee and wanting to serve Swami.

However Swami had known the truth about Jeeva from the beginning and had even told His devotee, Swami Vishnudattaananda, (Phani) about it. Later when Jeeva admitted his trick, Swami allowed Swami Vishnudattaananda to disclose to others what Swami had told him. Following are the answers of Swami to Jeeva's spiritual questions and Swami Vishnudattaananda's testimony of Swami's omniscience.

Swami replies to a sincere devotee

My Dear James Chirstopher,

First you must understand Me as a two-in-one system. My external human form is an ordinary human being, which is created by the Lord for some special purpose. Therefore, My external form is not entangled in the cycle of births and deaths of this world. This human body is not born due to the remains of any previous deeds, which are called as Karma Sesha. In that way this human form is completely different from other human beings, who are entangled in the cycle of deeds. Now this external human form is just

like an inert microphone, which cannot speak even a single word except producing some disturbing sounds.

The Lord has entered this body and preaches spiritual knowledge to this world. I am giving this introduction because whatever I speak here is from the Lord directly. Of course, the Lord, who is the actual speaker of these words, is invisible to you. Only the microphone (which is My human body) is visible. Therefore, there is every possibility for you to misunderstand that these sentences are coming only from the microphone. Then contradictions will arise.

In reality, the invisible Lord is answering all your questions directly. The Lord is not in need of money or fame. All this creation is His wealth. The Lord also does not hesitate to always speak the ultimate truth because He is not in need of fame or followers. The Veda says that the truth of the knowledge is the Absolute God (Satyam Jnanam...). Therefore, whether My knowledge is accepted by anybody or not, I am not at all concerned.

The Holy Bible says that the Lord comes with the sword to spoil your peace and not to unite you with others. Every human being wants eternal peace and bliss. This goal is the same for everyone whether the means are worldly items or the spiritual items. If you are trying for peace and bliss through the spiritual path, please tell Me, how you are different from others who also try to achieve the same peace and bliss through the worldly path? A person who drinks, also forgets all worries and attains peace and bliss for hours together; while you hope for just a ray of bliss for few seconds! How can you be different from that person, if you just aim for the same peace and bliss? Your case becomes worse since you try to achieve the same goal through the holy spiritual path. Suppose there is a person who earns money by doing worldly work. Another person earns the same money through spiritual work. Between these two who is the sinner? Certainly, the latter person! He claims to be spiritual but actually is interested in earning money.

Therefore, you must realize that the goal of the spiritual path is not peace and bliss. The goal of the spiritual path is the sacrifice of your peace and bliss in the Lord's mission. Jesus sacrificed even His life and suffered a lot. That is certainly not peace and bliss. He sacrificed all His peace and bliss to make His Father in Heaven blissful and peaceful. He got bliss in the bliss of the Lord. He got peace in the peace of the Lord. Yes, only due to the sacrifice of Jesus, did God become peaceful and blissful. The reason is that God's Kingdom of Heaven was established through Jesus on the earth.

The aim of the spiritual path should be to please the Lord and not to please yourself. If your efforts are only for your selfish bliss, you are just an

ordinary worldly person. Therefore, My dear James, if your path is spirituality, the goal is sacrifice. If your goal is bliss, then your path is the common worldly path followed by ordinary people. If you try to get bliss through the spiritual path, the truth is that your so called spiritual path is only the materialistic path under the disguise of spirituality.

Once again I remind you that the invisible Lord in this human form called Datta Swami has spoken so far and is directly answering the following questions that you have asked:

Swami answers devotee's questions

Q. 1) Will Swami accept me as a disciple even though I am officially Christian?

Ans.) Yes, I accept you as My disciple. I am the witness of all your long spiritual efforts. I am extremely pleased with you. I have no religion. I am universally spiritual. I drink water from any river. Water is the Spirituality and the river is a religion. The water in every river is the same compound of hydrogen and oxygen.

Q.2) Is there any place to stay inside Your Ashram or do I have to make my own arrangements nearby?

Ans.) I am a moving Ashram Myself. The word Ashrama means completely tired. I am tired in the spiritual mission and therefore, I am the correct meaning of the word Ashram (A= Completely and Shrama = tiredness). If you think of Ashram as the external atmosphere, which is congenial to spiritual thinking, its effect is only one percent. The power of the true spiritual knowledge radiating from the Sadguru has ninety nine percent effect. Once you take the spiritual decision, then even that one percent effect of external atmosphere vanishes. Then you will find every inch of the earth as an Ashram.

Q. 3) How much money do I have to donate to Your Ashram?

Ans.) You can donate anything or even nothing. Whatever you donate will be used to propagate the divine knowledge in this world under your own name as "James Christopher Foundation of Universal Spirituality". You can do the work from the place where you live right now. Some of My devotees have started a spiritual centre (Trust) in USA. You can contact Dr. Nikhil Kothurkar who is in Florida about it. You will enjoy the good fruit of your good work and none including Swami has any share

in it. Swami just hands over the fruit to you like the vice-chancellor of a University hands over the gold medal to the topper. The topper has earned the gold medal just by his hard work by loosing his own peace and bliss. The topper has sacrificed all his pleasures and concentrated on the work. Nobody has any share in that gold medal. The vice-chancellor cannot give the medal to anyone as he likes. Similarly, Lord does not favor anyone unduly. I do not have any selfish attachment in this matter. You can recognize the Lord in human form only through the truth of His knowledge, which will pierce your heart like a divine arrow. That is the sign or the identity mark to recognize the Lord in human form. He is called as the Sadguru because He knows the total concept. Ordinary human Gurus know only a part of the truth and thus they are neither completely ignorant nor do they know completely. The Sadguru gives the total picture of the elephant to you. The human Gurus touch different parts of the elephant and preach that the little part that they are touching is the total elephant. Their partial knowledge is true. But since the partial knowledge is not the complete knowledge, they are ignorant of the total truth. The present mission of the Lord is to preach the total truth to all these human preachers so that they will spread this divine knowledge in course of time.

Q. 4) Do I have to wear any special dress at any time whether it is inside or outside the ashram?

Ans.) You are important for Me and not your dress.

Q 5) What kind of Guru Seva do I have to perform to always be with You?

Ans.) Service consists of five parts. The first part is singing the glory of the Lord by the tongue. The second part is showing love or devotion on the Lord through the mind. The third part is to realize the divine knowledge through intelligence. These three parts are like the drinking water supplied to you freely by the municipality. The Lord freely gives words, mind and intelligence to you. All these three constitute only one percent of the service. It is just like offering drinking water for which you should not charge the guest anything; because even in a restaurant it is given freely. Most of the devotees serve the Lord by offering this drinking water and charge Him by asking for several boons in return.

These devotees are better than atheists because atheists do not sacrifice even this drinking water. Thus their devotion is more genuine as compared only to atheists.

Ninety nine percent of service consists in sacrifice of work and fruit of the work in His Mission. The former is called as Karma Sanyasa and the latter is called as Karma Phala Tyaga in the Vedas and the Gita. These two are the 4th and 5th parts of service, which constitute the plate of meals offered to the Lord. The plate of meals must be always associated with drinking water to make it a hundred percent. When you are offering a plate of meals along with drinking water to the Lord and do not charge Him in any way in return, a special bond is formed between the Lord and yourself. In such a bond there is no account between the Lord and yourself as in the case of a father and his son. Whatever service you can do for Him, you do it automatically and willingly. Whenever, and whatever you need, it shall be given by the Lord. If you charge the Lord for your service, the Lord will pay the exact price of the plate of meals and there is no further contact with you. Therefore, service in these five ways must be done to Sadguru without aspiring for any fruit in return.

Q.6) Do You always travel to different places or stay in one place only?

Ans.) I travel from one house to the other in the country. I preach the divine knowledge and involve My devotees in devotional songs. Some of My foreign devotees are requesting Me to come to their places. But I advised them to be far from Me so that their concentration on My inner form remains intense and keeps them progressing spiritually. If they stay close to Me, no doubt, they are inspired by My spiritual preaching. But they cannot avoid observing My external human body, which follows all the rules of nature. Such observation disturbs their concentration. The shirt of a king or the shirt of a beggar can both be cut by the blade of a knife. Just because of this common aspect, neither is the king the beggar nor is the beggar the king. However My devotees who live close to Me, have to remember this point at all times to avoid the dilution of their concentration.

I tell you an example in this context. Radha who was staying far from the Lord came to see Lord Krishna. Rukmini, the wife of

Krishna offered hot milk to Radha and Rukmni also took the same hot milk. When both went to see Krishna, the Lord became red hot. The Lord told that since He is in the heart of Radha, He was burnt by the hot milk that she drank. Rukmini argued that she had never seen such a thing happen to the Lord when Rukmini used to drink the same hot milk everyday. The Lord told her that He was not in the heart of Rukmini because of her constant physical association with Him, which led to negligence. Thus mental concentration on the Sadguru is more important than mere physical association. What is the use of being a frog that constantly lives in the Holy River Ganges?

Q.7) Are there any regular Poojas, Yagams done to any deity?

Ans.) Spiritual knowledge and devotion are the poojas. Yagam (Yajna) is the offering of food to the fire of hunger called the Vaishvanara deity existing in the stomach of the beggar. Beggars are fed regularly. But the beggar must be deserving through his devotion. Otherwise you have to make him a devotee before offering the food. Mere social service without any spiritual mission is an interference in the administration of God. God is punishing beggars for their sins through their poverty. Punishment is meant to bring about a change in the person; it is not a form of revenge. Change can come only through devotion and spiritual knowledge. Therefore, turning them into devotees is the main program and feeding them is only a secondary program. The main focus of a college or university should be academic learning and the facilities for boarding and lodging of the students should be only secondary.

Q.8) Who is the Guru of Shri Datta Swami?

Ans.) The word Datta Swami indicates the inner invisible form of the Lord and therefore He is the Guru of all the Gurus. If this word Datta Swami is used to mean only My external human form, then the whole world is My Guru because any part of the world is a wonderful spiritual model revealing the divine knowledge.

Q. 9) Will I have to take training in performing poojas to deities?

Ans.) The only training that you have to take is to read and digest all the spiritual knowledge that radiated from Datta Swami. You can ask your friend Surya to send you the entire knowledge. You will

need a patient reading for digesting it. You can also visit the Universal Spirituality website <www.universal-spirituality.org>. Only the divine knowledge can make you capable of identifying the Sadguru and developing a firm faith in Him.

Q. 10) Do I have to worship all Hindu Gods in prayers or Bhajans?

Ans.) I came as Lord Krishna. I came as Lord Jesus. Now I have come as Datta Swami. I will come again and again in every human generation. I alone am the One God and the different religions and languages are only external dresses, which are variable.

Q. 11) Is it enough to worship You alone (My heart tells me that You are the Kalki Avatar as mentioned in religious scriptures)?

Ans.) You have correctly identified Me and your correct identification is due to your long spiritual effort. The experience realized by your internal consciousness is the best authority and the scriptures can only support it. My knowledge is the sword, which cuts all the wrong preachings and this is symbolically represented as Lord Kalki cutting off heads. I am trying for a permanent solution because permanent realization is possible only through knowledge. If this effort also fails to change this world I have no alternative but to go for a temporary solution by using nuclear energy as My sword to destroy all the evil forces. This is the climax of My attempt to preach and the alternative climax is only the destruction of the world.

Q. 12) What miracles have You performed so far?

Ans.) You can read the Mahima Yamuna and you can get it from Surya. Do not recognize the Sadguru by miracles. Even demons and wicked people perform miracles. Miracles are like the jewels of the Lord, which can be attained through penance or even worshipping ghosts. However nobody can attain the true divine knowledge of the Lord, which is inseparable from Him like His shape and beauty. Blessed are the devotees who believe the Lord without proof.

Q. 13) What kind of social service activities are You doing?

Ans.) Feeding beggars associated with preaching divine knowledge and devotion is the social service that is being done. It is being done is only as a branch of the main program of propagation of

divine knowledge and devotion. Mere social service has no use because you have only extended your limited family to the entire world. In this case, you are still attached only to individual souls but not to the Super Soul (God).

Q. 14) Are You recognized by the great Shankaracharyas of the Indian tradition?

Ans.) I was offered to become the Shankaracharya of Benaras—Peetham when I was sixteen years old. I did not accept it because My mission is not confined to only one branch of philosophy. My spiritual knowledge is universal, which embraces not only all the branches of Hinduism but also all the religions of the world.

Q. 15) How many years it will take to get just a glimpse of Realization even if it is only for 10 seconds?

Ans.) This point is answered in My above introduction.

Q. 16) What is Your main technique in meditation? Do You recommend Bhakti and preach Knowledge? Or do You recommend any particular meditation techniques?

Ans.) Knowledge is the first step by which you recognize that you are only a soul or a part of the Creation. You are not the Super Soul or the Creator. Therefore, you should try to please the Creator and get His eternal blessings. The path to please the Lord is devotion by which you can attain the Lord. The third step is service, which is the proof of devotion. Through selfless service, you can please the Lord. Knowledge, devotion and service are the three consequent steps preached respectively by Shankara, Ramanuja and Madhva.

Service arises only when you recognize the Lord in human form through knowledge, which is the only identity mark of the Lord. Yoga has nothing to do with the physical or breathing exercises. Yoga simply means attainment. When you attain health through exercises it can be also called as Yoga of health. If you attain money it is Yoga of wealth. Therefore, you should not be misled by the word Yoga. You have to attain yourself, which is pure awareness. It is also called as the causal body or Atman. You have to detach from the subtle body, which is a bundle of feelings or qualities. You have to detach from the gross body, which is made of five elements. Then you are said to have identified

yourself with the pure awareness or Atman and this called as Atma Yoga.

Now you deserve to enter the Mission of the Lord and the attainment of the Lord in human form is Brahma Yoga. By Atma Yoga you get the peace and get rid of all the worries and get liberated from all the bonds of the world. In Brahma Yoga you should sacrifice your work and the fruit of your work for the sake of the bliss of the Lord and not for your selfish bliss. Then you will enter into His inner most circle and attain eternal blessings and love from the Lord. Yoga is completed by attaining and pleasing the Brahman or Sadguru.

Sadguru is the Lord in human body. The word 'Sat' indicates the Lord. The word Guru indicates only the human body, which is a composite of outer most gross body, the inner subtle body and innermost causal body. The subtle body is called as the Jeeva and the causal body is called as Atman. These three bodies are just parts of creation. The Lord is the creator who is beyond creation, which is a four dimensional space-time model. In the case of the Sadguru, the Lord speaks directly and so there is no compromise in preaching the truth. The Gurus who are just human beings, modify the knowledge to suit the convenience of the disciples because their ultimate aim is fame and money. Jesus never compromised in stating the harsh truth even though He was crucified. He was rewarded by God finally. Jesus's goal was only God and not human beings in this world. His life was full of sacrifice and not bliss. The absolute truth for which you are thirsty is that God who is beyond your logic and imagination and with whom you cannot have direct contact. But the same God enters a human body and gives His experience to you. You cannot experience the effect of the millions of electrons passing through the atmosphere. But when the electrons enter a metallic wire you experience the stream of electrons (electricity) through its shock. You are directly experiencing Brahman through a perceivable common medium called the human body. You have to recognize that God-in-flesh by His divine special true knowledge. The live wire (wire carrying electric current) looks similar to all the wires, which are not live. Similarly the human body of the Sadguru looks like the human bodies of other Gurus or ordinary people. What is the use of connecting a hundred wires to the fan without any electricity in those wires?

Today it has become a fashion for spiritual preachers to use the word Yoga. The word Yoga has become very prestigious and preachers are cheating the disciples with that word. If you operate the spinal cord of a person you do not find even a single Chakra (the Yogic wheels and lotuses) even after observing through the most powerful microscope. These Chakras are symbolic representations of various whirlpools that you come across while you are swimming this ocean of creation. In reality, these wheels are the illusory bonds with body, family, relatives, caste, religion and nation. You have to cross all these attractions to attain your Self (Atman). Then you become eligible to attain the Sadguru. Attainment is not physical association, but it is the firm faith after correct identification. Again if you remember that the Lord is speaking to you, I am the Substratum and Controller of this entire creation. I am all pervading through My unimaginable mystic power, Maya. I have witnessed all your sincere spiritual effort through all these thirty years. It is only by My Will and grace you have recognized Me and I bless you always.

Swami's suggestions for serving the Sadguru

- 1) You can start a separate Trust in the place where you are staying.
- 2) Or you can be the Chairman of the Trust which is already started in U.S.A by Dr. Nikhil. You can have a branch of same trust in the place wherever you stay.
- 3) The main Guru seva consists of two programs:
 - a. Printing all the divine knowledge that is radiated from Swami and propagating the knowledge in all the countries of the world.
 - b. Distributing the devotional songs spontaneously composed by Swami in the form of cassettes. The essence of the Gita and the Bible is presented in a long song in the English recently composed by Swami. This song has deeply attracted the hearts of devotees.
- 4) The trust in India can print the books in India in the name of the trust abroad because printing is cheaper in India. In recognition of the service of Mr. James Christopher "James Christopher Spiritual Foundation" shall be printed on the books.
- 5) The main essence of these suggestions is to let Mr. James Christopher spend his money for the mission directly through his own hands and to properly acknowledge his name so that it will remain eternally on the earth.

James Christopher unveiled

After receiving Swami's reply, James Christopher (alias Jeeva) admitted that he was not James Christopher, and was not even an Australian settled in Germany. He was only playing a trick on Swami. He was enjoying himself thinking that Swami and His devotees had been fooled. He said that he enjoyed Swami's 'school boy-like innocence' in answering questions asked by him. He said that he was most amused when Swami replied to his question about Kalki Avatara and agreed that He indeed was Kalki Avatara. He thought it was funny that a Kalki Avatara did not recognize that he (James) was fooling Him.

He thought that opening centers in the name of Swami in order to serve Him was the comedy of the millennium.

Swami the Omiscient

Swami had indeed known everything about James Christopher (Jeeva) from the beginning and was only playing along with him. He had even told His devotee, Swami Vishnudattaananda (Shri. Phaniji), the truth about James Christopher. Following is the testimony of Swami Vishnudattaananda:

As soon as I handed over the e-mail of Mr. James Christopher to Swami, the first statement that came from Swami was "He will not serve our mission. His questions are good and let me build up the subject with the answers assuming that he is a sincere devotee". Even while replying, Swami was laughing while making the statements like "I have witnessed all your efforts." and "I am very much pleased..." etc.

An exactly similar situation happened two years ago. A gentleman from Africa played a similar trick by writing such letters. Even at that time Swami clearly told me "I know the truth of this fellow. Let Me play with him as long he plays." Finally Swami wrote to him "You are fooling me but you will be fooled by God in the future. When you jump on a big stone, your limbs may break. But one day or other, the big stone is going to jump on you and then you will be surely powdered. This is told by Jesus" But before that, Swami did a lot of correspondence with him, pretending to be an innocent fellow who had been fooled by him. In fact I wanted to reveal this truth as soon as Swami told me. But Swami had stopped me because He wanted to test the faith of His devotees using the same incident.

Another extraordinary incident took place recently, which I must mention in this context. Swami was subjected to a severe illness for the past one and half months. One day Swami told me "Your untimely death is just behind you." I replied to Swami "I am going through a period of Jupiter

(called as Guru in Sanskrit) in my astrological chart, and Jupiter (Guru) will protect me”. Swami replied, “The planet Guru cannot protect you; only Guru Datta can protect you. The planet Guru, by itself cannot oppose the three dark planets, Saturn, Rahu and Ketu. Rahu and Ketu are black shadow planets (astrological planets). Saturn belongs to the quality of Tamas and is also black.” I saw the form of death following me as a black shadow. Soon I fell seriously ill and had very high fever, which would not come down at all. One day (7th September, 2005) Swami declared that He was transferring my death onto Himself. Immediately all my illness was transferred to Swami. I gradually recovered while He fought with death for five days. He was completely unconscious for those five days. On the sixth day, Swami told me that He had conquered my untimely death. I replied, “Who can conquer death other than Yourself?”

During this period of illness, one day the body of Swami was sweating profusely and He was breathing very fast. He told that the excess water on His body indicated floods and His fast breathing indicated high speed winds in the world. On the same day a devastating storm (hurricane) had hit USA and drowned the city of New Orleans. Swami informed this to Dr. Nikhil also on the phone. Even a month after this, Swami had not fully recovered. I am now revealing this with the permission of Swami.

Saint Tests Swami

Swami was in a temple in the holy town of Srisailam along with Shri C. Bala Krishna Murthy, his wife and other devotees. A saint called as Narendra Swami was standing some distance away from Swami and had a doubt about Swami. He was not sure if Swami was really a spiritually advanced soul with supernatural powers. He decided to test Swami. He thought that if Swami indeed had some powers, then He would be able to read his mind. So, Narendra Swami thought in his mind that Swami should walk back to an old broken bell that hung from the ceiling, jump up and ring it. That particular bell was not used by any devotees who visited the temple, since it was broken and was tied by a rope so that it would not be used. As the saint thought this, Swami immediately walked back, jumped and rang the old unused bell. Then He looked at the doubting saint in the eye and smiled.

The saint approached Swami and revealed to Swami’s devotees how he had tested Swami. In those days Swami never claimed that He was Lord Datta. All He used to say was that He was a devotee of Lord Datta. Therefore none of Swami’s devotees knew any different. Shri C. Bala Krishna Murthy told the saint that Swami was a great devotee of Lord Datta

and that He had got a vision of Lord Datta too. The saint was jealous and mocked at Swami shouting “You say you have seen Lord Datta? Lord Datta is never seen in this age of materialism (kali yuga). You have only seen some ghost and mistook it for Lord Datta”.

Swami immediately recognized that the saint was full of jealousy and said to him, “I know you were kicked out of the monastery, by your Guru (spiritual preacher) for your jealousy and egoism. Go back and surrender to Him”. The saint pretended as if no such thing had happened. He dismissed Swami’s advice and walked away. Swami returned to where they were staying, along with other devotees. The devotees were very much disturbed due to this incident. In the meanwhile, the saint, who was well versed in black magic, performed a ritual at midnight to invoke some evil power to harm Swami. Divine Mother Chandi, the Goddess of Destruction, was the deity whom he worshipped. She appeared before him and knocked him on his head with the golden rings on her fingers. It was such a hard knock that the saint later said that he saw several stars. She said to him, “Do you know who that Swami is? He is Lord Datta Himself.” She ordered him to go to Swami and apologize. The saint ran to Swami at once, fell at His feet and apologized profusely. He also admitted that whatever Swami had told him earlier was correct. His Guru had indeed kicked him out of his monastery for his ego and jealousy. From that day onwards, He became a disciple of Swami. After this incident, devotees of Swami too started believing very seriously that Swami is none other than Lord Datta.

More Tests

Ticket from the Lord

Shri S. Chandrasekhar, an engineer from Kuwait came to India to meet Swami. He was traveling by train to Vijayawada. He had boarded the train but did not have a seat reservation. The train was hopelessly crowded and he was standing in the aisle.

He entered an air-conditioned bogie hoping to find some vacant seat; however, there was none. Then he thought for a moment and said to himself that if Swami really had divine powers He would certainly find a seat for him. After all Swami would not want a devotee coming to meet Him, to suffer. No sooner did he think thus than a ticket collector tapped him on the shoulder. Chandrasekhar turned back thinking that the ticket collector would perhaps fine him for entering an air-conditioned reserved compartment without a reservation. On the contrary, the ticket collector

offered him a seat saying that a certain passenger was getting off suddenly for some personal reason and that Chandrashekhar could have his place.

The ticket collector also said that there was no need to pay any additional amount to claim the seat. Normally when an unreserved passenger is offered a vacant seat in a reserved compartment, he has to pay the difference in fares. In case of an air-conditioned compartment, this difference can be substantial. Chandrashekhar had to pay nothing.

When he reached Vijayawada and met Swami, he narrated the incident. He asked Swami why he never had to pay the difference in fares. Swami answered that when Chandrashekhar had mentally asked Swami to give him a seat in the train, he had not mentioned about any additional charges. So Swami had decided that he should not be made to pay extra charges.

Devotee tests Swami

Smt. Pushpa (USA), sister of Shri G. Lakshman was facing some problem and she prayed to Swami to solve the problem, that very day, as a proof that He possessed superpowers. Her problem was solved the same day. This was the first time she had tried to test Swami.

Another time, she forgot her keys inside her house and was locked outside. She prayed to Swami to help her. Immediately, an unknown person came, helped her open the door, and left. On yet another occasion, Swami appeared in her dream as Lord Panduranga. She called Swami the next morning and wept to Him. She told Him that it had been her wish for many years to have a vision of Lord Panduranga. Incidentally, the day she got this dream was the day Swami first stepped into the home of Shri G. Lakshman.

Swami shows proof

Valli was telling some of her relatives about Swami. However they would not believe in Him. They told her that they would not believe her unless they had a first hand evidence of His divine powers. As they said these words, they got a sweet fragrance of lotus flowers. They immediately became devotees of Swami.

Swami beats bureaucracy

Smt. A. Gayatri (wife of Mr. Bhaskar) needed an approval for the site of a house, from the office of the district collector. However her case had been pending for months, caught in the bureaucracy. Gayatri had come to the end of her patience and hope and prayed to Swami to solve her problem that very day as a proof that His Will alone prevailed in the world.

Then she went on her usual round of the collector's office to plead to the officials there to resolve her case. As usual, the officials told her that the collector was very busy and that she would have to come some other time. She was about to give up hope when the collector came out of his office to go to a meeting with the chief minister. The collector saw Gayatri and asked her what the matter was. She explained that it was only a simple matter of getting an approval letter from his office for a house-site that she was buying. The collector asked one of his officers to immediately type the required letter. The collector waited till the letter was typed, signed it and only then left for his meeting. Gayatri was so surprised that the collector had waited and finished her job even though he was scheduled to meet with the chief minister. In her mind she paid her respects and gratitude to Swami, who had proven to her that His Divine Will alone prevailed in this world.

Chapter 9
OTHER MIRACLES

Fragrance From the Lord

Flood of fragrance

The day after Swami visited the house of Mr. Bhimasankaram for the first time, a divine fragrance arose from the chair in which Swami sat, the earlier day. The fragrance was so strong and was spreading so fast that family members panicked and closed the doors and windows of the house to prevent it from spreading everywhere. This lasted for an hour after which the fragrance subsided.

A devotee called Shri P.V.N.M. Sharma heard about Swami's 'fragrant miracles' and dismissed them as farfetched. One day as he sat next to Swami, a strong and divine fragrance gushed forth from Him. Swami asked Sharma with a smile, "How did you like the fragrance?" Sharma, regretted having doubted Swami and fell at the feet of Swami.

Mr. Somayajulu and Mrs. Kameswaramma did not believe in the stories of miraculous fragrance from Swami. One night, a fragrance was emitted from Swami's bed. It lasted in the house all night. On another occasion, a similar fragrance was emitted from Swami's photograph, continuously for three days.

Mr. Ramanath Iyer once just referred to Swami in a casual conversation with his family and out of nowhere, the entire room was filled with fragrance. On a Guru Pournima (festival) day, Swami emitted a sweet fragrance for fifteen minutes and all devotees present there smelt it.

Shri Ajay once thought that Swami was not giving Him enough fragrance as He had given to many other devotees. As he thought this, he was immediately surrounded by a whirlwind of sacred ash for an hour with an abundance of fragrance. Ajay was very delighted and laughed in joy.

Thereafter Swami emitted fragrance of sacred ash in Ajay's house several times. In fact every evening, while Swami gave discourses and Ajay typed transcripts of the discourses on his computer, Swami would emit fragrance of sacred ash. The fragrance would spread all over Ajay's home and spill over onto the street. Passers by, would be drawn towards it and could not help wondering where it came from.

There are indeed hundreds of occasions when Swami has given off fragrance to His devotees. Swami says that fragrance from Him indicates the happiness of Lord.

Fragrant lesson

One day, Swami asked a devotee called Nalini to smell His palm. She smelt a scent of sacred ash. Then Swami asked another devotee, Shri Balakrishna Murthy to smell His palm. He got a delicate scent of sandalwood. Then Swami asked a third devotee, Smt. Bhavani to smell His palm. Somewhat disappointed, Bhavani reported that she did not smell anything. She was sad, thinking that her devotion was perhaps less than that of others. The other two devotees, who had smelt the scent, had put on victorious smiles on their faces. However their victory was rather short-lived as Swami told them that Smt. Bhavani, alone was the real devotee and not the other two. He explained that the real devotee does not need the Lord to perform miracles for his or her sake; therefore, He did not give Bhavani any fragrance. Hearing these words, Smt. Bhavani felt very happy.

Fragrance follows

Miss Nalini, a devotee of Swami and a college student was sitting on the first bench in the classroom. She got the fragrance of lotus flowers. So intense was the scent that she was unable to breathe. She moved to the third bench to escape from it but the fragrance did not leave her. Finally she sat on the last bench but the fragrance followed her there too. Later that day when she went to Swami's home to meet Him, He told her, "I am present everywhere. How did you think that by changing a bench you could escape from Me? Am I not present on that bench too?"

Persistent fragrance

Shri C. N. Rao, the manager of Union Bank, Vijayawada, does not believe in the human incarnation of the Lord on earth. In order that he may believe, Swami started giving him the fragrance of lotus flowers and sacred ash continuously; day and night. No matter where Rao went, the strong scent followed him. Inhaling it constantly made him sick. Swami told him that unless he accepted the human incarnation of the Lord, the fragrance would not stop. Yet, Rao was stubborn. He kept fighting and refused to believe. Finally Rao's wife, pleaded to Swami to stop the fragrance since her husband's health was being affected. Swami stopped the fragrance and told His devotees that miracles, visions and fragrance cannot turn non-believers into believers.

Fragrant chair game

The family of Shri Kamalakara Rao is very devoted to Swami. Once in their home, Swami played a game with the family. The game was rather unique; similar to musical chairs, this game could be called as 'fragrant chairs'. The music was replaced by fragrance. Swami would spread fragrance all over the room. Everyone would get the fragrance, except one. Then it would rotate; everyone except another person would get fragrance, and so on. The family enjoyed the game very much.

Fragrance granted

Dr. Annapurna, a devotee in Cochin, once thought about the fragrance of lotus that Swami had given to many devotees. Immediately she was surrounded by the fragrance. The same thing repeated on a few other occasions as well.

Shri M.V.V. Prasad, manager of State Bank of India, Vijayawada, was waiting for his train on the railway platform along with Shri Ajay. The platform was very dirty and there was a stench in the air. He remembered Swami's spontaneously created fragrances and mentioned to Ajay particularly about the fragrance of sacred ash emitted by Swami. Immediately the fragrance surrounded them. It was so strong that it totally suppressed the stench on the platform.

Smell of a hospital

It was the sacred month of Karthika according to the Hindu calendar. Shri C.B.K. Murthy was admitted into the hospital for a serious illness. Swami was at home in Vijayawada and transferred C.B.K. Murthy's illness on Himself. Immediately the unmistakable smell of spirit and medicines, as one gets in a hospital, surrounded Swami. Smt Padmavathi, a devotee who was sitting next to Swami smelled it too.

She said to Swami "In this sacred month of Karthika, why do You give the smell of a hospital? Please give me the scent of sacred ash from Lord Shiva, instead. Swami agreed and waved His hand. Immediately she was surrounded by the fragrance of sacred ash. At the same time, fragrance of lotus surrounded C. B. K. Murthy and his family members, who were in the hospital room. The family members stepped outside the hospital and tried to see from where the fragrance was coming. Yet there was no florist or lotus flowers around the hospital.

Source of fragrance

Swami has said that the Lord is present in the heart of devotees. Smt. C. Sumathi once spoke to Swami on the telephone and since that day for

one month, a fragrance of lotus came from the telephone. One day, lotus fragrance started coming from a devotee, Smt. N. Sujatha, for one full day. Smt. P. Valli got lotus fragrance from water present in a steel pot. Once, Swami gave a discourse on these miracles of spontaneous fragrance. Smt D. Padmaja took notes in a diary. The pages of the diary started giving off fragrance of lotus flowers. Smt. Kalavathi also gets fragrances often. Swami explained to devotees that the fragrance that devotees get is from various divine flowers by which angels decorate Lord Datta. Swami said that the fragrance will be received by most devotees; however, one or two devotees will not be given the fragrance. This is to prove that the fragrance is not from outside. Had the fragrance been coming from outside, such as a flower kept in a room, then all devotees would equally get the fragrance. This spontaneously created fragrance given by Swami, comes from within each devotee. Therefore, Swami said that the devotees need not go outside in search of the fragrance.

Prophecies Come True

Swami overrules science

Swami blessed a devotee, Smt. Latha, saying that she would give birth to a son. However her ultrasound reports, in her ninth month of pregnancy, indicated that it was a girl. Latha told Swami about her reports; however, Swami dismissed them saying that His word alone would come true. Latha's husband laughed and mockingly said that science had changed a lot of things since the old days and that one could not contradict factual scientific evidence. It was ironic that he said this to Swami, who is a scientist Himself.

Swami told him calmly that humans had still not understood science completely. The unknown part of science, which may be called 'super science' is as yet beyond the reach of humans, as higher mathematics is to a school-going child. Swami said that His prediction was based on this super science and that it alone would come true. No doubt, Smt. Latha gave birth to a beautiful boy!

Another devotee, Smt. Kumari, came with her ultrasound report to Swami in the ninth month of her pregnancy. Her report also indicated that the unborn child was a girl. Swami said to her, "I am changing the girl to a boy". Kumari delivered a boy-child. Today the boy is twenty years old; however, his features are still a little feminine.

Shri M.V.V. Prasad, a bank manager and colleague of Shri Ajay, prayed to Swami for a son. Swami gave him a fruit as a blessing and his

wife became pregnant shortly. On the day of her delivery, Swami told Shri Ajay “Ajay, if there is any problem in her delivery, please recite the prayer on Lord Hanuman composed by Me. The problem will be immediately solved”. As it turned out, the delivery indeed had some complications and the mother-to-be needed some blood urgently. However her blood type was rare and not available in that or nearby hospitals. There was panic in the family, but Ajay remembered what Swami told him earlier. He made their relatives sing the devotional song composed by Swami on Lord Hanuman. Miraculously, she gave birth to a boy without any need for surgery or blood.

Predicting devotee’s death

A lady residing opposite to the house of Shri C. Bala Krishna Murthy came to visit Swami. She wanted Swami to solve some problem of her daughter. Swami laughed and told her to not worry about her daughter as much as for herself since her life was about to end. He told her that she only had another month to live and that she should pray to the Lord. The lady seemed alright then but soon she was diagnosed with a fairly advanced stage of cancer. The lady had full faith in Swami. She devoted herself to Him and participated wholeheartedly in His devotional songs. After a month, she passed away peacefully.

Devotee finds lost daughter

Shri Sudhakar from USA visited Swami in India and prayed to Him to find his 5-year-old daughter who was lost. Swami assured him, “Go back to USA. She reaches you”. Sudhakar went to USA and found his daughter soon.

Contacted in advance

Shri P.V.N.M Sharma wanted to get this book of miracles translated into Tamil and Malayalam. He wanted to contact his friends in the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala for this purpose. He asked Swami’s permission for this purpose. Swami replied that He had already asked those friends of Sharma, to go ahead with the translation. Sharma could not understand how Swami could have already told his friends to translate the book. He decided to call them and tell them about the translation in any case. To his surprise, even before he could bring up the topic in the conversation, they said that they wanted to translate Swami’s book into Tamil and Malayalam respectively.

Making arrangements in advance

One day when Swami was in Narasaraopet, He told devotees to prepare Maharashtrian food since He was expecting guests from Mumbai, Maharashtra. Food was prepared as per Swami's instructions. Then Swami told devotees to arrange chairs for the guests. Less than one minute later, the wife of Shri Ganesh, arrived from Mumbai, completely unannounced. Her visit might have been a surprise to other devotees but not to Swami who had been expecting her and had already made all the arrangements to receive her.

More Miracles

Three heads

In the shrine in Balakrishna Murthy's home, Smt Bhavani normally places a large pillow on the bed decorated for the Lord, on which Swami sleeps. One day Swami did not come to the shrine to sleep. Since Swami was not there, Smt Bhavani replaced the large pillow by a small pillow because she required the large pillow for some other guest in her house. She thought that since Swami was not sleeping in the bed that night, a small pillow would fine. Next day Swami came to their house and appeared as if He had a disturbed sleep. He scolded Smt Bhavani "You took away the large pillow and kept a small pillow for Me on My bed just because I did not come there to sleep in this physical form. But I sleep on that bed every night whether this physical form sleeps there or not. How can a small pillow be sufficient for My three heads, when it is not even sufficient for your single head?" (Lord Datta is symbolically represented by a human form having three heads. The three heads are of the Lord in the aspects of Creator, Sustainer and Destroyer of creation.) Just because you are not able to see My three-headed form, how did you assume that the three heads do not exist? All three of My heads need rest; not just one. The small pillow that you have kept cannot accommodate all three heads. If you do not believe what I am saying, go and see the pillow on my bed". Smt. Bhavani, along with some other devotees went to Swami's room and saw the small pillow, which had an impression in the center corresponding to the central head and impressions at the edges of the pillows where the other two heads might have been.

All the devotees saw it and were shocked and surprised. By this incident, Swami proved that He should not be limited only to His visible physical form.

Swami is full without eating

One day, Swami was giving a discourse in Vijayawada. He was totally absorbed in giving the discourse and did not stop to take food. When it was quite late, devotees asked Him to have some food. Swami said that He had already had food. The devotees were confused. They were with Him all evening and none had seen Him eat food. Swami explained that He had eaten the food that was offered to God in a temple in Chennai, which is several hundred kilometers from Vijayawada. He said that He had gone there in invisible form and partaken of the food. His devotees still would not believe Him and insisted that He should have some food with them. Finally, Swami asked them to smell his palms. Devotees could clearly smell sambar rice and curd rice, which are very popular dishes in the Chennai area.

Omniscient

Smt. Gayathry from Kuwait, was worried about her daughter's performance in studies. Gayathry called her mother in India and requested her to visit Swami on Gayathry's behalf and ask for His blessings for Gayathry's daughter's studies. Accordingly, Gayathry's mother visited Swami. On seeing her, even before she could say anything, Swami spontaneously started singing a beautiful hymn on Goddess Saraswati (Goddess of knowledge). Swami also gave her a recording of the hymn and asked her to send it to Gayathry. He recommended that Smt. Gayathry and her daughter sing the hymn daily. He assured that the child would improve in her studies. The amazing thing is that He did all this even before Gayathry's mother had a chance to tell Him about the purpose of her visit.

Lord pats on the back

Once a devotee called Smt. Sarita was very much depressed. She was thinking about Swami and to her surprise, He appeared to her in a vision. He patted her on her back to console her. However the pat on the back was more like a hard rap and her back became red for sometime. When Sarita called Swami, before she could say anything, Swami asked her to forgive Him for 'patting' her on the back so hard. Smt. Sarita was now doubly surprised and later revealed the incident to other devotees.

Showing the highest heaven

The scriptures mention fourteen worlds in creation—seven lower worlds, the middle world including earth and six upper worlds. The lower worlds are like different levels of hell and the upper worlds are different levels of heaven. Our world, which includes earth and the universe as we

know it, is the middle world. Normally, the greatest devotees of the Lord, who serve Him in His mission in this world, are sent to Satya Loka (Brahma Loka), which is the fourteenth world. It is the abode of the Lord Himself. His devotees get His constant company in that world. However in His incarnation as Lord Krishna, the Lord was so impressed by the exceptional devotion of the Gopikas of Vrindavanam, that He created a fifteenth world called Goloka, higher than even the Satya Loka, especially for their sake. This fifteenth world, the Goloka, is the tribute of the Lord to His greater-than-the-greatest devotees, whom He treats as His crown jewels. Not even the greatest sages and gods can enter the Goloka.

Swami showed the Goloka to a young devotee called Priyanka. He sang a devotional song on Lord Krishna and she was transported to Goloka. She experienced infinite bliss in that world. When she was brought down to earth, she was disoriented and was unable to adjust here for a long time. She came back to normal when Swami sang a hymn on Lord Datta and placed His hand on her head.

Swami reads devotees' minds

A devotee called Smt. Bhavani asked Swami to repeat a certain verse, which was going on in her mind at that instant. Swami smiled and repeated it. On another occasion, while Swami was singing a devotional song, Ajay thought that it would be nice if Swami repeated a particular line in the song. Swami looked at Ajay and repeated that line.

Another time, Ajay thought that Swami should ask him to type Swami's discourses that day. At that time, someone else used to do that sacred task everyday. Ajay was delighted when Swami asked him to type the discourse that day. There are many more examples when Swami has read the mind of His devotees and acted accordingly.

Swami applies kumkum

A devotee called Smt. Sujatha, once invited Swami for a function in her house. Swami could not attend it, but appeared to her in a vision. In the vision, He applied a vertical red mark (kumkum) with His finger on her forehead. Everyone present in the function saw the red mark on her forehead but could not see Swami standing before her.

Computer tales

Fixing a computer. Devotees of Swami were compiling a book on spontaneously composed devotional songs by Swami. The name of the book was "Bhakti Ganga, The River of Devotion". The computer on which the book was stored, refused to start one day. A technician was called in to

fix the problem but he too was unable to get it to start. It appeared that all the data in the computer would be lost. When Swami heard of the problem, He came and sat before the computer and asked the technician to start it. The computer just started working as if nothing had happened. Swami joked that the River Ganga, was trapped in the matted locks of Lord Shiva. By River Ganga, He meant the book on which they were working and by Lord Shiva, He meant the computer, in which all the data was stored and could not be recovered. This refers to the mythological story that the River Ganga, descended from the heavens on earth with a tremendous force, which would have caused a lot of destruction. Lord Shiva intercepted her fall, trapped her in His matted locks and later released her gradually.

Stopping the printer. One day Shri Ajay was printing a document on a printer attached to his computer. The printer had just started printing, when Swami suddenly asked Ajay to stop the printing. Ajay said that it would not be possible to stop printing at that stage. Swami simply pointed at the printer and asked it to stop printing. Ajay kept staring the printer not knowing what to expect. When the sheet came out of the printer, he saw that it was blank. Swami had indeed stopped the printing.

Devotees see Swami's feet

Shri G. Lakshman and Shri Sharma have been blessed several times with the vision of Swami's feet at their altar, while they were doing their daily worship and prayers.

Granting samadhi experience

One day Swami told in one of His discourses that the great saint and incarnation of the Lord, Shri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, gave the experience of samadhi to his disciple, Swami Vivekananda. Samadhi is a state of extreme bliss in which the person remains unaware of his body or any troubles of the body. Swami Vivekananda remained in that state for three days continuously. He said that he felt as if he were swimming in an ocean of bliss.

A devotee, Smt. Manjula, who heard this discourse from Swami was so fascinated that she began pestering Swami to give her that experience. Finally Swami agreed. He wrote something on her head with His finger. Immediately she went into the state of samadhi. For three days and three nights, she did not take any food or rest. She remained with her eyes closed and shouting that she was swimming in an ocean of bliss. She was saying that waves of bliss were flowing through her body. In this ecstatic

condition, she even rode her moped on a busy road, with her eyes closed! The miracle was that she got back home safely.

Other devotees were worried that she was totally out of control. They prayed to Swami to bring her back to normal. In spite of her spirited protests, Swami wrote something on her head again with His finger. As suddenly as she had gone into the state of samadhi, Manjula came out of it. She was pleading to Swami to not bring her out of that immensely blissful state. However Swami had to bring her back to normal for her own good. This fascinating event was witnessed by all the devotees in Vijayawada.

Rocking a cradle

One day Swami was singing a devotional song on Goddess Kameshwari in the house of Shri Shanmukha Kumar. Suddenly, a strong scent of camphor surrounded the devotees. A cradle, which was in that room, started rocking on its own for five minutes. The jingling of bangles and ornaments of the Goddess were heard by all devotees.

Light on the face

Once, when Miss Gayatri, daughter of Smt. Lakshmi, looked at Swami after respectfully bowing to Him, she saw His face radiating a bright light. She told this to her mother, who did not believe in Swami before this incident. From that day onwards, she became a devotee of Swami.

Answering a devotee's doubt

Miss Kamala, a devotee of Swami, was getting ready to go to college. Before leaving, she bowed in front of the picture of Swami decorated as Lord Venkateshwara. As she bowed, she thought, "Will Swami look like this in the upper world?" In a short while, Swami reached her house. He was received respectfully by her family. Without looking at Kamala, Swami said, "Today I declare to all of you: When you all come to the upper world, I will appear to you exactly as I appear in this photograph". Kamala was speechless.

Torn new shirt

Mr. P. Shandilya's parents wanted to make new clothes for him on the occasion of the Pongal festival. He was not happy with his parents' spending money to make new clothes for him unnecessarily. Instead, he wanted them to donate the same money to Swami as Guru Dakshina (donation made to the Guru). But his parents insisted upon making new clothes for him. Reluctantly, he accepted the clothes and wore them in the evening. However, the clothes were really very elegant and he was very

much fascinated by them. To remove his undue fascination, Swami appeared to him in a vision and told him, “These clothes are the dress of your body. But the body itself is a dress of your soul”. Saying so, Swami tore Shandilya’s new shirt. His family was horrified to see his new shirt torn. Shandilya related his experience to them but they would not believe him. He told them that the torn shirt was evidence that Swami had indeed appeared to Him.

Recent Miracles

Dog of Lord Datta. On the day of Datta Jayanthi, a big function was going on. A large white dog walked into the house. It climbed the stairs and went to where Swami was, without caring one bit about people who were threatening it and trying to drive it away. It directly walked up to Swami, went around Him thrice and prostrated at the feet of Swami. This scene was photographed.

Preparing devotee for death. Recently, Shri C. B. K. Murthy, fell seriously ill and was admitted to the hospital. He called up Swami and prayed to Him for protection. But Swami told C. B. K. Murthy that he should develop detachment from his body and get ready to leave the body as one casts away one’s torn old shirt. Swami promised to give him a divine vision of Lord Datta in his last moments. Shri C. B. K. Murthy felt discouraged with the thought of his death. But gradually he realized the truth behind Swami’s words.

He told Shri Phani that he was ready to leave the shirt of his mortal body. His mind was now focused completely on Swami. Swami told Phani that He was preparing to give C. B. K. Murthy, his last vision as He had promised. So saying, Swami went into a meditative mood. Phani quickly understood that C.B.K. Murthy did not have much time left. He opposed the decision of Swami and pleaded to Swami to prolong the life of Shri C. B. K. Murthy on the grounds that C. B. K. Murthy was the founder of the mission of Swami and was the first one to recognize Swami as Lord Datta. Finally Swami yielded. He agreed to withdraw His decision and spare the life of C. B. K. Murthy saying, “Since C. B. K. Murthy is now detached from his body, it is immaterial whether he leaves this body or retains it. Death does not necessarily mean detachment. Detachment is more important than death. When ordinary people die, they are unable to attain detachment from their body. Although the soul (subtle body) leaves the physical body in death, it acquires a new energetic body. The energetic body is a reflection of the physical body and the soul gets attached to the energetic body in the after-world. If C. B. K. Murthy has achieved

detachment from his body, then there is no need for him to leave his body right now. That night, Swami went through terrible suffering. He showed all the symptoms that C. B. K. Murthy suffered from. Slowly, C. B. K. Murthy started recovering from his illness. By the next day, he was out of danger.

Who needs a pilgrimage? Shri Bhima Sankaram and Smt. Vasumathi are the parents of Shri Phani. Shri Bhima Sankaram proposed to go on a long pilgrimage to the Himalayas, including Badarinath and Kedarnath. Phani and his mother tried to talk him out of that idea saying that when the Lord Himself was staying with them, there was absolutely no need to go all across the country and up in the Himalayas for a pilgrimage. The place of pilgrimage is where the Lord is and not where ignorant people go.

But Shri Bhima Sankaram did not agree with them and insisted on going. By his insistence on going for the pilgrimage, Shri Bhima Sankaram had shown some deficiency in his faith on Swami. Finally, for the sake of Shri Bhima Sankaram, Phani and Vasumathi went along with him, on the pilgrimage. When they visited the holy temples in the Himalayas, Shri Bhima Sankaram saw Swami standing in place of the idols in each of the temples. Shri Bhima Sankaram hastily got back home and fell at the feet of Swami weeping. He related to Him the visions in the temples. He told Swami that he now realized that Swami alone was the Lord whom people worship in those temples.

Devotee reaches Brahmaloaka. The mother of Shri Ajay was seriously ill. It was around the time that the financial budget was to be presented before the Indian Parliament. Swami told Ajay that He would take away the soul of his mother after the financial budget was presented in Parliament. True to Swami's word, Ajay's ailing mother passed away the day after the budget was presented. Swami promised Ajay that his mother would reach Brahmaloaka, the highest heaven. Swami told everyone that she was granted Brahmaloaka since she happened to be the mother of the great devotee, Ajay. Swami said that a similar incident had happened in the past when the mother of Adi Shankaracarya was granted Brahmaloaka for her sole qualification of being the mother of Adi Shankaracarya. Surprisingly, two relatives of Ajay, who reside far away, and had not even received the news of Ajay's mother's demise, had independent visions of her. Each saw in the visions that Ajay's mother was radiating divine light and ascending to Brahmaloaka, followed by two attendants of Lord Vishnu. When they

related their visions to other devotees, all were very happy for Ajay's mother.

Phani meets Avadhuta. Phani went to Pittapuram, the birth place of Shripadavallabha. He had with him some books written by Swami. There he met an Avadhuta. Avadhutas are devotees in the highest state of devotion. They do not care for food, water, clothing or extremes of weather. They are unaffected by their surroundings and are ever in a God-intoxicated state. The Avadhuta asked Phani for Swami's books stating that he had been waiting for the books for a long time. Phani gave a set of the books to him. Then Phani went to a nearby forest where he met another Avadhuta, who was very tall and had a frightening appearance. He too asked Phani for a set of books and said that he had also waited for the books for a long time. Phani gave a set of Swami's books to this second Avadhuta, who asked Phani about the price of the books. Phani calculated in his mind and said that the set of books that he had given the Avadhuta, cost Rs. 160. Actually, Phani had unknowingly made a mistake in adding up the prices of the books and the actual total was Rs. 190. The Avadhuta waved his hand and created Rs. 190 and placed them in Phani's hands. He told Phani to hand over the money to Swami as Guru Dakshina. Phani humbly told the Avadhuta that he had given Rs. 30 extra. But the Avadhuta replied that the amount was correct and disappeared immediately. Curiously enough, before disappearing, the Avadhuta told Phani that he would have to go to Girnar Hills if he wanted to see him (the Avadhuta) again. When Phani returned to Vijayawada and met Swami, Swami scolded Phani mockingly, "How will you ever do business if you cannot make simple additions?" Swami explained to Phani that the Avadhuta that he had seen was none other than Kalabhairava.

Fire from Swami. Swami was dictating to His devotees, the Rohit Gita, which is a recent composition of Swami. While ending the 13th chapter named as the "Enquiry of Rohit (Rohita Pari Prashna Yogah)", Swami was saying that He is the human incarnation of the Lord trying to spread Divine Knowledge before the arrival of the last incarnation 'Kalki'. At this time, a devotee by name Smt Ananthalakshmi saw a vision in which fire in the form of gigantic flames was emanating from Swami. After Ananthalakshmi told everyone about the vision that she saw, Swami explained that the fire represented the same energy that was emitted by the Lord when He, in the form of Lord Krishna, gave the vision of Vishwarupa (Cosmic form) to Arjuna. Swami further told that it was the same fire which is mentioned in Bible and which Jesus used for baptism. This fire is

nothing but Divine Knowledge. Swami said that the Bhagavad Gita clearly tells us that fire represents Divine Knowledge (*Jnanagnih...*).

Conclusion

Numerous miracles have taken place since Swami's childhood. They are happening even today in the case of deserving devotees. A few of these are recorded as examples in this book. Swami says "Miracles are not necessary for real devotees since they believe in the Lord in human form even without miracles. To such devotees, this entire creation is the biggest miracle of the Lord. True devotees see it as such and do not aspire for petty visions, healings and miracles. They do not want the Lord to cancel their problems, sickness or losses because they know that the only way their problems can get cancelled is when the Lord in human form suffers for the sake of His devotees. True devotees will not accept their beloved Lord undergoing any suffering for their sake. In fact a true devotee would want to take up the suffering of the Lord, if that were possible. This is true love. Therefore, true devotees do not want the Lord to perform miracles.

A person who is utterly worldly and egoistic is not a devotee and is unlikely to become one, merely by seeing miracles. The non-devotee will not believe even in the miracles and will dismiss them as illusions or magic tricks. Thus, miracles are of no use in case of non-devotees.

Miracles are useful for the intermediate devotees who have faith but sometimes have doubts. Only a doubting Thomas requires proof. Lord Jesus has said that those who believe without proof are more blessed than those who believe after seeing the proof. Miracles only create surprise and fear in the hearts of some devotees and love and bliss in the hearts of some other devotees. These emotions make believing in the human incarnation of the Lord easier".