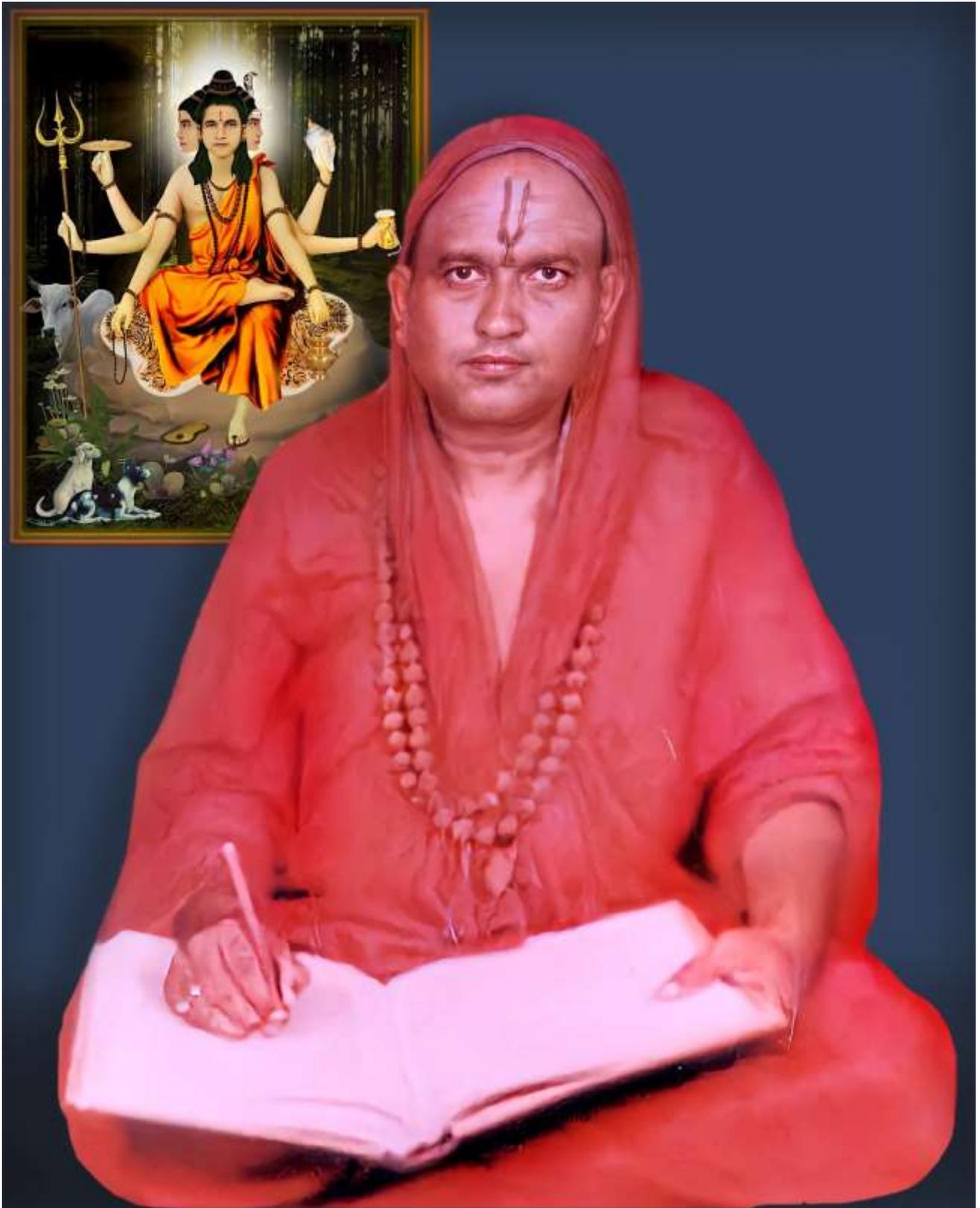


SARASVATĪ RIVER OF SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE
[VOLUME - 38]



(In the above photo Shri Datta Swami is decorated as God Dattatreya)

Divine Discourses Given By:
HIS HOLINESS SHRI DATTA SWAMI



(Photo of His Holiness Shri Datta Swami)

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CONTENTS

Chapter 1	1
1. How can You say that awareness is not God when Shankara established its existence and declared it as God?	1
2. How can I get lost in eternal oblivion?	3
3. Is the boundary of the universe unreachable by human beings, as said in the Quran?	3
4. Did Mother Mary also suffer for the sins of deserving devotees?	4
5. Why did God say in the Gita to offer Him leaves etc., when He does not want our worship?	4
6. If the boundary of the universe exists and God is beyond it, doesn't God get smaller if the universe expands?	4
7. Can energy be created first without any entity that possesses the energy?	4
Chapter 2	6
1. How I can fill my soul and intellect with Datta Tatvam?	6
2. Who is a Guru? Some say Mother is above God, some say Guru is above God. For me, the hierarchy is God > Mom > Guru, am I right?	6
3. What is the true understanding of the top tatvam?	6
4. What is the correct form of Guru Dhyanam?	6
5. What are the boundaries of being good and truthful?	6
6. Please enlighten me on the practices of untouchability.	7
7. How to choose the right side of spiritual knowledge?	7
8. Kindly explain the meaning of the following visions, I had.	7
9. What is the real interpretation of the word 'Aadi Bhikshu'?	9
Chapter 3	11
1. Who is a sthitaprajña? What is the state of yoga or samādhi?	11
2. How is being a sthitaprajña related to spiritual knowledge, devotion, meditation, and karma yoga?	13
3. How are jñāna yoga, bhakti yoga, karma yoga, and rāja yoga related?	14
4. Why is it necessary to have God as the goal?	15
5. What is the connection between meditative practices and attaining samādhi or the state of a sthitaprajña?	15
6. What are some of components of meditative practices?	16
Chapter 4	19
1. Whether the sacrifice of money to Sadguru be done during the lifetime or at the end of the life?	19
2. Why did not the sages get the feeling of embracing Lord Dattatreya by becoming female when they saw Him?	21
3. How is the boredom of God different from that of human beings?	21
4. In the Yoga chakras, is the strength of the bond from mother to children in ascending order?	22

5. Swamiji, in the path of Nivrutti, what is the real meaning of a soul being selfless?	22
6. Can You please elaborate on “I need to support even if the family members are atheists”?	22
7. Should God, knowing the consequences, not have granted freedom to souls?	23
8. Is the soul, which is under the control of God, detached from the fruit of its actions?	23
9. Why did God not create only love so that there would be only love in this world?	24
10. Why should one believe in Veda?	24
11. Is it a sin for a married person to secretly maintain an illegitimate affair?	24
12. How can an ordinary person accept that God created the world for His own entertainment?	24
13. Is there any significance of the lines in our hands?	25
14. What is real or true happiness?	25
Chapter 5	26
1. How can I get rid of selfishness?	26
2. What is the reason for carving chappals also for the idol?	26
3. How can one get rid of fear and take decisions in one’s worldly life?	26
4. How can I differentiate between the work done by You and done by the soul?	26
5. Will leading a simple life help our spiritual growth?	27
6. Is it true that “one should eat food as a medicine for hunger, otherwise we owe it to God”?	27
7. What does the word 'concentrate' mean in the following context?	27
8. Is it correct to keep the goal of life as practical service and sacrifice to Swami?	28
9. What does “Impostors of God” mean?	28
10. Is not asking God also ego? Please enlighten me.	28
11. What is the time of birth to be considered for a new born baby?	29
12. Is my thought correct that “I should not ask God since He knows my needs”?	29
13. Is it true that some lady was possessed by Goddess or spirit?	29
14. Can we use a separate oil for Diwali lights, which is not useful for cooking?	30
15. Is it a sin if a particular religious preacher criticises other religious Gods?	30
16. Is the profession of killing animals in ritualistic sacrifice to the Goddess sinful?	30
17. Is it better to worship Krishna directly or through Radha?	30
18. Can the parents of the Incarnation show love to God if He reveals His identity?	30
19. What is the eligibility to become the parent of an Incarnation?	31
20. When God comes in human form, will He have a dream state also?	31
21. How can God be in bliss if He was bored before the creation of the world?	32
22. How does God derive additional bliss by enjoying misery in this world when He comes in human form?	32

23. Will adopting Avagunthanam not prevent incidents like rape from happening in society?	32
24. What should be our inner intention while chanting mantras given by You?	32
25. Where should we concentrate?	33
26. What should I feel while worshipping Hanuman and Subrahmanya photos?	33
27. What is the purpose of all the bhajans written and sung by You?	33
28. What is the difference between the bhajans written by the three of You?	33
29. What should be our intention while singing the bhajans composed by You on God's incarnations?	33
Chapter 6.....	35
1. Why is Aditya hrudayam only told to Rama, Gītā to Arjuna and Bhaagavatam to Parikshit?	35
2. Is injecting blood into the patient after its loss in accidents etc., the act of Mother Kaali?	35
3. How should one see if one loses blood from the body even though medical precautions are taken?	35
4. Please comment on doing donations in the name of the family members after their death.	36
5. Is it true that Lord Datta played two roles, Nara and Narayana, in order to give the Gita to humanity?	36
6. Is the devotee also a Human Incarnation of God?	36
7. Why did not Lord Krishna help Kunti when she was getting burnt in the forest?	37
8. Please explain the stages from an ignorant person to a climax devotee.	37
9. I pray to You to transform my imagining nature to help me in my spiritual growth.	38
10. My friend feels very sad about living without knowledge. How to help her?	38
11. What should be my behaviour with my father, which pleases You?	38
12. How to convince my father regarding control of meals?	38
13. Is it justified to live in a registered partnership without marriage?	39
14. Can You kindly clarify if it is justified to have a same-sex marriage and adopt children?	40
15. Why is Masturbation wrong?	40
16. My friend is confused about whether to continue as a vegetarian or start eating meat to overcome his nervous problem. Kindly advise	41
17. What are the factors one should consider before choosing a life partner?	41
18. What is a Runa bandam?	41
19. What is the truth behind taking a bath and cleaning the house after an eclipse?	41
20. What will the future births of the soul be if it puts some efforts presently in a negative atmosphere?	42
21. Please comment on the following situation.	42
22. What is the meaning of learning knowledge? Is it memorizing Your books or implementing in daily life?	42

23. Which is preferable between Your darsanam or learning and implementing Your knowledge?	43
24. What is Your opinion about a person who serves God and also hurts others?	43
25. Ramakrishna Paramahansa said if we take a bath in the river Ganga, then we can go to Goloka in steps. Please explain this.	43
26. Please explain the difference between a disciple and a devotee. Who is greater?	43
27. Please explain the meaning of the word 'Swami'?	43
28. Is it the right choice to adopt a poor orphan by a childless couple?	44
29. Is the Nirvikalpa Samadhi state defined by a single-pointed devotion to contemporary incarnation?	44
30. How to know whether my prayers are yielding me any fruit or not?	44
31. Do we need a peaceful atmosphere to learn knowledge or invite difficulties like Kunti?	46
32. Please explain the meaning of my dream.	46
33. Please explain the meaning of my dream.	47
34. Will You be displeased if I focus more on Your service than my academics?	47
Chapter 7	48
1. I want to share a miracle that happened in our family.	48
2. Please bless me more and more so that I can understand Your infinite Divine qualities?	48
3. How can we do practical service to You?	49
4. How many ways are there for practical devotion? What are they?	49
5. What do You advise those who are unable to contribute money to You?	49
6. What advice do You have for people who don't understand Your knowledge?	49
7. Does the person wearing leather slipper also contribute to the sin?	50
8. Please clarify the goal of human life.	50
9. What concepts of Your knowledge can be preached to children under the age of 10?	50
10. Swamiji, I am very very lazy and undisciplined in my life. Please suggest a way for me to come out of it.	50
11. Can I choose any one forms of God and concentrate only on that form for worshiping purposes?	50
12. Should we wait till we attain complete knowledge before we start practical service to our Sadguru?	51
13. How should I behave every second as per Your inner intention?	51
14. What will be the punishment in the following cases?	51
15. Please explain the meaning of my dream.	52
16. Can You elaborate more about the meaning of the word Entertainment used in the below context?	52
17. Is there any significance of my following dream?	53
18. Does the good period for the human soul suggest a good period in terms of worldly life or spiritual life or both?	53
19. Swamiji, what advice would you give to people who are interested in learning astrology and want to make it their profession?	53

20. Please give guidance which one to choose between career growth and Your service.	53
Chapter 8	55
1. Please give me a small two minute daily prayer.	55
2. Please enlighten me as to whether my thinking is going in the right direction or not.	55
3. Why didn't Draupadi ask to punish Duryodhana when she was given boons by the king?	56
4. Draupadi is not an ordinary lady. She is Yajna Sambhavi. Then why did she want to take revenge?	56
5. How are the Pandavas correct to take an oath to kill Duryodhana, etc.?	56
6. Why didn't the other Pandavas advise Dharma Raja to consult Krishna before gambling?	56
7. How did You punish Dhrutarashtra who practised injustice even after knowing what justice was?	57
8. Gandhari cursed Parabrahman because of her blind love for her sons, isn't that a sin?	57
9. Why didn't Krishna participate in the war?	58
10. I feel some people are doing black magic against us. What do You suggest to us?	58
11. Swami, thank You for the gift of a good friend.	58
12. Why did You place a powerful wet grinder in our stomach?	59
13. Why did You create a strong fascination for food? Why didn't You create that much fascination for God to all?	59
14. When will You give holiday to house wives? When can they enjoy their freedom?	59
15. Your climax devotees reached You by avoiding food, water, air naturally with the love on You but You are advising us to eat 4 items. Is it fair?	59
16. If getting a human birth is valuable, why did the angels consider it as a curse?	59
17.	60
Padanamaskaram Swami ji! What is the difference between Rudra and Shakti?	60
18. What is the difference between Rudra worship and Shakti worship?	60
19. What is the reason for Rudra worship in daytime and Shakti worship in night?	60
20. What is the difference between worshipping Adishakti and worshipping Incarnation of God?	61
21. Lord Shiva gets pleased very quickly compared to Lord Vishnu . Is this unfair for Lord Vishnu's devotee?	61
22. Why should knowledge be taken from Lord Shiva? Pardon me for my mistakes in above questions. At Your feet Swami ji.	61
23. Can we be happy if we decide to be happy?	61
24. Is it possible to achieve introversion (control of senses) by self-effort?	61
25. Can we give credit to God for achieving success in worldly life?	62
26. Please explain the meaning of "I am your work".	62

27. Please explain about three types of ego and three types of pride?	62
28. What was the motivation of Hanuman to serve Lord Rama throughout His life?	63
29. How can repentance help me in Nivritti to get close to God?	63
30. How to receive the mercy of God?	63
Chapter 9	64
1. What do the energetic incarnations do in the upper worlds?	64
2. In the context of human incarnation, how can the Bible verse John 3:16 be understood?	64
3. How is God's power made perfect in weakness?	65
4. Why did the Bible not stress the non-repetition of sins as the final goal?	65
5. Why was Paul so harsh on women?	65
6. What does the word "rest" mean in this context?	65
7. Is committing one sin equivalent to committing all other sins?	65
8. How do You correlate the Vedic statement that God created space in the beginning with the verse in the Bible?	66
9. What is the will of God in this context?	66
10. Swami, is this remark true?	66
11. Is homosexuality a natural genetic trait?	66
12. Kindly help me out.	66
Chapter 10	68
1. How to remove ego and fascination in the world?	68
2. Can we treat a person doing good work as a temporary incarnation of God?	68
3. Why are many people attracted by the Advaita Philosophy?	69
4. How should be our behavior towards our co-devotees?	69
5. Some say that the soul becomes God, if its ego is removed. Is it true?	70
6. Does salvation mean the absence of rebirth?	70
Chapter 11	72
1. How can I systematically study Your knowledge?	72
2. Sorry for the long questions.	72
3. Are guilt and complaining by nature harmful?	72
4. Is happiness in the hands of the soul especially after meeting the Human incarnation of God?	73
5. What is the meaning of the name Madhu Suudana?	73
6. How can I learn spiritual knowledge and serve God if the majority of my time is spent in office work?	73
7. Is it wrong to completely believe in God and do not save for the future?	73
8. Is it justified to give birth to more children in the present circumstances?	74
9. What is the exact meaning of the word 'prakruti'?	74
10. Please explain 'Nāsadāsīnno sadāsīt' hymn of Rigveda.	76
Chapter 12	78
1. Is it true that Vishnu gives energy daily at 4 a.m. to all living beings?	78
2. Can the sacrifice of money by a detached person be considered Karma Phala Tyaga?	78

3. How do students inculcate real knowledge into their daily lives?	79
4. Please explain in what context Swami Vivekananda said the following?	79
5. Why did many spiritual preachers preach Advaita after Shankara also?	80
6. Being introverted by nature, can I continue to be like this?	81
7. Is my following thinking appropriate?	82
8. Is it okay to have self-doubt?	82
9. Please explain us about Rasa Shastra.	82
Chapter 13	83
1. What is the meaning of the verse "bhrutyasya bhrutya parichaaraka bhrutya bhrutya"?	83
2. Shouldn't the present way of naming a child change to the Gaudiya way of adding daasa or daasi?	83
3. Is it possible for a person to get Sadguru automatically once the first two phases are destroyed?	84
4. Why do we become inactive without food, even for a very short time?	84
5. How will a soul know its own inherent nature?	84
6. How do I write my questions briefly?	84
7. Is it possible for a soul to never misunderstand Your words or actions?	85
8. How do I detach from the bond with myself?	86
9. What is the qualification for doing Your service?	86
10. Could You please explain the meaning of my following experience?	87
11. If I say that God is mine, is it selfishness?	87
Chapter 14	89
1. What is the essence of the words Guru, Shree and Prabhu?	89
2. I feel that Shakti worship is the closest to God as it gives the practical proof of the transitory nature of creation.	89
3. How is Shiv different from Shakti as I see only Shakti existing?	90
4. What are the relations between Tridevs and Tridevis?	90
5. Performance of miracles is done more by God Shiva. What is the reason for this?	90
6. What decides the manifestation of different actions by different incarnations of God?	90
7. Who were You in Your previous births Swami ji?	91
8. Was I also there with You in my previous births. If I was there then how was my behaviour towards You?	91
9. How many tatvas are there?	91
10. What are Maha Vidyas? Could You tell about them? Pardon me for my ignorance. Below Your feet.	91
11. Please forgive me if I said anything against You.	92
12. I feel very uncomfortable. Please help me, please heal me.	92
Chapter 15	93
SATSANGA AT VIJAYAWADA ON 22.11.2022	93
Chapter 16	96
1. What is the meaning of the word Datta?	96

2. Swamiji, what is the significance of the tilakam (three vertical lines) on the forehead of Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva (three horizontal lines)?	96
3. How did Lord Datta appear to Atri Maharshi, whether in energetic or human form?	96
4. Is stealing honey from Bees for our food a sin?	97
5. Is killing of some plants (e.g. Onions, Potato etc.) equal to killing an animal for food consumption?	97
6. Was God Brahma born first being the creator ?	97
7. Why did God not reveal His unimaginable nature to any soul?	97
8. Is there any significance for the numbers 9 or 17, or any other number in particular?	97
9. Is eating mushrooms considered non-vegetarian or sinful?	97
10. Swamiji, how should a person behave if he comes to know that his wife is having an illegitimate affair with another person?	98
11. What is the difference between the Maya exhibited by the human incarnation and Maya?	98
12. Swamiji, I came to know that, in Heaven, one of the pleasures is sex (deva veshyas) a soul can enjoy. Why is it so?	98
13. How can we make the concept of vegetarianism universally applicable?	98
14. Did Lord Krishna test the Gopikas secretly or was this known to His wives as well?	98
15. Whenever my friend chanted Swami Samartha's name, he would experience a lot of pain. Why?	99
16. How to correlate fan devotion and simultaneously, God disliking the sacrifice of life by a devotee?	99
17. Does Dvaita philosophy belong to ignorant people, as thought by Advaitins?	100
Chapter 17	102
NOTICE ON DATTA JAYANTI (07.12.2022)	102
Chapter 18	104
1. How shall souls conduct when they completely surrender to God?	104
2. What should be our correct attitude while serving You?	104
3. Do samskaras and psychology mean the same thing?	105
4. Does God decide when it is time to change a soul's samskaras?	105
5. Do our present birth environment and associations with people alter our samskaras in any way?	105
6. Did other Gopikas, like Radha, visit Lord Krishna over the years?	105
7. How to understand the phrase "by the grace of God"?	106
8. Will a soul be born in an environment based on its strong samskara?	106
9. Should I consider donating money to You as if I were sending pocket money to my son?	106
10. Please give Your opinion about kundalini shatchakra sadhana etc.?	106
11. Shall I ask Your permission to bring any person for Your darsanam?	107
12. I show all my emotions on You only. Is it a sin?	107
13. How can a soul avoid misunderstanding God's actions?	108

14. Is it wrong to feel concern for co-devotees?	108
15. I want to share my happiness with You.	108
16. Saibaba said that giving bread to the dog was equal to giving bread to Him. Is it not Advaita?	109
Chapter 19	111
MESSAGE ON DATTA JAYANTI 07.12.2022.....	111
Chapter 20	116
FOR INTELLECTUALS ONLY.....	116
1. How can You say that dream is real?	116
2. Can we say that the items seen in the dream that are impossible to see in the real world are unreal?	118
Chapter 21	120
1. How can students inculcate real spiritual knowledge into their lives?	120
2. Why did You say that Datta is making the final effort to remove incorrect knowledge through You?	120
3. How can I strengthen my surrender to You?	121
4. Does an ordinary soul leading pravrutti with interest in God to fulfill desires please You?	121
5. How can I always be united with You in my corporate and professional life, even for minor activities?	121
6. Should I believe in shakunas like a black cat coming opposite me when I start my journey, etc.?	121
7. Is mula prakriti finite or infinite?	121
8. Please explain the penance done by Yogi.	122
9. Please explain meaning of following quotes from the website of Satya Sai Baba "ఆత్మ ధర్మమే స్వధర్మము, పర ధర్మము అనగా దేహ ధర్మము"	122
10. Which is the final authority between logical analysis and experience in the world?	122
11. Is getting a permanent tattoo on my body a sin?	122
12. Is getting a permanent tattoo on my body a sin?	123
13. Osho accepts Godliness but not God. What do You say?	123
1. If Osho says that love is God, he has to then accept that every human being is God. Can this be the end to the answer?	124
Chapter 22	126
1. Why did Lalita always support Radha's love to Krishna?	126
2. Is it better to concentrate on God and maintain relation with one or two people who can help us spiritually?	126
3. Should we share Your knowledge with everyone or with just those who want it?	126
4. Should we consider Your comfort or focus on the knowledge You preach?	126
5. How can I know the spiritual stage of another person?	127
6. Is it a sin to perform experiments on animals?	127

7. When great saints leave their families for the sake of God, is it prarabdham of their family members? 127
8. You always say fan devotion is best, recently You said propagation of divine knowledge is the best, rather than suicide. Please clarify. 127
9. Please explain the 177 Sutra or 16th Sutra in Kaivalya Paada. 127
10. Can we say that Lord Datta is the only true God present in all the incarnations? 128
11. Can we say that any soul can become God by the will of the Human incarnation? 128
12. Does every soul that dies in the hands of God gets salvation, or atleast some reformation? 129
13. What is the internal meaning of Ahalya turning into stone? 129
14. It is recommended to be a Sthitaprajna, but Radha left her body when she learned of God Krishna's death. How do I understand this? 129
15. Is it correct to think that I should pass the test of God? 130
16. What is a dream state made up of? 130
17. Does God also experience deep sleep? 130
18. What is the opinion of an advaitin regarding dvaita? 130
19. Did the Gopikas jump into the fire due to an excess of emotion? 131
20. Can we say that Gopikas knowingly accepted the punishment for the sin of committing suicide? 131
21. Was Lord Krishna displeased when His wives jumped in to the fire? 131
22. Is it sinful for the wife to end her life by sitting on her husband's funeral pyre? 131
23. Does the expansion of the universe happen in a horizontal or vertical direction? 131
24. How do I understand that the size of God remains unchanged even though space expands? 132
25. Can we say that Unimaginable God exists everywhere in the creation? 132
26. Why am I getting the dreams showing future incidents? 132
27. What is the meaning of identification of Human Incarnation of God? 132
28. How can the soul see God as female when God is the supreme male? 133
29. Did Lord Dattaatreya have a Sadguru? 133
30. Does the Unimaginable God exist even if multiverse exist? 133
31. Who are our relatives? 133
32. How should the co-devotees be connected? 134
33. How are the devotees, who don't have regular contact with You, be connected? 134
34. A devotee has a specific bond with God. Can another devotee interfere with it? 134
35. When there is no chance to share knowledge, how can such devotees be connected? 134
36. Some devotees are helping me a lot and I can be free with them. Is it wrong to give preference to them? 134

37. When You share Your knowledge with me, shall I grasp for myself or shall I grasp for others also?	134
38. How do I keep my mind in balance?	134
39. Can You please explain the meaning of the three Vedic accents?	134
40. Is it proper to have defects while serving You?	135
Chapter 23	136
NEW DATTA JAYANTI MESSAGE	136
Chapter 24	141
1. Why are Brahma Sūtrās referred as Nyāya Prasthāna?	141
2. Why are the Vedas, Bhagavad Gita, and Brahma Sutras important to prove the existence of God?	141
3. Why can't the svarūpa lakṣaṇam and tātaṣtha lakṣaṇam be the same?	141
4. What is the inner meaning of 'why to fast when the bridegroom is with you'?	142
Chapter 25	143
1. Can You compare the Quran and the Bhagavad Gita?	143
2. What is the equivalent of the Hanuman-Subrahmanya mantra given to us?	143
Chapter 26	144
CORRELATION OF VEDIC STATEMENTS	144
Chapter 27	146
1. What is the significance of the belt tied around Lord Dattatreya's waist?	146
2. What are the steps and suggestions for becoming Your true devotee?	146
3. Who is the true human being?	146
4. What is the difference between the highest and climax devotion. Please explain with an example.	146
5. Please explain the qualities of a sincere devotee.	146
6. How do I get Your association every second?	146
7. When can I be emotional, and when can I not be emotional?	147
8. Why are we always having health issues?	147
Chapter 28	148
DIVINE SATSANGA ON DATTA JAYANTI DAY	148
1. How can sacrifice be done with both love and fear simultaneously?	148
2. Is the creation evolving or is it just a pre-shot movie watched by God?	149
3. Does Lord Datta exist with three heads all the time, or is it just a symbolic representation?	150
4. How can 'Love all. Serve all.' be applied to the people who harmed me?	151
5. Should a person be an introvert or an extrovert? By being an introvert, is it possible to reach the spiritual goal?	152
6. What is the meaning of the following words?	152
7. Would Sri Satya Sai Baba forgive me for I had developed a misconception about Him after watching a news channel?	152
Chapter 29	154
1. Why is it that we shouldn't buy a house around temples?	154

2. Money is spent to attract the opposite gender but we are not sure whether the other person is committed to us. How to overcome this fear?	154
3. Do the saaligramaas have unimaginable power?	154
4. How should the parents see God when He is born as their child?	154
5. Kumarila Bhatta set Himself on fire. Is it not a sin?	155
6. How did Aadishesha, the servant of God, become God Himself?	155
7. Swamiji, how should a student prepare for exams to get good marks?	155
8. Is it not true that the Lord should be higher than the highest Gopikas because He suffered for their sins?	156
9. I believe everybody like a goat. How should I get rid of this?	156
10. Is it correct to give our sins to our Sadguru?	157
11. Is there any action (karma) on this earth (Karma Loka) that happens by chance and does not fall under the Karma Chakra?	157
12. What is the spiritual significance of the incident in which Bhima is poisoned, but he drinks nectar and becomes very powerful?	157
13. How can You say that world peace can be achieved through True Spiritual Knowledge?	158
Chapter 30	159
1. Swami, Why did God Shiva go in disguise of a bachelor and test Goddess Parvati by scolding God Shiva (Himself)?	159
2. Why did Krishna steal butter from the houses of Gopikas having ordinary wealth?	160
Chapter 31	163
1. How to channelize jealousy for improvement?	163
2. Namaste Swami. Please explain Narada bhakti sutras 7, 38, 44, 49, 63, 66, 72.	163
3. Please explain Rajasa Bhakti, Taamasa Bhakti, Saattvika Bhakti, Suddha Saattvika Bhakti, Paraabhakti.	163
4. What is the real meaning of loving God?	163
5. Explain the difference between the two. I should be happy with God, and God should be happy with me.	163
6. Please explain the strength of unity among devotees.	164
7. Why was Hanuman silent when Ravana kidnapped Sita?	164
8. May I ask You all the questions about which I want to discuss with my friend?	164
9. Namaste Swami. Can You please sing Gopi Gitas and Miira Bhajans in Your own voice? Please forgive me if i am asking anything wrong.	164
10. Padanamaskaram Swami ji! What is the relationship among Vedas, Tantra and Yoga?	164
11. What are the different branches of spiritual knowledge?	164
12. What is the difference between Tantric Scriptures, Vedic Scriptures and Yogic Scriptures? Pardon my ignorance. Below Your feet.	164
13. Is it true that every situation in a soul's life is solely God's will?	164
14. Please differentiate between faith and expectation.	165
15. What do You want us to learn from the following incident?	165

16. Does the fear of the disciples indicate a lack of proper faith on God?	165
17. What do You expect Your true devotee to do in that situation?	165
18. Was Peter correct in stepping out of the boat to walk on water to reach You?	165
19. Was it faith or ego that made Peter step out of the boat?	165
20. Please explain the following statement of Shri Rama Krishna Paramahansa.	165
21. My students (2 members personally) have asked me to tell them about God. Please suggest me how I should tell them about You.	165
22. Can You please arrange the following in ascending order?	166
23. How do we know whether God listened to our prayer?	166
24. Do I have to be myself or change to meet the needs of the world?	166
Chapter 32	167
1. How to focus on current work without thinking about anything else?	167
2. How to please Goddess Laxmi Devi?	167
3. Who is yoga bhrashta and why does a man become a yoga bhrashta?	167
4. Please explain about Bhramara Keetaka Nyaya.	167
5. Will thinking of qualities lead us to acquire such qualities?	167
6. I heard that King Janaka conducted 3 tests to Sage Shuka. Please explain about them.	167
7. Please explain what is "diving into Shastras".	168
8. A book about You can be written like Rama Krishna Kathamrita.	168
9. Please elaborate the explanation of dharma again.	168
10. Why did God not make sure that the scriptures reach every tribe and hermit?	168
11. Did production of world have 2 stages?	168
12. Why can't it be told directly that world did not exist?	168
13. What is the significance of my dream Swamji?	169
14. Is it true that sins are caught to the hair of human beings?	169
15. Please give significance of the following types of friendships.	169
16. Is it true that Shiva stood behind the Kauravas reducing their energies in the kurukshetra war?	169
17. Why did Kanchi Paramacharya leave His body by keeping His mother's photo in front of Him?	169
18. Is the concept of metaverse true?	170
19. Is it true that issues shouldn't be touched by parents after a certain age?	170
20. Please suggest how to do proper analysis after reading spiritual knowledge?	170
21. How to overcome the habit of copying in exams?	170
22. Was Ravana really a good mannered person?	170
23. Namaste Swami. Explain the difference between Vaidi Bhakti and Raga Bhakti.	170
24. What are Ashta Pashas?	171
25. What is Urjita Bhakti?	171

26. Please explain the following statement of Shri Rama Krishna Paramahamsa.	171
27. Please explain the following statement of Shri Rama Krishna Paramahamsa.	171
28. Is it true that ego is the basis for fear?	171
Chapter 33	172
1. How do You reconcile the contradicting concepts of climax devotion to God?	172
2. Kindly explain the sweet devotion of devotees towards recent human incarnations.	173
3. God said in the Gita that the creation is both in Him and not in Him. How to correlate this?	175
4. Shankara said that His Atmaa is generating the materialistic creation. Please explain.	177
Chapter 34	178
1. Swami, When hell is there, why are human beings punished in this world also?	178

Chapter 1

October 20, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**1. How can You say that awareness is not God when Shankara established its existence and declared it as God?**

[Shri JSR Prasad asked:- Sashtanga pranamas Swamiji. You told that when Shankara condemned the Maadhyamika school of Nagarjuna of Buddhism that everything is non-existent, Shankara told that there should be a receiver or awareness to understand and maintain this concept of non-existence (shuunyavaada) without which even the follower of this school cannot argue that non-existence exists. In this way, You told Shankara established the existence of awareness and told that awareness is God. Then, how can You say that awareness is not God? -At Your divine lotus feet]

Swami replied:- The existence of awareness is accepted because the creation got the absolute existence from God as gift. Awareness is also a part of the creation. The relative existence of awareness (soul) or of the creation means that it has absolute existence gifted by God and hence, there need not be any doubt about the existence of the soul. Hence, We agree that Shankara proved the existence of the soul in this context, which is not the existence of God. Even if the soul exists, the school of non-existence of everything gets disproved. When the purpose is achieved, telling that soul is God is unnecessary and extra in this context. This extra point is out of the scope of condemning the school of non-existence of everything.

If every existing soul is God, every existing soul must be the omniscient God. In such a case, the above point that everything is not non-existent since the soul exists, must be known to every soul. In such a case, why did the Buddhist soul, which established the non-existence of everything not know this point? How did the Shankara-soul alone know this point? Hence, it is proved that every soul is not the omniscient God. Only the soul of Shankara knows this point and this means that only the soul of Shankara is the omniscient God. We accept the concept of human incarnation, which says that a specific selected devoted soul by God becomes God since God perfectly merges with it to make it the human incarnation. We fully agree that Shankara is the human incarnation of God. This means that even though all the souls are basically the same awareness, there is difference among the souls due to difference in the acquired knowledge. Due to this difference only, the soul of Shankara knew a special point that is not known by all the other souls. Like this, even the soul of Shankara need not be God and can be a scholarly soul inventing this point. By this conclusion, 'no soul is God' can also result, but, this does not mean that 'every soul is God' is established.

Your philosophy is not established by not accepting that some soul is God. In fact, Shri Madhva told that no soul is God. We belong to the Madhva line as well because We accept all the three philosophies (Shankara, Ramanuja and Madhva) as correct and correlate them. We are telling that Shankara is the incarnation (instead of telling Him as a special scholar) so that Shankara's philosophy has a special case in which His philosophy is absolutely correct. If you deny Shankara as the incarnation of God and say that He is a special scholar only, you have destroyed the entire Shankara's philosophy by denying even Shankara, Who is a rare example of the Advaita philosophy. If you accept Shankara as the incarnation, you will get at least 1% strength. If you say that Shankara is a special scholar only, you lose that 1% strength as well! Which would you prefer? Moreover, as per your interpreted Advaita philosophy, both Rama and Ravana are God and Rama killing Ravana means the suicide of God!

The Advaita followers also worship Shankara as God showing their acceptance that Shankara is the incarnation of God. If these followers say that every soul is God, in such a case, these followers should not worship Shankara. If they are opposing Our argument, it means that they are opposing the special status of Shankara as God. If they are equal to Shankara, their worship is questioned! If you say that the followers of Shankara worshipped Shankara just like Shankara worshipped His preacher, based on the tradition of worship being done for the sake of ignorant souls (loka samgraha), Our fundamental question will attack you, which is that how an ignorant soul can exist when every soul is God and how can God become ignorant?

Our philosophy is giving place to all the three philosophies of the divine preachers. The monism of Shankara is correct in the human incarnation of God (due to the perfect merge of God, Shankara becomes God completely). The qualified monism of Ramanuja is correct in a very close devoted soul like Adishesha, who is treated as His limb by God (God is whole and devotee is like a part or an inseparable limb). The dualism of Madhva is correct in a totally separate ordinary soul serving God (God is the master and soul is the servant).

Based on the clue obtained from the concept of the opponent, Shankara told that the receiving awareness (Pramaataa) exists due to which 'everything is non-existent' is defeated. This does not mean that the awareness or soul alone exists and everything except the soul does not exist. In fact, the absolute reality of God gifted to the world made the entire world to be absolute real due to which the tiny part of the world, the awareness or soul also became absolutely real. Hence, along with the soul, we have to accept that the entire creation also exists and this situation makes that 'everything is

not non-existent, but, existent' only. By this, it becomes clear that soul is also not inherently absolute real, but, becomes absolutely real due to the gifted absolute reality by God to the world. God is inherently absolute real and hence, the soul cannot be God. The acquired absolute reality of the world and the soul from God makes the world and the soul to be called as relative reality.

2. How can I get lost in eternal oblivion?

[Shri Jayesh Pandey asked: Padanamaskaram Swami ji! I want myself to be lost in the eternal oblivion, I want to be erased from this creation. At Your feet.]

Swami replied:- It is not certainly in your hand. We have come here to do some work of God. That we shall do. After that, naturally, we will reach the feet of God. Till then, we must have full faith in God. We must not neglect the field (world) of our divine work. We must have interest in the field of our divine work.

3. Is the boundary of the universe unreachable by human beings, as said in the Quran?

[Shri Anil asked: Quran:(55:33) O company of jinn and men, if you have the power to go beyond the bounds of the heavens and the earth, go beyond them! Yet you will be unable to go beyond them for that requires infinite power.

Swami, I came across the above verse in the Quran (one of the interpretations out of several interpretations found in the internet). It seems to be in line with Your divine knowledge which states that the boundary of the universe is unreachable by any human being. The following interpretation of the verse 51:47 also seems to support this.

Quran:(51:47) "And it is We who have built the universe with [Our creative] power; and, verily, it is We who are steadily expanding it." I request Your comment on the above that my understanding is correct.]

Swami replied:- Going beyond the boundaries of the universe means recognizing the existence of the unimaginable God. Infinite power means the omnipotence of that unimaginable God. The soul not being able to go beyond the boundaries of the universe means that no soul can imagine God. The soul is different from God because the soul has less potency. We are expanding the universe means that we are expanding our worldly desires so that we are moving farther and farther away from God (As we are moving away more and more from God, it means in relative sense that the world is expanding and we are responsible for this expansion of the world. If the expansion of the world is in absolute sense, it can be done by the omnipotent God alone.). The unimaginable God exists beyond the boundary of space or universe (assuming that all the space is filled by universe). In this case, beyond the boundary of space, space cannot exist. Hence, beyond the boundary of space, you cannot speak about expansion and contraction since expansion and contraction are the properties of space. By expansion, an item becomes greater and by contraction, an item becomes smaller. Both these can make

the space or universe bigger or smaller respectively. But, by the expansion of space or universe, the unimaginable God (the unimaginable domain) will not be contracted to become a smaller unimaginable God.

4. Did Mother Mary also suffer for the sins of deserving devotees?

[In Christianity, mother of Jesus, Mary is considered to be born without any sins. When Jesus was crucified on the cross; she underwent tremendous pain and agony by the scene of her son's suffering on the cross. Did she also suffer for the sins of deserving devotees by this or it is her own previous sins?]

Swami replied:- Her attachment to the son born from her womb made her to suffer like that. Moreover, she is aware of the divinity of her son and this awareness made her to sustain her pain.

5. Why did God say in the Gita to offer Him leaves etc., when He does not want our worship?

[Bhagavad Gita 9.26: If one offers to Me with devotion a leaf, a flower, a fruit, or even water, I delightfully partake of that item offered with love by My devotee in pure consciousness. BG 18.55: Only by loving devotion to Me does one come to know who I am in Truth. Then, having come to know Me, My devotee enters into full consciousness of Me.

A person asked if God does not want any worship and service from us why did He say the above verses in Gita?]

Swami replied:- God is only showing the response to the deep devotion of the devotee. God is not at all aspiring for the devotion of the devotee. The spiritual path is invented and developed by devotees only.

6. If the boundary of the universe exists and God is beyond it, doesn't God get smaller if the universe expands?

[A person commented as below regarding the boundary of the universe and the existence of God. I request You to kindly reply to this. The Universe is just infinite and endless because the universe has no boundary. If there is a boundary, and if God exists beyond this boundary, and if the Universe is expanding, then God is getting smaller, contracting, or shrinking. But, there is no boundary. So, there is nothing to be concerned about nor worry about here.]

Swami replied:- The Universe or creation is inherently unreal and God is inherently the absolute reality. Expansion of your dream-space does not make you smaller. The answer for your objection is clearly explained in the answer of the first question.

7. Can energy be created first without any entity that possesses the energy?

["It is a very clear point that the creation of energy was the first process of God and hence, energy was the first item that was created by God." To the above piece of Your divine knowledge, a person commented in the followed way. Swami kindly please give reply to it.

Energy couldn't have been "the first item that was created by God," because energy is not an independent substance but a dependent attribute of some physical stuff or thing. Therefore, not even God could first have created nothing but "pure energy" without any substantial entity that possesses the energy. Where there is energy, there must be some energized matter or material substance! My point is that God couldn't have created energy/mass without creating something else at the same time whose energy/mass it is, i.e. something else (some substantial entity) which has energy/mass.]

Swami replied:- Scientists say that electromagnetic radiations are independent. When matter is a condensed form of energy, how can you say that matter is primary and energy is secondary? The rest mass of photons can be taken as the subtle property of energy itself. During the process of condensation of energy, the increase in the concentration of the energy increases the subtle mass to become gross mass, which is well perceived by us. You should not think that gross mass of the matter alone is the mass and say that any item possessing any quantity of mass must be matter.

Chapter 2

October 21, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,

[Shri Hrushikesh asked: Dear Swami, My friend Sai Srinivas (Kanhayya) has asked the following questions. I request You to kindly help us with answers for the questions below.]

1. How I can fill my soul and intellect with Datta Tatvam?

Swami replied:- The spiritual knowledge with sharp analysis will result in the appearance of God Datta and His attractive divine personality. It is an inevitable result of studying the spiritual knowledge deeply.

2. Who is a Guru? Some say Mother is above God, some say Guru is above God. For me, the hierarchy is God > Mom > Guru, am I right?

Swami replied:- The hierarchy is God or Sadguru > guru preaching the correct meaning of scriptures > mother not involved in the spiritual line.

3. What is the true understanding of the top tatvam?

[What is the true understanding of that top tatvam that is independent of all the other tatvas. To my understanding I came across 2 concepts.

a) A tatva that is amalgamation of all the tatvas

b) A tatva away from this union that is independently existing of all tatvas. What is the diff kindly please elaborate Swami ji?]

Swami replied:- The second concept b) is correct. This concept belongs to the unimaginable God or Parabrahma, who is beyond space and time. Unless you realize that root concept, you will be tortured in the study of spiritual knowledge with several confusions. Based on this concept only you can achieve the unification of all world religions and world peace. This achievement is very important because God is very much pleased by this achievement.

4. What is the correct form of Guru Dhyanam?

Swami replied:- Dhyaanam means perfect and unshakable interest in God. God in the form of a human guru is called Sadguru. It is better to use the word Sadguru dhyaanam. Sadguru means both guide and goal and you need not concentrate on any other path than this. Such a devotee is the most fortunate. Hanuman and Gopikas caught the alive Sadguru and got the highest divine fruits.

5. What are the boundaries of being good and truthful?

[What are the boundaries of being good, truthful and kindly help me understand how to build the direction and psychology of trying to make the balance b/w materialistic and spiritual phenomenon.]

Swami replied:- Goodness and truthfulness are not much important. The most important aspect is protecting justice and not harming a good person and a good devotee. You can be bad and cunning provided you are helping justice and harming injustice. The ultimate concepts must be understood very well and you should not be carried away by lower concepts.

6. Please enlighten me on the practices of untouchability.

[I hate when people say to my sister and mom that you are untouchables while they are in periods, and they have to sleep on floor , even if they sleep on bed, the bedsheets are cleaned but the priest said since the bedsheet touched the mattress it has to be cleaned too. Till then I will not touch a drop of water in your house. I find it very wrong, please enlighten me in the traditions of antu and muttoo (The untouchabilities).]

Swami replied:- In the above example, the untouchability is to be properly understood. Here, the untouchability is not the main aspect because if they are allowed to touch, they will not live far and be isolated so that they will take perfect rest. Here, the untouchability is yielding some other good fruit. I am against the concept of the untouchability of a caste. The child of an untouchable cannot be untouchable. The original untouchability of a caste was due to horrible sins committed and untouchability is just like boycotting or debarring an undisciplined student from school. It is only for the reformation of the soul and is not for the revenge on the soul.

7. How to choose the right side of spiritual knowledge?

[In spiritual knowledge and in Materialistic knowledge there are always bipolar opinions that I derive finally to. The blacks and whites of the situation. How to choose the side?]

Swami replied:- Sharp analysis using powerful intelligence will make you understand the actual truth of the bipolar opinions. Unless you take the help of Sadguru, you cannot succeed in this effort.

8. Kindly explain the meaning of the following visions, I had.

[In my experience Swami Ji, in my journey of spiritual seeking, I have understood one thing very clearly that life is not about finding answers, life is about finding directions, fixing karmas and attaching the spirit to a supreme power. The logical part of work is done by right direction and karma and the spiritual and intuitive part is taken care by the association with the divine supremacy. My conflict is to fix them too.

I saw Garuda in the clouds during one night b/w 8 -9 pm, where the moon was exactly in the centre of the heart of Lord Garuda. Kindly explain the meaning?]

Swami replied:- Garuda represents height and his fast speed represents sharp and brilliant logical analysis. In total, he represents the spiritual knowledge of God, which is the highest. He also represents the logical analysis of spiritual knowledge. All this is related to intelligence. The heart represents the abode of love or devotion to God. Moon represents the mind. The moon being present in the heart of Garuda means that the devotion is hidden in the spiritual knowledge. This means that the spiritual knowledge must lead the person to deep devotion. If the knowledge is continuous

without generating devotion, it is endless bad logic, which will become a waste since the human life is short.

[I am seeing a Guru in a cave who is trying to call me and say something to me, I do not understand what he is trying to say. When I bowed on the Kartikeya Swami ka putta, I saw the guru with fully shaven head, completely white, with a white pancha surrounding with white background, a snake like an umbrella over his head and its tail is wrapped around him and the tail is ending at his pelvis. He is sitting in padmasana closing his eyes.]

Swami replied:- It is a divine vision advising you to concentrate on the Sadguru because He is both guide and goal. Reaching Sadguru is reaching the ultimate goal, God. But, reaching itself has no practical use. You must please God after reaching God. Hence, reaching God is not the ultimate goal because pleasing God is the ultimate goal. This is what that divine person is speaking, which is not clearly heard by you.

[I have seen a 25-35 year old woman (Matha) dancing in the early morning in my meditation, not in my dreams.]

Swami replied:- The vision of the dancing female is the Maayaa showing her place in the path of spiritual knowledge. She is instructing you that you should take care of Pravrutti also while trying for Nivrutti.

[One day when I was memorising Lalita Sahasranama, same night at 2:30-300 AM my mind commanded me to sit Infront of the goddess and put my right ring finger in water and chant the beejakshara, I saw Amma in my meditation and She said are you ready?]

Swami replied:- This means that the Maayaa is questioning you about your preparedness towards the spiritual path that involves many thorns.

[I have seen Shirla Prabhupada in my dreams holding my hands and asking me to do japa in Ramakrishna Paramahansa temple in Belur math. I am drawing Krishna's paintings in my dream. I am visiting temples, some temples are below the soil underground. I am seeing very unusual gods like once I saw a god with Shiva, Vishnu, Amma, everyone in the same personified form i cannot distinguish the gender but it was very pleasant to look.]

Swami replied:- All this vision is based on God Krishna, who is the author of the Bhagavad Gita. You must understand the essence of the Bhagavad Gita. The essence of the Bhagavad Gita is surrendering to Krishna, who is the contemporary human incarnation and following His instructions and guidance strictly without any disturbance from other evil forces. Fighting the war is Pravrutti and taking guidance of God Krishna is Nivrutti. Both are in His hands only. God Krishna asked Arjuna again and again to concentrate on the preaching of the contemporary human incarnation.

[Swami ji I cannot hold the visions, I need a way of dhyana and sadhana where I can hold my visions and understand and evolve into the person I am destined to. My Honest Confession - > I do not believe in the people who say they are gods, God is diff and guru is diff to me prabhu. My humble obeisances to Prabhu jhi, Jai GuruDatta Swami. At Your feet, Hrushikesh]

Swami replied:- A human being of this earth or an energetic being of the upper world cannot be God because both are ordinary souls only embedded in respective external bodies. Even though all angels are energetic

beings only and not God, God Brahma, God Vishnu, God Shiva, God Datta are accepted as God or energetic incarnations because the unimaginable God merged with God Datta and God Datta merged with the selected energetic beings to become energetic incarnations, which are mediated God relevant to the energetic beings of the upper world. Similarly, the human incarnations are God in mediated state (God Datta merging with human beings) related to the humanity on this earth. God does not want you to worship Him. God only wants to hear true spiritual knowledge from Him and select the right direction. Selecting the right direction is as important as walking in the right direction. But, you must understand the meaning of walking or practical devotion, which is not meditation. After all, in meditation, what are you doing? You simply fix a form and go on maintaining it in your mind. It is neither service to God nor sacrifice to God. It is purely a wasteful theoretical step in which there is no progress at all. In spiritual knowledge, day by day, there is progress. There is progress in devotion to God because as you understand the divine personality more and more, the devotion increases day by day. In meditation, a constant continuation of a fixed state occurs in which there is no change at all even if the meditation ends after a long time. Meditation actually means unshakable interest in God, which is the basis for studying the spiritual knowledge and developing devotion to God. Interest increases as there is progress in spiritual knowledge and in devotion. At the same time, interest is the basis for you to start the study of spiritual knowledge that leads to devotion. Arjuna wanted to withdraw from his duty, which is to fight the war against injustice and go to forest to do meditation. God Krishna abused him as a person of neutral gender, which is neither male nor female (*klaibyam mā sma gamah...*-Gita) because Arjuna stood neither for Pravrutti nor for Nivrutti. Having faith in the Sadguru like God Krishna alone will lead you to success in both Pravrutti and Nivrutti.

9. What is the real interpretation of the word 'Aadi Bhikshu'?

[A question by Shri PVNM Sarma]

Swami replied:- This means God, who is a beggar from the beginning of creation. God is the owner of this entire creation! Why and for what is He begging the human beings for even food? God Datta, the highest form of God is still begging and all His incarnations so far continued to beg. What is the secrecy in this drama of God?

God wanted to test the practical devotion of the devotee because after theoretical devotion, practical devotion is to be followed, which means practical sacrifice of the fruit of work to God accompanied with the practical sacrifice of work or service to God. God is the actual giver of wealth to any human being. If this fact is known to the human being, the human being will

sacrifice some fruit of work at least in gratitude to God. Such sacrifice based on gratefulness cannot be true love because such sacrifice will be done by any human being even if it is having climax greed. Hence, God wants to hide the fact, which is that He has given wealth to any human being so that in this situation, gratefulness does not appear and if any sacrifice is done, that shall be based on true love only. Therefore, to conduct this test, God wants to appear as a beggar and not as a rich person. For this reason, God behaved like beggar from the beginning and hence, He is called as 'Adi Bhikshu'.

Chapter 3

October 22, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**1. Who is a sthitaprajña? What is the state of yoga or samādhi?**

[Dr. Nikhil asked: Padanamaskarams Swamiji, I have been asked to teach a course on mediation this semester to students. Due to the high mental stress that people are facing in society nowadays, Amma has instructed that meditation be taught to all students in the university. The course involves 1 theory session (50 min) and 1 practical mediation session (50 min) per week for the entire semester. Since there is a lot of confusion among people about what meditation really means and what its purpose is, I thought of correlating these meditative practices with Your overall philosophy and the spiritual path as explained by You. However, the concepts in Your philosophy are quite different and even contradictory to the understanding of many people owing to which they might raise objections. So, I have tried to support every concept with quotations from the Gita (mainly Chapter 2). Since the Gita is already well accepted by most people, if I provide references from the Gita to support each of Your concepts, students and my faculty colleagues might find it easier to accept.

I am aware that Your concepts require no support since You are self-standing (svatah sidhah) and self-luminous (svayam bhaati). I have written this article mainly as my own notes for my own clarity. While I was writing this article, I noticed with even more clarity than before about the extraordinary correlation that exists between Your philosophy and the Gita. I was elated as You were revealing one correlation after the other to me.

My intention is to introduce some of these points as and when I get a chance during the class sessions, or in whichever other way You instruct. If You feel there is no need to introduce these concepts to others, that is also fine. In any case, I request You to kindly correct and improve my thinking and logic on this topic. At Your Divine Lotus Feet, Nikhil

How can we deal with stress and difficulties in life?

At the beginning of the Bhagavad Gītā, we see that Arjuna was faced with his beloved elders and cousins standing as his enemies on the battlefield of Kurukṣetra. In that situation, Arjuna underwent an emotional breakdown. In spite of knowing fully well that his enemies supported injustice, Arjuna refused to do his duty as a warrior to destroy them and establish justice. He even presented false arguments to justify his proposal of turning back from the battlefield. He tried to cover up his own blind attachment to his relatives and prove that his retiring from the war was justice.

Arjuna's situation generally represents the situation of a person facing any worldly difficulty. These difficulties come in various forms including financial problems, career problems, relationship problems, health problems, the loss of loved ones, and so on. When faced with these different worldly problems we too experience stress like Arjuna, and that stress makes us miserable and reduces our efficiency. Sometimes, that stress becomes too much to bear and we cannot even lead a normal life. The extreme stress prevents us from doing what is right and forces us to do what is wrong. The consequences of such actions are serious and cause immense suffering to us and others around us. Naturally, we want to find a solution to this problem of mental stress. We want to learn the technique of how to permanently avoid stress and suffering and always remain happy and active throughout our lives. This very technique is the subject matter of the Bhagavad Gītā. Lord Kṛṣṇa has masterfully revealed this timeless technique that is most relevant to every human being, irrespective of region, religion, race, and gender. Let us understand that technique in a nutshell.

Who is a sthitaprajña? What is the state of yoga or samādhi?

After hearing Arjuna's difficulty and his justifications to quit the battle, Lord Kṛṣṇa presented several counter-arguments. He tried to motivate Arjuna to give up his blind attachment to his relatives, and perform his duty of fighting to establish justice. He instructed Arjuna to free his intellect from delusion (overattachment), give up the fruit of his actions, and establish his intellect in a state of equal-mindedness (yoga; yukta buddhiḥ) (Samatvam yoga ucyate—Gītā 2.48; Yadā te moha kalilam, buddhirvyatitariṣyati—Gītā 2.52; Karmajaṃ buddhiyuktā hi phalaṃ tyaktvā manīṣiṇam—Gītā 2.51). Lord Kṛṣṇa recommended that Arjuna establish his intellect in an unshakable samādhi, which is the state of yoga or equal-mindedness (Samādhavacalā buddhistadā yogamavāpsyasi—Gītā 2.53).

Arjuna was generally aware that a person whose intellect is established in the state of equal-mindedness (yoga) or samādhi is called a sthitaprajña. But he wanted to understand it more clearly. So, he asked Lord Kṛṣṇa to explain who exactly is a sthitaprajña established in the state of samādhi (Sthitaprajñasya kā bhāṣā samādhisthasya keśava—Gītā 2.54). Arjuna wanted to know how the sthitaprajña speaks, how he sits, and how he behaves (Sthitadhiḥ kiṃ prabhāṣeta, kimāsīta, vrajeta kim?—Gītā 2.54). Lord Kṛṣṇa explained that the sthitaprajña is the person who has given up all the desires of the mind since he or she is fully absorbed in the Paramātman (God, Supreme Self) (Prajahāti yadā kāmān sarvaṃ Partha manogatān. Ātmanyevātmanā tuṣṭaḥ sthitaprajñastadocyate—Gītā 2.55). The sthitaprajña is not the person who forces himself to give up all desires. He is the one whose desires have automatically fallen off. How can desires automatically fall off? They can fall off effortlessly when one's intellect and mind are totally absorbed in the sweetest and most desirable God. It means that when one is totally devoted to God, no other desire remains in the mind.

The Veda says that we desire various worldly items and people (loved ones) only for the sake of the self (Ātmanastu kāmāya sarvaṃ priyam bhavati). All our worldly actions are only driven by these self-centered desires or desires for self-benefit. Such actions are called kāmya karma, which means: actions (karma) driven by self-centric desires (kāmya). Devotion (bhakti) is the true love for God. False love for God means loving God as an instrument for fulfilling our self-centric desires. This is instrumental devotion or false devotion. True devotion to God means loving God without the desire for any self-benefit. In true devotion, there is no aspiration for getting anything for oneself in return from God (niṣkāma bhakti). It is the state in which we love God more than our self. We are no longer self-centric; we become God-centric (Yā niśā sarva bhūtānāṃ tasyāṃ jagarti saṃyamī, yasyāṃ jagarti bhūtani, sa niśā paśyato muneḥ—Gītā 2.69). When the mind is totally filled with only the love for God, there is no room for any self-centric desire. All the self-centric desires automatically fall off. A ripe fruit effortlessly falls from the tree. One can think of it in the following way: When the fruit's love for the Earth exceeds its love for the tree to which it is attached with its stalk, it falls off from the tree without any effort (Urvārukamiva bandhanān mṛtyoḥ muṣṭyāṃ amṛtāt—Veda). If you have to pluck it forcibly, it is not ripe enough—its love for the Earth has not ripened enough. Similarly, if you have to force yourself to give up self-centric worldly desires, it means that your love for God has not ripened yet. The focus then should be on how to ripen one's love for God. The love or devotion to God can be developed only through the knowledge of God. This might seem odd at first glance. However, once understood, it is found to be perfectly logical.]

Swami replied: In view of the similarity between Arjuna and the present student, the main advice given to Arjuna by Krishna can be applied to the present student as well. The student must understand that he/she is a system (existing at constant atmospheric pressure) supplied with some energy through the form of some food (Q), must be converted totally into academic work (W) without diverting it to tension by raising the internal energy (E) as per first law of thermo-dynamics $Q=E+W$, which is essence of the famous verse of Gita (*Karmaṇyevādhikāraste...*).

All the energy of the student (Q) must be fully concentrated on the academic work (W) without diverting any part of the energy to tension (E) so that when $E=0$, $Q=W$ and this is the goal of the meditation. $Q=W$ itself is the process of meditation, in which the student is converting all his energy into academic work without wasting it to raise the tension. Raise in the tension (E) is spoiling the meditation due to which all the energy is diverted to tension resulting in no energy available for academic work, i.e. $Q=E$ and $W=0$.

2. How is being a sthitaprajña related to spiritual knowledge, devotion, meditation, and karma yoga?

[Spiritual knowledge is the knowledge about God. It is called Brahma Jñānam or Prajñānam. The final conclusion of the vast field of Brahma Jñānam is that God is the greatest, the most precious, the kindest, and the most loving. He is the true Father, true Mother, true Preacher, true Friend, and true Husband of all souls. His love for all souls is the purest and it is proved through His sacrifice for the sake of souls. The Veda says that nothing or no one can ever be equal to God (Na tat samah cā'bhyadhikaśca drśyate—Veda Śvetāśvatara Up. 6.8). This final conclusion of Brahma Jñānam is called prajñā. The permanent establishment (sthitī, pratiṣṭhā) of this final conclusion of Brahma Jñānam (prajñā) in one's awareness is also called jñāna yoga, which means the complete realization or attainment of divine knowledge. A person in whose awareness, prajñā, the final conclusion of Brahma Jñānam, is permanently established is a sthitaprajña. Such a person is thoroughly convinced that God is the greatest, the most precious, and the most loving. Being convinced is related to the intellect (buddhi). It is followed by the corresponding emotional response, which is related to the mind (manas). The corresponding emotional response to that conviction is falling in love with God, above everyone and everything else. God, and God alone becomes the ultimate Goal of that person's life. This love for God is devotion (bhakti). Thus, the intellect being perfectly established in the final conclusion of divine knowledge causes the mind to be filled with devotion to God.

This permanent establishment (ā) of the perfectly-derived (sam) final intellectual (dhīḥ) conclusion of divine knowledge in one's awareness is also called samādhi (sam + ā + dhīḥ). Samādhi can also refer to the resulting state of the mind being completely filled with devotion to God. The emotional love for God (devotion, bhakti) is the result of the firmly-established (sthita) intellectual conclusion (prajñā). Thus, buddhi yoga or jñāna yoga is the cause for bhakti yoga. The word dhyāna commonly means meditation. It is composed of three syllables namely, dhī + ā + na. It too means the state of the intellect (dhīḥ) being constantly (ā) established in the conclusion that God is the greatest. Thus, dhyāna yoga is the same as bhakti yoga.

How does the sthitaprajña, who is in the state of samādhi or dhyāna behave? Firstly, such a person has no worldly desire to achieve or acquire anything for the self (Rasavarjaṃ rasopyasya paraṃ dr̥ṣṭvā nivartate—Gītā 2.59). It does not mean that the person becomes insensitive or inactive. In fact, this person's enjoyment in the world doubles. He remains ever-blissful not just in the good situations in life, but also in the bad situations. He becomes fully active, just, kind, sensitive, unbiased, and balanced. He does not care for his own comfort or discomfort; success or failure; or fame or insult in society. He only cares about pleasing God.

If the person has no self-centric desires, why does the person continue to act? The person continues to act for the sake of God. The goal and beneficiary of all the person's activities is God. The sthitaprajña does his worldly duties because it pleases God. He earns and supports himself along with his family since it pleases God. Over and above supporting himself and his family, he additionally works to serve God (karma samnyāsa). Further, out of whatever fruit he earns as a result of his work in the world (earnings), he retains only enough to support himself and his family. All the rest, he offers to

God (karma phala tyāga) as a worshipful sacrifice. In other words, he offers a combination of his service and earnings to God. This offering of service and earnings to God is called karma yoga.]

Swami replied: Concentrating all the energy on academic work (God) without diverting it to issues causing tension is comparable to the Sthitaprajna, who concentrates on God only without diverting his attention towards worldly matters. Such a student will keep all his mind and intellect on the attainment of the goal of his stay in the college.

3. How are jñāna yoga, bhakti yoga, karma yoga, and rāja yoga related?

[Learning the knowledge of God (Brahma Jñānam) is the starting point. The completion of the first step of learning divine knowledge is the attainment of jñāna yoga. It is reaching the state where the intellect gets firmly established in the final conclusion of that divine knowledge. This state is also called samādhi, dhyāna or sthitaprajñatā. This state of the intellect, fills the person's mind with the emotion of love for God. This is devotion (bhakti). It is the attainment of bhakti yoga. The person who has attained bhakti yoga naturally, expresses his devotion to God practically. He offers his service (karma samnyāsa) and earnings to God (karma phala tyāga), after providing sufficiently for oneself and one's family. This is karma yoga. A person's effort is required mainly for the first step of the spiritual path, which is learning knowledge (jñāna yoga). It is also the longest step, often spanning numerous lifetimes. The other two steps follow spontaneously.]

Although jñāna yoga, bhakti yoga, and karma yoga are in logical sequence, as one causes the other. The development of all three happens together. To the extent you gain divine knowledge, you also develop devotion, and you also express your devotion in practice to that extent. By the time your divine knowledge reaches completion, the other two also reach completion. Thus, jñāna yoga, bhakti yoga, and karma yoga are three interconnected vessels in which the water poured into the first vessel fills all three.

The person who attains these three steps has also attained rāja yoga. Rāja yoga is being constantly engaged in activities the world with internal detachment. The sthitaprajña acts in the world to earn for the basic needs of himself and his family and for sacrificing the excess of his earnings to God. He also works to serve God. In spite of being fully engaged in the world, the sthitaprajña is fully detached from it internally. He can enjoy both the good and bad equally, since his goal is neither of them. His goal is God alone (Āpūryamāṇamacala pratiṣṭham samudramāpaḥ praviśanti ydvat. Tadvatkāmā yaṁ praviśanti sarve sa śāntimāpnoti na kāma kāmī—Gītā 2.70; Padmapatramivāmbhasā—Gītā).]

Swami replied: Jnaanayoga is understanding the present concept with full attention. Bhaktiyoga means diverting full interest in adapting this concept. Karmayoga consisting of Karma Samnyaasa and Karmaphala Tyaaga is also valid in this case because Karma Samnyaasa or sacrifice of work is to be done immediately by practicing this concept in the form of doing dedicated academic work. Karmaphala Tyaaga is the most important part which is sacrifice of fruit of work or money, which is the fees paid by you to achieve the degree with distinction. This is the most important part because your parents have paid the fees which is the fruit of their hard work. You must do justice to that. Raajayoga is the external attachment with internal detachment. This can be done in your academic work by having full attachment in work only with complete detachment from the fruit, which brings freedom from tension.

4. Why is it necessary to have God as the goal?

[The person whose goal is not God (ayukta), cannot reach the correct intellectual conclusion (buddhi, prajñā) that God is the greatest and most lovable. When the intellect is not established in the right conclusion, one retains the wrong conclusion in the mind that the self is the most precious. So, one remains self-centric. One can never become God-centric and develop devotion (bhāvanā). For such a self-centric person, there is no escape from self-centered desires (Indriyāṇi pramāthīni haranti prasabham manaḥ—Gītā 2.60). With desires burning in the mind, there is no peace in the mind. When there is not even peace in the mind, where is the question of happiness in life? (Nāsti buddhirayuktasyā nacāyuktasya bhāvanā na ca abhāvayataḥ śāntiḥ aśāntasya kutaḥ sukham?). At the most, the person may be able to temporarily subdue the desires by force, but eventually, they are bound to overpower him.

Hence, setting God as the goal is critically important to attain peace, and bliss in life (Yukta āsīta matparaḥ—Gītā 2.61, Paraṁ dṛṣtvā nivartate—Gītā 2.59). In conclusion, the person who develops an unshakable devotion in God, through the knowledge of God, alone is freed of all desires and bondage in the world. Such a person remains in the ever-blissful God-like state (Brāhmi sthiti), in every good or bad situation in life, including the final situation of his own death (Eṣā Brāhmi sthiti Partha...Brahma nirvāṇa mṛcchati—Gītā 2.72).]

Swami replied: In spite of all this systematic implementation of a well-planned program, there is a dire necessity for the grace of God because the association of effort with the grace of God will certainly yield a favourable result not only in the present, but also, in the future by blessing the student with a good job. Confidence on God proves to be better than self-confidence in long run of life.

5. What is the connection between meditative practices and attaining samādhi or the state of a sthitaprajña?

[Meditative practices only prepare the mind for the first step of the journey towards samādhi. They provide basic mental fitness and form the very initial step. If you are a weak and unhealthy person who wants to win the tennis championship, the very first step is to attain some basic physical fitness. This includes eating nutritious food, getting sufficient rest, and doing some simple exercises in the gymnasium. Merely doing these things is far from sufficient to win the championship. It only helps you gain some basic control over your body. You are certainly not equipped to compete with an expert tennis player. With that basic physical fitness, you can at the most ensure that your racket will not fly out of your hand due to the force of ball from your opponent. What basic physical fitness is to winning the tennis championship, meditative practices are to attaining the final state of samādhi. They merely yield stress relief, mental fitness, and some limited self-control over the mind. One cannot attain samādhi by merely following these practices. One cannot completely attain equanimity in both the joys and miseries of life. At the most, one can gain a temporary or a limited amount of equanimity (Abhyāsenā tu Kaunteya—Gītā 6.35).

Having gained basic physical fitness and control over the body, you have to separately learn the technique of playing tennis. This is like the stage of learning divine knowledge with the peaceful and disciplined mind resulting from the meditative practices. As you go on learning tennis, your love for tennis goes on increasing. You also practically participate in small tennis tournaments. Similarly, as your spiritual knowledge (jñāna) grows, you proportionally develop devotion (bhakti). You also express that devotion practically in terms of service and the sacrifice of your earnings to God (karma). Finally, after many years, you become an expert at tennis. This is like the state of becoming a sthitaprajña or attaining jñāna yoga. At that point your love for tennis also becomes permanent. This is like reaching the climax of devotion God, which is the permanent attainment of bhakti yoga. Then finally, you will

practically compete in the championship matches. That is like practically expressing one's complete devotion to God through the climax of service and the sacrifice, which is the attainment of karma yoga. Winning the trophy is succeeding in karma yoga and attaining a permanent association with God (sāyujyam), which is accompanied by eternal bliss (ānanda) and the liberation from all worldly bonds (mokṣam).

The various steps in this entire journey are beautifully summarized in the Gītā as follows: “Śreyo hi jñānamabhyāsāt jñānād dhyānaṃ viśiṣyate, dhyānāt karma phala tyāgaḥ, tyāgat śāntir anantaram (Gītā 12.12)”. The same steps are listed below:

1. Abhyāsa means the meditative practices, which is the preparatory step before the first step of learning knowledge.

2. Jñānam: Greater than the mere preparatory meditative practices (abhyāsa) is the first step of learning divine knowledge (jñānam).

3. Dhyānam: Greater than merely learning and analyzing is reaching the final conclusion and establishing the intellect permanently in it so that it produces devotion to God in the mind (dhyāna).

4. Karma Phala Tyāga: Greater than merely holding that devotion in the mind is to express it practically in the form of service and the sacrifice of your earnings (karma phala tyāgaḥ). Having practically sacrificed your earnings to God, nothing remains to be done further. It is the final step of the journey.

The person who attains that final state has attained jñāna yoga, bhakti yoga, and karma yoga. He or she remains permanently in the association of God (sāyujyam) in an eternally blissful state (ānanda). Needless to say, the person is also permanently liberated from the bondage and problems of the world (mokṣam).]

Swami replied: Doing prayer to God with full absorption of mind that is attained from knowing the omniscient and omnipotent divine personality of God gives not only full peace but also good and beneficial practical results related to worldly life or pravṛtti. This can be treated as the real meditation and true samaadhi. Detachment from worldly fruits and attachment to academic work without dissipation of a trace of energy to other things must be well understood because after settling in life, one can enjoy the worldly pleasures and also fully concentrate on God, if interested fully to the spiritual life.

6. What are some of components of meditative practices?

1.	Chanting OM	Relieves anxiety, regulates hormones and immunity, activates the vagus nerve and other nerves, regulates activity in different brain centers. [ref.] Moreover, it conditions the body and mind, preparing it for meditation.
2.	Sitting comfortably and motionless with eyes closed.	Minimizes sensory distractions and puts the mind in a state favorable for meditation.
3.	Deliberately relaxing the body.	The strain in different parts of the body needs to be removed otherwise, during meditation, one may feel distracting itching, twitching, pain, etc. When done right, the body should be at rest during meditation, and one should feel reinvigorated after it.
4.	Control thoughts <i>Yogaḥ citta vṛtti nirodhaḥ—</i> <i>Patañjali Yoga Sūtram.</i>	Usually, our mind is overcrowded with wasteful or negative worldly thoughts that drain precious nervous energy (mental energy). The negative thoughts also motivate negative actions, which bind us to its fruit (punishment). These negative thoughts must be controlled to make space for positive worldly thoughts and divine thoughts.

		When the needless energy drain is curtailed, the mind goes into a restful and fresh state, which is suitable for learning. Controlling the thoughts in the mind does not mean a forcible control. Points 5–9 are some of ways of controlling the thoughts.
5.	Rhythmic, slow, and long breathing. Focusing on the breath.	The slow and deliberate breathing makes the person more alert and conscious of the body and mind. Attention is taken away from unnecessary thoughts that are related to non-self objects and focused on the self, which is the subject. Many thoughts related to the external world are recognized to be unimportant and they fade away.
6.	Passively witness thoughts	Forcibly instructing the mind to not think about some particular thoughts or any thoughts in general only increases the thoughts in the mind. So, being a passive witness to all thoughts without paying any deliberate attention to any, causes them to gradually fade out. It is like dealing with a naughty child. Entertaining the child or scolding the child will cause it to do more naughty things. Ignoring the child will cause it to get bored and fall off to sleep. This technique works for short meditations of say 15–20 min. The mind and body become rested and rejuvenated.
7.	Focus on <i>mantra</i>	The <i>mantra</i> represents a Deity. Mentally repeating the <i>mantra</i> enables remembering the Deity and His/Her greatness and value, which supersedes everything in the world. The thought of His/Her devotion is given priority over every other thought, over and over again. It not only minimizes all other thoughts, but develops mental devotion. It is suitable for longer duration meditations.
8.	Focus on the form of God	Same as above.
9.	Positive imagination e.g. white flowers	Upon eliminating most of the negative and wasteful thoughts, deliberate positive thoughts are created. Such repeated practice will make an impression on the mind which will be recalled when the opportunity for performing the relevant good action presents itself.

Swami replied: By practicing the Yoga preached by Patanjali in Yogasutram, one can achieve good practical results in worldly life. The first and foremost point is that God (Ishvara) exists and that efforts to attain His grace is the ultimate goal of human life. For this, good physical health is very essential, which can be attained by physical exercises through games etc. By attaining control over breathing, one can retain the inhaled air for a long time so that the entire oxygen present in the inhaled air can be completely used in the purification of the blood. By detaching the mind from worldly affairs (Pratyahaara) the wastage of mental energy is restricted making the mind very much strong and energetic. The concentration on the confined ultimate goal is the result of this entire scheme and such concentration yields undefeatable practical fruits.

Conclusion:- Meditation does not mean simply sitting and doing some breathing exercises. It only means in the ultimate sense, the total dedication of the entire energy existing in the body on a set up goal, which will help in attaining the ultimate goal, which is to gain the grace of God before the end

of the human life. Concentration on the goal that helps in achieving the ultimate goal is the real meditation because if the immediate goal is not attained, there will be loss in attaining even one of both the goals.

Chapter 4

October 29, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**1. Whether the sacrifice of money to Sadguru be done during the lifetime or at the end of the life?**

[Smt. Lakshmi Lavanya K asked: Pada namaskaram Swami, I used to donate the total amount of my salary that remained after my basic needs to my previous guru, I am happy with that and I didn't save anything, after coming here, Phani Swami advised me to save money for my future needs and donate You a little amount, You also said devotees should donate You their money, property in their last days as parents give to their children, here my doubt is I don't know when I will die and which is my last day in this life. I am getting fear that I may die one day without donating to You anything. I am thinking that my future till my death is already destined then why should I bother about future, so it is better to donate You now. Please forgive me if I am asking wrong. Padanamaskaram Swami. Padanamaskaram Swami]

Swami replied:- When the devotee gives gurudakshina to God in human form, it is not need based because God is the giver of everything to everybody. Hence, this shall be understood from the angle of the devotee only and not from the angle of God. The angle of the devotee is pure and true love towards God. This is called as practical devotion, which is very important from the angle of the true love of the devotee to God. Intelligence is related to true spiritual knowledge and mind is related to devotion or true love to God. Spending intelligence and mind for God is the theoretical phase, which is also very important since it is the source of practical devotion. Moreover, especially in the case of God, since there is no need of any practical devotion for God, theoretical devotion based on theoretical knowledge is also very predominant since false spiritual knowledge and false devotion (desire based devotion) must be avoided. Practical devotion is the proof of theoretical devotion and hence, all this is based on the angle of the devotee only and not the angle of God. There are several people, who want to attend the Satsanga or preaching of spiritual knowledge by the Sadguru with a view of free entertainment since they have no worldly work to do. Instead of spending some money on other entertainments, this is a free way of entertainment. Some also believe that if the true spiritual knowledge of Sadguru develops true devotion to God, it may help in the true benefits in worldly life. When a soul has such false devotion to God, practical devotion tests the devotee and reveals his/her true devotion to God. All this explanation must be understood from the angle of the devotee only and not from the angle of the Sadguru or human incarnation of God. There are several gurus (not Sadgurus) from the angle of whom this subject is also related.

Such gurus don't worry about speaking even false spiritual knowledge to please the selfish minds of devotees. I am speaking this topic purely from the angle of the Sadguru only and hence, I am repeatedly telling that this topic exists only from the angle of the devotees. There is a saying in Telugu which is that relationship will be maintained if there are visits and true love will be maintained if there is practical service and sacrifice (***Rāka pokalunṭe bandhutvam, peṭṭi poṣiste āpekṣalu***). This is a sort of karma yoga in Nivrutti, which is modified and applied to Pravrutti. The true colour of the devotee comes out when the Sadguru asks for 'gurudakshina', because if the devotee came for time pass, the devotee will run away immediately. This is a test to know whether the devotee is really interested in the spiritual knowledge or not.

After spiritual knowledge (Jnana Yoga), which is like water needed for life and after the subsequent theoretical devotion (Bhakti yoga), which is like manure for growth, comes practical devotion (karma yoga), which consists of service (Karma samnyaasa) and sacrifice (karmaphala tyaaga), which is like the mango plant that yields fruit. Either both or one of service and sacrifice, can stand for karma yoga depending on the circumstances of the devotee. It is not the magnitude of the donated service or sacrifice that counts, but, the percentage of donation in the possessed energy (service) or in the possessed matter (sacrifice) that counts ultimately.

This topic is properly understood as long as the devotee thinks that this topic is always related from the angle of self and not from the angle of God, who is omnipotent without any need and who is not a needful beggar. Hence, the Veda says that you should serve or sacrifice God with shyness and fear (***hriyā deyam, bhiyā deyam***). The Veda also says that you should serve or sacrifice to deserving alone and not to undeserving. The donation to undeserving gives you sinful result. Hence, I always recommend practical devotion only after hearing the entire spiritual knowledge so that the devotee must be consciously satisfied. Some people say that karma yoga is first, bhakti yoga is next and finally it is Jnaana yoga. This is not correct. Jnaana yoga is first, next is Bhakti Yoga and finally it is karma yoga. In this sequence only, Shankara, Ramanuja and Madhva appeared.

This topic is the most sensitive subject because any slightest slip will lead to misunderstanding the receiver and several scholars keep silent on this topic. But, it is the most important and the final topic in spiritual knowledge and hence, can't be leftover untouched. Veda says that by sacrifice of money only God is obtained (***Dhanena tyāgena eke...***). Gita stressed on this topic at several places and told that this is the final full stop in the spiritual efforts of the devotee (***Tyāgāt śāntiḥ...***). Gita also polished the Vedic concept and

introduced hard self-earning (Karma phala tyaaga) in the place of money. The idea behind is that the bond with self-earning is stronger than ancestral wealth and the final test is to see whether the bond with God is stronger than any other worldly bond or not. Money by itself is inert and useless in the absence of alive worldly bonds and hence, the bond with God in this test must be with alive form only, which is the contemporary human incarnation called as Sadguru.

2. Why did not the sages get the feeling of embracing Lord Dattatreya by becoming female when they saw Him?

[Smt. Priyanka asked: We learnt that sages in the forest saw Lord Rama recognizing Him to be God in human form and wanted to embrace Him by becoming females. But they were also in association with Lord Dattatreya during the same time period. Since Lord Dattatreya's beauty is also of topmost level, my doubt is how come they did not get the same feeling seeing Lord Dattatreya to become females and embrace Him? At Your divine lotus feet, Priyanka]

Swami replied:- Even in the time of Krishna, Dattatreya existed. Madhumati existed like Sita and Rukmini. Sages have lot of supernatural power to see Dattatreya, Rama and Krishna as one. Rama means one who is entertained and Krishna means one who is attracting. Dattatreya is Rama and Krishna because He was always entertained and always attracted devotees. When the incarnation takes place, the original form is not disturbed and this is the unimaginable power or Maayaa of God. The original form was the energetic incarnation called Datta. Dattatreya existed as human incarnation along with Rama or Krishna, the other human incarnations. Sages knew everything and hence, there is no problem of your question. There can be two or three human incarnations at a time. Whether it is Rama or Krishna or Dattatreya, it is one and the same as per the divine sages. Since sages are also omniscient like God, there is no problem as far as the examined candidates (Sages) are concerned. Regarding other human beings, this is not a problem because they are not the candidates of the examination. You can always pose the problem to the candidates, if they are affected by the problem. If the candidates are not affected, there is no scope for posing the problem. Hence, your question is not posing a problem to the candidates and it is not a problem to others since they are not the candidates at all.

3. How is the boredom of God different from that of human beings?

[Questions from Kishore Ram: Namaskaram Swamiji, Swamiji, Please explain the state of boredom of God and how it is different from the boredom of human beings.]

Swami replied:- Boredom comes only to human beings, who are always in the stage of dissatisfaction. A human being goes for an entertainment since he is not satisfied with the existing atmosphere. God is always in satisfied condition and hence, there is no need for God to aspire for entertainment. Hence, you shall not treat God as a human being existing

in dissatisfied (not contented) state aspiring for some entertainment. Hence, in the case of God, you can't use words like boredom and entertainment. The words like boredom and entertainment used in the case of God by the Veda must be taken in a different angle or a different sense. In the case of God, boredom means that He always existed in the monistic state. In the case of God, entertainment means that He desired for a different variety of state, which is the dualistic state. Let us take the example of a king in the palace, who is also fully contented. He wants to go to the forest for hunting, which is a different atmosphere other than the palace. You should not say that the king is not contented in the palace and became contented in the forest. In both the places, the king is fully contented. Desire for changing the existing atmosphere is only desire for change in the variety of the atmosphere. You have to carefully understand about the subtle point in this context.

4. In the Yoga chakras, is the strength of the bond from mother to children in ascending order?

[Swamiji, In Yoga chakras, is the strength of bond from mother (mulaadhaara) to children (anahata) in ascending order? Some people may have a bond with mother stronger than wife/husband, In that case, if the bond with mother is broken (for the sake of God), will the other bonds be broken automatically?]

Swami replied:- Wife or husband is more attracting than one's parents. Children are more attracting than one's wife or husband. Hence, the order referred by you is in ascending order. The highest attraction is for children only and hence, that chakra is in the heart and is called Anaahata, which means that it is not crossed by any soul so far. The general trend is to stay with one's wife and children for whom only the soul earns even doing sins. The strongest bond differs from one person to the other, but, still the strongest bond is only with children. Even sage Vyaasa could not conquer this bond!

5. Swamiji, in the path of Nivrutti, what is the real meaning of a soul being selfless?

Swami replied:- Selfless means forgetting both 'I' and 'My' with reference to the true devotion to God. 'I' is the husband-demon. 'My' is the wife-demon. 'My people and My things' are their children-demons. When you think about God, this family leaves you and goes out like a family going to a film show when there is lot of noise in front of the house during the construction of a road. In the evening, the noise is stopped since the labourers leave the work and go to their homes. Similarly, when you stop thinking about God, this family returns back to you, who is their home!

6. Can You please elaborate on "I need to support even if the family members are atheists"?

[Swamiji, in a recent satsanga with You, I was shocked to hear when You said even if the family members are atheists, still, I need to support them. Can You please explain more in this statement?]

Swami replied:- When you married and got children, you did not see this as a problem. Had you selected a devotee as your wife, this problem would have not come. If the parents are devotees, generally, the children also become devotees. Hence, you did this mistake and hence, you are responsible for your mistake. You have to bear the penalty of your mistake.

7. Should God, knowing the consequences, not have granted freedom to souls?

[Questions from Shri Abhiram: Padanamaskaram Swami, Swamiji, as per my limited understanding, free will to a soul is granted by God. The direction of the action and its consequences is totally responsible by the soul (human being). So there is equal chance of doing right or wrong thing depending on the soul's decision. In that case, why did God give such freedom or free will where is a chance to do sins? I understood from one of your discourses that the souls (us) yearned for that freedom and thats why God granted such freedom to souls. My question is, God who knew the consequences of giving free will should not have granted such freedom to souls, though they yearned for it?]

Swami replied:- Your solution is not justified because God tried to give the advantage of freedom as well as the advantage of discipline simultaneously. While enjoying the good side of the fruit, one can avoid the bad side of the same fruit. This is always the best option for which any wise parent tries with his/her children. In this way, you have no place for blaming God. If God does not give free will, you will blame and scold God for His iron discipline. There are several good souls, who are using the good side of free will as well as avoiding the bad side of free will. If everybody is spoiled by free will, your suggestion has some meaning. Fearing copying, examinations cannot be cancelled. Fearing an accident, journey by train is not to be discarded. So, whatever is wise and good, God followed it. Only, the failed candidates criticize the system of examinations.

8. Is the soul, which is under the control of God, detached from the fruit of its actions?

[In extension to the above question, is a soul who is under the control of God completely (no free will), while performing any action, detached from fruit of the action?]

Swami replied:- In such case, there is no question of attachment and detachment because you are always forced to do good actions and always forced not to do bad actions. Such force is not the reality because truth shines only in free atmosphere. The change from bad to good also shall take place in free atmosphere only. The tail of dog bound by a stick cannot bring real straightness in the tail. Punishment can bring some temporary reformation. Preaching the true spiritual knowledge can bring permanent reformation. Temporary reformation is of no use in the long run, but, has some use temporarily. True reformation is also possible, which shall not be decided as impossible.

9. Why did God not create only love so that there would be only love in this world?

[God created creation (souls) because to love and to be loved, So instead of creating all other qualities, why he didn't create only love so that there would be only love in this world?]

Swami replied:- When you are invited for meals, if you are supplied only food items made of only sugar, how will you relish such meals? If you relish such meals, we shall recommend to God to follow your suggestion.

10. Why should one believe in Veda?

[Swamiji, while explaining about spiritual knowledge to others, if they ask for a spiritual reference from any scripture and I give them a reference from the Veda as it is a primary scripture, then they can question me why should they should believe in the Veda.]

Swami replied:- Even if you quote some other scripture, that person will put the same above question. They asked for a reference and you gave the best reference since Veda is the best scripture. Be careful about such a person because he may be a mad person and the next step will be that he bites your nose!

11. Is it a sin for a married person to secretly maintain an illegitimate affair?

[Swamiji, One of the greatest sin is illegitimate sex. if a married person maintains an illegitimate affair and he manages to keep it a secret through out his life and his wife never came to know about this, will this be considered as a sin? The meaning of sin is to hurt good people, and in this case, since the affair was maintained as a secret, the wife will not come to know about this and nobody is hurt here. Kindly explain.]

Swami replied:- If the example is God, there will be no sin because achieving God is the highest and the purest purpose of human life. If the case is about a human being, this incident comes under Pravrutti and not Nivrutti. No human being is either a sage or God Krishna and hence, does not come on any side of this issue of 'Bhagavatam'. Hell and heaven are inevitable in worldly life or Pravrutti. You can't mix spiritual life or Nivrutti with Pravrutti. Cunning devotion is told in Nivrutti and not in Pravrutti. In Nivrutti, even if care not devotion is followed under inevitable conditions, it is not a sin.

12. How can an ordinary person accept that God created the world for His own entertainment?

[Swamiji, how to digest for an ordinary person, that the creation is created by God for His entertainment or some variety in entertainment (bliss)?]

Swami replied:- In spite of elaborated explanation taking the example of a king in palace and in forest, you have asked this question. Kindly tell Me how to digest your question. Entertainment involving highest concept like true love should not be viewed with a low look. It is impossible to bring a higher concept than the above mentioned true love. If you feel that even true love is cheap, God will go back in to His original monistic state. If you are God, as per Advaita philosophy, you will do the same. In such a case, better do it. But, don't force all other souls to enter that state. There are

several souls, who love the concept of true love as the climax of merits. This creation is not a general entertainment like seeing a film show or reading a novel etc. This is praised as the best virtue of any life. The concept by itself is a Kohinoor diamond. Enjoyment in seeing such a rare diamond is not the enjoyment in seeing a gravel stone. God is the best and hence, the best enjoyment was chosen by Him in accordance to His best nature. You are understanding God as an ordinary human being, who is dissatisfied and bored with a continuous atmosphere aspiring for a change in entertainment like seeing the film show or watching some TV scene or participating in cricket game etc. In such cheap outlook, you are not digesting this situation. With the above said new background, you will digest this point in an excellent way and will feel hunger again and again to remember this point continuously. Apart from such a knowable goal of entertainment, God never allowed the victory of any injustice in His created world. In this way, there is nothing wrong. In that way of the highest goal, everything is the best. It means that there is no wrong food and the supplied food is the best. In such a case, where is the problem of indigestion?

13. Is there any significance of the lines in our hands?

[Swamiji, is there any significance or meaning of the lines in our hands (Palm)? Will these lines indicate anything to us? Or is it just an accidental formation of lines on palms?]

Swami replied:- These lines are related to certain auspicious and inauspicious characteristics of the soul and one need not worry about these lines because the characteristics of the soul are always permanent with the soul. One can know these by himself and these lines are not necessary. One devotee was very much worried that the line of luck was absent in his palm. Shri Satya Sai appeared in his dream and drew a line with a knife on his palm! Next day, the permanent lucky line appeared on his palm to the devotee! God is the most important than anybody or anything.

14. What is real or true happiness?

[Swamiji, can You explain what is real or true happiness? Suppose, a drunk person derives happiness from alcohol, can we define that happiness as false happiness or true happiness?]

Swami replied:- The experience of any happiness is true in the case of any soul. But, that happiness, which alone is related to God is the true happiness because it always is permanent and follows all the births of the soul.

Chapter 5

October 30, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**1. How can I get rid of selfishness?**

[Shri Sattireddy asked: Paadanamaskaram Swamiji. i am sattireddy. Swamiji, Your Knowledge is more precious than crores and crores of diamonds; even if Kubera put his all wealth on one side and Your Knowledge another side even Kubera wealth can't measure up to this Knowledge Swamiji. Swamiji sometimes while discussing or telling Your knowledge, i am becoming selfish Swamiji like i am giving my hardearned money to them. Swamiji if they know your knowledge, they may use this knowledge in any direction because knowledge is double edged sword . Swamiji How can i get rid of this selfishness (hiding some points) and this fear and can have nice Satsang with other people Swamiji??]

Swami replied:- You need not hide anything from anybody. You surrender to God and then speak. God will give those relevant points only to the context of the receiver. God will hide those points, which are unnecessary to the specific receiver.

2. What is the reason for carving chappals also for the idol?

[Swamiji, in temples, idols are very beautifully decorated. Some devotees even treat these idols as the original God Swamiji. What is the reason that chappals are carved for the idols ??]

Swami replied:- Dress, chappals etc., need not be considered at all.

3. How can one get rid of fear and take decisions in one's worldly life?

[Swamiji if a person is in starting stage of spiritual life and doing all his worldly works, but has many fears while making decisions, that he may be bound by the karma chakra and face problems, and sometimes he might move away from You Swamiji. Swamiji, how can get rid of this fear and make decisions in worldly life??]

Swami replied:- Swamiji is more concerned with spiritual life than the materialistic life, which is a routine matter. Nobody will take anything from this world, which is the property of God Datta. The soul will say for some time that this is mine and then passes away leaving the place for some other soul to say the same thing. The property of God Datta will be constantly smiling at such ignorant souls.

4. How can I differentiate between the work done by You and done by the soul?

[Swamiji a soul has less freedom. Swamiji even if a soul becomes successful in worldly or in spiritual life, the credit goes to You alone Swamiji. Swamiji my question is that i am unable to do any analysis on which work is done by the LORD DATTA SWAMI and which work is done by the soul. Swamiji, for it is appearing like everything is like a game played You. How can i differentiate the work done by You and the soul, Swamiji??]

Swami replied:- If the soul surrenders totally to God, God will enter the soul and does the work in excellent way.

5. Will leading a simple life help our spiritual growth?

[Smt. Lakshmi Lavanya K asked: Pada namaskaram Swami, I have read in Ramana Maharshi's book that our spiritual money (ఆధ్యాత్మిక సంపద) will be used to grant us physical beauty, health, wealth, luxury. So if we lead a simple life, then our spiritual money would help us to get spiritual growth in life.]

Swami replied:- It is a perfectly correct statement.

6. Is it true that “one should eat food as a medicine for hunger, otherwise we owe it to God”?

[Venkayya swamy also said to his devotee that one should eat food as a medicine for hunger, otherwise we owe to God (ఆకలికి మందు లాగా ఆహారం తీసుకోవాలి, లేదా భగవంతునికి అప్పు పడతారు). Please explain to get clarity. Pada namaskaram Swami.]

Swami replied:- One should eat little food because the body and mind need little energy only. Very little food is converted into energy as per the equation of mass-energy equivalence. The rest large lot of matter is becoming excretory product to be rejected and its stay in the body generates almost all diseases. Hence, food must be high in quality and less in quantity. One must eat food, which is well cooked, high in quality and little in quantity (*hutabhuk hitabhuk mitabhuk*).

7. What does the word 'concentrate' mean in the following context?

[Ms. Bhanu Samykya asked: Padamaskaram Swami, You taught us that 100% concentration on God (Swami) is important. What does the word 'concentrate' mean in this context? - At Your Divine Lotus Feet, Bhanu Samykya.]

Swami replied:- Concentration, meditation, interest, samaadhi, devotion etc., are different words of the same single concept. I will clarify this with a simple example. One boy wanted to marry a girl about whom he became mad. Even if you put 100 different types of questions, his answer is always single, which is that he will marry that specific girl only. All the 100 questions are like the different words used whereas the single answer is the single concept. *True love to God alone is the single concept for which all these words are used.* Concentration means theoretical devotion (Bhakti Yoga), which is attraction towards God in mind. This should be followed by practical devotion, which is service and sacrifice. Meditation is an alternative word for concentration. Concentration is both theoretical interest and practical interest. Simply thinking about the form of God is neither meditation nor concentration and nor interest. People generally misunderstand the words like concentration, meditation, interest, etc., as simply maintaining the form of God in mind without any interruption. This is a foolish interpretation. Unless service and sacrifice follow in the end, these terms have no meaning at all.

8. Is it correct to keep the goal of life as practical service and sacrifice to Swami?

[Padanamaskaram Swami, my questions are Is it correct to keep the goal of Human life as 'Entering and sustaining the practical service and sacrifice to God (Swami) until the end of one's life' ?]

Swami replied:- Service and sacrifice are the practical devotion. Along with this, theoretical devotion is also important, which is generated from spiritual knowledge. Spiritual knowledge means the various details of the divine personality of God knowing which the devotee is attracted to the climax. Knowledge involving intelligence, theoretical devotion involving mind and service involving spending physical energy and sacrifice of everything and everybody for the sake of God are the four steps in the spiritual journey. In every step, free will without any cheating or force is a very important aspect of this entire spiritual journey.

9. What does “Impostors of God” mean?

[Gopikas said to Lord Krishna that their family members are just impostors of God Krishna and He is the real Husband for them. What exactly does 'Impostors of God' mean? - At Your Divine Lotus Feet, Bhanu Samykya.]

Swami replied:- You have used the word imposters and I have listened to that word from you. Hence, you shall explain the meaning of this word to Me. However, I feel that the word ‘imposter’ is not a good word because the soul is not cheating the other soul with bad intention. The analogy of the inert photograph of an alive person gives a better picture. God is the absolute reality present in a form of relative reality and this is called as the human incarnation. An ordinary human being is simply the relative reality. The former is an alive person wearing a dress. The latter is an inert dress hung from a hook. Hence, the high level Gopikas called Krishna as the real alive husband, who returned from a far place (He has gone to a far place on some business and returned home after a long time.) knocking at the door. A low level gopika is the devotee worshipping the photo of her husband, not opening the door since the worship of the photo is not completed.

10. Is not asking God also ego? Please enlighten me.

[Smt. Lakshmi Lavanya K asked: Pada namaskaram Swami, in one of Your previous answers You said "The good devotee is further qualified by the lack of ego in begging to God."

But I am thinking that if I started to ask God basic needs for me, my mind may lead me in wrong direction, i fear it may lose control and suggest to me that everything is my basic need (3 years ago i prayed to Baba that my students should write 10 class public exams sincerely without copying and I should get 100% pass as result because I thought that is also my basic need, otherwise, I have to suffer in my job. After that 10th class exams were cancelled due to Corona for two years in two states, all students were passed without writing exams, this may be a coincidence, but i felt very sad to have made Baba suffer that much to grant my wish and decided not to ask God anything ever). So many people around me always ask me how do I live alone in future and advise me to arrange a house, property and people to help me. Then I motivate myself that taking rebirth as human and chanting the name of God in next life is first basic need, but no one is not talking about that. There is no need of bother about basic needs and future because it is already destined when I was born. So my first duty

is to concentrate on God each and every second till my death, there may be a chance i may die with hunger but I shouldn't forget chanting the name of God. but You are saying not asking to God is also EGO. Please enlighten me.]

Swami replied:- Since you are asking the basic needs of worldly life, which are essential supporters of your body and life that are needed for the spiritual life, there is no harm in begging God for the basic needs. These basic needs also come under the account of spiritual life only because these are directly or indirectly needed as support for Nivrutti. An indirect support of Pravrutti also comes under the spiritual account only. You have purchased bricks for the construction of a house. The bricks are directly used in the construction. You have paid the transport expenses, which are not used in the construction directly. But, without the transport, the bricks will not reach you. Hence, not only the cost of bricks, but also, the transport expenses of bricks come under the account of house construction only. Even if you do not ask, God will help your Pravrutti. But, if you are begging God for the basic needs, it will be an opportunity for you to become a beggar before the holy feet of God. When the concept is unaffected, why shall you lose such a golden opportunity, which will certainly reduce even a trace of ego that is sticking to your basic 'I'? Any item of Pravrutti that gives you mental peace and stability of life comes under the spiritual account only, provided you are thoroughly aware of this link. An ordinary worldly soul is also putting efforts for this peace and stability, but, none of his efforts are coming under the spiritual account because he is not aware of this link.

11. What is the time of birth to be considered for a new born baby?

[Shri Abhiram sent questions through Shri Kishore Ram: Padanamaskaram Swamiji. Swami, this is a question related to astrology and time of birth of a new born baby. The birth time of a baby is calculated when the baby is delivered out (first cry). But, in a YouTube video, one astrologer said that the time of birth of a child is to be calculated when the child is in the womb of the mother itself. Kindly clarify.]

Swami replied:- Generally, astrologers take the time of birth only. Some take when the head is out and some others take when the child is delivered. Birth time while the child is in womb is not heard of anywhere.

12. Is my thought correct that “I should not ask God since He knows my needs”?

[Swami, when I ask God for some help or desire, If I think I should not ask God since He is already aware of my needs and difficulties, is that thinking correct or wrong?]

Swami replied:- Such thinking is the most correct thing. We are asking only due to the intensity of force.

13. Is it true that some lady was possessed by Goddess or spirit?

[Swamiji, in some hindu festivals like Dussera, in villages I have seen on the day of the festival, some lady was possessed by Goddess or spirit. Is that true? If yes, then how to identify if it is as true? The reason for this question is that few people may exploit this concept due to some blind believers in the villages.]

Swami replied:- All types of possibilities are possible and we cannot stress on a single point. Deep scientific analysis alone can reveal the truth.

14. Can we use a separate oil for Diwali lights, which is not useful for cooking?

[Swamiji, I discussed with my friend about the real deepam (knowledge light) and not the materialistic light to be used in Deepavali. Moreover, the oil is wasted lighting up the diyas. But, My friend said there is a separate oil used for diwali lights (diyas) which is not useful for cooking or other purposes. Swamiji, please comment on this.]

Swami replied:- But, we are using the oil used for cooking only. Even if you use some other oil, what about pollution that is caused by the liberation of black smokes?

15. Is it a sin if a particular religious preacher criticises other religious Gods?

[Swamiji, if any religious preacher preaching about God of a particular religion but at the same time criticizes other God of other religions, is it a big sin? Will the sin also be applicable to the followers who listen to that preacher and criticize other religions' God?]

Swami replied:- Certainly, it is a sin because one is abusing the absolutely real single God present in various forms of various religions.

16. Is the profession of killing animals in ritualistic sacrifice to the Goddess sinful?

[Swamiji, in some temples, animals are killed as part of the ritualistic sacrifice to Goddess. The person who kills the animals is killing due to the adopted profession from his ancestors. May be his intention is not to kill animals but he is forced to do this (family profession). In this case, is the sin applicable to the person killing the animals?]

Swami replied:- Family tradition cannot excuse the sin.

17. Is it better to worship Krishna directly or through Radha?

[Ms. Laxmi Thrylokya asked: Padamaskaram Swami, We see images of Lord Krishna pressing the feet of Radha Rani. Is it better to worship Krishna directly or through Radha?]

Swami replied:- *Ekabhaktir viśiṣyate*— Gita. This means that you must concentrate on a single God and not on anybody else or anything else. The sunlight passes through the lens and burns the cotton. When the Sun sets, the lens cannot burn the cotton. Even if you do not concentrate on Sun, nothing happens because the globe of the Sun is inert. But God is not inert. If you are neglecting God and concentrate on others or other things that are illuminated by God, it clearly means that your concentration on God is not complete. For your kind information, Radha is pleased only when you worship Krishna and not when you worship her. *Ekamevādvitīyaṃ Brahma*— Veda and this means there is only one God, who is omniscient and omnipotent. Gita also says that the devotee shall concentrate on single point and diversion to other points shows lack of stable faith (*Vyavasāyātmikā....*— Gita).

18. Can the parents of the Incarnation show love to God if He reveals His identity?

[Shri Durgaprasad asked: Paadanamaskaaram Swami, my questions are related to the issue based devotion towards God. Can the parents of the Incarnation show the natural issue based love to God if the Incarnation reveals His identity? At your lotus feet, Durgaprasad]

Swami replied:- Even a false incarnation will also say that he is the real incarnation of God. It is the responsibility and duty of the devotee to find out the real incarnation of God filtering out false incarnations. The devotion or love must be natural and spontaneous like the water spring that comes out of the earth. Promoting factors of the spring do not exist. Hindering factors fail and this is the better identification. When the love is based on the attraction of the divine personality of God, nothing can stop it. If it is mixed with doubt or based on business, the spring of love is like appearance of water on digging for a long distance as in the case of well. The fan devotion is the best example where there is no business at all and all the attraction is based on just the impression of the personality.

19. What is the eligibility to become the parent of an Incarnation?

Swami replied:- God selects His parents. Even the incarnation is selected by God only. Aspirations for such things becomes a permanent disqualification to attain such divine opportunity. Desire must be supported by deservingness. Aspiration is not relished by God.

20. When God comes in human form, will He have a dream state also?

[Shri Anil asked: Padanamaskaram Swami, When God comes in human form will He have dream state also? Will it violate the fact that the universe itself is originally the dream of God and leads to dream in dream?]

Swami replied:- The creation is inherently unreal, but, becomes absolutely real when it is gifted with absolute reality by God. This condition is necessary because the creation shall give real entertainment to God. Hence, the creation is made absolutely real by God and no more, the concept of unreality exists with the creation. This real creation is no more a dream for God. For the soul, this creation is never a dream because the soul is a part of the creation and hence, the creation is always real to the soul. When the creation became absolutely real, the dream state in the creation is in subtle state and other gross items like hills, rivers etc., are in gross state. The entire creation is never in dream state because 1) before the creation, the creation was unreal and 2) after the creation, it is absolutely real for the sake of entertainment for God. Of course, in the absolute reality of creation, there are two types of items:- a) Gross items and b) subtle items. Hence, the subtle creation (dreams) is the subtle item of the absolute reality. In the creation when the selected human being becomes the alive human incarnation, the gross creation is gross absolute reality and the subtle creation is the subtle absolute reality, which is the dream. The dream of the human incarnation also is the subtle absolute reality. When the human incarnation performs a miracle, a small concerned portion of this creation disappears because it becomes unreal allowing for some manifestation through the miracle of God.

Hence, every dream in the world and the dream of the alive human incarnation, -both are subtle states of the absolutely real world.

21. How can God be in bliss if He was bored before the creation of the world?

[If God was bored before creation of this world, how come He was having 100% bliss, since boredom itself is a misery state? (b) If bliss is the same for God before and after creation, how can variety play a role? By changing the item, enjoyed bliss is not changed even a bit. Qualitative aspect of increase in bliss due to variety imply that bliss was not 100% before creation and variety added missing bliss to become 100% after creation. Swami kindly clarify this point.]

Swami replied:- I explained this very well in the answer for question number 3 asked by Shri Kishore Ram (refer to the message on October 29, 2022). Please go through it patiently.

22. How does God derive additional bliss by enjoying misery in this world when He comes in human form?

[God is continuously having bliss. How then did He derive additional bliss by enjoying misery in this world when He comes here in human form?]

Swami replied:- The possessor of a thousand rupees can deal the business involving some hundreds that side (profit) and this side (loss). Similarly, the possessor of the highest bliss can involve Himself in worldly matters having different lower quantities of bliss. The highest bliss will not contradict the lower bliss and only vice-versa brings contradiction.

23. Will adopting Avagunthanam not prevent incidents like rape from happening in society?

[If women adopt using Avagunthanam (covering the whole body of the lady with a big piece of cloth) will it not prevent incidents like rape happening in the society from the root itself? At Your Divine Lotus Feet-anil]

Swami replied:- Complete avoidance may not be true but control can be achieved.

24. What should be our inner intention while chanting mantras given by You?

[Smt. Lakshmi Lavanya K asked: Pada namaskaram swami, in previous answers You have said "Even the power of the name of Rama is based on Rama Himself" and when I asked about chanting names of old incarnations, You said "how does it matter in theoretical devotion like chanting the name". In the example given by You although the monkey wrote the name of the human incarnation that time, the stone sank. I am thinking, the monkey failed in concentrating on God although it concentrated on the name of God. Here I request You to please explain about doing Japam, chanting mantras given by You. What should be our inner intention?]

Swami replied:- Japam does not mean chanting the name of God putting some effort. It only means spontaneous memory of the name of the God. Remembering various incidents based on the divine personality of God is the real meaning of the word Japam and this sense is expressed by Shankara for the word Japam (*Aviśrāntam patyuhḥ guṇagaṇa kathā'reḍana japā*—Soundarya Lahari). The incidents remembered again and again provoke the interest on God. Such increase in the interest is not done by simply repeating the name of God. Japam means only repetition of the

qualities of the divine personality and not repetition of mere name that will lead to boredom finally. The Japam of various names of God can serve this purpose because each name is explaining a specific divine quality. In this way Japam of thousand names (Sahasra naama) is far better than Japam of a single name. The devotion develops by the divine personality shining in several angles. The name stands for one angle only.

25. Where should we concentrate?

Swami replied:- We should concentrate on the contemporary human incarnation of God. The divine qualities of the alive human form of God will develop the highest and the most natural concentration. Hanuman concentrating on Rama and Gopikas concentrating on Krishna are the best examples for concentration on the alive human form of God.

26. What should I feel while worshipping Hanuman and Subrahmanya photos?

[You are distributing photos of Hanuman and Subrahmanya Swami to Your devotees, what should we feel while worshipping them and meditating on them.]

Swami replied:- You should feel the corresponding angles of the divine personality of God representing some of the infinite number of good qualities.

27. What is the purpose of all the bhajans written and sung by You?

[Sri Ganapathi Sachhidananda Swami is writing and singing bhajans, You are also writing and singing bhajans, Sri Sankarachaarya also wrote and sang many stotras on many forms of God. Please explain. What is the purpose of all those bhajans?]

Swami replied:- The purpose is only to remember and concentrate on some specific modes of the divine personality of God Datta. These forms represent their corresponding auspicious qualities of the divinity of God. Song is the most attractive form of prayer, which is better than prose and poetry. This best method of singing on the divinity of God is called as Gayatri.

28. What is the difference between the bhajans written by the three of You?

[What is the difference between the bhajans written by the three of You. Please forgive me if I am asking anything wrong. Pada namaskaram Swami.]

Swami replied:- There is no difference among the bhajans of the three of us because as I told, the basic background is one and the same.

29. What should be our intention while singing the bhajans composed by You on God's incarnations?

[What should be our intention while singing those bhajans because although You are human incarnation, You are writing bhajans on the Lord's incarnations?]

Swami replied:- The repulsion towards the common human form present before the eyes brings some negligence and the attraction towards the divine energetic forms brings the possibility of absorption of mind without repulsion. Faith on the contemporary human incarnation is the best, but also,

is the most delicate due to repulsion between common human media. In order to avoid this, this method is adopted.

Chapter 6

October 31, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**1. Why is Aditya hrudayam only told to Rama, Gītā to Arjuna and Bhaagavatam to Parikshit?**

[Shri Sattireddy asked: Padanamaskaram Swamiji, I am sattireddy. Swamiji why was Aditya Hrudayam told to Rama only by Agasthya, Lord Krishna told Bhagavad Gītā told to Arjun only, Shuka Brahma told Bhaagavatam to only Parikshit Swamiji?? Swamiji if any wrong in the question itself, please correct this beggar sattireddy 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied:- Why should I answer your question to you only? Even though I am answering you only, it is reaching all. Similarly, the divine messages reached all the people. God made such divine arrangement.

2. Is injecting blood into the patient after its loss in accidents etc., the act of Mother Kaali?

[Swamiji, in Datta Vedam, it is mentioned that Kaali is seen drinking the blood of devils, who scold God. This is the actually the transmission of sinful blood with new good blood or spiritual knowledge. it is also mentioned that Mother Kaali is also power of hell Swamiji. My question is if souls will be punished here on the earth itself depends on the seriousness of sin as per Your administration Swamiji. Here on earth also, i saw many people losing blood if any accidents happen, while the doctor is doing surgery for the patient. Some people facing many types of diseases and losing old blood from the body and the person starts feeling better. Swamiji, is this also happening by the grace of Mother kaali only Swamiji?? Swamiji if anything wrong in the questions itself please correct this beggar sattireddy 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied:- Blood has nothing to do with the qualities. Qualities are related to the awareness, which is the nervous energy or neurons transmitted through the nervous system. These qualities are accumulated from several births with the individual soul and in this way, neurons are also the neutral postmen carrying the letters. The root cause is the accumulated information from the world through associations. One should be very careful about the good and bad associations, which are the root sources of everything. Drinking blood only indicates killing the devilish person.

3. How should one see if one loses blood from the body even though medical precautions are taken?

[Swamiji How one should see the loss of their blood from the body even though medical precautions are taken and is there any spiritual related thing that correlates the blood Swamiji?? If any wrong in the questions itself please correct this beggar sattireddy 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied:- Blood maintains only the physical health of the body. Of course, it also maintains mental health since it is in contact with the brain and nervous system. But, the attitudes and behaviour of a soul is based on

the various qualities collected from millions of births. Hence, one should put an important concentration on the associations of the people in this world.

4. Please comment on doing donations in the name of the family members after their death.

[Swamiji as we are staying with our family members gifted by You in this life and Swamiji You have given an example that we are the actors acting in the film. My question: is there a chance of getting some of the actors in the next film, that is the next life also with different roles Swamiji?? Due to this reason, one can do donations in their names after their death. Swamiji if anything wrong in the questions itself, please correct this beggar sattireddy 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏]

Swami replied:- Doing donation is good, but, donation done to a deserving receiver gives good fruits. We should not be hasty in doing donations. If the receiver is undeserving, instead of good fruits, punishments are received.

5. Is it true that Lord Datta played two roles, Nara and Narayana, in order to give the Gita to humanity?

[Swamiji i have heard from one preacher that the person who is telling and who is listening is one and the same in the context of Krishna and Arjuna. He also told that Lord Dattatreya divided into Nara and Narayana. The reason told by the preacher is Lord Datta acted in two roles Nara and Narayana (Arjuna and Lord Krishna) and gave the Bhagavad Gita to humanity is it true Swamiji?? Swamiji if anything wrong in the question itself, please correct this beggar sattireddy 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏]

Swami replied:- Narayana and Nara are close pair of sages, but, pair does not mean that both are one and the same. A teacher and his student form a close pair. In the Gita, Krishna told that He is Arjuna among Pandavas. This means that Krishna is asking questions through the medium of Arjuna. God can choose anybody as His medium. In that time, such medium becomes inspired incarnation (Avesha avataara).

6. Is the devotee also a Human Incarnation of God?

[Swamiji in one discourse i read that nobody can be a devotee since God exists in him please explain this point in an elaborate way by mentioning different contexts. My confusion is that every soul's ultimate aim is to worship the Human Incarnation. If God exists in the devotee also, it means the devotee also is the Human Incarnation of God Swamiji?? Swamiji if anything is wrong in the questions itself, please correct this beggar sattireddy 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏]

Swami replied:- This is a wrong concept that confused several devotees. A devotee has every chance to become God or human incarnation provided God wishes so for the sake of some good work. Every student in the class has a fair chance to win the gold medal. This does not mean that every student in the class is already a gold medalist. To turn atheists in to theists, Shankara told that everybody is God. But, He alone drank molten lead and told that He alone is God Shiva. Desire to become God is a permanent disqualification to become God.

7. Why did not Lord Krishna help Kunti when she was getting burnt in the forest?

[Swamiji, Kunti asked a boon from Lord Shri Krishna who is none other than Lord Datta that she needs pain so that she will never forget God. Swamiji, but she was burnt along with Dhritaraashtra and Gaandhari, the reason is that she served drutharaasta and gaandhari. Swamiji please elaborate this concept in the context of Kunti, why did not Lord Shri Krishna help Kunti?? Swamiji if anything wrong in the questions itself please correct this beggar sattireddy 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏]

Swami replied:- Blind fascination to family members without understanding their qualities is a punishable sin. Kunti, by herself was a very good soul having very good qualities. She discovered the spiritual truth that difficulties alone will develop strong devotion. But, her blind fascination to elders is the single defect that burnt her alive. Elders must be respected and must be served, but should not be followed without sharp analysis.

8. Please explain the stages from an ignorant person to a climax devotee.

[Smt. Lakshmi Lavanya K asked: Pada namskaram swami, I want to know the stages from an ignorant person to a climax devotee in detail. Many people around us who we feel are great persons, are still worshipping statues, past human incarnations, but by Your grace we attain You without ego and jealousy, learning knowledge from You. In my school and college education, I used to feel fear to communicate with teachers, but now i am asking You each and every doubt without any fear, I feel You are my best friend with whom i can share my every feeling and can trust You that You are there for me, You have given me freedom from all fears and confusions and a courage that I am not alone. Thankyou Swami.]

Swami replied:- There is a [recent video](#) in the YouTube channel “Shri Datta Swami” about five types of souls. The last belongs to the pure atheist. The last but one (fourth) belongs to a devotee, who wants to become God with the help of devotion to God like Ravana. The third is the soul of pure Pravrutti or worldly life like Dharma Raja. The third soul is purely concerned with the smooth worldly life, fearing for hell and attracted to heavenly pleasures. The second soul is best devotee selected by God to become human incarnation for the sake of welfare of the world and is in the state of monism of Shankara without ego since He has His basic awareness as devotee. As long as this devotee is in the angle of dualism, God maintains perfect monism with this soul-medium. Rama is the best example who is the complete and perfect incarnation from the angle of God since from the angle of Rama, He was always thinking that He is the human devotee serving God in His mission. The first and top most soul is Radha (Gopikas), who always liked to stay in dualism with God enjoying the bliss of God. In this top most stage, God becomes the servant of the devotee whereas He became the devotee in the case of the human incarnation. These five stages are the five milestones in the spiritual journey.

9. I pray to You to transform my imagining nature to help me in my spiritual growth.

[I have a power of imagination, if i imagine any situation, it certainly does not happen, I observed this in college education time, if I don't want any situation to happen, i used to imagine that. After reading Sai Leelamrutam I ignored that because Baba said they are like prostitutes, but sometimes I imagine automatically without any special intention. I pray You to transform that in a way to help me in my spiritual growth, I want each and every effort of mine should be used as a stepping stone to reach You, I don't want anything else. Pada namaskaram Swami.]

Swami replied:- Do not bother about the incidents in which your intention is absent. You are walking on the road and an ant is killed by your feet. You are not getting any sin or any result for that action. Sometimes, you can find children going near an ant and killing it by the foot. There is demonic intention in that child, which shall be corrected by the elders so that intentional sins can be avoided. You must be overcautious about the necessary item, that is God and you must be totally careless about unnecessary items like the above said incident. Intention alone brings the fruit since intention binds you with the action (*Saṅkalpa prabhavān kāmān...*-Gita).

10. My friend feels very sad about living without knowledge. How to help her?

[Pada namaskaram Swami, 2 months back I transferred to a new school, our Telugu teacher asked me to teach Bhagavad Geeta, I enquired her why she wants to learn, she said that she is feeling very sad for living without knowledge, I suggested her Your website, she said that she can't read, write, understand English, she can listen to Telugu audios while working, she has no free time to read because she has two small children. Please advise me what I suggest her. Pada namaskaram Swami.]

Swami replied:- She can observe and hear the videos present in the YouTube channel, especially the videos related to Jnaana Sarasvati. The channel is “Sri Dattaswami Satsanga” in telugu.

11. What should be my behaviour with my father, which pleases You?

[Pada namaskaram Swami. I understand that I have to do everything in this world only to please You. I want to know what should be the behaviour of mine with my father which pleases You, he is living in village alone because of the bond with house and fields, but he can't able to maintain all household works, so he wants to stay with me for some days every month, I am thinking there will be no time to me to learn knowledge because I have to arrange everything as per his satisfaction if he stays with me, by your grace he also started to learn knowledge by listening TTD channel pravachanams, but again I am thinking that if my behaviour does not please you, then what is the use of learning knowledge. Please advise me what should I do, I follow your suggestion.]

Swami replied:- I am recommending your father to you to be helped especially in the angle of his interest in spiritual knowledge. Such work becomes part of the propagation of spiritual knowledge of God Datta about which He is highly pleased.

12. How to convince my father regarding control of meals?

[I want to know what should be our behaviour with our family members, i think there is difference between pleasing You and pleasing family members. A plate meal with single curry and curd fills stomach but mind does not satisfy with that, on festival days the whole time will be used for

cooking, eating and cleaning. Generally I cook a curry and eat for 3 days for time saving, but I have to prepare different breakfast, different items for each meal for my father daily, I want to give less food because of being health conscious but he is not satisfied with that, i think our spiritual progress is in implementation only. Please suggest me the correct way which pleases You. Pada namaskaram Swami.]

Swami replied:- You should try to convince your father regarding the importance of well cooked food (*Huta bhuk*), food of high quality (*Hita bhuk*) and food of little quantity (*Mita bhuk*). Food or annam is said by Veda that it is eaten by you if it is eaten in limited quantity and the same food in unlimited quantity will eat you by bringing diseases (*Adyate atti ca bhūtāni tasmā dannaṃ pracakṣate*). Quantity means not only huge quantity of single item, but also little quantities of several items. Only little food is necessary for our body because very little food digested gives lot of energy. Lot of undigested food remains in the digestive system that generates gas or Vaata roga that gives almost all diseases (*Vāto'khilo roga mūlam, Vedo'khilo dharma mūlam*). This means that just like the gas of undigested food is the source for all diseases, Veda is the source of all rules of justice! The food not only influences the body, but also influences the mind (feelings) and intelligence (knowledge) as said in Naishadham—*Annānurūpāṃ tanurūpabuddhim*. In the Gita, a lot of stress is given on various types of food, which are good and bad. Association with people is very very important and that makes the whole life, which is worldly or spiritual. Knowledge is the mighty power, with the help of which you can change anyone to a different person.

13. Is it justified to live in a registered partnership without marriage?

[Shri Hrushikesh asked: Hi Swami, I request You to kindly answer the questions below. In today's world "Live in relationships" between couples have become most common in the western world and also slowly growing in India? Is it justified to live together in a registered partnership without getting married?]

Swami replied:- What is the difference between a marriage and a live-in-relationship? In both, minds are united and bodies are also united. The difference is only in the word, which is the scripture recited making God as the witness. If both promise on God not to leave each other, the live-in-relationship becomes the marriage. If you say that the word in the marriage is strong and cannot be broken, this is not observed today because there is the way of legal divorce. Hence, breaking the promise on God is commonly observed in both marriage and live-in-relationship. There are three instruments (Trikarānams of a soul, which are body, word and mind). Here, all the three are important, but, in this context, word becomes most important because the word is given before God. Hence, not leaving each other

becomes the most important angle because God is involved in such promise-word.

God Krishna is the ultimate incarnation of divinity. One shall not imitate God Krishna. One shall imitate God Rama. There is a saying in Tamil “Do what Rama did and do what Krishna said in the Gita”. Krishna also violated the rule of Pravrutti in the case of Gopikas only and He did not repeat it in any other case. This exceptional case must be understood by observing the background of the Gopikas. Gopikas were sages, who were doing penance from millions of births for the sake of God. No human being can imitate the Gopika and there is no question of imitating God Krishna, who lifted the Govardhana mountain against non-stop thunder-bolt rains by His last tender finger for seven days continuously while He was a seven year old boy!

God Krishna and Radha lived in a live-in-relationship without official marriage and without getting children. Radha was officially married due to the force of her parents, but, she always loved Krishna only. Among body, word and mind, mind is the most important tool since it is non-inert awareness. Radha never allowed her husband, Ayanaghosha even to touch her body with not only by his finger, but also, by the nail of that finger! Both Radha and Krishna performed secret marriage (Gaandharva vivaaha) in the presence of God Brahma in a garden. In spite of all this background, Radha and Krishna avoided children for the sake of the welfare of Pravrutti in the world. Radha is the incarnation of God Shiva. She is also incarnation of sage Durvaasa just like other Gopikas are re-born sages. But, sage Durvaasa is the incarnation of God Shiva. In this way, Radha is special among the Gopikas and she became the leader of the Gopikas and finally the queen of the Gopikas in Goloka. No human being can be anywhere near Radha or Krishna!

14. Can You kindly clarify if it is justified to have a same-sex marriage and adopt children?

[Some Gay and Lesbian couples are adopting orphans as their children. Can You kindly clarify if it is justified to have a same sex marriage and adopt children? If it is not correct, why is it wrong?]

Swami replied:- Please don't mention about marriage between same sex because such idea brings a lot of vomiting in My case. It is just the nature of animals, which do not have intelligence. The purpose of marriage is to extend humanity on this earth, which is the service to God.

15. Why is Masturbation wrong?

[Why is Masturbation wrong? Is it true that it leads to weakness? Why is sexual intercourse considered better than masturbation? Can You kindly clarify?]

Swami replied:- This is also another aspect that brings a lot of vomiting in My case. When the intelligence is destroyed, such investigations and discoveries result. Certainly, loss of precious sperm brings weakness not only to the body but also to the intelligence.

16. My friend is confused about whether to continue as a vegetarian or start eating meat to overcome his nervous problem. Kindly advise

[One of my friends who was a non-vegetarian turned into a Vegetarian, after listening to a speech from a spiritual preacher that it is Adharma to eat meat. However, after turning into a vegetarian he started to feel weak and developed a nervous problem. So, doctors advised him to eat meat as he developed Vitamin B12 deficiency. He started to eat the meat again and started advising my friend also to not quit eating meat. My friend is now confused whether to continue as a vegetarian or should start eating meat. Kindly advise and also throw some light on this topic?]

Swami replied:- Vitamin B12 exists in several vegetables. The meat acquired all constituents directly or indirectly from the vegetable kingdom only. This is only a psychological exploitation. I think, the doctor consulted must have been a psychologist!

17. What are the factors one should consider before choosing a life partner?

[One of my friends is looking for alliances on matrimony sites. He is confused whether to love a girl and marry or to continue to look for alliances on matrimony sites? As in an arranged marriage there is a limited time one spends to know about the partner. How can one decide on a life partner in 15 minutes of conversation? What is Your advice to a person following a spiritual path in choosing a prospective wife or husband? What are the factors one should consider before choosing a partner?]

Swami replied:- Even in 15 minutes, you can know whether the girl is theist or an atheist. If she is theist, that is sufficient because details of spiritual knowledge are not needed to know whether the girl is spiritually interested or not. A theist can be easily convinced about spiritual corrections, if any. It is sufficient if the boy knows the girl whether she is a theist or atheist. I think that this information can be known within 15 seconds.

18. What is a Runa bandam?

[What is a Runa bandam? If a person "A" is being offered some food or gift from a friend or relative "B" will this transaction make person "A" indebted to person "B". Kindly clarify? Is it not advisable to have a debt relationship? At Your Feet, Hrushikesh]

Swami replied:- The concept of debt involves considerable huge amounts of wealth or food etc. For every iota, calculations need not be considered.

19. What is the truth behind taking a bath and cleaning the house after an eclipse?

[Shri Divakar asked: Koti pranam Swami 🙏 After a solar eclipse, we are taking bath and cleaning our home and doing puja. We know the scientific reason but what is the real truth behind all this?]

Swami replied:- Bath and cleaning bring freshness to the individual and to the house. Using that freshness, you can pray to God. Devotion to God is the entire essence of all good traditions.

20. What will the future births of the soul be if it puts some efforts presently in a negative atmosphere?

[Smt. Lakshmi Lavanya K asked: Pada namaskaram swami, If a person understands that learning knowledge is the only purpose of human life so late and that person can spend very little time for learning knowledge because of family duties. Further, the family members are not supporting that person and disturbing wantedly, when that person gets irritation, it gets advertised to all people that the person is bad and violent although they are doing karma phala tyagam to You and spending time with You. That person can't abandon and can't escape bad situations, accepts that is all prarabdham and tries to learn knowledge at a maximum level, puts a samkalpam that atleast in next birth, must be born in a situation where there is a freedom to learn knowledge directly from You. Now I request You to tell me if that person dies in the above situation, then do You give another chance to that soul to take rebirth as human and to learn knowledge from You or will that soul take animal births, what will be the position of that soul in the next birth?]

Swami replied:- Even if there is a trace of chance for reformation in Pravrutti or slightest progress in Nivrutti, God will be very anxious to grant human re-birth. Only when there is not even an iota of hope, God keeps silent about human re-birth. The teacher always encourages tremendously the student even if there is a trace of hope of progress in the student.

21. Please comment on the following situation.

[If anyone is disturbing us wantedly from doing sadhana, although we keep silent by understanding the situation, they don't give up even if it takes one week or one month, they only become happy after we get irritation, depression and make us feel we are demons, then they advertise to all people that all fault is only with us, abuse in public, they feel they are good people because they are doing karma phala tyagam, spending time with You. This is only my point of view but You know the inner intentions of everyone. Here i request You to tell me what should be the reaction of the victim in daily life.]

Swami replied:- When you are walking through a thorny path, you have two works to be done while forwarding your journey towards the goal:- 1) walking through the path and 2) pushing the thorns to side so that they will not disturb your journey. Doing Sadhana for God involves both works:- 1) moving towards God and 2) balancing the people coming across the path. If you can help everybody while moving forward, God is doubly pleased because you are not only lifting yourself, but also lifting others directing them towards God.

22. What is the meaning of learning knowledge? Is it memorizing Your books or implementing in daily life?

Swami replied:- Memorising the knowledge helps in preaching to others. Implementing it in practical life helps yourself. No special effort is to be done in the process of memorising because once the point pierces your heart, it is automatically stored in the facility of memory called chittam.

23. Which is preferable between Your darsanam or learning and implementing Your knowledge?

Swami replied:- Implementing the knowledge of God involves both darshanam and learning. Of course, we can use the electronic instruments unlike the olden days for darshanam and learning.

24. What is Your opinion about a person who serves God and also hurts others?

[You said not to harm people should be first quality of a devotee, if anyone harming people mentally and learning Your knowledge, doing karma phala tyagam to You, do You accept that person as Your devotee, what is Your opinion about that person.]

Swami replied:- Harming good people is a sin, but, harming bad people is a merit. Suppose you beat a good person, it is a sin. If you beat a bad person, God is pleased with you. Moreover, beating a bad person is only an effort to change the bad person into a good person. You have to avoid clash between justice and love. God supports justice by giving punishment to the beloved devotee and supports His love by transferring the punishment on to Him. The talent of balancing is the greatest good quality.

25. Ramakrishna Paramahansa said if we take a bath in the river Ganga, then we can go to Goloka in steps. Please explain this.

Swami replied:- Taking bath in Ganga must lead to the knowledge of God, then theoretical devotion to God and then practical devotion to God. These three steps are guided by God Brahma, God Vishnu and God Shiva respectively to reach God Datta, the ultimate Lord.

26. Please explain the difference between a disciple and a devotee. Who is greater?

[Please explain the difference between a disciple and a devotee, who is greater. Please forgive me if I use any harsh words, I feel you are my personal property because you are God Datta and you can understand me, so I dare to talk to you everything in my mind, till now you are the only one who didn't discourage me. Pada namaskaram swami.]

Swami replied:- Disciple lives in respect to God whereas devotee lives in love to God. Love is the alternative name for devotion. The initial stage is respect and the final stage is love or devotion. Respect disappears in the final stage, which is not a negative sign, but is the climax of positive trend.

27. Please explain the meaning of the word 'Swami'?

[Ms. Geetha Lahari asked: Padanamaskaram Swami, Devotees who take Ayyappa Deeksha are addressed as Swami during the period of deeksha. Please explain the meaning of the word 'Swami'? Who is eligible to be addressed as Swami? Thank you Swami. At your divine lotus feet -Geetha Lahari.]

Swami replied:- The devotees are clearly called as Ayyappa Swamis. In the Veda, there is a statement which is that this world is God (*Sarvam Khalvidam Brahma*). This sentence does not mean that the world is God but it means that this world is under the control of God. In Sanskrit Grammar, this rule exists, which is called as Tadadhiina Prathamaa. Hence, these

devotees are called as Ayyappa Swamis and this means that these devotees are under the control of Swami Ayyappa.

28. Is it the right choice to adopt a poor orphan by a childless couple?

[Questions by Kishore Ram: Swamiji, if a married couple is not able to produce children despite all possible efforts and medical treatments, is it the right choice to adopt a poor orphan as their child? Or upon the consent of the wife (considering the defect is in the lady's health to produce a child), should the husband marry again and produce children? Which one of them will please God?]

Swami replied:- God is pleased as long as nobody is hurt. With full willingness and without any trace of pain anything is pleasing God. People shall be convinced and shall not suffer even a little in this matter. Especially, good people shall not suffer, which makes God very furious.

29. Is the Nirvikalpa Samadhi state defined by a single-pointed devotion to contemporary incarnation?

[Swamiji, in the recent satsanga, Your explanation on the verse "eka bhatir vishishyate" was simply mind blowing and excellent. I really really enjoyed it a lot and experienced pure bliss. You explained about being single pointed focus on the contemporary Human Incarnation and not deviating at all (eka bhakti vishishyate). Is it similar to the "Nirvikalpa Samadhi" state? What is the difference between meditation (dhyana), Stitha Prajna and Samadhi?]

Swami replied:- Nirvikalpa Samaadhi means the same single pointed devotion and such devotion shall not be shaken at any cost. This additional point also exists in Nirvikalpa Samaadhi. Of course, this additional point can be also added in the words like '*Eka bhakti*', meditation, sthitaprajna. Samaadhi means single pointed devotion and if it is firm without any change it is called Nirvikalpa Samaadhi and if it changes now and then, it is called Savikalpa Smaadhi.

30. How to know whether my prayers are yielding me any fruit or not?

[Question by Bhanoji Rao asked:- In all other world religions there is a clear idea about their unified and only one form of God. But as a believer of Hinduism I really get confused during my daily morning prayers. I spend one hour in my puja room reciting stotras for various Gods, starting with Sri Ganesh and ending with Shirdi Saibaba. In between I recite stotras for many Gods like Shiva, Vishnu Sahasram, Lalitha Sahasram, Dattatreya, Anjaneya, Subrahmanya, Madhurai Meenakshi, Kanchi Kamakshi, Nama Ramayan, Lakshmi Nrusimha, Hanuman Chalisa, Navagrahas and many more from Swamiji's bhakti ganga etc. I pray different Gods to get relief for different dosha and with different purposes. My problem is how to cover all these songs in one hour. In this hurried process i run through all the prayers so fast that I am not able to concentrate even on the right pronunciation or on the right meaning of the stotras. Of late I am having a strong feeling that I can focus on reciting only one single stotram for only one God, repeating number of times for one complete hour with full concentration of mind. But I am unable come to a conclusion that which God I have to fix in my mind. All the Gods are great Gods to me. All Gods seem to be of utmost importance to me. For example, to get knowledge God Shiva, for mukthi vishnu, for strength and confidence anjaneya, kula daivam lakshmi-narasimha, for marriage and good children karthikeya, for Graha dosha Navagraha stotram and again for sani and angarak Graham separate stotrams. Occasionally guru charitra etc. Finally I end up reciting umpteen number of stotras without any focus. Here I remember a telugu proverb "raasikanna vaasi melu". Which says clearly that quality is more essential than the quantity. I don't know which one God to fix and which other Gods to drop during my daily prayers. Nevertheless there are so many of Godmen

(Shirdi Sai, Parthi Sai, Meher Baba, Bala Sai), God women and sadgurus (Raghavendra, Ramakrishna Param Hamsa, Ramana Maharshi, Kanchi Peria Swami). I also pray to some of these godmen to get their blessings in a short cut. Is it that my greedy intention of pleasing all the Gods, Goddesses, godmen and sadgurus at the same time simultaneously, a problem? I am unable to drop some of them from my daily prayers, with a fear that I may miss their blessings on daily basis. Even the great guru Adi Sankara advised different people to worship different Gods namely the PANCHAYATHAN- DEVATHAS. Please advise me Swamiji how to go about my daily prayers. On which God to fix my mind? Or is it good to pray only one particular God at one time based on the need of the day? Some times I get frustrated with my prayers that is there any use of my prayers or whether I am wasting my time. How to evaluate/know, whether my prayers are yielding me any fruits or not. I am very sorry for asking a vague question. I beg pardon from Swamiji for wasting Your time. Jai Datta Swamiji. 🙏]

Swami replied:- The root cause for all this problem is that your devotion is based on desires for various fruits. We see that plurality exists in this world. But, God is one only, who is unimaginable being beyond space and can't be even imagined, not to speak of praying. This unimaginable God is the original God, who is mediated by different media of energy and matter resulting in various energetic incarnations like Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva, Ganapati etc., and human incarnations like Rama, Krishna, Sai Baba etc. The same actor appears in different dresses or roles in a cinema. The actor is one and the same even though the roles are different. The actor has a specific mood in a specific role. Similarly, as per the media, God is in different moods or qualities. You must worship God in that specific medium about which you are particular to get a specific benefit. If you want money, you have to worship Lakshmi. If you want to have courage, you have to worship Hanuman. If you want to have knowledge you have to worship Sarasvati. In all these roles, God Datta exists as the actor. God Datta is the first energetic incarnation in which the unimaginable God or Parabrahman entered and merged making that form as His permanent residential address. If you are worried about the plurality of Gods, you should worship God Datta alone and you are then simultaneously worshipping 33 crores of deities. God Datta became three divine forms (Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva) and from these three forms, three crores of deities came as incarnations and from these three crores, 33 crores of deities resulted as energetic incarnations. Apart from these, there are several human incarnations. Either you worship God Datta alone or see God Datta in each divine form you worship. But, you have to become desireless in worshipping God so that you can establish true love with God. As long as you desire in several ways, you have to worship different forms of God or even God Datta alone, but, your bond with God is based on false love which is business involving quid-pro-quo.

In Hinduism, all the Gods are only different media or roles of the single God like single actor. Not only this, all Gods of all worldly religions are also

different media or roles of the same single God like single actor. Hence, the plurality of Gods is not a true problem because plurality means only many roles or media of the same one single actor like God. Based on this truth, difference in sub-religions of Hinduism or difference in the religions of the world is a false illusion only. The main point is diverted and the main point is about your relationship with God, which must be based on your attraction towards the divine personality of God and it shall not be based on the fulfilment of worldly desires. Your attraction towards God must be without any aspiration from God and it should be simply your attraction towards His wonderful and excellent divine personality alone. If you take the example of fan devotion, you can understand this concept very well. The fan is attracted to the excellent personality of the hero projected in various film shows only. The fan's attraction is not based on any aspiration to be fulfilled from such hero-actor. The fan spends from his pocket only for the inauguration functions of his hero-actor and does not receive a single paisa from the hero-actor. Finally, the fan commits suicide when his hero-actor dies! This is the best true love without aspiring for any fruit in return from the other side.

31. Do we need a peaceful atmosphere to learn knowledge or invite difficulties like Kunti?

[Smt. Lakshmi Lavanya K asked: Pada namaskaram Swami, Kunti prayed to Krishna that she should be always in problems so that she could remember God always, so many people say Kunti is a great devotee, but I feel a peaceful atmosphere is necessary for learning knowledge, if we pray God to give problems and always pray God to come out of problems, is it wise, if You bless anyone with peaceful atmosphere because of their prayers, then they reject it by taking Kunti as guide and again want to suffer with problems, is it a wise decision? Please enlighten me, I also request You to explain the devotion of Kunti, is she really a great devotee?]

Swami replied:- Difficulties always drive the soul towards God. Happy and peaceful situations induce laziness and pride taking away the soul from God. The real grace of God gives difficulties and the real anger of God gives happy times. Devotion increases tremendously in difficulties. Of course, for knowledge, a peaceful time is required.

32. Please explain the meaning of my dream.

[Please explain the meaning of following dreams. I had a dream, in that Phani Swami, Amma (Your wife), You and me are in a home, You and I both together prepared food, after that Phani Swami called me from another room, I feared that he may scold me because I may misbehave with You and I went to clean utensils.]

Swami replied:- Preparation of food means preparation of spiritual knowledge. Cleaning vessels means preaching spiritual knowledge to deserving receivers. If you clean a vessel made of black material, it will never become white. If the white vessel gets dirt, it can be cleaned to make it white. Misbehaviour results only when we misunderstand the human incarnation as an ordinary human being.

33. Please explain the meaning of my dream.

[I have laminated a photo of both You and Phani Swami, In another dream Phani Swami came to my house, I requested him to talk to me with smile, I showed that photo to him, he disappeared with that photo, I searched for him to take photo from him, I was seeing him from far but when I went there, he was disappearing. I am worried so much for the photo in dream, after waking up I relaxed by seeing the photo with me. Pada namaskaram swami.]

Swami replied:- Photo indicates the human being without the unimaginable awareness of God. The awareness of the soul can be considered only as inert energy, which is inert before the unimaginable awareness of God. The unimaginable awareness alone is the real awareness whereas the awareness that is generated from the inert energy is false awareness, which is inert only. This is the difference between God and soul, like the difference between an alive person and his inert photo. Gopikas mentioned this difference while arguing with Krishna, the first time in Brundavanam.

34. Will You be displeased if I focus more on Your service than my academics?

[Ms. Bhanu Samykya asked: Padamaskaram Swami, You advised me to focus on my academics. Will You be displeased with me if I focus more on Your service than my academics? - At Your Divine Lotus Feet, Bhanu Samykya.]

Swami replied:- You must focus on your academics so that you will be settled in Pravritti, which is the basic stage for your dance like Nivritti. If the stage is weak, it will collapse due to the force of your Nivritti. Preparation of a strong stage of Pravritti for the sake of Nivritti also comes under the account of Nivritti only provided you have such intention. When you have such intention, God also gives good longevity and health to support the implementation of your intention.

Chapter 7

November 12, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**1. I want to share a miracle that happened in our family.**

[Smt. Lakshmi Lavanya K asked: Pada namaskaram swami. I want to share miracles that happened in our family. 9 years back my brother abandoned our family because of love marriage, then we motivated our parents to spend time by praying God, reading Bhagavatam, Bharatam etc, my mother expired 4 years back. We have a temple of God Datta opposite to our house built by Sri Brahmananda Teerdha Swami who is a disciple of Sri Vasudevananda Saraswathi Swami, we used to do service there. Sri Chandra Mouli Sasthri garu who is a disciple of Sri Chandra Sekhara Saraswathi Swami comes there every year to attend Datta Jayanti and tells spiritual knowledge to all of us. Many people have taken upadesam from him, all people who are participating in maintaining the temple of God Datta are blessed with good jobs and wealth. In the last summer holidays, they all built a new temple of Lord Siva, they also invited Sri Chandra mouli Sasthri garu, they all spent their time in Bhajan, gramosthavam, worshipping Shiva lingam, we didn't go there but they ignored Sri Chandra mouli Sasthri garu and didn't invite him at the time of prathishta of the sivalingam. He is 90 years old and he can't eat all foods, they didn't enquire what should they offer to him in lunch. He suffered with hunger the whole day, we come to know the situation because he was staying in our house. We felt it was an opportunity given by You to us to serve You and offered meals to him and his disciples for two days. In the evening satsanga, he told to me " I am worrying about you so much that who will take care of you, so you should concentrate totally on God, you should act here as you are satisfying people but your goal should be only God", I felt like You are talking to me through him. After completion of the programme, my father told them (who built sivalayam) about the situation but they got angry on us that we were finding faults in them, they are suffering with so many health problems and mental worries although they are worshipping the statue of God Datta, but we are all with perfect health and learning spiritual knowledge directly from God Datta. We are blessed with theoretical and practical devotion also, they all neglected a devotee after inviting him themselves and worshipped the statue but we worshipped a real devotee and did real yajnam as told by You and got Your blessings. This is all happened only because of Your grace. Thank You swami.]

Swami replied:- You are correct in your analysis. But, I request you to write brief questions.

2. Please bless me more and more so that I can understand Your infinite Divine qualities?

[Pada namaskaram Swami, in previous answers, You told "Japam means only repetition of the qualities of the divine personality, The devotion develops by the divine personality shining in several angles." This means that we have to think, analyse and understand about divine qualities of God, I also read from Narada Bhakti Sutra that one who wants to become a devotee should live in a lonely manner, detach from all people and things, always praise infinite the Divine qualities of God, Then I tried to read books of Lalitha, Vishnu, Siva sahasra Nama etc, but I can't understand, experience anything, I have read Sundarakanda book many times in my education time because I can imagine every incident as a movie while reading, I can feel Hanuman as my brother, enjoy the devotion of Him towards Rama, get motivation that I must become like Hanuman and I should put my Guru in my heart like him. In the same way I am motivated by Chandra mouli Sasthri garu (guru of my mother) he leads very simple life, he read many scriptures but he treats all people equally, if we ask any doubt in

knowledge, he explains patiently in midnight also, now in the same way I can imagine day and night about you, your knowledge, your love, you don't need our love but you love us always, even parents can't tolerate us always, but you are tolerating and uplifting us. Like this I can think of you always. There is no need of chanting your name for this, but I don't know the personalities of other gods, I don't experience their love, I don't see them in human form, so I want to know only about You more and more so that I can understand the infinite Divine qualities of You. Please bless me. Pada namaskaram Swami.]

Swami replied:- I bless you as per your request.

3. How can we do practical service to You?

[Pada namaskaram Swami, in previous answers You told "Practical devotion is the proof of theoretical devotion, I always recommend practical devotion only after hearing the entire spiritual knowledge". So many people want to participate in Your practical service as per their knowledge and devotion. So many of us not get a chance to do Your personal service because we don't have that much devotion to You, but we also want to participate in Your service (atleast to satisfy ourselves that we are also trying to please You), so I request You to please tell me. 1. How can we do practical service to You who are in a starting position?]

Swami replied:- You do the practical service in whatever way you have full interest.

4. How many ways are there for practical devotion? What are they?

Swami replied:- Practical devotion is a proof of theoretical devotion. Donating physical energy is service. Donating materialistic wealth is sacrifice. Of course, hard earned money is the best because the soul has strongest bond with it and if such strongest bond is defeated before the bond with God, then, the bond with God becomes the strongest. House holders must do both service and sacrifice. A saint can do only service but not sacrifice.

[What do You suggest for us who can't meet You, can't have a chance to talk to You directly, can't pose questions to You directly because of fear, but want to participate in Your service as per their capacity.]

Swami replied:- Your question contains the answer for your question. One can participate in the service of propagating the spiritual knowledge and devotion as per his/her capacity.

5. What do You advise those who are unable to contribute money to You?

[What do You advise them who can't donate their own money as guru dakshina to You because of family members don't allow them, but want to participate in Your service.]

Swami replied:- They can participate in propagating spiritual knowledge and devotion in the world as per their convenience and capacity.

6. What advice do You have for people who don't understand Your knowledge?

[You said we can learn spiritual knowledge based on intelligence, if we have low level intelligence can't understand Your knowledge fast and get a spiritual growth. What do You suggest for them.]

Swami replied:- The knowledge explained by Me does not require any intelligence to understand because My explanation is very elaborate in a simple language.

[I want to come for Your darsan, I can come only to Kachiguda railway station (I have direct train from vinukonda to Kachiguda), please suggest me a way. Pada namaskaram Swami.]

Swami replied:- You can contact Ms. Thrylokya. She will guide you to Me.

7. Does the person wearing leather slipper also contribute to the sin?

[Questions from Kishore Ram: Swamiji, the leather used to make slippers are from animals and killing animals is one of the highest sins. But, at the same time, a lot of the public are wearing it. Does the person wearing leather slipper also contribute to the sin?]

Swami replied:- The animal is killed for meat. The killed animal will automatically donate leather. Hence, use of leather is not a separate crime. It means nobody kills the animal just for leather. Even sages used leather of killed animals.

8. Please clarify the goal of human life.

[Swamiji, please clarify, the goal of human life is to, 1. Attain the grace of God (or) 2. Pleasing God, Are both (1 and 2) one and the same?]

Swami replied:- Pleased God alone shows grace.

9. What concepts of Your knowledge can be preached to children under the age of 10?

[Swamiji, for children below 10 yrs old, what portion of Your knowledge can be preached (by parents) to them so that they will go in the right direction (towards You)?]

Swami replied:- It is better to involve them in Bhakti Ganga in the beginning stage, which also contains spiritual knowledge.

10. Swamiji, I am very very lazy and undisciplined in my life. Please suggest a way for me to come out of it.

Swami replied:- The interest on God will remove your laziness and indiscipline in a natural way.

11. Can I choose any one forms of God and concentrate only on that form for worshipping purposes?

[Question from Bhanoji Rao: Dhanyavadamulu Swamiji for Your explanation of the diversity and unity of Hinduism Gods. All the Gods in the entire world are the same though the forms are different. So Swamiji can I choose any one form of the God and concentrate only on that form of God for worshipping purpose, to fulfil all my terrestrial and celestial needs?]

Swami replied:- Don't insist your mind on one form or many forms. You let your mind in free condition and follow one or several forms as per the liking of your mind, in which you will get very good progress in the spiritual line. Let your interest follow any prefixed plan.

12. Should we wait till we attain complete knowledge before we start practical service to our Sadguru?

[Ms. Thrylokya asked: Padamaskaram Swami, You taught us that knowledge, devotion and practical service with sacrifice are the three consequent steps to attain God (Human incarnation or Sadguru). Should we wait until we attain the complete knowledge before we start practical service and sacrifice to our Sadguru? How do I know that I attained knowledge and I can enter into practical service to my Sadguru? At Your Divine Lotus Feet, Thrylokya]

Swami replied:- Knowledge, theoretical devotion and practical devotion go side by side. As the knowledge develops more and more, the other two will develop in the same proportions. This progress appearing simultaneously in all the three lines is called spiritual effort or saadhana. By the time your knowledge comes to an end, your life also may come to an end. Where is the time for practical devotion? Progress is like the simultaneous development of all limbs of the body as the age advances. Will you say that your body below your head shall not progress till your head reaches its full size? The progress shall be simultaneous and also shall be step by step in the advancing lifetime. Intensive turning to spiritual line leaving the excessive worldly line also must progress step by step in the case of ordinary human beings. A long jump is possible in the case of divine incarnations like Adi Shankara. If we take such a long jump, the result is that we fall down in such a way that the place of our fall is behind the starting jumping point itself!!

13. How should I behave every second as per Your inner intention?

[Smt. Lakshmi Lavanya K asked: Pada namaskaram swami, if God gives me a chance to live with him as a family member, then advise me on how should I behave. I have read in many books that closeness leads to negligence. We respect our family members in inner heart, care about them but we don't show it in our daily behaviour, we fight, laugh with them, cry for them, make them angry, like this we share all types of emotions with them. Is it become a sin if we behave with God in the same way, or we have to be alert with Him every second by remembering that He is God, you said wives of Sri Krishna neglected Him because of daily attachment, gopikas never neglected because they are detached from Krishna physically. I wish to be Your lovable family member with devotion of gopikas. Should I remember every second that I am living with God, there should be no restrictions, conditions, limits between us? Should I behave every second as per Your inner intention. Please enlighten me, Pada namaskaram Swami.]

Swami replied:- There is no possibility for you to become My family member because you are already My family member. This creation is My family and every soul is My family member.

14. What will be the punishment in the following cases?

[Pada namaskaram Swami, in Your discourse I have read Sita got different punishments for abusing Rama and Lakshmana although it is divine drama to kill Ravana. I request You to tell, if any normal person who is trying to learn knowledge from You

1. abuses family members who are disturbing she/he with frustration
2. Criticizes other devotees unknowingly,
3. Abuses guru of other people intentionally with ego and jealousy
4. Criticized their own guru because of irritation due to family pressures

5 acting in public that you are their guru, but not devoted to you in inner heart.

Then what will be the punishment in above cases, do You consider all above cases are sins.]

Swami replied:- A sin is prominent when one soul hurts the other soul. A soul hurting God has no punishment. Hirnyakashipu was punished by God not for abusing Him, but, for abusing a devoted soul like Prahlada. God is like space and nobody can cut the space with any sword.

[For anyone trying to do japam of mantras given by You daily as per Your instructions and can't complete because of family pressures, then is trying itself okay to You, what do You suggest for them? Pada namaskaram Swami.]

Swami replied:- There is no question of completing because number is immaterial. Repeating it with interest and concentration in a natural way yields good fruits.

15. Please explain the meaning of my dream.

[Pada namaskaram Swami. When I started my spiritual journey, my parents didn't agree, but I couldn't value their opinions because of my inner motivation, I always kept silent before them whatever they talked because I think they also doing this because of love for me but they didn't know this is my real happiness, my mother also accepted Chandra Mouli Sasthri garu as her guru, took upadesam and worshipped Goddess Lalitha. One day she specially wanted to abuse my previous guru before me, then I went to another room to escape the situation, but she caught my hand and told me you have to sit here and listen to me, then I said Sasthri Garu is your guru in the same way I have my Guru, then she replied in angry that he is not her Guru and abused my Guru for 2 hours, I prayed Baba that she is remembering you in this way and I couldn't escape situation. I told myself she couldn't scold me because of love towards me, so she was doing like this, I didn't take anything to heart because I couldn't focus on my Sadhana if I concentrate on that. After my mother was expired, one day Sasthri Garu appeared in my dream and asked me "what do you think of your mother, what are you going to do (మీ అమ్మ గూర్చి ఏమి ఆలోచించావు)". I couldn't understand the meaning of this dream. Till now many people scolded me, criticized me, harassed me for selecting this path, but I always think they are all saying all these because they love me, but they don't know which is really good for me, God loves me infinite times more than them. So I can say I don't have any negative opinion in my heart about my mother. I request You to tell me. 1. Meaning of my dream. 2. how do guru take care of his disciples, devotees after death. 3. how do You react for above mistakes. Pada namaskaram Swami.]

Swami replied:- The dream means the competition between your bond with your mother and your bond with God. God takes care of His devotees as He is taking care while alive. After death is reflection of before death. Mistakes done to the other souls are not excusable. Mistakes done to God are not counted at all. Voting for God against the worldly bonds is the essence of the tests of God Datta.

16. Can You elaborate more about the meaning of the word Entertainment used in the below context?

[Questions by Kishore Ram: Swamiji, in one of the recent discourses given by You, (excerpt below)

"There are several people, who want to attend the Satsanga or preaching of spiritual knowledge by the Sadguru with a view of free entertainment since they have no worldly work to do. Instead of spending some money on other entertainments, this is a free way of entertainment."

ref:<https://www.universal-spirituality.org/discourse/whether-the-sacrifice-of-money-to-sadguru-be-done-during-the-lifetime-or-in-the-last-days-of-life--552a080734a05e58--595a0cf4e069cf3f--fa28fetc758fe35d--4>

Can You please elaborate more about the meaning of the word "Entertainment" used in the above context?]

Swami replied:- These people want to pass the time with some engagement and do not have any trace of seriousness and sincerity to God.

17. Is there any significance of my following dream?

[Swamiji, in a recent dream I had, I was in a railway station where there were only Lions and no humans. The Lions were looking at me as if they were ready to kill and eat me. I was very scared and just then I saw a person near me and none of the Lions dared to come near to that person. Immediately I went to that person and requested Him to take me with Him and get boarded on the train which just arrived. The person held my hand and took me to the train and boarded in the train compartment along with me. While I was walking with Him, the Lions were scared to come near Him. After we both on boarded the train, the train left and the dream ended. Is there any significance of this dream that I need to learn or understand?]

Swami replied:- The train is this moving human life. The lions are worldly attractions. The person is God in human form.

18. Does the good period for the human soul suggest a good period in terms of worldly life or spiritual life or both?

[Swamiji, in astrology or horoscope it is possible to predict good and bad periods of a soul (human being). Does the good period/time for the human soul suggest a good/happy period in terms of worldly life or spiritual life or both?]

Swami replied:- Both can be suggested by the planets depending on the ratio of practical interests of the soul that accumulated from past millions of births. Planets are different for both these lines.

19. Swamiji, what advice would you give to people who are interested in learning astrology and want to make it their profession?

Swami replied:- Anybody can make any branch of knowledge as profession to earn livelihood, keeping the service of good devotees in the mind.

20. Please give guidance which one to choose between career growth and Your service.

[Swamiji, I am stuck in a dilemma, please help me. I do a software job which requires 8-10hrs of my work in a day. For a promotion or for a better salary or a company change i need to develop my skills which need additional time spent to study and acquire new skills (apart from 8-10hrs daily work). In the process of acquiring the skills, I get a feeling that I am wasting time instead I should spend this time in Your service or read Your knowledge. On the contrary, when I use the same time reading Your knowledge (or participating in Your service), I get the feeling that I should have spent this time acquiring new skills. I remember You told me to try and put maximum concentration on God's service and worldly success will follow like a mad dog. But, when I think like this, I become involved in Your service or reading knowledge only because I feel, by doing this, it will get me worldly success which makes me feel guilty and I am deeply pained by this everyday. Finally, I am neither able to concentrate on worldly activities nor put efforts on reading knowledge or Your service. I am badly stuck. Request You to please help me.]

Swami replied:- Your inner interest will solve this problem. Such struggle is common in the case of every devotee. It is a test of God in which the candidate examined has full freedom to answer in a natural way without any force.

Chapter 8

November 13, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**1. Please give me a small two minute daily prayer.**

[Pada namaskaram Swami, please give me a small two minutes daily prayer which includes a request for a peaceful worldly life which leads to a peaceful spiritual growth which we can recite after waking up in early morning and before going to sleep in night. I am ignorant, if i try to ask for my basic needs, my mind remembers daily a new thing, it becomes an endless prayer, if You give a fixed prayer, then I can recite it daily. I don't have faith in me in this issue but I have faith in You. Whenever I feel it is my basic need, I recite that prayer. Please forgive me if I am asking anything wrong. Pada namaskaram Swami]

Swami replied:- “*Dattātreya Bhavāneva, Bhavāneva gatirmama*” (O Dattaatreya! You alone, You alone happen to be my ultimate and real goal). Recite this whenever you like to recite. Don't put any external rules. Whenever your mind is interested in God, wherever it may be, you can recite this as long as your interest continues.

2. Please enlighten me as to whether my thinking is going in the right direction or not.

[Smt. Lakshmi Lavanya K asked: Pada namaskaram Swami, in a previous question, You said "The unimaginable awareness alone is the real awareness whereas the awareness that is generated from the inert energy is false". Shirdi Sai Baba said "there is no difference between Me and My photo", in a village named Bandramutla near to me in a devotee's home, Vibudi is coming continuously from the photo of Satya Sai Baba from so many years, he distributes that to all people, when I was studying MCA , I was in hostel, I used to worship photo of Sai Baba, do daily parayana of Sai Leelamrutham, (I had no guru in those days), Baba used to talk to me daily from the photo, while all my classmates spent their lives in enjoying worldly matters, I stayed strongly firmly on my path for 3 years because of Baba's guidance only. Now also by seeing Your photo I can remember Your grace, Your protection, kindness, Your divine qualities, sacrifices You have done for me, I feel happy You are with me, I can share everything which I can't tell You through mail in public, I told to my sister also when she is in depression, "God Datta is the best friend who behaves like an enemy, but all people in this world including me are enemies who behaves like best friends, you try to understand your inner mind"

You are distributing photos of Hanuman, Subrahmanya Swami, but You are saying Your photo is inert , I can't digest this, I never see You or Your photo as human, I want to spend my life only with God, please forgive me for opposing You, You are not available to me in person in daily life, I can get satisfaction of Your presence with Your photo only. If I meet You one day, I have to follow so many conditions, restrictions, otherwise Your prestige will be damaged. Please enlighten me if I am thinking wrongly. Pada namaskaram Swami.]

Swami replied:- You are the best judge of your thinking. Of course, I can say that you are in the correct line of spirituality. I have already said this. Always give importance to knowledge and intelligence than to mind and emotions. This is the reason why I told that the first step is knowledge and the next step is theoretical emotion followed by the practical devotion that

stands as a proof for theoretical devotion. Slow and steady progress wins the race. The spiritual progress is always in the hands of the devotee. God will not interfere in the spiritual journey of the devotee. In fact, God will oppose it to test the firmness of the devotion of the devotee. In this context, the external behaviour of God is different from His internal way of thinking. In this context, God behaves as a diplomat. In Pravrutti or worldly life, God is uniform inside as well as outside, trying to help the devotee as much as possible. I have made this point clear in the beginning itself.

3. Why didn't Draupadi ask to punish Duryodhana when she was given boons by the king?

[Pada namaskaram swami, after Draupadi vasthanapaharanam, King Dhritarashtra offered 3 boons to her, then why didn't she ask to punish Duryodhana and Dussasana for their evil things.]

Swami replied:- She told that as a soul belonging to the Kshatriya dynasty, she can take only two boons. She did not like to punish the evil kauravas with the help of their father because the nature of great warriors is to punish the evil forces with the help of their own strength only.

4. Draupadi is not an ordinary lady. She is Yajna Sambhavi. Then why did she want to take revenge?

Swami replied:- She is born from fire having the qualities of fire. If you put your leg in the fire, it will burn your leg with revenge.

5. How are the Pandavas correct to take an oath to kill Duryodhana, etc.?

[Bhima, Arjuna also took Pratijnas to kill Duryodhana, Dussasana and Karna, then how are they correct and how is Draupadi wrong in taking revenge (You said her 5 sons died because of her wrong thinking.)?]

Swami replied:- Draupadi was punished for her intent of revenge and this is a separate crime. This should not be mixed with the main general crime that Kauravas cheated Pandavas and humiliated Draupadi. Sometimes, somebody harms you and that person is not harmed by God because it is a retort case in which you had harmed him in the previous birth. If it is a fresh case, God will punish him severely. In comparison, your retorting punishment cannot be so severe. Hence, this means that you are reducing the punishment for your enemy! A devotee is said to be the wisest, who leaves the decision to God because the complete background is not known to the soul and the omniscient and omnipotent God will react properly. Otherwise, His administration will be criticised by the divine sages. God is more worried about His administration than any petty soul.

6. Why didn't the other Pandavas advise Dharma Raja to consult Krishna before gambling?

[Why didn't any one of them (Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula, Sahadeva, Draupadi) suggest Dharma Raja to take advise from Krishna before gambling?]

Swami replied:- Krishna told to Uddava in the end that had He been invited to gambling by Dharma Raja, He would have played on behalf of Dharma Raja just like Shakuni played on behalf of Duryodhana. God will never interfere unless the soul prays to Him for help. The gambling was fully by the will of Dharma Raja and his brothers alone, due to the ego of the souls. Of course, Dharma Raja did not know that Shakuni will play on behalf of Duryodhana. He did not care for Shakuni due to ego. Even Draupadi tried to argue with the elders of the court and wanted to escape from the problem with the help of her capacity of arguments. Until she totally surrendered and prayed to Krishna for help, Krishna was simply watching the scene from Dvaaraka. Hence, ego is the first hurdle in the spiritual path.

7. How did You punish Dhritarashtra who practised injustice even after knowing what justice was?

[Dhritarashtra learned so much of knowledge from great persons, but didn't implement it, he himself said "I know all dharmams, but I don't implement them", he favoured always injustice and made to suffer good people because of blind love, how did You punish him.]

Swami replied:- Dhritarashtra was punished more severely than Duryodhana because Dhritarashtra was a villain at the level of intelligence. Duryodhana is a villain at the mental level. Duryodhana suffered the agony for a few hours only whereas Dhritarashtra suffered agony for many years after the war. God knows the quality and quantity of the punishment as per the nature of the sin.

[If we face people in our lives like Dhritarashtra, Duryodhana who are rigid, only learn knowledge but don't implement, favour injustice, pressurise family members to support injustice, how do we treat them in daily routine?]

Swami replied:- If a blind man catches another blind man, both will fall in the well. Bhishma stuck to Duryodhana due to his blind promise and got punished severely. Promise is a lower justice whereas fighting against injustice is higher justice. Speaking truth is lower justice whereas saving the life of a good person is higher justice. Lower justice can be sacrificed for the sake of higher justice. Bhishma could not understand this and got punished by God. Krishna sacrificed His promise and tried to fight against Bhishma by taking a wheel in His hand. He sacrificed the lower justice for the sake of higher justice. Krishna wanted to teach all this to us and hence, promised to break it.

8. Gandhari cursed Parabrahman because of her blind love for her sons, isn't that a sin?

Swami replied:- Dhritarashtra was blind by birth whereas Gandhari became blind with the induced blindness. The fascination to children is the highest blindness that defeats even the bond with God. When God and children compete for money, God will be defeated by parents. All Gopikas

know that Krishna is God. Still a very good majority of Gopikas complained to Yashoda about the stealing of butter preserved for their children by Krishna. Very few Gopikas only passed in that test and reached Goloka. Hence, the sacrifice of hard-earned money is taken as the highest test by Krishna as spoken by the Gita. Real colour comes out in this practical test only.

9. Why didn't Krishna participate in the war?

Swami replied:- Krishna showed that He is the omnipotent God and can win the war even without fighting.

10. I feel some people are doing black magic against us. What do You suggest to us?

[If we doubt that one of our relatives are doing kshudra pujalu to put us in their control, one of our family members are already in their control (because we experienced strange behaviour of us so many times, our mind tells us this behaviour is wrong but we can't control ourselves, they also provoke us wantedly and enjoy the situations. They took videos of us, advertise to all people, sometimes we feel like killing, harming ourselves without any reason. After we become normal because of the motivation of well-wishers, then the same situation repeats again, when we are with our dearest people then these things happen more strongly. We are able to bear this and are still alive because of Your grace only. What do You suggest to us? Forgive me Swami for sending so many so long questions, till now You are the only one who is ready to hear me, bear with me and answer me. If I am doing anything wrong, please let me know, I will try to correct myself. Pada namaskaram Swami.]

Swami replied:- God is omniscient and omnipotent. Catch Him firmly and nothing will happen finally. Sometimes you have to undergo certain difficulties due to the fruits of your past deeds and those people are just a coincidence. By suffering, the bad fruits also get consumed. This is a double benefit scheme of God for real devotees.

11. Swami, thank You for the gift of a good friend.

[Pada namaskaram swami, You are amazing, I have no words to praise You, after I sent You the question about my Telugu teacher, Sri Ganapathi Sachhidanada Swami has started daily satsangam of Ramayanam in Live, she is attending daily without fail, yesterday when she could'nt attend because of her child, Swamiji said in yesterday's satsangam that He will keep record for two days so that busy people can listen later, I gave her a printed book of Datta Vedam, after reading she said now I realised our Swami has transferred me to this village to teach me knowledge, she felt sad for not understanding English, I said don't bother, Swami will take care of it. If He wants He will teach you all knowledge in Telugu, today I opened our website in her phone to show the question I asked about her, using the language translation option that is there, all the material is translated into Telugu. She is very happy, I am also very very very happy for Your grace , I said Swami has given admission to you in our school, don't worry, there will be no chance of falling down from here. We are talking about You in leisure time, only within one week she said "our Swami is great", I am very happy , I have no words to share with You my happiness. With no doubts, no questions, she just accepted You as her Swami heartfully within 10 days, she has no worldly desires, she is happy with You to bring her far from all worldly fascinations and teaching knowledge, she said that she first wanted to resign from her job after seeing this village, but she is coming to learn the knowledge from me, Thank You for giving me such a friend as gift, I am very happy by seeing her superfast growth. Pada namaskaram Swami]

Swami replied:- The plans of God are really wonderful with excellent efficiency. Once, one destroys ego and surrenders to God completely, God will take care of such devotee in all angles.

12. Why did You place a powerful wet grinder in our stomach?

[Pada namaskaram Swami, Why have You put a high power wet grinder in our stomach, why didn't You put a small mixer jar.]

Swami replied:- The ambition of every soul is like the grinder even though a small jar is sufficient for the need. God also takes care about the psychology of the customer.

13. Why did You create a strong fascination for food? Why didn't You create that much fascination for God to all?

Swami replied:- Fascination shall come naturally from the depth of soul and shall not be given from outside by any outsider. God wants natural love to Him, which shall be very strong so that the soul passes all the hurdles put by even God Himself. Such natural and true love alone can please God.

[You said we have to cook 4 items daily, then when would house wives do Sadhana. They have to eat yesterday's items which were kept in fridge, and have to cook new items again.]

Swami replied:- Any item shall be warm while eaten indicating that it was cooked very recently. Gita says that the food loses its original taste after some time (*Yāta yāmaṃ gata rasam...*) and such stored food develops tamas or ignorance in the soul.

14. When will You give holiday to house wives? When can they enjoy their freedom?

Swami replied:- The house wife is taking four days continuous rest in every month in the context of the menstrual cycle. It is a forced rest in the name of being untouchable. In some traditions, the hidden background is really good.

15. Your climax devotees reached You by avoiding food, water, air naturally with the love on You but You are advising us to eat 4 items. Is it fair?

Swami replied:- Love is also a form of energy and energy requires all the four items. If the energy is lowered, the strength of love also falls down.

[Why does only the stomach grow, when we eat extra food? Why don't things like hair, nails grow for which there is a possibility to cut. Please enlighten us. Pada namaskaram swami]

Swami replied:- Stomach is the direct receiver of the food whereas others are indirect receivers of the ingredients of growth.

16. If getting a human birth is valuable, why did the angels consider it as a curse?

[Shri Ganesh V asked: Padanamskaram Swamiji, You have repeatedly said that to get Moksha, the soul needs to be born as human on earth. But, in the Mahabharat, it was said that the 8 sons of King Shantanu and Goddess Ganga were angels in heaven who were cursed by Sage Vashishta and the last son was Bhishma. My question is if getting a human birth is so valuable, why did the angels consider it as a curse? At Your divine feet, Ganesh V]

Swami replied:- Angels are certainly higher than human beings and the curse is meaningful since it makes the soul fall down from a higher level to a lower level. Incidentally, human birth has the facility to do spiritual effort. The curse must be taken in one angle and the facility must be taken in another angle. Even though human birth has the facility of spiritual effort, there is a big problem of ignorance. Bhishma was misled in the spiritual effort due to ignorance and supported the devilish Duryodhana and fought against God Krishna. So, this facility is not an open gift that can be achieved by every human being. In total, the result is only downfall from a higher level to a lower level alone.

17. Padanamaskaram Swami ji! What is the difference between Rudra and Shakti?

[A question by Shri Jayesh Pandey]

Swami replied:- Shakti means force in general sense. Rudra means anger. When both are joined as Ardhanaariishvara, it becomes anger with full force to destroy any devilish enemy.

18. What is the difference between Rudra worship and Shakti worship?

Swami replied:- Shakti makes you strong in all good angles. Rudra makes you to destroy the evil enemies and this also a good angle. Hence, there is no difference between the two worships. In both God is only one having good angles only.

19. What is the reason for Rudra worship in daytime and Shakti worship in night?

Swami replied:- Rudra is masculine and Shakti is feminine. Rudra stands for knowledge and Shakti stands for Tamas without discrimination. In the final dissolution, total destruction must be done without discriminating good and bad. Rudra needs this Shakti when the final dissolution comes. The sun in day time represents intelligence and knowledge (*Tat savituh... Dhiyo yo nah... Veda*). The moon in the night represents mind and emotional background of darkness. This divine ignorance is different from mortal ignorance. Mortal ignorance is blindness from birth. Divine ignorance is induced ignorance by closing the eyes. At any time, the eyes can be opened and knowledge can be referred to. The divine ignorance or Tamas is full determination after very sharp intellectual analysis, which is just firmness in the right direction. God Shiva is the deity of the divine ignorance, which means the final firmness in the spiritual line. This divine ignorance is correctly told as firm decision and not as foolish ignorance. Rigidity in the right direction is the divine Tamas of Lord Shiva and unless this is achieved in final step, success in spiritual line is impossible. This indicates the stability of true spiritual knowledge and does not indicate blind ignorance.

20. What is the difference between worshipping Adishakti and worshipping Incarnation of God?

[What is the difference between worshipping Adishakti (Mula Prakriti) and worshipping Incarnations of God? (Since; both possess knowledge, love and power)]

Swami replied:- Every incarnation of Parabrahman (unimaginable God) contains the divine medium of Adi Shakti. Without this medium, we cannot even imagine God. Hence, Adi Shakti, the divine mother helps us to worship the unimaginable God expressed through medium for our convenience. From this point of view, Shankara and Ramakrishna Paramahansa worshipped the divine mother.

21. Lord Shiva gets pleased very quickly compared to Lord Vishnu . Is this unfair for Lord Vishnu's devotee?

Swami replied:- Both Shiva and Vishnu are one and the same. The difference is only between their devotees. Quick achievement leads to quick destruction also, when the steady analysis of knowledge is not done. God is diplomatic in granting a bad boon quickly and granting a good boon after a long time. This dual behaviour satisfies the souls having hasty and stable backgrounds.

22. Why should knowledge be taken from Lord Shiva? Pardon me for my mistakes in above questions. At Your feet Swami ji.

Swami replied:- Shiva has the white colour of Sattvam (knowledge) and it is said that Shiva gives the knowledge (*Jñānam Maheśvarāt icchet*). Vishnu is the deity of Sattvam or knowledge (*Sattvāt sanjāyate Jñānam*). Brahma is the author of Veda or knowledge (*Vidul-Jñāne*). This means any form of the divine trinity gives knowledge and acts as the preacher. Since God Datta present in each of these three forms is the preacher (Guru Datta), knowledge can be obtained from any form of God. All energetic and human incarnations are from God Datta only.

23. Can we be happy if we decide to be happy?

[Ms. Thylokya asked: Padamaskaram Swami, Can we be happy if we decide to be happy?]

Swami replied:- If you are God, it can happen so. But, all of us are ordinary souls and do not have such omnipotence of God. A soul can be happy provided it has not done any sin.

24. Is it possible to achieve introversion (control of senses) by self-effort?

[Swami, You revealed to us that God has removed inherent introversion from the soul in order to give free will to the soul. Is it possible to achieve introversion (complete control of senses) by self effort or is it possible only with God's help after surrendering to God?]

Swami replied:- The help of God is a must in any effort and in spiritual effort, it is very much needed. With the help of God's grace, the effort of any soul becomes successful. Both effort and God's grace are needed because

even though God is omnipotent, without effort of the soul, God will not help. A lazy fellow will not be helped by any wise person.

25. Can we give credit to God for achieving success in worldly life?

[Can we give credit to God for achieving success in worldly life? Or should we give credit to God only for the success in spiritual life? At Your Divine Lotus Feet, Thrylokya]

Swami replied:- The final credit goes to God only. Self-effort is the required duty from the side of the soul. Let it be a worldly matter or a spiritual matter. In the spiritual line, one shall not aspire to become God and such aspiration disqualifies the soul forever to become God. The soul must put efforts to become the servant of God. From such serving souls, God picks up one soul to become human incarnation. The aspiration to become God is the cancer in spiritual line. Some feel that if the ego is removed, the soul becomes God. Such a soul becomes a good soul without ego and this does not mean that the soul becomes God. If the impurities from the copper metal are removed, it becomes pure copper, but not gold. By removing ego, the soul is purified partially. If the fascination to the world is also removed, the soul becomes completely pure. It is the wish of God to make a soul to become God to do some welfare work for the world of souls either in Pravrutti or in Nivrutti. All types of aspirations including the aspiration to become God must be destroyed and the soul must always think itself as the eternal servant of God. 'I am servant of God' (*Dāso'ham*) is the divine nectar whereas 'I am God' (*So'ham*) is the horrible poison and both are born from the same sea.

26. Please explain the meaning of "I am your work".

[Smt. Lakshmi Lavanya K asked: Pada namaskaram Swami, I had a dream. In that, You have two same chains of marbles, in the locket, they have three white marbles, You have given me one chain and said to me "I am your work, we will meet in next life, this chain is the identification mark". Please explain the meaning of "I am your work". Pada namaskaram Swami.]

Swami replied:- I am in the control of your divine service (work) is the inner meaning. The marble piece denotes the spiritual step with the influence of spiritual knowledge or Sattvam quality. The two chains indicate both the concepts of one God in many forms and different Gods in different forms. The chain given by God to you belongs to the concept of one God in many forms. This concept is the identity mark of God Datta that can be found by any soul in any birth.

27. Please explain about three types of ego and three types of pride?

[Smt. Lakshmi Lavanya K asked: Pada namaskaram Swami, I have read in Your discourse that "Atri and Anasuya adopted Datta. This means that the human form of God (Datta) can be achieved only by a devotee, who gets rid of the three types of ego (Satvika, Rajasa and Tamasa) i.e., Atri and gets rid of jealousy (Asuya) i.e., Anasuya. The pride of knowledge, the pride of the physical force of the body and the pride of the body itself is respectively the three types of ego. You must always try to understand the inner meaning" Please explain about three types of ego and three types of pride in detail Pada namaskaram Swami.]

Swami replied:- Ego of Sattvam is about the ego of awareness, which is ego about scholastic knowledge. Ego of Rajas is the ego of energy or power. Ego of Tamas is the ego of matter or body or materialised wealth. All these three hinder the achievement God Datta.

28. What was the motivation of Hanuman to serve Lord Rama throughout His life?

[Ms. Geetha Lahari asked: Padanamaskaram Swami, When Hanuman has seen Lord Rama for the first time, how did He conclude that Rama is God and how could He take an unshakeable decision to serve Rama without even caring for His life and happiness? What was His motivation to serve Lord Rama tirelessly throughout His life? At Your divine lotus feet, Geetha Lahari.]

Swami replied:- Rama is the incarnation of God Vishnu. Hanuman is the incarnation of God Shiva. Veda says that God Vishnu and God Shiva are one and the same God Datta. God Shiva recognized God Vishnu and helped Him in the divine program. What is there in this since even a trace of impossibility does not exist?

29. How can repentance help me in Nivritti to get close to God?

[Ms. Thrylokya asked: Padamaskaram Swami, You taught us that realisation, repentance and non-repetition of sin are the three steps of reformation. But even during the three steps, only 'I' is involved and not God. So, how can the self-repentance help me in Nivritti to get close to God?]

Swami replied:- Pravrutti or Nivrutti are related to the soul only and the involvement of the soul is very important. These three steps are done before God and God alone is capable of granting the fruit of reformation, which is to burn all punishments of similar sins. Soul is on this side and God is on that side. Both are involved in their own ways.

30. How to receive the mercy of God?

[Swami, how to receive the mercy of God? Even if God is showing mercy on me, I don't know if I am open from inside to receive it. Please help.]

Swami replied:- The mercy of God is always logical and systematic. If there is a way to show mercy, the kindest God will certainly show mercy. If there is any window or door opened, the Sunlight will enter the house. Opening of door or window means perfect devotion to God, which is the true love without aspiring for any fruit in return from God. The atheist closes all the doors and windows of his/her house and the Sunlight will not enter such a house. Opening the door means true devotion to God.

Chapter 9

November 14, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**1. What do the energetic incarnations do in the upper worlds?**

[Smt. Priyanka & Master Atri asked: Padanamaskaram Swami, My son asked me a question recently. He said, "I was wondering what the energetic incarnations in the upper worlds do because it seems to me that human incarnations do all the work of teaching spiritual knowledge and protecting people, killing demons, etc. I think that the energetic Gods are just relaxing in the upper worlds watching their own incarnations doing everything on Earth. What do the energetic incarnations really do in the upper worlds"?

Since he is only 7 years old, I tried to explain in a simple manner. But I am not sure if I answered him well enough. I told him the following points:

1. There are many souls in the upper worlds who live with God and discuss spiritual knowledge in places like Brahmaloaka etc.

2. Some people can do tapas to get a divine vision of God but that lasts for a few seconds/minutes. That will not be sufficient for us to ask our questions and get all doubts cleared. If you want to talk to God for a longer time, then human incarnation is best.

3. Human incarnation is relevant to human beings and energetic incarnation is relevant for souls in energetic bodies. God is one and the same but only the medium is different.

Swami, He seemed to be convinced but can You please correct me if I said anything wrong or missed any points? At Your divine lotus feet, Priyanka & Atri]

Swami replied:- The upper energetic worlds contain two types of energetic beings:- 1) Those who are permanent citizens (minority) and 2) Those who came from earth in energetic bodies after death (majority). Both have ignorance to be removed by the divine knowledge of God. Of course, the first type of souls has lesser ignorance than the second type of souls. All the worlds except the highest Brahma Loka and Goloka are almost similar to our earth. Of course, as we go up, the ignorance decreases gradually. Hence, God is engaged fully in the work of preaching divine knowledge to souls everywhere. God created this creation for entertainment and engagement is the initial stage of entertainment.

2. In the context of human incarnation, how can the Bible verse John 3:16 be understood?

[Shri Anil asked: Padanamaskaram Swami, Kindly please give Your responses to the following questions. At Your Lotus Feet-anil. With respect to the concept of human incarnation; how can the following verse in the Bible be understood? John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life".]

Swami replied:- The above verse appeals to the hearts of people in order to divert their focus to the human incarnation of God, who is relevant to humanity.

3. How is God's power made perfect in weakness?

[Paul was trying to pray to Jesus to remove some bodily problem which was troubling him continuously. However, he stated the following: 2 Cor. 12:9 "But (Jesus) said to me (Paul), 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore, I (Paul) will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." How is God's power made perfect in weakness?]

Swami replied:- Weakness denotes lack of power and in such a case, when the divine power starts working, the divine power becomes prominent, which means perfect.

4. Why did the Bible not stress the non-repetition of sins as the final goal?

[Luke 17:3 "Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him." Why did Bible not stress the non-repetition of the sins as the final goal but stopped at the level of repentance?]

Swami replied:- Repentance in real sense certainly leads to non-repetition of sins. If the repentance is not leading to non-repetition, it means such a repentance is not true and is only external drama to fool oneself and others.

5. Why was Paul so harsh on women?

[1 Corinthians 14:34 "Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says.". Why Paul was so harsh on the women?]

Swami replied:- In ancient days, women were maintained by the homes only and hence, they were not quite intelligent in doing sharp analysis. They are advised not to speak much because of their ignorance and innocence. Today, the picture is quite different. You cannot judge those statements in these days.

6. What does the word "rest" mean in this context?

[Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.". What is the meaning of 'rest' Jesus is referring to?]

Swami replied:- Rest means mental peace. On hearing the advises from the contemporary human incarnation of God, worries disappear and peace will spread in the mind.

7. Is committing one sin equivalent to committing all other sins?

[James 2:10 "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.". Is committing one sin equivalent to doing all other sins?]

Swami replied:- A person who starts drinking wine begins with little and surely ends with many rounds. In view of the whole inevitable incident, we can consider that doing one sin can be equal to doing several sins.

8. How do You correlate the Vedic statement that God created space in the beginning with the verse in the Bible?

[Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." How to correlate the Vedic statement that God created space in the beginning with the above verse in bible?]

Swami replied:- Without space, even heaven and hell cannot exist because nothing can exist without space. After creating space, the creation of items started. Here, beginning means the beginning of creation of items.

9. What is the will of God in this context?

[1 John 2 15: 17: says this, "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever." What is the will of God?]

Swami replied:- The will of God is that every soul must remember God, who is the creator and maintainer of this creation. This is the minimum expectation of God, which is not from His interest, but, from the interest of the soul so that the soul will not get the sin of being ungrateful. God always worries about us only and not about Him because there is no space for such possibility.

10. Swami, is this remark true?

[One person remarked in the following way: "Eid is about killing an animal and having their meat to please your senses and Ekadashi is about fasting to clean and purify your mind. Two entirely different philosophies...". Swami is this remark true?]

Swami replied:- I agree with this remark provided there is a little change in the text. Your senses can be pleased even without giving agony to the animals by taking vegetarian food. In fact, vegetarian food is more tasty and also more healthy to the body. If the body is not healthy, the senses also are not pleased.

11. Is homosexuality a natural genetic trait?

[Shri Hrushikesh asked: Dear Swami, I was discussing about homosexuality with my friends. My point was that homosexuality is a psychological problem and is unnatural. According to my opinion a person becomes homosexual based on the external factors that influence their sexual orientation. However my friends argue that Homosexuality is due to genetics. They argue that Homosexuals are naturally born. In being a homosexual, persons and external factors have a limited role to play. My question is: can homosexuality be genetically a natural thing? Kindly throw some light on this. At Your feet, Hrushikesh]

Swami replied:- Whenever a person is unable to control any specific defect, he/she throws the blame on God or on heredity (ancestors). All such arguments are wonderful poems written by the weakness of human beings.

12. Kindly help me out.

[I am Dr. Diana Vemulapalli from Guntur. I am 38 yrs old... trying for marriage but no marriage till now. People make fun of me ...but i am not bothered. I believe in Dattatreya and read guru charitra. pls do read my horoscope and give me prediction. kindly help me out. We are a family of 3 people now

and my dad passed away last year. My brother is not settled in life. They both are dependent on me.
DOB July 28,1984 TOB 11:35 pm POB Guntur. By, Diana Vemulapalli]

Swami replied:- For one year more, settlement of the problem is difficult. You distribute 10 food items prepared by til (Nuvvulu) on 10 Saturdays to beggars. You also should distribute 18 food items prepared by black gram (Minumulu) for 18 Sundays to beggars.

Chapter 10

November 15, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**1. How to remove ego and fascination in the world?**

[A question by Ms. Thrylokya]

Swami replied:- One can conquer and destroy ego with sincere effort. It can be removed if the soul can compare itself with the omnipotent God. The fascination to worldly bonds is very very strong and it is impossible even to bend the fascination. Moreover, there is no necessity to destroy fascination because fascination to God is very much required to please God. In view of these two points, it is better to divert the fascination to the world towards God.

2. Can we treat a person doing good work as a temporary incarnation of God?

[Generally, we feel that if some good work is done by a soul, we say that God has done the work through that soul. In such a case, can we treat such a person as a temporary incarnation of God?]

Swami replied:- Avesha avataara means that God merges temporarily with a selected devotee to do a work as in the case of Parashurama. When a good person does good work, God's power helps that person so that the good work is completed successfully. Both these cases are quite different. The latter cannot be called as incarnation like Parashurama. Incarnation is completely by the will of God only and not by the will of any devotee. Such will to become incarnation disqualifies the soul permanently. When a good soul does good work, it prays to God to help it in successfully finishing the good work and God obliges it and helps. In the case of an incarnation, the devotee never prays to God to become an incarnation. The devotee always likes to be the servant of God and not to become God. In one way, God forces the devotee to become the incarnation for the sake of some good welfare work. The devotee also realizes the aim of God and accepts to become an incarnation to do God's work. Even after becoming an incarnation, the devotee feels that he is always the servant of God only. When Rama was praised by the sages as incarnation of God, Rama told that He was just a human being called as Rama, born to King Dasaradha (*Ātmānam mānuṣam...*). Since ego never entered Rama, He remained as a complete incarnation (Purnaavataara) throughout His life because God never left Rama. Since Parashurama thought that He was God after God's work (killing all the evil kings), God left Him as soon as the work was over and He was insulted in the hands of Rama. If this is the story of the real incarnation, what

to speak about people having fascination to become incarnation and to be recognized as incarnation in public! Among such people, the case of the Advaita philosopher is much pitiable, who always craves that he is already God!!

3. Why are many people attracted by the Advaita Philosophy?

Swami replied:- Shankara established the Advaita Philosophy in order to turn atheists in to theists. He had a special purpose and a special program for it. When atheists turned in to theists, that program was withdrawn by Shankara and He advised the atheist-turned-theist to become devotee and worship God to attain pure mind so that he/she can become God practically. People are still hanging over that dropped program. When Shankara told the atheist that he shall worship God to become God, does it not clearly mean that the soul is not God already? Even a business man says to a person asking for the benefit of a dropped scheme “that scheme was old and now the second scheme is running. You cannot ask us to implement the expired scheme now”. The preachers are very fond of earning name and money from the innocent public and hence, they want to attract the minds of people for which Advaita Philosophy is the best. If anybody says to you that there is a gold filled pot buried in your house, will you not run to him and pester his feet to locate the pot? Similarly, when a preacher says that God is present in you already and that you are already God, will you not run after the preacher to know the method to become God? In this way innocent people who are mad after worldly ambitions are exploited by the preachers for the sake of their name and fame to have crowds of disciples.

4. How should be our behavior towards our co-devotees?

[We surrender to the Sadguru since He is the contemporary human incarnation of God. How should be our behavior towards our co-devotees?]

Swami replied:- You must surrender to the contemporary human incarnation of God, but, you must identify the incarnation in a correct way because at present, even a senior devotee is claiming to be the incarnation! Some devotees feel that why this Sadguru alone shall be the incarnation always and why not they become the incarnations. They think that the incarnation is a post in the service line of the Government. The junior employee feels that the senior shall retire so that the opportunity for him to become senior officer must be also fulfilled. The ego and jealousy blended with ambition based on dark ignorance spoils the devotee in course of time. Hence, if you surrender to such false incarnations, you are lost forever. Therefore, sharp analysis is very essential in order to conclude the incarnation. Incarnation must be mainly concluded on the quality of knowledge because it is the knowledge that is required for us as the guidance

light. Regarding your behavior to devotees, you shall be submissive in your nature so that the other devotees will learn from you that any devotee must be egoless. You shall never show ego on the co-devotees. You shall not try to become God before your junior and innocent devotees. Self-projection is the poison that kills the life of the devotion. You shall be projected by God and you shall never project your-self. As much as you raise your self, so much you will be suppressed by God. As much as you decrease yourself, God will raise you up so much. You should not pose something extra, which you are not exactly. That is demonic nature and everybody should know that God destroys the demons.

5. Some say that the soul becomes God, if its ego is removed. Is it true?

Swami replied:- Thank God. At least, something good is told to become God. At least, the soul will try to remove its ego in order to become God. Such statements exist. It is said that if you take the name of Ganga river, you will reach the abode of Lord Shiva forever (*Gaṅge gaṅgeti...*). The highest fruit is attached even to the first step in the journey. If you are reluctant to walk to another village or city, which is a few miles away, the elder will say to you that if you walk one mile you will reach the goal. The goal is brought to the beginning effort itself so that you will be encouraged to take at least the initial effort. You will wonder to hear people saying that if you remember that you are God, you will become God. If you remove your ego, you will become a pure soul and become eligible to take up the spiritual journey to reach God (not to become God!). Copper metal by losing iron impurity becomes pure copper metal, but, it will not become gold. You must never have the aspiration to become God at any time, which is a permanent disqualification for you to become God in future. God must force you to become God. A drop of poison will spoil a pot of milk. *One such bad idea will burn all your spiritual effort done throughout your life so far.*

6. Does salvation mean the absence of rebirth?

[Often people say that salvation means not to have rebirth and they do not speak about the worldly fascinations while the soul is alive in this world. What is Your opinion in this point Swami?]

Swami replied: These people think that any human being faces God in the upper worlds only when the human body dies and the soul reaches the upper energetic world in an energetic body. They think that God cannot be seen on the earth, and hence the statues and photos of upper energetic incarnations are only worshipped on the earth. Since there is no need to leave the worldly fascinations on this earth, they do not speak about leaving the worldly fascinations while the soul is alive on this earth (Jeevanmukti). They think that when the soul leaves all these worldly bonds in death, salvation from worldly fascinations is naturally obtained (Videhamukti). All this is

only a partial story of the total truth, which is also not correct on doing sharp analysis. Mukti or salvation means liberation from worldly fascinations for the sake of God. God is available on this earth as contemporary human incarnation. Hence, with reference to human form of God, the worldly fascinations must be defeated here and now itself. Unless one attains salvation while alive here (Jeevanmukti), the salvation after death (Videhamukti) cannot be attained. Death is only the continuity of the status of the soul while alive here. After death also, the soul is not liberated from worldly fascinations and hence there cannot be salvation after death. Another important point is that the human incarnation here is neglected by the soul present in a human body due to the repulsion between common human media. After death also, the soul enters an energetic body to go to the upper world where the energetic incarnation of God is also neglected by this soul existing in energetic body due to the same repulsion between common energetic media. By this, the result is that if the soul misses the human incarnation on earth, it also misses the energetic incarnation in the upper world due to the same reason of repulsion between common media (human/energetic). Salvation should never be taken as escaping rebirth since it is the biggest foolish idea. Even God is taking birth in human form on this earth frequently and do you think that this petty soul is greater than the omnipotent God to escape from rebirth? Even liberated souls accompany the human incarnation and take human rebirth.

Chapter 11

November 16, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**1. How can I systematically study Your knowledge?**

[Shri Ganesh asked: Padanamaskaram Swamiji, I would like to be systematic in my spiritual study. Please give me methods which I can apply where i can be systematic in understanding Your knowledge. At Your divine feet, Ganesh V]

Swami replied:- You try to read the knowledge from any point to any point. To burn a heap of dry grass, you can light fire from any corner. To burn ignorance, the knowledge fire can be applied anywhere.

2. Sorry for the long questions.

[Smt. lakshmi lavanya K: Sorry. Pada namaskaram Swami, In a Telugu movie, actor Sri Lakshmi is dumb since childhood, at the age of 25 years ,surgery was done to her throat, after that she started to talk all which she wants to talk since childhood, in the same way since my childhood all people said to me that my words are very harsh and hurt people, so I kept silent and awaited for a person who can understand my inner intention rather than the harshness of my words, that person is You. Thus, when I try to write in two lines, it becomes a passage. Sorry for that. Pada namaskaram Swami.]

Swami replied:- Don't misunderstand Me. Several people are writing questions at length and I have also given suggestions about this. If the question is long, I can't give a long answer with full clarity because the reader will feel strained and will leave everything. In the Gita, the questions of Arjuna are very short and the answers of God Krishna are very long.

3. Are guilt and complaining by nature harmful?

[Ms. Bhanu Samykya asked: Padanamaskaram Swami, Swami Vivekananda said in a speech that, guilt and a complaining nature are harmful. Is that true? -At Your Divine Lotus Feet, Bhanu Samykya.]

Swami replied:- Any quality is good in a context and the same quality is bad in another context. You should not generalize any quality to be good or bad in all contexts. Even if a quality is bad in all contexts, it is good in one context at least. You have to identify such single context and use the bad quality towards the good side in that single specific context. This does not mean that the bad quality, which is bad shall be used in good angle in the same context. What I mean is that violence is bad in killing soft nature animals for the sake of food. In the same context, you cannot turn the same quality in to a good angle. This quality becomes good when you kill a cruel animal coming to attack you or some others. You should not select a bad quality pinned to a single context and then say that it is a permanent bad quality.

4. Is happiness in the hands of the soul especially after meeting the Human incarnation of God?

[Is happiness completely in the hands of the soul especially after meeting the Human incarnation of God? Please guide me out of my ignorance Swami. -At Your Divine Lotus Feet, Bhanu Samykya.]

Swami replied:- If you take the meaning of the word ‘meeting’ in the sense of learning all the spiritual knowledge of Human incarnation, certainly, happiness is in your hands. When the first stage of knowledge is over and when the second stage of theoretical inspiration is also full, the third stage of practice enters and the devotee will get bliss, which is the climax of happiness.

5. What is the meaning of the name Madhu Suudana?

[Shri Hrushikesh asked:- Dear Swami, I request You to kindly answer the questions below asked by my daughter Aradhya and my friend Ram. What is the meaning of the name "Madhu Sudana" from "Vishnu Sahasranamam"?)

Swami replied:- God Vishnu killed demons called Madhu and Kaitabha. Madhusudana means killer of the demon Madhu.

6. How can I learn spiritual knowledge and serve God if the majority of my time is spent in office work?

[In today's competitive world, a person has to continuously keep up skilling in their respective fields in order to progress in career. Especially in IT industry, there is a threat of losing a job if a person doesn't keep learning with fast changing technologies. Due to this situation, after working for ten hours in a day it becomes inevitable to invest at least two hours of time in learning new technologies. When the complete time gets consumed in one's job, where is the possibility of learning Spiritual knowledge and serving God? Should the person believe in God, leave it to God with complete trust that God will take care of his job and continue to do Spiritual work without bothering about learning?]

Swami replied:- This is completely a wrong angle. You must allot full time to worldly life or Pravrutti because it is the basis of Nivrutti. You have some free time during weekends. A long disturbance is always good for the spiritual work because the disturbance will act like a culvert increasing the speed of flow of water in the canal. You must understand the arrangement of God, who always tries to help every soul spiritually.

7. Is it wrong to completely believe in God and do not save for the future?

[My friend strongly believes that, God is taking care of him and his family members. From his earnings apart from fulfilling his family needs, he doesn't save anything for the future and contributes the rest of the earning for God's work and also spends rest of his time after job in God's service because he completely believes that God who has always been providing to every being on the earth will also provide him in the future, he openly says to his wife about his belief, but she says that this is not fair to depend on God and she also says that it is out of laziness that he is covering in the name of God. Is there anything wrong in my friend's belief system? Kindly elaborate.]

Swami replied:- There is nothing wrong in the belief of your friend, but, such faith is of very high level and is impossible to the majority of souls. The wife of your friend is also correct because we, the ordinary people shall

not try to imitate high level. We shall slowly develop to high level and such progress is good being slow and steady.

8. Is it justified to give birth to more children in the present circumstances?

[When the world is having problems with over population like food shortage, unemployment and pollution, Is it justified to give birth to more and more children? At Your feet, Hrushikesh]

Swami replied:- The number of children is decided by God and not by human beings. The national problems will be taken care of by God and we shall limit ourselves to personal problems and family problems. If one cannot set right the family, can he set right the nation and the world?

9. What is the exact meaning of the word 'prakruti'?

[Dr. JSR Prasad asked: Sashtanga pranams Swami. What is the exact meaning of the word 'prakruti'? How does it influence qualities and deeds? -At Your divine holy lotus feet.]

Swami replied: The word Prakruti has two meanings:- 1. The product born from a cause (*praśastā kṛtiḥ*), 2. The root cause of the product (*prakṛṣṭam kriyate anayā iti prakṛtiḥ, prakṛtiḥ mūlakāraṇa*). In the Gita, God said that Prakruti influences the qualities that generate subsequently, the corresponding deeds (*prakṛteḥ guṇasammūḍhāḥ, sajjante guṇakarmasu*). God Krishna says Arjuna that Arjuna cannot overcome his Prakruti, which will make Arjuna to fight the war. God said that every soul comes under the influence of Prakruti only and nobody can control it (*nigrahaḥ kiṃ kariṣyati*). Since Prakruti or nature of a soul is so powerful, Arjuna will bend to the nature and fight since the nature finally controls every soul. Krishna also preached the Gita to Arjuna. We can infer that even Krishna preached Arjuna to fight the war because Krishna knows the nature of Arjuna.

There are three phases of the nature:- 1) The external phase constituting the materialized food having 1% influence and 2) The internal phase constituting the mind, which is a form of nervous energy having 9% influence, 3) The qualities of nervous energy only that accumulated from several past births having 90% influence. The first phase is gross and the second phase is subtle and both these phases come under Prakruti taken as product. The third phase is very very strong and comes under Prakruti taken as root cause. The second and third phases have commonalities:- A) both are in the phase of nervous energy, B) both are rectified by correct knowledge. The second phase is destroyed by knowledge gained in associations of good people and the third phase is destroyed by the knowledge gained from the Divine preacher or Sadguru. We can infer that the second phase is due to discussions with good or bad people and the third phase is due to the accumulated qualities collected from millions of births. The second and third phases belong to wrong knowledge and can be destroyed by the right knowledge with a difference that the second phase can be removed in the

friendship with good people whereas the third phase is destroyed by the powerful right knowledge preached by the Sadguru. It is said that a diamond can be cut by another diamond only and hence, wrong knowledge can be destroyed by right knowledge. Since body and mind are connected, the state of mind is also influencing the materialistic nature of the gross body as well.

Gita says that food and association with people has influence, which means the 1+9=10% of the first and second phases (*yuktāhāra vihārasya*). Since Krishna is God, He can recognise even the 90% nature belonging to the third phase and hence, He told that Arjuna will certainly fight in the war. The nature or Prakruti referred by Krishna is the third phase only. In our hands, control of the third phase will not exist. We can control only the first and second phases.

The first phase is materialistic phase like bad food, which is purified by materialized medicines only. Of course, the second phase also comes under medical science only because the second phase is rectified by psychiatrists. Of course, the root cause is only the third phase that depends on the spiritual knowledge.

I want to clarify the above topic with a little more explanation. Gita mentioned food and association (*Yuktāhāra Vihārasya*). The meaning for the word '*Vihaara*' shall mean association with good or bad people. This word shall not be taken as going to picnics because such picnic will not have any influence on the qualities of the soul. The qualities of the soul (good or bad or mixed) acquired from millions of births is another factor, which can be called as Samskaara Prakruti. Finally, there are three Prakrutis or natures.

1) Aahaara Prakruti:- The nature attained by taking food having 1% influence.

2) Vihaara Prakruti:- The nature attained by having association with good or bad people having 9% influence.

3) Samskaara Prakruti:- The nature attained from associations of people through past millions of births having 90% influence.

When Krishana warned Arjuna that Prakruti will force Arjuna to fight the war, it is this Samskaara Prakruti that was referred to in the Gita. Since Krishna is God and omniscient, He knows all the previous births of Arjuna (*tānyahaṃ veda sarvāṇi...* Gita). We cannot predict the bad behaviour of a good person taking good food (1%) remaining in good associations (9%) because we are unable to know the Samskaara Prakruti (90%) that was accumulated through past births.

The second and third types of Prakruti are based on the knowledge attained from good or bad associations and their remedy is also again good knowledge only. The weak second type-bad knowledge can be destroyed by

good associations and the third strong type –bad knowledge can be destroyed by the preaching of the divine preacher. In fact, these two types can come under medical science only because psychological curing through a counsel of psychiatrists is a branch of medical science only. Anyway, the first type involving materialized medicines to cure defects of food comes under medical science only. The only point to be noted here is that the first two types are in the purview of our hand whereas the third type is in the hands of God only because the Sadguru is the human incarnation of God.

10. Please explain ‘Nāsadāsīno sadāsīt’ hymn of Rigveda.

[Sashtanga pranams Swami. Please explain ‘Nāsadāsīno sadāsīt’ hymn existing in the 10th mandala of the Rigveda. -At Your divine holy lotus feet]

Swami replied: The verb ‘*āsīt*’ means the situation that happened in the past and it denotes the situation of the beginning which was before creation. Before creation, we have to speak about the states of both cause and effect. The cause was God Who was both material and intellectual. The effect or product is this creation. In taking examples as similes to explain about the creation of this world by God, several examples stand. The best example is given by Adi Shankara. He has given two examples 1. A magician creating magic (*Māyāvīva vijṛmbhayatyapi*) and 2. A Godly person creating a worldly object (*Mahāyogīva yassvecchayā*). The first example is very near the concept and the second example is the concept itself. The first example is a familiar worldly example and the second example is a rare example. It is like showing a very tiny star, ‘Arundhati’, by showing its near visible star called ‘Vashishtha’ (*Arundhatī Vaśiṣṭha nyāya*).

First, we have to talk about the status of these two (cause and effect) regarding their existence. The existence is of two types:- 1. Absolute reality that exists in both of these two types, 2. The relative reality that is inherently unreal but, shines as absolute reality due to the gifted existence of the absolute reality. Finally, three states result:- 1. Absolute reality, 2. Relative reality and 3. Absolute unreality. Now let us describe the status of God. God is absolute reality, in Whom relative reality and absolute unreality are absent. The next item is creation which has two situations. In the first situation, the creation was absolute unreality before it was created. After its creation, the creation was granted absolute reality by the absolutely real God. Hence, before creation, the world is absolute unreality in which absolute reality and relative reality are absent. The creation after creation, is relative reality in which absolute unreality is absent but, the creation possesses the absolute reality. This is the situation in the beginning of the creation of this world.

Let us see how this Vedic statement applies in the cases of both God and world, before and after creation of the world.

1. Before creation of the world:- God existed as absolute reality and neither relative reality nor absolute unreality existed then. This means God is not absolutely unreal (*Nāsadāsīt*) and the relative reality also did not exist in God (*No sadāsīt*).

2. After creation:- The world existed in which absolute unreality was not there (*Nāsadāsīt*) and God's absolute reality did not exist in the world because the world is inherently unreal (*No sadāsīt*). This means that the world is having absolute reality in the sense that such absolute reality is not the inherent absolute reality of the world. Since the gifted absolute reality is not the inherent property of the world, it is told that the world is not having absolute reality.

Chapter 12

November 21, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**1. Is it true that Vishnu gives energy daily at 4 a.m. to all living beings?**

[Smt. Lakshmi Lavanya K asked: Pada namaskaram Swami, I have read Sri Maha Vishnu gives energy daily at 4'O clock in morning to all living beings in the world to do daily routine, Saptha Maharshis travel in the sky and give energy daily at 3'O clock in the morning to uplift sadhaks who are doing penance in that time. Is it true, Please give me Your opinion.]

Swami replied:- All these are pleasant stories created by devotees with good intensions. They want that all should raise from sleep at 4 AM and that saadhakaas (spiritual aspirants) shall raise at 3 AM. But, breaking the sleep with force is not good for health and health is very essential for spiritual effort.

2. Can the sacrifice of money by a detached person be considered Karma Phala Tyaga?

[Smt. Chhanda Chandra asked: Padanamaskaram Swami, please explain the following doubts of mine: A person for whom money is not the strongest bond, can his/her sacrifice be considered as Karma Phala Tyaga in God's mission as the person does not have the highest attachment with money?]

Swami replied:- It is not the question of bond with money. When sacrifice is done for the sake of God, his/her bond with money is defeated by the bond with God. Here, bond with God is the important subject. If this bond with money is defeated by the bond with other worldly human beings or worldly objects, such defeat of the bond with money is not significant because the whole-competition is within the boundaries of Pravritti or worldly life alone. Similar competitions with other worldly bonds and bond with God also must prove that the bond with God wins the competition. In such a case, it is proved that the bond with God is stronger than the bond with any worldly item (inert and living). Such stage of the devotee is called '*Eka bhakti*', which is single point devotion. Here, the spiritual effort of the devotee comes to an end. Of course, God Datta conducts tests for all types of devotees so that the public shall be aware of the deservingness of the devotee so that His favour to the devotee will not be misunderstood by any other devotee. But, the devotee shall not aspire for any favour from God and the service and sacrifice must be done purely based on true love to God. For the sake of measurement of quality and quantity of the devotion, love to children can be kept as the standard. This will reveal the truth of the devotion in your consciousness. The devotion must be in full free atmosphere of full free will and shall not be forced by any aspiration. The service and sacrifice to God

must give pleasure to your soul whenever remembered. God will certainly repay it without the frame work of account whenever the soul is in need, but, the soul shall not aspire for it. If the soul aspires, the account will be coming into the picture. ***The sacrifice must be done due to attraction to God and not due to detachment to money.*** Attraction to God is the main reason and detachment to money should not be the reason. A person, who is very much attached to money sacrificing for God is a better devotee than a person sacrificing for God due to detachment to money. In the sacrifice, if the aspiration is absent, like in the example of Draupadi, God gave an infinite number of saris to Draupadi for her sacrifice of a piece of cloth because true love is need based and not account based.

3. How do students inculcate real knowledge into their daily lives?

[In the last week's Satsang, it was very clearly explained how to deal with stress for the case of students. And the solution is only the real knowledge. But Swami, in today's case most students are focusing on their study with the aim of having a distinction at the end and many are achieving also. Still they are not getting the real knowledge and in fact becoming more and more stressful. How to inculcate it in their lives and at which point of time? Please explain once again as it is very important.]

Swami replied:- Had this question been on spiritual knowledge, all your doubts become very much genuine. Of course, sincerity on true knowledge is also justified in Pravrutti, but, overstress is not necessary. The worldly knowledge is only to earn the livelihood, which is a routine matter. Even businessmen are doing earning in a far better way due to the grace of God. After settlement in life, Nivrutti must be given the topmost importance. In the case of worldly knowledge, force shall not be used on the brain of the student. A slow and gentle way of advice given now will bring true progress in the academic life.

4. Please explain in what context Swami Vivekananda said the following?

[Swami Vivekananda told those who live for others and love others, they serve God. Swami will You please take this pain to explain in what context he might have told this?]

Swami replied:- Unless you recognize the context of a statement, there is a danger of extending the statement to all contexts. In such over-extension, things get spoiled. This statement applies to a specific type of people, who are always selfish and greedy. This statement does not apply to ordinary normal people. In this statement also, there is an error in understanding real angle of the context. The word 'others' shall be taken as good and deserving people and shall not be taken to mean everybody good or bad. Sage Vyaasa told this statement, which says that helping others is merit and harming others is sin (*Paropakārah punyāya...*). This statement is corrected by Krishna in Gita, who said that helping good people is merit and harming good people is sin. It means harming bad people is merit and helping bad people is sin (*Paritrāṇāya sādḥūnām...*). All this comes under Pravrutti or worldly life

only for which the temporary heaven and the temporary hell are the fruits. The soul shall enter Nivrutti, which gives the permanent abode of God (Brahma Loka). Pravrutti also must be followed in a more careful way because in deciding merit, there are several cunning technologies spread by fraud souls so that you may do sin thinking that it is merit. You must be overcautious in Pravrutti especially in this Kali age. Helping sinners appearing as deserving good people will yield the results of sins only and not the fruits of merit. ***Tigers and wolves are moving covered by the leather of goats!***

5. Why did many spiritual preachers preach Advaita after Shankara also?

[In continuation of Thrylokya's question on why people are attracted by Advaita philosophy, many spiritual leaders after Adi Shankara have also given the same philosophy that God is within us. That means even after so many hundreds of years we are not changed. How will we move ahead then? At Your divine lotus feet Swami. Chhanda]

Swami replied:- The basic weakness is our ambition to get the highest fruits without a trace of effort! Of course, this ambition was exploited by Shankara for a good purpose because even through wrong means, right ends can be achieved especially in this atmosphere of Kali age, which is filled with wild tigers and cunning foxes. The method of application shall always suit the atmosphere and as an engineer you know well about this. When Shankara came, our country was fully filled with egoistic atheists, who don't believe anybody else to be higher than himself. To turn such atheists in to theist, there is no other way than to say that he is God because awareness is God. After the intended purpose is served, Shankara dropped this concept. When the atheist-converted-theist asked Shankara about the absence of miraculous powers with him (soul), Shankara opened the new scheme and told that he must worship God to get purity of mind so that he can become God practically. In this new scheme, the old scheme is clearly demolished because if the soul is already God, how can he worship God? It means that the soul is not God already. Moreover, is God so ignorant that He does not recognize Himself even after being preached? Actually, how did God get the ignorance to forget Himself since even an ordinary fool does not forget himself? Hence, it is very very clearly proved by Shankara that the soul is not God already. Shankara proved this concept practically also by drinking molten lead and asking others to drink it clearly saying that He alone is God Shiva (***Śivah kevalo'ham***). But our ambition is so hard that it cannot be cut even by diamonds, that the souls blinded by the ambition to become God continued to worship God without thinking what they are doing! Do not think that since from the time of Shankara, nobody revealed the truth and that all scholars were supporting the philosophy of Shankara only. Shankara in the forms of

Ramanuja and Madhva and their followers came to preach the truth that the soul is not God already. However, this shall not be misunderstood again that Shankara is completely wrong. The soul can become God provided it is not aspiring at all to become God and provided God wishes to make it God for the purpose of some spiritual-welfare program. The concept of Shankara is qualitatively correct and not quantitatively. Both the concepts that every soul is God and that no soul is God are wrong like flood and drought. God enters the world-drama as an actor through a role for the sake of the spiritual-welfare of devotees. Every soul has the opportunity to become God, but, no soul shall have the aspiration to become God, which is a permanent disqualification to become God. You become God for the sake of some valuable service to the world of devotees and not for your whims and fancies! It is not the post of the chief minister or the prime minister or an IAS or an IPS officer as in the case of worldly life. God Datta made several efforts to remove this misinterpretation and misunderstanding because even while Shankara was alive, He Himself made full efforts to remove this mad ambition. Finally, God Datta is putting His last effort through this Datta Swami!

6. Being introverted by nature, can I continue to be like this?

[Ms. Bhanu Samykya asked: Paadanamaskaram Swami, I am an introvert who can't mingle with people well. Can I just continue to be like this as the society is not useful for me spiritually? or will this behavior hinder me spiritually also? Please lead me Swami. - At Your Divine Lotus Feet, Bhanu Samykya.]

Swami replied:- Veda says that God made every soul to become extrovert by pinching the introversion (*Parāñci khāni vyatrñat...*). Hence, you cannot be introvert. You are just imagining that you are introvert. You may think that the introversion alone can make you see God present in you as soul. This is not correct because soul exists as soul only since soul is not God. Even God is existing in human form just before your eyes. Hence, only extroversion is needed for any soul and God did whatever is needed by the soul. Forget about the introversion, which is impossible and unnecessary also. For worldly life also you have to be an extrovert only. Even in spiritual life, you must help people, who are in lower level than yourself. Such service will also help you to become more and more strong in your spiritual life. Introversion is a false concept preached by false preachers, who are spiritual politicians trying to gather more and more voters like disciples! The word introversion can be also used in the sense of spiritual knowledge and the word extroversion can be used in the sense of worldly knowledge. Here, I have taken the word introversion in the sense of examining one's own soul and the

word extroversion is used in looking outside about the God in human form present in the world.

7. Is my following thinking appropriate?

[Padanamaskaram Swami, My mind always disturbs me saying, "I think you will go wrong somewhere". Is it correct if I answer it by saying, "I don't have to worry even if I do wrong. My Swami will put me in the right track again"? - At Your Divine Lotus Feet, Bhanu Samyky.]

Swami replied:- Your confidence will certainly protect you.

8. Is it okay to have self-doubt?

[Paadanamaskaram Swami, Is it okay to have self-doubt? Does doubting the self-help in decreasing the ego of the soul in order to develop spiritually? - At Your Divine Lotus Feet, Bhanu Samyky.]

Swami replied:- Doubting one's self is certainly a process of logical analysis to find out the true picture of the self. Self-analysis is very very important in the spiritual journey. Otherwise, your self may change without knowledge to such an extent that you may be unable to change it even after inspecting it over a long time.

9. Please explain us about Rasa Shastra.

[Smt. Rajani asked: Guruji aap kripa karke aap hamse bat kar sakte ho. ham samjhh gaye aapne bahut Gyan sikha hai. 7879477653 By Rajani. 'give Knowledge about ras sastra' Guruji plz aap hame ras sastra dhatu karm k bare bata sakte ho. ye sab bimari cure karne k kam aate hai ye 100 percent cure karte hai kya. By Rajani]

Swami replied:- The word '*Rasa*' means chemical and also love. Love is also a powerful chemical that cures the disease of boredom, ignorance and depression. The love to God is the best chemical to be discovered by every soul in its life. Veda says that God is love (*Raso vai sah*). I am a professor of chemistry and hence, you thought that I am an expert in chemistry or Rasa. It is true, but, I developed more love to God, who is also *Rasa*. My knowledge about chemistry was for the sake of earning a livelihood for My worldly life. My knowledge about God was for the sake of My spiritual life. Once Shri Shivananda Mahaaraaj asked Me "*how You being a professor of Chemistry became a scholar of spiritual knowledge of God?*". I replied "*both chemistry and God are the meanings of the word Rasa and hence, I became the scholar of spiritual knowledge of God*". Then, Mahaaraaj told "The sword of God Datta is sharp on both edges"!

Chapter 13

November 22, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**1. What is the meaning of the verse "bhrutyasya bhrutya parichaaraka bhrutya bhrutya"?**

[Shri Hrushikesh asked: Dear Swami, I request you to kindly answer the questions below asked by my friend Ram. What is the meaning of the verse "*bhrutyasya bhrutya parichaaraka bhrutya bhrutya*"? Does this sentence mean "I am the servant of the servant of the Lord's servant. If my understanding about the above verse is correct, then isn't it contradicting the point of single pointed devotion to God, that "one should only desire to become the servant (*Eka bhakthir...*) and no other? Kindly clarify.]

Swami replied:- You are becoming the servant of the servant of the servant of God because they are servants of God. By such action, you are expressing your devotion to God only. It is excess of devotion. The devotion must be not only single point devotion, but also must be in excess. These two angles do not contradict each other, but, complement each other.

2. Shouldn't the present way of naming a child change to the Gaudiya way of adding daasa or daasi?

[Every new born child is named after God. Like for example my name is Ram. But when I am not having any qualities of Ram, How can they call me Ram, because Lord Rama is Lord Datta only as He is God in Human form, whereas I am an ordinary human being, technically majority of humans are not Human incarnations, So ideally isn't it unfair to call a person with the name of God as it increases the ego in the person as they might start feeling that they are God already, another example: an ordinary person is called "Swami" which means owner? How can an ordinary human be called owner of this world. Like in the Gaudiya Vyshnava tradition, every child has the name of God followed by daasa which means slave. Shouldn't the present way of naming a child change and switch to Gaudiya way of adding daasa or daasi? Please comment. At Your feet, Hrushikesh]

Swami replied:- By putting the name of God as the name of human being, his idea is that the human being tries to evolve in reaching the qualities of the name of God, which is a very essential step in Pravrutti or worldly life. Moreover, the name of God reminds about God often, which may lead to devotion. When a person called Ram tells a lie, people will say "Your name is Ram and still you are telling lies!" This will prick the soul of Ram and bring reformation in him at least about one good quality. I don't find much difference between Ram and Ramdas since in both cases, God Rama only is reminded. Both the ways are one and the same in essence.

3. Is it possible for a person to get Sadguru automatically once the first two phases are destroyed?

[Smt. Chhanda asked: Padanamaskaram Swami, in the explanation of the meaning of Prakruti. Is it possible for a person to get automatically the association of Sadguru once he/she has destroyed the first two phases?]

Swami replied:- Leaving the associations of bad food and bad friends/relatives brings a lot of positive change, which is in our hands. This itself starts working on the inherent nature of the soul. The association with a good spiritual preacher brings a major lot of change in the inherent nature of the soul that is formed by the accumulation of various qualities through several past births. A sincere trial in the first two phases will also impress God to help the soul in need.

4. Why do we become inactive without food, even for a very short time?

[If food is having only 1% influence in the prakruti, then why do we become almost inactive (energy-less) without food even for a very short time?]

Swami replied:- It is not the question of energy, which is very essential for the life. The food influences the qualities of the soul also apart from the basic need of energy that is required essentially for life. From the point of life-energy, food stands as 100% requirement.

5. How will a soul know its own inherent nature?

[How will a soul know the samskara prakruti of itself with the association of the Sadguru? Shall we put any effort in this direction or not? Is it the basic nature then, as the other two phases have only 10% contribution? At Your divine lotus feet Swami, Chhanda]

Swami replied:- The inherent nature (Samskaara prakruti) is very well known to your consciousness at any time because you yourself are the Samskaara Prakruti called as individual soul. The very awareness of yourself exists in the form of various qualities just like your golden wealth exists in the form of various golden jewels. No effort is needed to know yourself and no extra benefit is going to come by knowing yourself. Mad philosophers say that you will become God if you know yourself. Such philosophers must be helped in getting psychological treatment because they also are in search of God only. But, they have become mad due to over ambition and extreme greediness to get one crore of lottery by spending one rupee for the ticket.

6. How do I write my questions briefly?

[Smt. Lakshmi Lavanya K asked: Pada namaskaram Swami, You are saying my questions are very long, all people are not interested in reading them, then why don't You send Your answers to me personally (I don't bother although Your answers are long), although You are omniscient, I feel satisfaction after sharing my feelings with You only. I am also getting confusion now as to how to write my question briefly. Pada namaskaram Swami.]

Swami replied:- I have adopted a policy that the question + answer shall be in a specifically stipulated space. This means that if the question is long, the answer will be short. It is law of conservation of time and energy.

This law applies to the readers also. If everybody thinks like yourself, what will happen to Me and the readers? If anybody writes long question, he/she is losing My elaborate clarity of the answer. In the Gita, the questions of Arjuna are very short and the answers of Krishna were very long. The answer will help the reader and address the question as well. If the question is very elaborate, the doubts and ignorance in the minds of the readers get strengthened. If you put a question, I will cover it from all angles. ***An answer in all angles is better than a question in all angles.*** A question in all angles will develop the ignorance of the reader in all angles. An answer in all angles will develop the knowledge in all angles. Projection of the answering God is more important than the projection of the ignorant self. This quality of projection is a hindering factor in spiritual progress. Projection indicates the scholarship of the soul to be projected to the society for name and fame. If such scholastic ability exists, there should not have been the question at all. My intention in giving short answer indicates that when knowledge can be condensed so much, can't ignorance be condensed? If God can condense Himself, why is the soul feeling reservation to condense himself/herself? Expansion and condensation shall be in our hands. Please do not get hurt by My answer because this is a problem I am facing with several devotees and I have sent a circular also in this matter. Brief expression is always very powerful. Huge quantity is always ugly like the huge body of a demon. But, My answer is elaborate because I have to clarify even people of lesser intelligence. You are putting question for yourself whereas I am giving the answer for all. Your question shall be like small Arjuna and My answer shall be like the huge cosmic vision of Krishna. The main point is that even if you put question in one angle, I give the answer in all the required angles of your question. Since you have given all angles of the question, I can't give the answer in one angle. If I have not covered any angle of your mind, you can project that angle in a fresh question. This will save time and energy of new readers, who just visit briefly in the initial stage. The essence is that the answer in all angles will be useful to the reader than the question in all angles. I have extensively dealt this point in view of all our devotees and not simply in your view alone. Kindly co-operate with Me in understanding the gravity of this topic and I apologise to you if you are hurt, which is not at all in My intension. I request all the devotees to take this matter seriously.

7. Is it possible for a soul to never misunderstand Your words or actions?

[Smt. Priyanka asked: Padanamaskaram Swami, Through certain experiences and discussions with other devotees, I keep realizing the fact that we can never understand You, unless Your will and grace are present. On top of that, some souls keep making the mistake of misunderstanding You (either Your words or actions). When the right time arrives due to Your grace, we realize the mistake

we made and feel guilty about it. But, after some days, something else may happen due to which we can misunderstand You again. Is it truly possible for a soul to never repeat this sin of misunderstanding God's (Your) words or actions? Swami, nothing is possible without Your grace and a soul has no value without You. Every single thing You say is the truth and every single thing You do is perfect with a deep meaning with many angles, which is beyond our understanding. I feel it is best to have blind faith in You rather than trying to analyze certain things. What is the reason that even after knowing this, a soul can misunderstand You at times? At Your divine lotus feet, Priyanka]

Swami replied:- I have become famous in clarifying all the misunderstandings in the spiritual knowledge. Your question mentions misunderstandings indirectly without naming them specifically. If you are talking like this in a general way without pinpointing the concept, how can I answer this vague series of statements? I evaluate any devoted soul based on the total account of deservingness, which is a total sum of current account and fixed deposits. Sometimes, the visible current account may be less, but, the unseen Fixed Deposits may be more. For God, everything is visible and for souls, some are visible and some are invisible. We shall not compare only the visible current accounts. Of course, I believe that you believe Me as God and hence, I am writing all this. If I am also an ordinary human being (actually, I don't know the truth and I am always in great confusion about this point), then also, you have to argue fully by mentioning the specific points so that I will be able to understand the truth and correct Myself. However, unfortunately, if I happen to be God, then also you must present the points specifically and clearly so that I can clarify all your doubts fully because God is omniscient.

8. How do I detach from the bond with myself?

[Smt. Lakshmi Lavanya K asked: Pada namaskaram Swami, In Your previous discourse, I have read "The bond with one's life is the strongest" please enlighten how to detach from bond with the self. Please tell names of devotees who have crossed bond with the self.]

Swami replied:- Some Gopikas jumped in to fire after hearing the physical death of Krishna, which is not relished by Krishna. When the incarnation of God leaves the gross body, a true devotee must not commit suicide, which is considered to be a great sin in Veda itself (*Asuryā nāma te lokā andhena tamasā'vṛtāḥ, tāmste pretyābhigacchanti, ye ke cātmahano janāḥ*). Instead of such foolish and sinful act that gives deep pain to God, the devotee must live in this world as long as the longevity of the devotee is granted by God and must propagate the knowledge of the incarnation of God helping others to get spiritual benefits.

9. What is the qualification for doing Your service?

[Participating in Your mission pleases You, (we can participate as per Your plan and only by Your grace we are just tools in Your hand), what is the qualification for this.]

Swami replied:- Participation of the devotee in the propagation of the knowledge of God is the God-ordered duty of the devotee as long as this

gross body is sanctioned life by God. This world is the place of active work because in other worlds such active work is not necessary. God will be pleased if His important mission is served by the devotee in the field where it is very much necessary.

10. Could You please explain the meaning of my following experience?

[Once while I was reading Vishnu sahasra Nama in Ramalayam, my eyes were closed automatically, I went to a state like trans, in that I had experienced I sat before Goddess Bala Tripura Sundari, a blue ray and a white ray jointly passed from the starting point of my backbone to the middle of the head, after ten minutes I came out. Could You please explain the meaning of this? Pada namaskaram Swami.]

Swami replied:- The white ray represents Balatripura Sundari, who is also called as Gowri. Gowri means white colour. Blue colour represents tamas and actually Vishnu is also white originally (ref.:- *Śuklavarnam caturbhujam*— Skaanda Puraanam, Revaa Khandam) because Vishnu represents Sattvam quality, which is white in colour. Hence, Vishnu and Gowri being brother and sister have the same colour or blood in their bodies. But, Vishnu needed the tamas quality of Shiva for the sake of His worldly administration. Shiva also has no need of violent tamas till the final destruction of the world and needed only Sattvam to be in the state of meditation. Hence, Vishnu and Shiva exchanged their qualities or colours and Vishnu became blue while Shiva became white in colour. Hence, the blue and white rays represent Vishnu and Shakti since both are one and the same. Shakti is also blue (or black) in colour as Mahaakaali and we can say that both brother and sister have the same blood as colour. Both these brother and sister often participate in tamas to destroy demons. The essence is that Vishnu and Gowri and Shakti are one and the same. God Shiva represents Father with masculine qualities and Vishnu represents the Mother with feminine tender qualities. Brahma being born from the lotus or uterus rising from navel region becomes the son of both these parents. There are several points to prove that God Shiva is Father and God Vishnu is Mother (God Vishnu decorated with several jewels and took the form of Mohini, who became the wife of God Shiva to deliver a son called Manikantha, this is the main point).

11. If I say that God is mine, is it selfishness?

[A question by Shri Phani]

Swami replied:- It is not selfishness because there is no selfish need to be aspired from God for fulfilment. It is only the diverted fascination towards God since I told that all the six vices can be diverted to God. But, one point is here to be noted:- we should not say that God does not belong to others. Satya Bhaama told that Krishna belongs to her only and that Krishna does

not belong to others. Sita told that Rama belongs to her only and not to others, but, this statement is confined to sweet devotion only and not to other forms of devotion. In fact, when Lakshmana became unconscious in the war, Rama told to stop the war since Sita was not needed when Lakshmana was absent. Hence, the form of devotion is not important, it is the weight of true love that is really important. Draupadi as sister excelled all the sweet devotees since Draupadi alone tore her sari for a piece of cloth to use it as bandage for Krishna. All the sweet devotees of Krishna ran in all directions searching for a piece of cloth. Hence, seeing the examples of brother Lakshmana, and sister Draupadi, this concept is very important. Rama refused Sita before Lakshmana from the point of sacrifice and not from the point of sweet devotion. Lakshmana, even though younger than Rama, left his wife and served Rama without food and sleep while Rama and Sita were enjoying in a hut in the forest.

Chapter 14

November 23, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**1. What is the essence of the words Guru, Shree and Prabhu?**

[Shri Jayesh Pandey: Submissions at Your feet Swami ji!]

Swami replied:- Guru means preacher of knowledge, Knowledge means Veda and God Brahma is the author of the Veda. Shree means Goddess Lakshmi and God Vishnu is the husband of Goddess Lakshmi. Prabhu means Lord, which is the meaning of the word Iishvara meaning God Shiva. These three words in this sequence mean God Brahma, God Vishnu and God Shiva resulting in the unified root form, God Datta.

2. I feel that Shakti worship is the closest to God as it gives the practical proof of the transitory nature of creation.

Swami replied:- Shakti is in two phases:-

1. Causal phase or Kaarana Shakti meaning the original unimaginable God or Parabrahman. The word Shakti here means unimaginable God.

2. Effective phase or Kaarya Shakti meaning the created creation by Parabrahman. Here, Kaaryaa means the product or creation. Kaarya Shakti means the energy that is modified into creation. Such energy is inert energy. The word Shakti here is imaginable inert energy. Kaarya Shakti finally means this imaginable creation, which is various modifications of inert energy.

Hence, Shakti represents both creator and creation. Similarly, Brahman or Purusha is in two phases:-

1. Kaarana Brahman or Nirguna Brahman or the cause of creation. Here, Brahman stands for the unimaginable God.

2. Kaarya Brahman or Saguna Brahman or the effect called creation. Here, the word Kaarya means effect or creation. Here, the word Brahman means the greatest and hence, Kaarya Brahman means the greatest creation.

Taking the meaning of Brahman in the word 'Saguna Brahman' as the unimaginable God, Saguna Brahman also means the creator mediated by a part of the creation like God Datta, God Brahma, etc. Similarly, taking the meaning of the word Shakti (unimaginable power) as unimaginable God, Kaarya Shakti means the creator mediated by a part of creation like Goddess Anagha, Goddess Sarasvati, etc. The transitory nature belongs to the creation and not to the creator.

3. How is Shiv different from Shakti as I see only Shakti existing?

Swami replied:- Shiva is mediated God thereby meaning that the creator is mediated by a part of the creation. Shakti is a general term indicating the creator and the creation. You can bring comparison between God Shiva and Goddess Parvati. Brahman and Shakti are comparable terms.

4. What are the relations between Tridevs and Tridevis?

Swami replied:- The triad of the forms of God represents the creator, the maintainer and the destroyer of the creation. The triad of the forms of Goddess represents the creator mediated by a part of the creation representing the power of the creator, the maintainer and the destroyer of the creation. The possessor of power and the power are one and the same in the essential meaning. We can't say whether the unimaginable God is the possessor of power or the power. He can be either or and can be both as well in the unimaginable state. Only when the unimaginable God is mediated, we can say God Brahma as the possessor of power of creation and Goddess Sarasvati as the power of creation. We should be very careful and systematic in using these words.

5. Performance of miracles is done more by God Shiva. What is the reason for this?

Swami replied:- Miracles are done by the Parabrahman or unimaginable God in the original sense. The unimaginable God present in God Shiva performs the miracles. Miracle is called as Vibhuuti and this word is more connected to God Shiva. The same Parabrahman exists in God Datta, God Vishnu, God Brahma, any energetic incarnation of God Datta and any human incarnation of God Datta as well and any one of these can also perform any miracle. The best clarity comes when you think about the first energetic incarnation called God Datta as any one of these divine forms. If this concept is understood, you can get completeness in any divine form.

6. What decides the manifestation of different actions by different incarnations of God?

Swami replied:- Different actions are done by different incarnations of God based on their different qualities. The root electricity is only one, but, different actions are done by different electrical instruments based on the different technologies of the instruments. This concept can bring the single point devotion on any single divine form you like. Your liking is based on the nature of your qualities, which also exist in the divine form as commonality. God expressed Himself in various divine forms only to suit the likings of different devotees.

7. Who were You in Your previous births Swami ji?

Swami replied:- What is the use of knowing this because My spiritual knowledge alone will help you in giving the right direction in your spiritual journey? You have switched on the light and are using it to study the Gita. What is the use of knowing the design and technology of the electric bulb?

8. Was I also there with You in my previous births. If I was there then how was my behaviour towards You?

Swami replied:- The fact is that I was with you in all your previous births and it is not correct to say that you were with Me in your previous births. Your previous behaviour is not important because the nature of any created item changes with time. I am concerned with your present behaviour only because past is useless history and future is unpredictable story. Present is only the reality. If you can forget the past and do not bother about the future, you can fully concentrate on the present, which has every possibility to continue in the future as well, destroying the useless past.

9. How many tatvas are there?

Swami replied:- Do not bother about the number of permutations and combinations of the three basic qualities (Sattvam, Rajas and Tamas). You concentrate on the basic three tattvams, which are spiritual knowledge (Sattvam) of God, divine devotion (Tamas) to God and practical devotion to God (Rajas) only, which will lift you to the climax position.

10. What are Maha Vidyas? Could You tell about them? Pardon me for my ignorance. Below Your feet.

Swami replied:- Always try to view the meanings of words in spiritual knowledge with the spectacle made by Sattvam quality, by which you will understand that the ten mahaavidyaas are the powers of the ten senses transformed into practical devotion of God helping your spiritual progress directly or indirectly. You can also understand these ten mahaavidyaas as the knowledge of the nine parts of the creation (Paraa and Aparaa prakruti) along with knowledge of God. If you view the meaning of this word through the spectacle made of Rajas and Tamas, the ten Taamasic work forms of the same power like Kaalii, Taaraa, are seen and your spiritual path gets disturbed. The electricity is one and the same as the basic energy. Its work forms are different based on the nature of the soul. The same electricity is used as light to read spiritual knowledge, which is Sattvam. The same when used to kill the enemy (irrespective of good or bad nature of the enemy) is Rajas. The same is used to kill one self (suicide) and this is Tamas. It is always best to avoid Rajas and Tamas whether it is Pravrutti or Nivrutti.

11. Please forgive me if I said anything against You.

[Smt. Lakshmi Lavanya K asked: Pada namaskaram Swami. Please forgive me if anything I told against You till now, I alwaystry my best to follow Your words because that is best for me, I am experiencing Your grace every second, I am talking to You everything in my mind because I want to clarify all my doubts. I hope You don't misunderstand me because You are God. Pada namaskaram Swami.]

Swami replied:- When you say that I am God, will God misunderstand the soul? Always soul misunderstands God. God is said to be the very true knowledge (*Satyam Jñānāmanatam Brahma, Prajñānam Brahma—Veda*).

12. I feel very uncomfortable. Please help me, please heal me.

[A question by Shri Manoj Khattik]

Swami replied:- You recite the Hanuman Chaaliisaa three times every day for the coming five years.

Chapter 15

SATSANGA AT VIJAYAWADA ON 22.11.2022

November 24, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,

[Attended by devotees like Smt. K. Lakshmi Lavanya etc.]

Following are the points of the Satsanga radiated from Shri Dattaswami:-

- 1) Vaasanaa is the quality in a weak earlier stage like water vapor. Vaasanaa becoming stronger is called guna like liquid water. Samskaara is the strongest state of guna like solidified ice. Vaasanaa is always in theoretical state and is not implemented in practice. Guna is the implemented practical state, which can be avoided by strong advice at least temporarily. Samskaara is very strong, accumulated from past several births and cannot be stopped by even very strong advices. All these three types of qualities are only acquired from the world through associations with relatives, friends etc. All these are forms of knowledge only and the most powerful samskaaraas can be destroyed only by the powerful logical knowledge of the Sadguru or the contemporary human incarnation of God. The knowledge of a Guru or a human preacher can destroy the Gunaas provided such guru strictly follows the spiritual knowledge of the Sadguru like a train moving on the previously fixed railway track. Any form of these three can be reformed only by knowledge alone since these three are also forms of knowledge. These three are to be destroyed only when they are constituted by wrong knowledge. Good samskaaraas or gunas or vaasanaas shall not be destroyed because they help the spiritual progress of the soul. People often speak about the destruction of these three types as 'vaasanaa kshaya'. This is not the correct concept because all vaasanaas need not be destroyed and only bad vaasanaas are to be destroyed. The Advaita philosophers speak about the destruction of all these three types whether good or bad and this is not correct because such a state ends in an almost inert state like a stone. The vaasanaas related to devotion to God and spiritual knowledge of God are very important in the spiritual line. The word vaasanaa is used loosely to mean gunaas or samskaaraas as well. Good vaasanaas are related to Sattvam and bad vaasanaas are related to

Rajas and Tamas. Vaasanaa is the cause of its corresponding action that yields good fruits of heaven and bad fruits of hell.

- 2) The balance of these vaasanaas that leads to practical actions yielding good and bad fruits is called samchita. The strongest among samchita-samskaaraas gives rise to its corresponding new birth and such strongest samskaara is called Praarabdha. After taking the new birth, the soul does several actions based on its samskaaraas and the fruits of these actions join the already existing samskaaraas and such future actions are called Aagaami. Please note that we are not differentiating vaasanaa from its corresponding action because both are just cause and effect. When the soul is thoroughly cleaned in hell, the outcoming soul has the same frame of Samchita samskaaraas in a weak state and this state is called as Karmashesha and the word karma here means only samskaara and not action because both are treated as alternative words only. Therefore, the only way to change the frame work of solidified samskaaraas is only the powerful and logical analyzed knowledge of Sadguru.
- 3) The Sadguru starts and effectively completes His mission on earth. Generally, if a human being does some work, such work is called as the effort of the soul (Purusha prayatna), for example, ploughing the field and planting the seeds is the human effort. The helping grace of God is to give rain in proper time (Daivaanugraha). Both these are done by the Sadguru since He is the human form of God. Such mission also cannot yield the fruit because the third factor is also there, which is the fertility of the soil. If the soil is infertile, neither the seed nor the rain is absorbed by the soil. Krishna preached Arjuna and Arjuna is a fertile soil due to which the mission of the Lord became fruitful. The same God Krishna preached to the Kauravaas to a great extent, but, there was no use because Kauravaas were rocky soil. God knows the samskaaraas of every soul and hence, knows the future fruit. Krishna told Arjuna that he will fight (*Prakṛtistvām niyokṣyati*— Gita) and Krishna told Draupadi finally before starting towards the Kauravaas that His message will not be followed by the Kauravaas and hence, the war was inevitable. In the place of Krishna, we can judge the soul to some extent only (10%) based on its associations in the present birth and our expectation may fail since we do not know the samskaaraas (90%) accumulated from previous births. Our knowledge is only 10% (Alpajna) and God's knowledge is 100% (Sarvajna). The above explanation is the reason for this difference between God and soul.
- 4) The madness about worldly bonds is like an elephant. This madness can be destroyed only when the madness towards God is like a hill. Madness

is due to attraction and attraction is devotion that can be generated from the knowledge (details) of God only. Our knowledge is incomplete and little knowledge only generates very little madness of the size of an ant, which is destroyed by the elephant. Knowledge should be best qualitatively, which can be from the Sadguru only (*Tattvajñānārtha darśanam*— Gita). Its quantity also must be high, which is possible by constantly remembering the important spiritual concepts (*Adhyātma jñāna nityatvam*— Gita). The main concept we forget is that we should not aspire any fruit from God. If we aspire fruit for our service and sacrifice, it becomes business devotion and an account will be maintained by God. If we don't aspire for any fruit in return, the account will disappear and only need based way appears to God. Krishna needed just a piece of cloth for bandage and Draupadi needed thousands of saris in her problem. Since Draupadi served Krishna without aspiration for any fruit by tearing her sari for the bandage, Krishna could give countless saris needed in her problem. We must always avoid business-account devotion with God and we must serve and sacrifice for God based on our true love to God just like we serve and sacrifice for our children.

Chapter 16

November 25, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**1. What is the meaning of the word Datta?**

[Questions from Shri Abhiram: What is the meaning of the word Datta? Swamiji, in Your discourse, I read and I see multiple explanations for this word,

a) Atri Maharshi got a doubt whether Parabrahman is one or many (Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva). God appeared as God Datta.

b) Dattudu Chikkaadu (get hold of God Datta).

c) Datta means given Himself to Universe/Humanity. Request You to co-relate all the above three explanations.]

Swami replied:- a) Datta means the unimaginable God, given (Datta means given) to the world of devoted souls, mediated as God Datta, who is the first energetic incarnation. The other points about God Datta have no connection with the meaning of Datta.

b) means that it is very difficult to catch Datta because Datta tests the true love of the devotee and does not give any value to devotion based on business.

c) again is the same as point (a).

2. Swamiji, what is the significance of the tilakam (three vertical lines) on the forehead of Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva (three horizontal lines)?

Swami replied:- The three lines indicate the three fundamental qualities called Sattvam, Rajas and Tamas. The three vertical lines indicate standing position related to activity or administration of the world of God Vishnu. The three horizontal lines indicate the rest and peace after the destruction of the world by God Shiva.

3. How did Lord Datta appear to Atri Maharshi, whether in energetic or human form?

[Swamiji, did Lord Datta appear to Atri maharshi in energetic or human form? I read somewhere that God Datta was born to Anasuya as three babies (Durvasa, Datta and Chandra). Are these three babies the three faces of God Datta?]

Swami replied:- God Datta appeared as energetic incarnation of Parabrahman or the unimaginable God. Later on, God Datta was born to Atri and Anasuuya as three sons in human forms and the middle son in human form was called as Dattatreya. The first and third sons merged within the second son to become God Dattatreya with three faces and six hands. The same God Dattatreya also appears with one face and two hands.

4. Is stealing honey from Bees for our food a sin?

Swami replied:- It is not at all a sin. It is only the stored honey and not the honey eaten by the bees.

5. Is killing of some plants (e.g. Onions, Potato etc.) equal to killing an animal for food consumption?

Swami replied:- Not at all. Plants do not have a nervous system to feel the pain in killing.

6. Was God Brahma born first being the creator ?

[Swamiji, in some TV serials, I have seen that God Brahma was born from the navel of God Vishnu. But, God Brahma is said to be the creator of this Universe, so as per my understanding, God Brahma should be born first and then God Vishnu. Can You please clarify?]

Swami replied:- All the three divine forms were expressed in the beginning itself even before the creation. In such expression, God Brahma appeared on the lotus born from the navel region of God Vishnu. Then, God Brahma started His work of creating this world.

7. Why did God not reveal His unimaginable nature to any soul?

[Swamiji, Why didn't God reveal His unimaginable nature to any soul? Is it impossible for God to make the soul understand His unimaginable nature?]

Swami replied:- If the unimaginable nature is revealed to any soul, it means the soul has understood the unimaginable God. If the soul is unable to understand the unimaginable God, you will say that the unimaginable God is not omnipotent in making the soul understand the nature of the unimaginable God. The unimaginable God revealed the Vedas and in the Veda, it is clearly told that the original absolute unimaginable God is not imaginable to any soul. The reason is that the unimaginable God is beyond space being the generator of space.

8. Is there any significance for the numbers 9 or 17, or any other number in particular?

[Swamiji, in some of Your astrological remedies, You suggest, "distribute til laddoo to 17 beggars for 10 Saturdays/Sundays etc. Is there any significance of the numbers 9 or 17 or any other number in specific? Has the number anything to do with devotion to God or astrology?]

Swami replied:- The number of beggars is not stipulated. The number of food items to be distributed is stipulated as per the planet to be pacified. These numbers of planets are stipulated by the sages, who are the authors of astrology. Analysis of this is not necessary. Simply follow with faith in our ancient sages.

9. Is eating mushrooms considered non-vegetarian or sinful?

Swami replied:- Mushrooms have no nervous system and come under the branch of Botany dealing with the kingdom of plants.

10. Swamiji, how should a person behave if he comes to know that his wife is having an illegitimate affair with another person?

Swami replied:- Such person should have a frank discussion with the wife and then decide the future course of action as per justice.

11. What is the difference between the Maya exhibited by the human incarnation and Maya?

[Questions from Shri Kishore Ram: Swamiji, what is the difference between - "Maya exhibited by the Human Incarnation" and "The Maya (power of God)"?]

Swami replied:- Maayaa means wonderful or the unimaginable power doing miracles. This power of the unimaginable God is the same Maayaa power exhibited by the human incarnation because the same unimaginable God exists in the human incarnation in merged state.

12. Swamiji, I came to know that, in Heaven, one of the pleasures is sex (deva veshyas) a soul can enjoy. Why is it so?

Swami replied:- Sex is also a type of enjoyment. Heaven grants all types of enjoyment to the soul.

13. How can we make the concept of vegetarianism universally applicable?

[Swamiji, The concept of non-violence explained by You is good. There should be a long and wide debate with regards to jeeva himsa across the world. If all the population of the world has to adopt the principle of non-violence, the consequences will be disastrous as regards to the food security. Already there's going to be scarcity of food grains as projected by UNO due to population explosion. If the present 95% of people also turn to Vegetarianism, imagine the situation of availability of Vegetarian food. The agricultural land available now is hardly able to supply the food grains to the present vegans/ grain eaters, including vegetables and fruits. It is very difficult to convince the westerners, and the eastern countries as well on this issue. Majority of human beings are carnivores. Does this principle apply to the carnivore animals too apart from humans? The livelihood of carnivore animals is based on killing their prey mercilessly. Otherwise those carnivore animals will perish forever mercilessly. Vegetarianism is specific to only a small sect of people in the world (more particularly in India). How can we make this concept universally applicable?]

Swami replied:- You should not worry about the universal application because, showing this as an excuse, we want to continue with non-vegetarian food. If all the souls on the earth become vegetarians, I guarantee that God will provide vegetarian food sufficiently for all the souls. We cannot compare ourselves to wild animals because animals have no understanding power and intelligence for sharp analysis. Non-vegetarian food is said by the doctors to be the source of several dangerous diseases. Health is the important wealth.

14. Did Lord Krishna test the Gopikas secretly or was this known to His wives as well?

[Swamiji, Lord Krishna tested the Gopikas on the three strongest bonds (wealth, children and life partner). Did Lord Krishna perform these tests secretly or was this known to His eight wives as well?]

Swami replied:- God Krishna performed the test of the bond with life-partner very secretly in the midnight during the two months of the moon

season because it is a sensitive issue. He took care not to hurt anybody and at the same time, tested the sages reborn as Gopikas about this bond as well. The test for wealth (butter) and issues was done openly because it was not such a sensitive issue. However, it is to be noted with wonder that all the Gopikas passed in the secret tests and almost all the Gopikas failed in the open test! The intensity of the worldly bond is important and not the openness or the secrecy of the test.

15. Whenever my friend chanted Swami Samartha's name, he would experience a lot of pain. Why?

[One of my friends worships and likes Swami Samarth a lot. He used to regularly chant and meditate on His (Swami Samartha) name, but stopped it since the last few years. The reason for that was, from the last few years, whenever he used to chant the name of Swami Samartha, he would experience a lot of physical or mental pain. And this happens every time he chants and he feels it's not coincidental since this happened a lot many times. Swamiji, my friend (Subhash Pawale) is desperate to find an answer for this suffering during the time he chants. Please explain.]

Swami replied:- It is a test of God Datta to his devotion.

16. How to correlate fan devotion and simultaneously, God disliking the sacrifice of life by a devotee?

[Smt. Priyanka asked:- Swami! You appreciated Gopikas for sacrificing their lives after Krishna left His gross body. At the same time, You told that Krishna did not relish such sacrifice of the Gopikas. While mentioning fan devotion also, You told that the fan commits suicide on hearing the death of his hero. How to correlate these points?]

Swami replied:- Sacrifice of life for the sake of God is really appreciable from the angle of the love of the devotee to God. But, from the angle of sin, the Veda says that suicide is the biggest sin (*Asūryā nāma...*). Suicide takes place due to uncontrolled emotion in which state, the intelligence becomes inactive. If you do short analysis, Krishna or the hero did not commit suicide. Especially Krishna did not commit suicide and the reason is that the Veda written by Him says that it is the greatest sin. When Chandra Lekha died, Krishna did not commit suicide. When Sati died, Shiva did not commit suicide. Do you think that the love of Krishna and Shiva towards their devotees is less? If the love of a devotee towards God is a drop, the love of God towards the devotee is the mighty ocean. In that ocean, an unimaginable Tsunami appeared due to the death of the devotee. But, suicide was not done. Chandra Lekha died due to the shock of prevention of her meeting with Krishna. Such shock was beyond the control and she did not apply any force to die. But, in the case of Sati, she forced herself to commit suicide. Instead of ending the life given by God, the devotee should have spent the rest of the life in propagating about the dearest God. By such propagation, God would have been terribly pleased. Due to the suicide of the

devotee, God also undergoes unimaginable pain. The main aim of the devotee should be to please God and not to pain God.

17. Does Dvaita philosophy belong to ignorant people, as thought by Advaitins?

[Shri Ajay asked: Recently, I heard a Sanskrit scholar speaking on the Advaita philosophy of Shankara. He says that the Dvaita philosophy (dualism) belongs to ignorant people and the Advaita philosophy belongs to monism. Please comment on these remarks.]

Swami replied: The Advaita philosophers say that dualism is due to ignorance whereas, monism is the right concept of the soul that is God. I like to ask them that if dualism belongs to ignorant people, who was that first ignorant fellow, who invented this dualism? The Veda says that first, God wanted dualism for entertainment because God was not entertained in monism due to boredom (*Ekāki na ramate, sa dvitīyamaicchat* – Veda). Therefore, God is that first ignorant person, Who wished for dualism. Since monism is truth and belongs to God, how did such person living in monism developed fascination for dualism? God got entertainment and is happy in dualism whereas, He was unhappy in monism. According to your philosophy, God must be the first ignorant person.

You are praising monism in which God got bored. You are condemning dualism in which God is entertained and happy. Are you not against God? You say that the world is unreal. We agree to this point because world is inherently unreal and this world created by God is gifted with the absolute reality of God. Just like the shape of the pot is originally unreal in the lump of mud, this world is also unreal in the case of God (Brahman). But God cannot be entertained with the unreal world. Hence, God gifted His own absolute reality to the world and therefore, the world became absolute real like God. We can be entertained in this world, which is equally real with our reality. We can't be entertained in our imaginary world, which is unreal inherently. Now, how can you say that the world is unreal because the world became as real as God Himself due to the wish of God alone? God is so happy with this world through dualism so that God never destroys this world and preserves it for the subsequent show again and again (*dhātā yathā pūrvamakalpayat*). In the dissolution intermission, God only takes this world from its gross state to subtle state so that He maintains the dualism continuously without the end at any time. This point of subtle state of the world after dissolution is also said by the same Advaita philosophers! If you are criticizing such dualism, you are criticizing God only. You must know that by criticizing dualism, you are criticizing the action of creation of God indirectly.

Shankara told that God is absolute reality and the world is relative reality. Relative reality means that the world is inherently unreal, but,

becomes absolutely real as the absolute real God due to God-gifted absolute reality of God. He never told that the world is still unreal. Once upon a time, before creation, the world was originally unreal. But, after creation, the world became as real as God due to the will of God only so that the absolutely real world can give absolutely real entertainment to the absolutely real God. Such inherently unreal entity becoming absolute reality is called as *mithyā*, which is neither real nor unreal (*sadasadvilakṣaṇā*) by Shankara. This means that the world was not real originally and now that the world is as real as God. It is a matter of highest wonder because the Advaita philosophers themselves say that the world is unreal and became absolutely real due to the God-gifted absolute reality. Once upon a time, the world might have been unreal. But now, it is as absolutely real as the absolutely real God. A person might have been poor sometime back. Now, he has earned one crore and became the Lord of one crore (crorepati) and is paying the income tax like other crore-owners. This crore-owner can't say that he was poor once upon a time and hence, tax should not be collected from him! The Advaita philosopher criticizing the state liked by God and appreciating the state in which God is bored, must make himself clear whether he is a theist or an atheist. I am asking one point in a very straight way. Even an uneducated fool in this world does not forget himself unless he is a mad person, who lost his mental balance completely. You say that the soul is God, who forgot himself! Does this mean that God is a mad fool forgetting Himself? How did such omniscient God forget His own basic identity!!

Chapter 17

NOTICE ON DATTA JAYANTI (07.12.2022)

November 26, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,

- 1) This will be celebrated in the house of Dr. C. Annapurna from 2.30 pm. onwards. Those who wish to attend (if it is convenient only) may come. Please have your lunch and come. At 5.00 pm, some Datta Prasaadam will be given as evening snacks. This will reduce the strain of the host and devotees are requested to understand this with good hearts. Please don't bring any eatable item since the Prasaadam is prepared here itself and unnecessary excess will get spoiled.
- 2) Those who are residing out of Hyderabad need not attend because on Datta Jayanti, Shri Datta Swami will give the divine message, which will be circulated among the devotees even before Datta Jayanti. Hence, don't take the unnecessary strain of a journey.
- 3) Those who are attending Datta Jayanti are deeply requested not to bring sweets and fruits. The worship of God Datta is through knowledge (Jnaana yajna) and not through materials (Dravya yajna). Hence, materialistic gifts to God Datta are not good. Please come with vacant hands. If you are having so much enthusiasm, you can give Guru Dakshina in the form of money as per your capacity and devotion (*Yathā śakti, yathā bhakti*). Between the capacity and devotion, you must follow whichever is minimum. If your capacity is 1 rupee and if your devotion to Swami is 10 rupees, you must give 1 rupee and not 10 rupees. If your capacity is 10 rupees and your devotion to Swami is 1 rupee, you must give 1 rupee and not 10 rupees. If your capacity is 0 and devotion to Swami is infinite, you must give 1 salutation (Pranaama). All these are equal to Swami. Please follow this whenever you meet any spiritual Guru. Don't give any material as Guru Dakshina because the material given by you may not be the immediate necessity for the Guru. If you give Guru Dakshina in the form of money, the Guru will use it for his necessity. If you give material that is not required for the Guru, he will sell it for half rate to a shop and purchase half of his necessary item for that half rate only. Your Guru Dakshina is counted as that half only. Instead of material, if you give Guru Dakshina in the form of money, the Guru may get the full necessary item with that money. Your Guru Dakshina is then

counted as full. When you purchase the material and give it to the Guru as Guru Dakshina, half of it is going to a shop only. You are also advised not to bring any flower purchased in the line of this advice. You can bring flowers if you have flower plants in your house. The best flower to be given to God is the heart-lotus flower (*Samarpyaikam cetah sarasijamumānātha bhavate...* Shankara). Analysis of every aspect is the very nature of God Guru Datta. Kindly don't violate the above given advices if you are a sincere devotee of Swami.

- Datta Swami

Chapter 18

November 26, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**1. How shall souls conduct when they completely surrender to God?**

[Smt. Priyanka asked: Padanamaskaram Swami, How do souls conduct themselves in everyday life when they have completely surrendered to God or have left everything to God? At Your divine lotus feet, Priyanka]

Swami replied:- Who asked you to surrender completely to God? It is your devotion and not the demand of God. God does not need a single paisa from you and also does not aspire for it. Sacrifice of hard-earned money (Karmaphala tyaaga) is desired by God and not simple money you possess, which is from the angle of testing the devotee for his/her true love to God and this is not the angle from the side of God at any time. A business man aspires your money whether it is hard earned or ancestral. If it is hard earned, you will have the strongest bond with it. God always competes with your strongest bond so that you can prove that the bond with God is the strongest. This is the actual underlying concept. For anything, there is the path and the goal. During the path, the devotee is expected to do some sacrifice as per his/her devotion to God. When the extreme goal is reached, God conducts the test for total sacrifice also as He did with Saktuprastha and Sudaama. In that stage, the devotee does not get any question in the mind because nothing is appearing in such climax state of devotion. Before the climax is reached in the test of God Datta, step by step progress is needed without which the goal can never be reached. If this question comes to the mind of a devotee, all the wealth possessed by the devotee will appear as insufficient to conduct the requirements of life because even luxuries appear to be necessities. If anything is leftover, that will also appear as a necessity to be passed to the next generation! Even if excess is leftover beyond the necessity for the next generation, such excess will appear as the required necessity for all the future generations!

2. What should be our correct attitude while serving You?

[Padanamaskaram Swami, When there is some work to be done that is assigned by You, is it egoistic to think that I don't want to displease You and do the work sincerely because as souls, we end up making mistakes anyway and nothing is truly possible without Your grace? Swami, what should be our correct attitude? At Your divine lotus feet, Priyanka]

Swami replied:- The ultimate goal for any divine service is only to please God and nothing else.

3. Do samskaras and psychology mean the same thing?

[Padanamaskaram Swami, Do 'samskaras' and the psychology of a person mean the same thing? Since samskaras are accumulated since many births, is it that those samskaras only form the psychology of a person during the present birth?]

Swami replied:- Yes. The samskaaras are very very strong and form the core of the psychological personality of the soul in any birth.

4. Does God decide when it is time to change a soul's samskaras?

[Does God decide when it is time to change a soul's samskaras? Swami, You had mentioned that only true spiritual knowledge can change a person's samskaras. Once a soul is transformed, will the old accumulated samskara vanish completely and never get carried forward to any future births?]

Swami replied:- All these are simply dreams without the practical action in the spiritual effort. The soul must sincerely try to assimilate the true spiritual knowledge given by the Sadguru continuously to reach the goal. Hamlet (a role in the drama of Shakespeare) always thinks and thinks and thinks and never does any practical action! Too much ladder of analysis of the future is not good for a practical soul. If you go on thinking about your actions to be done after becoming the king, first of all, you never become the king because all your lifetime is spent in the plan of future actions of a hypothetical king. Once the worldly Samkaaraas are destroyed and your heart is filled with divine samskaaraas, God will take care of you from all sides and why should you bother about such future?

5. Do our present birth environment and associations with people alter our samskaras in any way?

[Does the present birth surroundings and association with people alter our samskaras in any way? Or do they simply influence our thoughts, which leads to temporary/ permanent psychological impact? At Your divine lotus feet, Priyanka]

Swami replied:- The samskaaraas also are thoughts only, which have become solidified crystals and decide our future actions even against our spiritual efforts. Association with good devotees is like taking medicines and approaching the Sadguru is like consulting the best and the most efficient doctor. The doctor prescribes the correct way of treatment (medicines/surgery).

6. Did other Gopikas, like Radha, visit Lord Krishna over the years?

[Padanamaskaram Swami, You mentioned that Radha used to visit Lord Krishna every couple of weeks when Krishna was in Dwaraka. I was wondering if other Gopikas visited Lord Krishna over the years in the same manner or sometimes at least. If not, what made them stay back Swami? Please pardon me Swami if this question is not appropriate. I was wondering about this for a long time and I could not hold back any longer and ultimately asked You. At Your divine lotus feet, Priyanka]

Swami replied:- Gopikas were going to Dvaarakaa on some occasions. Radha was totally different because she was almost the wife of Krishna except that she was not officially married to Krishna.

7. How to understand the phrase "by the grace of God"?

[Ms. Samykya asked: Padanamaskaram Swami, How to understand phrase "by the grace of God". - At Your Divine Lotus Feet, Bhanu Samykya.]

Swami replied:- This phrase is generally used by devotees indicating the absence of their ego in any achievement and they pass on the credit to God and not to themselves.

8. Will a soul be born in an environment based on its strong samskara?

[Smt. Lakshmi Lavanya K asked: Swami You said the soul takes birth in an atmosphere depending on its strong sanskara, what about a soul for whom the whole atmosphere becomes reverse in the middle of life.]

Swami replied:- In the beginning, the atmosphere is always congenial. As the soul grows, the responsibility falls on the behavior of the soul as well. The congenial atmosphere must be tactfully used. The best way is to maintain the spiritual efforts in secrecy without hurting the surrounding atmosphere. Gopikas did like this and made the atmosphere to be continuously congenial. Tactful handling is always the best than straight forwardness.

9. Should I consider donating money to You as if I were sending pocket money to my son?

[Shall I understand donating money to You is like sending pocket money to my son, saving money for future which will be useful for my son's better future.]

Swami replied:- Who asked for your money? You yourself offered some sacrifice and you yourself become the auditor as well as the owner of the business. God is not in need of your money. He is the husband of Goddess Lakshmi, who is the deity of all the wealth. The donation of the devotee is only to test a practical proof of his/her theoretical devotion to God. The grandfather asks his grandson for a bit of the biscuit only to test his practical love towards his grandfather and not to pacify the hunger. In fact, the grandfather himself bought and brought the packet of biscuits and kept that information a secret because the true love of his grandson is to be tested. The grandfather does not want a bit of the biscuit as a token of gratitude, but wants to know the true love of his grandson towards him.

10. Please give Your opinion about kundalini shatchakra sadhana etc.?

[Before coming to You I practiced kundalini shatchakra sadhana, meditation for destroying my bad samskaras, cure health problems of others etc., as per order of my guru, give Your opinion about all those.]

Swami replied:- I have already explained the essence of this topic. It is all a trash. Kundalini means your mind. The chakras mean the various attracting worldly bonds, which are to be crossed by you using even cheating (which is the curved motion of the Kundalini-serpent) in order to not hurt others opposing your spiritual efforts. Reaching Sahasraara is using your intelligence in a thousand (many) ways (petals of lotus) in your analysis in

order to understand the ultimate truth (that the unimaginable God mediated for the first time is God Datta).

11. Shall I ask Your permission to bring any person for Your darsanam?

Swami replied:- You can bring anybody, who is interested in the spiritual journey.

[Whenever I come to You, I want to sit near to You, but some devotees feel that I am not giving enough place to seniors, we are all only female before you, so I feel I can sit side by side with Your dearest devotees.]

Swami replied:- Physical sitting is not important. Grasping My messages in the right direction is important, which will help you in your spiritual efforts.

[Some people are blessed that they discuss each and every point daily with You, but we discuss among us Your knowledge and ask You a small doubt monthly once, does ours become an ignorant discussion (ajnaana charcha)?]

Swami replied:- Not at all. But you must verify at least your final conclusions with Me so that there is no risk of human error.

12. I show all my emotions on You only. Is it a sin?

[I show all my emotions on You only, I think You are my enemy so I must chase You, You are my best friend so I must always be with You, You are my master so I must please You etc. Is it a sin?]

Swami replied:- Mental dearness is the essence of devotion. Physical dearness may bring repulsion. That which is before your eyes is always subjected to negligence. That which is far from your eyes gets deep attraction and this is said in the Veda (*Parokṣa priyā iva hi...*). The Veda says that even angels are not exceptions of this concept.

[Related to above, if anyone misunderstands us by listening to the discussion regarding above topic, and feel that we are scolding You, what will You say?]

Swami replied:- I have not understood this question. Make it more clear.

[I always feel You are my personal property, so You are doing everything only for me, some times people say this action of Swami is not for You, then I feel I get heart attack, how to comfort myself?]

Swami replied:- You can feel that God is your personal property. But, you shall not object the same type of devotion in the case of other devotees. This is the difference between Rukmini and Satyabhaama regarding God Krishna.

[When I go for darsanam of the human incarnation, I don't even wish my relatives because that is a rare opportunity for me to focus on God, I warn my friends also to behave like strangers. Give Your opinion.]

Swami replied:- It is good that you are isolating yourself from the world so that you can concentrate on God, but, don't forget that you have to help others in the spiritual line to please God.

[Thank You Swami. You have given me the assurance that I can argue with You in any angle up to any extent to clarify my doubts and to learn spiritual knowledge, I trusted You that You will guide me in infinite angles to become Your slave.]

Swami replied:- I will help you in your spiritual line as and when required.

[If anyone misunderstands my intention behind my questions, what shall I do, I always trust Your decision is best, I ask only to understand knowledge behind it otherwise I can't follow You heartfully.]

Swami replied:- Don't care for others' misunderstandings. You must be true to your consciousness, which is nearest to God.

13. How can a soul avoid misunderstanding God's actions?

[Smt. Priyanka asked: Padanamaskaram Swami, I am very sorry to send a vague question to You recently (this link). Thank You Swami for making me realize this and please forgive me if the rephrased question below is also vague.

My question is - How can a soul avoid misunderstanding God's actions?

The context is- In very few cases, I have a tendency to have an emotional reaction to certain replies You give (either through a typed answer/ phone/ in-person). While I believe You are the Ultimate God and Your words and actions always have many reasons behind them, why do I momentarily forget that and have an emotional reaction like feeling hurt/ sad/ angry? After some time when I calm down, I realize that You are always correct and I end up feeling very guilty for misunderstanding You. How can I avoid this initial emotional reaction of misunderstanding You? At Your divine lotus feet, Priyanka]

Swami replied:- The first part is your human nature and the second part is your devotional nature. When both parts exist side by side, it means that you are in the spiritual path and have not reached the goal yet. Both are inevitable in the path.

14. Is it wrong to feel concern for co-devotees?

[Padanamaskaram Swami, Is it wrong to feel affection, care, and concern towards other devotees at times? Does this imply that we don't have Ekabhakti towards You? At Your divine lotus feet, Priyanka]

Swami replied:- During the journey in the spiritual path, you will have divided affection between God and the world. When you reach the goal, your affection gets totally concentrated on God alone, which is *Ekabhakti*. In such final stage, you will talk with others about God only.

15. I want to share my happiness with You.

[Smt. Lakshmi Lavanya K asked: Swami I want to share my happiness with you. "నేను మెలకువతో ఉన్నానో లేక కల కంటున్నానో నిర్ధారించి తెలుసు కోవటానికి నన్ను నేను గుచ్చుకున్నాను, ఆనంద భాషాలు ఉబికి వస్తుండగా అమాంతంగ వచ్చి మీ పాదాల మీద పడ్డాను, మీలో కల దివ్య లక్షణాలలో దేనిని కీర్తించాలో అర్థం కాలేదు. నా పట్ల మీరు ప్రవర్తించిన వెడ వైఖరి, కారిన్యము, ఆంతర్యములో గల దయ, కరుణ, లోచూపు, పరి పూర్ణ జ్ఞానము వీటిలో వేటిని ప్రత్యేకించి కీర్తించాలో అర్థము కాలేదు. ఇన్ని దివ్య లక్షణాలతో వెలిగిపోతున్న మీ వ్యక్తిత్వాన్ని మరొకసారి ధృఢ పరచుకున్న విశ్వాసము

లోను, ఇదివరకు ఎప్పుడూ లేని గాఢ ప్రేమ భావము లోనూ మీకు నమస్కరిస్తున్నాను. ఇప్పుడు ఇక సంతోషపు రోజులు మొదలైనాయి."]

Swami replied:- Use all your happiness in promoting your spiritual progress. This happiness must become your spiritual strength.

16. Saibaba said that giving bread to the dog was equal to giving bread to Him. Is it not Advaita?

[Smt. K. Padmaram asked:- Shirdi Saibaba told that He is in the dog and the dog is in Him. Hence, He told that giving bread to the hungry dog is equal to giving bread to Him. Is this not supporting Advaita philosophy?]

Swami replied:- Such statements are called as ‘Arthavaadas’ which mean telling a lie in order to accomplish a good purpose. The lie has to be told as per the requirement of the context. I will give a similar example from the Bhagavad Gita. Krishna told Arjuna that He Himself is Arjuna (*Pāṇḍavānāṃ Dhanañjayaḥ...*-Gita). In that case, why should God Krishna preach Arjuna when Arjuna himself is Krishna? Does it not mean that Krishna is preaching to Himself? Then, why did Krishna say that Arjuna is Krishna? The answer is that you shall see the context in which Krishna told like this. Krishna is encouraging Arjuna by boosting his confidence because Arjuna lost confidence due to the grief that covered his mind due to fascination to his grandfather (Bhishma) and teacher (Drona). In that context, raising the confidence of Arjuna was very essential. If Arjuna was really Krishna, why did Krishna scold Arjuna that he was controlled by ego (*Yadahaṃkāramāśritya*)? Does this mean that Krishna is scolding Himself? At several places, Krishna told Arjuna to worship Him in various ways (*Manmanā bhava...*). Does this mean that Krishna is advising Himself to worship Himself? Hence, to accomplish an urgent solution in an urgent ignorant situation, God uses twisted concepts, which will be explained by Him in course of time.

Shankara told that every soul is God to the atheist to convert him into theist and devotee slowly. He told this lie to the atheist in order to make him say that God exists. He told 1) You are God, 2) You exist, 3) Therefore God exists. Later on, He corrected this twisted concept by saying that the atheist shall worship God to become God practically by attaining purity of mind. He also practically demonstrated to prove that His wrong concept is wrong by saying that He alone is God Shiva (*Śivaḥ kevalo'ham*). Coming to Shirdi Sai Baba, the context is that He wanted to make the people feed any hungry dog. In support of this aimed result, He told that He is the hungry dog. This is Arthavaada. He Himself being God, why did Baba repeatedly tell that Allah is God (*Allah Malik*)? The context is that if Baba says that He is God, everybody will say that he/she is also God. To protect the devotees from this

danger, He told that He is the servant of God. In another place, He told that He is the creator of this entire prakruti (creation). Do these two statements contradict each other? Not at all! Because the contexts are different. The correct concept is that every soul is not God and only a specific human being (like Krishna, Shankara, Baba, etc.) selected by God becomes God, as the human incarnation. The Veda says that nothing in this creation is God (*Neti Neti ityācakṣate tadvidah*). In the Gita also, God told that all the creation is in Him, but, He is not present in the creation (*Na cāham teṣvavasthitah, Na tvaham teṣu te mayi*). In the Brahmasutras, in the first Adhyaya-first paada, there are several sutras refuting that the soul is God (*Netataro'nupapatteḥ*). In this way, we must understand the true concepts with the help of the original three scriptures (The Veda, the Gita and the Brahmasutras) considered to be authorities in the Hindu religion. We shall not be misled by the Arthavaadas used by God for a good purpose. The mother tells the child that if it eats the food, the moon will come down. It is a lie, but, it is permitted since it is useful in making the child eat food and grow well.

Chapter 19

MESSAGE ON DATTA JAYANTI 07.12.2022

November 27, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,

(**Abstract:-** Advice to devotees is given to maintain unity and love among them along with team spirit in doing God's work. Devotees are advised to completely eradicate ego-based jealousy towards the co-devotees.)

We are blessed by God Datta in a very special way because this time, the knowledge which has radiated from God Datta is so wonderful that such knowledge was not revealed by God Datta so far since the beginning of this creation. Are we not specially blessed? Am I exaggerating by hiding any truth through this statement? Every devotee shall answer this question without any influence from outside by keeping his/her hand on the heart. To propagate this special knowledge of God Datta in this world, shall we, all the devotees of God Datta, not be united as one family without quarrels based on ego and jealousy?

Ego and jealousy are expected to be on the contemporary human incarnation from the side of the devotees. It is a matter of great surprise if ego and jealousy are appearing among the devotees! The contemporary human incarnation is on one side and all the devotees are on the other side. All the devotees develop ego-based jealousy on the contemporary human incarnation and by this commonality, anyway, all the devotees are united! In such a case, why don't they unite in doing God's work? All shall feel as one family with the spirit of extreme unity to accomplish success in God's work.

God is omniscient and can't be influenced by any soul. If some human being exists in the place of the human incarnation, such human being can be influenced by some devotee due to the excellent talent in soaping technology and in the technology of ear biting. When God in human form is existing, the sincerity of the devotee alone is understood by God and even angels cannot divert God from His true opinion. God does not require any report from anybody like the superior officer depending on the recommendations of the officers of lower cadre in giving a promotion to an employee. There is no question of seniority in the devotees because a junior devotee might have been the closest devotee of God for the past several births and the senior devotee might have been a fresh devotee in this birth only. Based on the

knowledge of God regarding all the previous births of the soul, the first may become last and the last may become first. Gita says that God is aware of all the previous, present and future births of a soul and the soul is not aware of even the present birth (*Tānyahaṃ veda sarvāṇi...*).

The devotees show a lot of affection and unity with their family members, who change from birth to birth. A devotee is always accompanied by another devotee by the will of God so that the devotion of the devotee may continue and grow in the future births. The children and the life-partner were money lenders to you in the previous birth and they are associated with you now in the present birth in order to collect their loans along with interest (*Ṛṇānubandha rūpeṇa, paśu patnī sutālayāḥ*). You are licking their feet and paying the loan with climax love, who are going to be disconnected with you in the next birth itself as soon as the loan is cleared in this birth. Your co-devotee is following you as your co-devotee in the future births also by the will of God in order to help your spiritual progress. You are showing ego and jealousy towards such co-devotees! Are you not the biggest fool in this creation! If you quarrel with each other and disturb God's work, can you imagine about your immediate next birth? Your next birth will be that of an animal or a bird in which there is no touch with God's work. You need not worry about this future birth in one angle because you have concentrated only on four items (eating, drinking, sex and sleeping) and those four items are continuing with you in your future births also so that you need not blame God for any injustice since whatever you have desired is sanctioned by God forever!

In the initial stage, every devotee concentrates on God's work with full sincerity and pure mind. But, in course of time, the mind develops fascination for one's own name and fame in this world. In God's work, you have to project the name and fame of God and not the name and fame of yourself. You must continue as the servant of God only till the end of your life and must not be attracted to any selfish projection, which is induced by Satan to deviate you from the divine spiritual path. If you are deviated even slightly, Satan will certainly lead you to the liquid fire of hell. Beware of these dangers in your spiritual journey.

Even in an ordinary program of doing social service, team spirit is maintained by all the participants, which alone makes the program to be completed with grand success. If all the devotees are not united in doing God's service, it becomes equal to insulting God. It means that God is not efficient in giving the correct guidance to the devotees. This means that you are rubbing a false blame on God. The devotees must always reflect God's preaching in their life activities or at least in their behavior towards co-

devotees. A devotee following God's preaching throughout the life is a pass candidate with distinction. A devotee following God's preaching at least towards co-devotees is a pass candidate with first class. If God's preaching does not appear in a devotee anywhere, it raises a doubt that whether God preached perfectly or not. There cannot be any doubt about the omniscient and omnipotent God in any of His actions. Hence, the defect must be with the devotee only. A devotee hearing the preaching of God without implementing it anywhere is the junior devotee. A devotee hearing and implementing the preaching of God at least in the case of co-devotees is a senior devotee. A devotee hearing and implementing the preaching of knowledge everywhere in his life is the senior most devotee. Seniority depends on the effective implementation of spiritual knowledge preached by God, which does not depend on the mere period of association with the Sadguru or the human form of God.

Shankara says that if you want salvation while you are alive due to your powerful attachment to God (salvation means detachment from worldly bonds due to the attachment to God), which is called as *Jiivanmukti*, the important step in this process is attachment to God. Such attachment to God results only due to your association with co-devotees, which is called *Satsanga* (*Satsaṅgatve...* —Shankara). *Satsanga* means association with co-devotees (*Sadbhiḥ saha saṅgaḥ*). *Satsanga* means association with God also because in the association with co-devotees, God also gets associated (*Satā Bhagavatā saha saṅgaḥ*). Shankara says that *Satsanga* is the first step for *Jiivanmukti*. If the association is with worldly people, you will be born in this world entangled in worldly life only. If the association is with bad people (*Dussanga*), you will become a demon and will stay in hell forever. Now realize the importance of co-devotees responsible for *Satsanga*, which pleases God extensively. Hence, you must love co-devotees after loving God.

God Himself told that He will stay with *Satsanga* (*Madbhaktā yatra...Tatra tiṣṭhāmi*— Bhagavatam). You must have heard a recent miracle in *Satsanga*. Shri Hrushikesh and Shri Abhiram were walking on the road in the night talking about spiritual knowledge. They remembered My comment that God stays with *Satsanga* and doubted whether God Datta is with them. Immediately, they heard the sounds of heavy foot steps behind them and the big footsteps of two feet length of God Datta marked on the road were photographed on their cell phones by them. They also found four dogs coming from four directions standing before them indicating the presence of God Datta with them. They got confirmation of My comment and were happy. Jesus also told that He will stay where two or three devotees are associated discussing about God. Therefore, you must give topmost

importance to your co-devotees, (who help you in developing your devotion to God) than anybody else.

Remember that Uddhava went to the Gopikas to preach them Jnana Yoga in the direction of the Advaita philosophy thinking himself as the senior devotee of God. But, he returned back as a devotee of the Dvaita philosophy after hearing the preaching of the Gopikas! You must not feel ego-based jealousy towards your co-devotees at any cost, which is the greatest sin. Even if you feel ego-based jealousy towards the Sadguru or the contemporary human incarnation, nothing happens since God is not at all worried about any negative reaction from human beings. You may move your sword in the space for any long time, the space will not be cut.

Shortcut to remove jealousy:- Whatever good exists in a soul, it is because of God and whatever bad exists in a soul, it is because of that individual soul. All good qualities belong to God and all bad qualities belong to souls. You become jealous of your co-devotee because you found some good quality in him/her. Think that the good quality does not belong to that soul and it was given by God alone. You should feel jealous about that soul only when such good quality belongs to the soul. Why should you feel jealous about the soul? If anything, you must feel jealous about God only.

Shortcut to remove ego:- Compare yourself to the omnipotent God. Your ego will immediately disappear because you are just a kerosene lamp before the summer bright sun.

Regarding your behavior to devotees, you shall be submissive in your nature so that the other devotees will learn from you that any devotee must be egoless. You shall never show ego on a co-devotee because the co-devotee also develops ego on seeing you. Whatever you show on others will appear in others as your reflection. ***You shall not try to become God before your junior and innocent devotees.*** Self-projection is the poison that kills the life of devotion. You shall be projected by God and you shall never project yourself. As much as you raise yourself, so much will you be suppressed by God. As much as you lower yourself, so much will God raise you up. ***You should not pose something extra, which you are not exactly.*** That is demonic nature and everybody should know that God destroys demons.

God Datta appears as a beggar or as a bad man with negative qualities like a drunkard and being associated with prostitutes. In this world, a poor man tries to appear as a rich man and a person with bad qualities tries to appear as a good man! But, in God Datta, you find the total reverse behaviour. The aim of such reverse behaviour is that you should always hide your greatness and shall appear as the lowest person. Such reverse appearance of God Datta is preaching to us that we shall always avoid ego

and false projection. Even the truth about the self shall not be projected by self. Others only shall project your true greatness. What do you think about this simple beggar? He is the original unimaginable God mediated for the sake of your worship and meditation. He created all this universe including you and He rules all this creation including you. In the end, He is going to destroy everything and everybody. You cannot imagine His intelligence and power. Such greatest, greatest and greatest God is appearing like a beggar before you! In such a case, how should you appear before Him! You shall appear as the lowest, lowest and lowest beggar before Him. But, how are you appearing and how much you are projecting yourself! Unless you destroy your ego to the last trace, God Datta will not even throw a single look on you!

The force in the implementation of knowledge comes with continuously reading and remembering the knowledge Only. It needs frequent remembrance of the concepts (*abhyāsenā tu kaunteya...* Gītā) in the initial stages at least. If you remember these concepts every day at least for some time, you will implement the concept of love to co-devotees and eradicate your ego-based jealousy towards them.

Chapter 20
FOR INTELLECTUALS ONLY

November 28, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,

1. How can You say that dream is real?

[Dr. J.S.R. Prasad asked:- Sashtanga Pranams Swami. How can You say that a dream is real? In a dream, I saw a lion. Compared to the awoken state, I never saw a lion in this real world. Therefore, only the awoken state is real while the dream state is unreal. Please comment on these remarks. - At Your Holy Divine Lotus Feet]

Swami replied:- Why should you compare awoken state with dream state? In that case, you can compare awoken state with deep-sleep state also and say that deep-sleep is also unreal. Unreal can never be experienced. You have experienced a lion in the dream state and hence, the dream cannot be unreal. The world in awoken state consists of various types of gross and subtle items. In the dream state, the dream world consists of awareness and inert energy as the basic construction materials without matter and hence, the dream state is said to be subtle. The world in awoken state consists of inert energy, matter and awareness as the basic construction materials. Since you are experiencing matter in the world of awoken state, you are experiencing the world in gross state. Both the states of gross and subtle are unreal before the world is created, but once it is created, God gifts His absolute reality to the unreal world making it as an absolutely real world. In such a case, both gross and subtle states of the world become absolutely real since the gifted absolute reality is related to every part of the world. Hence, the basic construction materials (inert energy, matter and awareness) of the world in awoken state become absolutely real. Out of these three basic construction materials, two materials (inert energy and awareness) entered the dream state to construct the dream world. Hence, the dream state is made of absolutely real inert energy and absolutely real awareness. If absolutely real matter is added, the dream state of the world becomes awoken state of the world. The absolutely real matter exists in the awoken state only and does not exist in dream state. This is the only difference. Regarding the reality of these three construction materials, there is no difference between awoken and dream states. *Therefore, you shall call the awoken state of the world as real-gross world and you shall call the dream state of the world as real-subtle world.* In the angle of absolute reality, there is no difference between these two states

except the difference of gross and subtle states. The items of subtle state exist in the awoken state of the world also and you are not calling them as unreal.

Coming to the third deep-sleep state, it does not have the absolutely real matter because the awoken state is absent here. ***Since the deep-sleep state has crossed the dream state of the world also, there are no absolutely real inert energy and absolutely real awareness.*** In deep-sleep, the nervous system takes rest and awareness is not generated. The inert energy is also not experienced here as experienced in awoken and dream states. This means that all the three construction materials are absent in this state. Due to the absence of awareness, the experiencing individual soul is absent and the world to be experienced is also absent due to absence of the three basic construction materials. It is a zero state for the individual soul and total ignorance only exists since neither the experiencing soul nor the experienced objects are present. When the individual soul itself is absent, the concept of experience is also absent. During deep-sleep, nobody experiences the happiness of the rest thinking that he is sleeping with happiness (***Sukhamahaṃ svapimi***). Only after awakening from the deep-sleep, the individual soul is inferring the happiness in past deep-sleep by saying that he slept happily (***Sukhamahamasvāpsam***). Shankara tells that in such deep-sleep, God alone remains (***Suṣuptyekasiddhaḥ***). Shankara did not say here that God is remaining in the body of the soul in the deep-sleep. It means that the God existing as support of the creation remains. If God remains in the body in deep-sleep, it means that the soul is the contemporary alive human incarnation in which God merged with the soul so that even if the soul disappears, the God-component remains. In the deep-sleep, the soul is said to be God by several adjectives like ‘the source of the entire creation’ (***Sarvasya yoniḥ***) etc. But, the soul is not the source of this creation since it cannot create even an atom.

Therefore, the world in awoken state is gross-real, the world in dream state is subtle-real and the world in deep-sleep state is totally unreal. This reality and unreality of the world is with respect to the state of the soul and not with respect to God. With respect to God, the world containing all these three states exists giving real entertainment to God. When a person is in deep-sleep, simultaneously, a second person is in dream state and a third person is in awoken state during the same time. Hence, the reality and unreality are not with respect to all the human beings and also not with respect to God, Who is entertained always.

2. Can we say that the items seen in the dream that are impossible to see in the real world are unreal?

[Dr. J.S.R. Prasad asked:- Sashtanga Pranamas Swami. Sometimes in dream state, we are finding some items, which are impossible to find in the awoken state of the world. Then, can we say that at least, such items are unreal? - At Your Holy Divine Lotus Feet]

Swami replied:- Even though an impossible animal with eight legs and two tails in awoken state of the world is not seen, it appears in the dream state. *In the dream state, the individual soul exists with its brain-activity.* Even though such animal is not seen in the awoken world, the limbs and an animal are seen separately. In the dream, the poetic brain activity joins these limbs to prepare a new animal. Since the new animal is made of absolutely real inert energy and absolutely real awareness, the animal existing is also absolutely real during the dream state, which is experienced by you. *In awoken state, you are made of inert energy, matter and awareness. In dream state, you are made of inert energy and awareness only.* Since you have the awareness, its intellectual activity must also exist. When you exist in a specific state, you must relate to that specific state of the world only. You should not bring other states into your present state. Both the states of awoken and dream exist simultaneously so that the awoken world and the dream world exist side by side. When the time is night in our country, simultaneously, daytime is also existing in a foreign country. Hence, yourself and your objective world must be always related to the present state only while discussing about any single state without comparing with the other states. Even though both states exist, simultaneously, the experiencing souls are different in different countries. Even though you fix the same time and same place in one country alone, the two states exist simultaneously with respect to two different souls. In the same place and in the same time, the sleeping person in a dream is experiencing the dream state of the world and another person who is awoken is experiencing the awoken state of the world. The two states are different because one is awoken world and the other is dream world. The subtle state can be treated as unreal due to least concentration, but, cannot be really unreal. In the Anupalabdhi authority of knowledge, the subtle and unseen item is also treated as real. You may not see the very subtle electro-magnetic radiations travelling in the atmosphere, still they are real and existing. This creation was unreal before it was generated by God and this concept shall not be extended after the creation because God gifted such unreal world with His absolute reality for His real entertainment and this concept is told by the Advaita philosophers themselves. Even in the worldly concepts without reference to God, Ramanuja says that the water-component that entered the energy or Agni

(through the process of panchiikaranam) is seen as water in sunlight and hence, water appearing in a mirage is not unreal!

Chapter 21

November 29, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**1. How can students inculcate real spiritual knowledge into their lives?**

[Smt. Chhanda asked: clearing mind Padanamaskaram Swami, in my earlier question on "How can students inculcate real knowledge into their daily lives?" probably I could not put the question properly. What I meant to say was only from spiritual knowledge point of view. Please take the pain again to explain it in the spiritual line and forgive me for not being able to put my question clearly. Thank You my Lord, at Your divine lotus feet, Chhanda]

Swami replied:- The student shall be encouraged and advised to build up his/her career to establish themselves in worldly life or Pravrutti. If they have well settled background of property and wealth, the student can divert a part of time and energy towards Nivrutti or spiritual life. If the student is to depend on job only for livelihood, the student shall be encouraged to concentrate on the academic career that establishes a job for his/her livelihood. The basic stage for spiritual life is very important and without a strong basic stage, the spiritual life becomes weak and will be misunderstood by the public. After getting established in Pravrutti, one can fully concentrate on Nivrutti. The student shall be informed about all the above statements and shall be advised that the ultimate aim of this human life is only to please God and get His grace. The student can be involved in the divine songs on God to develop devotion, which helps the student to succeed in establishing the basic stage in Pravrutti.

2. Why did You say that Datta is making the final effort to remove incorrect knowledge through You?

[Prarthana: Padanamaskaram Swami, in my last question's (spiritual leaders preaching Advaita philosophy) answer, You have mentioned at the end of the answer that God Datta is putting His last effort to remove the wrong knowledge through You. Swami why did You say so? I want Your feet in every birth to come. It is You only who made me realize the goal of life and You have become my driving force. You only said in the Gita that You will come in every generation to remove our darkness. Please don't say this. At Your feet only, Chhanda]

Swami replied:- I told that this is the final effort in this topic. I never said that God Datta will not come in the future generations. God Datta will come as human incarnation in every generation. There are several other topics to be established for the sake of devotees. God will be coming down to this earth in every generation for some purpose to be accomplished in Pravrutti or Nivrutti.

3. How can I strengthen my surrender to You?

[Shri Divakar asked: Padnamskaram Swami, Kindly clarify my doubts as mentioned below swami, how can I strengthen my total surrender to You swami?]

Swami replied:- Surrender to God must be natural and spontaneous. Attraction or devotion to God will bring the surrender simultaneously. Devotion comes more and more as spiritual knowledge (details about the divine personality of God) is achieved by studying the spiritual knowledge radiated by the Sadguru, who is the human incarnation of God. Knowledge generates theoretical devotion, which generates practical devotion. Knowledge is the water and theoretical devotion is the fertilizer. Practical devotion is the mango plant that yields the fruit. Surrender is another name of the divine fruit that appears on the practical devotion-mango plant.

4. Does an ordinary soul leading pravrutti with interest in God to fulfill desires please You?

[I have understood, how devotees like Meera and Radha in nivrutti pleased You through overcoming the strongest bonds but does the ordinary soul, which is leading a sincere life of pravrutti with a mere interest in God to fulfill their desires please You, and How?]

Swami replied:- Your question is like saying “Can the water intensify the fire?” If you are pouring pots of water on the fire, certainly the fire will be put off. You must try to reduce the quantity of water gradually so that finally a few drops of water falling on the fire will not extinguish the fire. At least in the beginning stage, you can start worshipping God with worldly desires. Something is better than nothing. In course of time, as you develop your interest on God, which is transformed to attraction, your problem becomes weaker and weaker and finally disappears.

5. How can I always be united with You in my corporate and professional life, even for minor activities?

Swami replied:- In your leisure time, try to study the knowledge from My website. That will develop the path to get associated with God.

6. Should I believe in shakunas like a black cat coming opposite me when I start my journey, etc.?

[Should I still believe in shakunas like a black cat coming opposite me when I am starting my journey and a Lizard falling on my head etc., as everything happens only due to Your will? Regards, Your servant, Divakar.]

Swami replied:- Since you have not reached the climax of devotion, try to follow these traditions.

7. Is mula prakriti finite or infinite?

[Shri Ganesh V asked: Padanamaskaram Swamiji, Is mula prakriti finite or infinite? I am asking this because you have referred in this discourse that mula prakriti is infinite. <https://www.universal-spirituality.org/discourse/COSMIC-ENERGY-IS-ATMAN-IN-THE-BROADEST-SENSE--6d706917fd9fb8e1--bd4ebf9bd0a2947b--fa28fefc758fe35d--7> At Your divine feet, Ganesh V]

Swami replied:- It is infinite from the view of the soul and it is finite from the view of God. Nothing can be infinite for God.

8. Please explain the penance done by Yogi.

[Smt. Lakshmi Lavanya K asked: Aparoksha anubhava. In the life history of a Yogi, his Guru made him suffer a lot to burn his bad karma and preached him knowledge after that. Then the Guru sent him to do penance alone in the Himalayas. Finally, he became a Mahaatma and guided many pupils. Please explain his penance.]

Swami replied:- Penance means only your burning interest on God and His spiritual knowledge. Himalayas may provide some peaceful atmosphere. For a scholar, any place can become the Himalayas. Penance does not mean constant closing of the eyes and repeatedly uttering the name of God without food and water. This is the highest misinterpretation and misunderstanding of the word 'penance'.

9. Please explain meaning of following quotes from the website of Satya Sai Baba "ఆత్మ ధర్మమే స్వధర్మము, పర ధర్మము అనగా దేహ ధర్మము"

Swami replied:- Svadharma means spiritual knowledge and Paradharma means the knowledge of Pravritti. Food is needed for the body and spiritual knowledge is needed for the soul.

10. Which is the final authority between logical analysis and experience in the world?

[Between Yukti (Logical Analysis) and Anubhava (Experience in the world), which is the final authority? What is difference between paroksha anubhava and aparoksha anubhava? Pada namaskaram Swami.]

Swami replied:- Mere Anubhava may also go wrong. A person with defect in eyes is experiencing two Moons on the sky. It cannot be the final true knowledge. Unless you discuss your experience with other scholars and analyse it, it cannot be an authority of knowledge. Paroksha anubhava means experiencing the nature of God without experiencing God directly and this is based on formless God or statues of God. *Aparoksha anubhava means experiencing the God in human form directly and experiencing His nature through His spiritual knowledge.* In the former, there is no repulsion between common human media. In the latter, there is repulsion between common human media. If this repulsion can be crossed, Aparoksha anubhava is the best.

11. Is getting a permanent tattoo on my body a sin?

[Shri Ganesh V asked: Padanamaskaram Swamiji, Is getting a permanent tattoo on my body considered a sin? At Your divine feet, Ganesh V]

Swami replied:- Your question must be clarified. Short question does not mean very short questions. Clarity is important and you can go up to 4 to 5 lines in the question.

12. Is getting a permanent tattoo on my body a sin?

Swami replied: It all depends on the psychology of the devotee. A devotee might have printed the divine form in his heart and he may not require a tattoo on the body. Another devotee may require the tattoo on the body so that by seeing it often, devotion may develop. For such a devotee, tattoos will help in devotion. In the cult of Shri Vaishnavas, there is a tradition to print sankha and chakra on one's shoulders using red hot metallic plates, which are similar to getting a tattoo.

13. Osho accepts Godliness but not God. What do You say?

[Ms. Thrylokya asked: Osho says that good qualities like love, egolessness, etc., are God. He accepts these qualities as Godliness but does not accept God. He says that Godliness, which is any of these divine qualities can be experienced. Swami, this concept seems to be good and there is no place for any objection. What do You say?]

Swami replied:- The main objection to this concept is that God must exist to utter the word Godliness. I deal with this question in two stages:-

1st stage:- Is love or Godliness an inert quality (like weight of matter, propagation of energy waves, etc.) or quality of awareness (like happiness, suffering, etc.)? You or anybody will certainly say that love, egolessness, etc., are the qualities of awareness.

2nd stage:- Do you agree that the awareness cannot exist independently without a container? We observe awareness is always contained by a body as in the case of an insect or a bird or an animal or a human being. You cannot find awareness independently as an item in isolated state.

Conclusion:- Love is the quality of awareness and awareness must always be contained in a container. Therefore, it is very clear conclusion that the love is present in awareness and awareness is present in a body or in a personality. Hence, God is with awareness. This means that God is a person containing awareness that contains good qualities like love, egolessness, etc. This clearly concludes the existence of a divine personality called God. This is a logical derivation based on the concept of Osho himself and hence, Osho cannot object his concept and this conclusion is derived from his own concept. Love is in awareness and awareness is in a body. Such body with awareness having love-quality is called as God.

If you want to have the perception of God, you can take the human incarnation like Rama, Krishna, Buddha, Jesus, Mohammad, Mahaveer Jain, etc. Actually, we say that God is unimaginable because He is beyond space without spatial dimensions having these good qualities. Such unimaginable God is mediated with energetic form to become energetic incarnation and is mediated with human form to become human incarnation. Hence, incarnation

is visible unimaginable God. The genuine miracles or unimaginable incidents are performed by the incarnation and hence we infer the unimaginable God in the incarnation, which performs miracles. You cannot argue that any human being having love alone is God. In that case, every human being is God. Even if you say that every human being is God, you are accepting God as a person and your concept is closed here itself. But the human incarnation has unimaginable love. To filter such special human being having unimaginable love from the rest of humanity, we have also introduced the quality of omnipotence through miracles. You cannot find even a trace of miracles in any human being except in the human incarnation. Such human incarnation is present before our eyes as we have seen in the latest incarnation, Satya Sai Baba.

January 02, 2023

1. If Osho says that love is God, he has to then accept that every human being is God. Can this be the end to the answer?

[Ms. Thrylokya asked: Swami, As per Your previous answer, the quality of love is possessed by awareness and awareness is possessed by human beings. Hence, if Osho called love as God, he has to accept that every human being is God, who possesses the awareness that possesses the quality of love. Can this be the end of the answer?]

Swami replied:- Though this is not the end of the answer, at least Osho has to accept that there is God, who is a personality possessing awareness that possesses the quality of love. From this point onwards, further analysis reveals that selfless love is greater than selfish love. By this, most of the human beings are filtered off. Very few human beings having selfless love become God. This means if selfish love is impure gold, selfless love is pure gold. The value of pure gold is more than the value of impure gold. The value of selfless love is more than the value of selfish love. Now, to this pure gold (selfless love), I add some more valuable items like diamonds and pearls. Now, the great pure gold becomes greater (due to diamonds) and greatest (due to pearls). The purest gold (selfless love) becomes greatest due to the added values of diamonds and pearls. Now, suppose the human being having selfless love is also having exceptional spiritual knowledge (diamonds) and also is showing miraculous powers (pearls). Such a rarest human being becomes the greatest human being and such a greatest human being with selfless love is called as God due to associated knowledge (diamonds) and miraculous powers (pearls). Here, we have taken the selfless love or purest gold as the basic material and due to the addition of more divine qualities, the value reached its climax and such a human being becomes God. Love is not an inert independent quality like inert electromagnetic radiations moving in vacuum also without medium. Love is the quality of non-inert awareness

and awareness is not available independently since it must be contained by a container like a living human being. The awareness of animals etc., is not of good standard to be taken to express selfless love (The logical analysis of intelligence to understand the value of selfless love is not so much developed in animals, birds, etc.). Hence, love must be contained by awareness and awareness must be contained by a living human being. Among human beings, the human being having selfless love is the best. Among the human beings having selfless love based on awareness, even higher is the one having excellent knowledge and miraculous powers. By this gradual filtering analysis only, one human being like Krishna, Buddha, Mahaviira, Jesus, Mohammed etc., results, who is called as the human form of God. Miraculous powers are useful in bringing the divine discipline in the world, which indicate that the source of unimaginable powers is the unimaginable God, who punishes sinners in unimaginable ways. Such type of protection of justice in the society is also another noble quality like selfless love.

Chapter 22

December 06, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**1. Why did Lalita always support Radha's love to Krishna?**

[Smt. Priyanka asked: Padanamaskaram Swami, Among the Gopikas, why did Lalita always support Radha's love to Krishna and chose to keep quiet about her love for Krishna? At Your divine lotus feet, Priyanka]

Swami replied: The psychologies of devotees are not important because they are souls only. The mind of a soul is always working in unpredictable ways (*Vicitrarūpāḥ khalu citta vṛttayah*). Perhaps Lalita found the love of Radha to be more pure and intensive than her love.

2. Is it better to concentrate on God and maintain relation with one or two people who can help us spiritually?

[Smt. Lakshmi Lavanya K asked: Swami, please give me clarity on some points regarding a discussion with my sister. She says that we should maintain good relations with devotees and discuss God's divine qualities among us regularly. I feel that although it starts as satsangam, it may lead to a misunderstanding and disturb us because of our ego and jealousy. So, is it better to concentrate only on God and maintain relations with one or two people who can help us in the spiritual line?]

Swami replied: Association with many devotees is not good because it may lead to compromise in quality. You must associate with devotees of very high quality so that you will be always benefitted. If you want to benefit others, you shall associate with devotees of lesser quality as well and help them to develop their devotion.

3. Should we share Your knowledge with everyone or with just those who want it?

[She says that we should motivate people around us again and again to follow You irrespective of their feelings. I say that we should introduce Swami's knowledge only to those who ask us. God is there to take care of all people. Please comment on this.]

Swami replied: We shall try to help any theist. Only association with atheists is dangerous and hence, better to avoid it. If your logical faculty (intelligence) is very strong, you can even associate with atheists and try to change them in to theists. God always likes very much when you try to help other people while existing in spiritual line.

4. Should we consider Your comfort or focus on the knowledge You preach?

[She says that when we are with You, we should think of Your comfort. I feel that I should focus on the knowledge given by You and You are the one who takes care of us. Please comment on this.]

Swami replied: Both of you are correct in your own angles. Seeing the comfort means doing service to the Sadguru. Focus shall be put on the knowledge preached by the Sadguru because it alone helps you in the spiritual line.

5. How can I know the spiritual stage of another person?

[Whenever I discuss knowledge with others, she says that I should consider their spiritual stage and then talk since they might feel uneasy otherwise. I feel that God is the only source of knowledge and I am only a mike. How can I know the spiritual stage of another person? Pada namaskaram Swami]

Swami replied: You can have a broad distinction of the stages of spiritual progress. Atheists are one type. Theists interested in the benefits of the worldly life with the help of God form the second type. The third type are the real spiritual devotees, who are very much interested in God due to attraction towards His divine personality. According to these categories, you can divert the line of your spiritual preaching to them.

6. Is it a sin to perform experiments on animals?

[Ms. Bhanu Samykya asked: Paadanamaskaaram Swami, Is it a sin to perform medical experiments on animals? - At Your Divine Lotus Feet, Bhanu Samykya.]

Swami replied: It is not a sin provided you don't kill the animal.

7. When great saints leave their families for the sake of God, is it prarabdham of their family members?

[Smt. Lakshmi Lavanya K asked: Questions asked by my sister and colleague. Great saints like Buddha, Ramanujacharya left their families for the propagation of divine knowledge. Is it prarabdham of the family members? Did God take care of them (their families), what about their suffering. Why didn't they start propagation from their family members?]

Swami replied: Even in the case of ordinary families, which are not connected to spiritual line, such separations are taking place due to their past deeds. If you can take the cases of families of spiritual people also, you can apply the same cycle of deeds and fruits. Whatever may be the purpose of the person leaving the family, the person leftover is enjoying the fruits of past bad deeds only. In such case, why should you worry about the spiritual reasons of the person, who left the family? In fact, if the person, who left the family is doing so for the sake of God, God will certainly help the family and all the credit goes to that person, who left the family for the sake of God.

8. You always say fan devotion is best, recently You said propagation of divine knowledge is the best, rather than suicide. Please clarify.

Swami replied: You must take the fan devotion as the climax of divine love provided the matter of suicide is avoided since suicide is described as the worst sin by God Himself in the divine constitution called Dharma Shastra. Propagation of divine knowledge is always the best because God likes it very much. Suicide is objected from this point of view only. Even an atheist shall not attempt for suicide because the atheist is also trying to contribute to developments in worldly life.

9. Please explain the 177 Sutra or 16th Sutra in Kaivalya Paada.

[Please explain following verse న చైక చిత్త (అంత్రం) తన్ త్రం వస్తు తద ప్రమాణికం తదా కిం స్యాత్177 వ సూత్రం, యోగ దర్శనం.]

Swami replied: If a person is very much emotional about a religion like Nagarjuna's Shunya vaada (which says that world is non-existent) and does not see the world, does it mean that the world becomes really non-existent for all other people? If few people experience the world to be non-existent, it does not make all the other people to have the same experience. The creation is originally non-existent, but, the creation became absolutely real due to the God gifted absolute reality. Here, the original inherent characteristic disappeared completely, and the acquired characteristic gifted by God becomes the experience of all the people having mental normalcy. This world becomes non-existent at any time if God wishes so, but, this point is irrelevant from the point of all the normal souls.

10. Can we say that Lord Datta is the only true God present in all the incarnations?

[Shri Satthireddy asked: Paadanamaskararam Swamiji, Many preachers say that their God is true God. Can we say that Lord Datta is only the true God present in all the incarnations? Can we install the idol of Lord Datta in every temple, church and mosque? Swamiji if any mistakes are there in question itself please forgive this beggar satthireddy 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied: Your concept is correct theoretically but not practically possible. Moreover, the original God is unimaginable, who is present in every incarnation. God Datta also acquired the unimaginable power of the unimaginable God and looks like any form that was imagined by any religion. How can one then fix the universal common form of God Datta? Datta only means God given through a medium having unimaginable powers due to which the form of God Datta appears in any way as liked by the devotees of a religion. Therefore, this concept must be understood intellectually and no specific form of God Datta shall be selected by any religion. The incarnations of God Datta of all religions are visible, but the inner form of God Datta can't be specified with any single form. You can take any form you like for God Datta and one of such forms taken by the Hindu religion is having three heads and six hands. Hence, we can try to apply this concept to various sub-religions of Hinduism.

11. Can we say that any soul can become God by the will of the Human incarnation?

[Since there is no difference between the Unimaginable God, the Energetic Incarnation or the Human Incarnation of God, can we say that any soul can become God by the will of the Human incarnation? Swamiji if any mistakes are there in question itself, please forgive this beggar satthireddy 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied: If I allow this question, tomorrow, you will say that you are alone God Datta and day after tomorrow, you may say that you are the unimaginable God and next day after day after tomorrow you will say that no incarnation is God except yourself! The unimaginable God and God Datta are exactly one and the same except one difference that the former is

without medium and the latter is with media. Any soul can become God if God Datta wishes so. No soul becomes God by its own will.

12. Does every soul that dies in the hands of God gets salvation, or atleast some reformation?

[Swamiji, Bhiishma wanted to die in the hands of Lord Krishna, but it didn't happen. Although Hiranyakashipu, putana, Shishupala had only bad intentions towards Lord Krishna, they died in His hands and got salvation. How should we understand this? Does every soul which dies in the hands of God gets salvation or atleast some reformation Swamiji? Swamiji if any mistakes are there in question itself please forgive this beggar satthireddy 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied: Bhiishma is a complicated soul even though he is a good person. The other demons were straight forward souls even though they are bad. Bhishma supported injustice for the sake of the oath taken by him with ignorance and ego. A straight forward villain is better than a curved hero.

13. What is the internal meaning of Ahalya turning into stone?

[Swamiji, what is the internal meaning of Ahalya turning into stone? How could she do penance for such long years being a stone? Swamiji if any mistakes are there in the question itself please forgive this beggar satthireddy 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied: Stone means not an inert item existing in the world. A teacher scolds the ignorant student 'your head is inert like a rock'. This does not mean that the head is really inert like a stone. *Ahalya was alive like a plant having respiration, but having no active brain like a human being.* The soul was undergoing a lot of agony. She committed the sin of doing illegal sex with Indra. She was not cheated by Indra even though Indra came in the form of her husband. She recognized him as Indra and met with him. For this sin, her husband gave the curse. Now, here you may raise a doubt that the miraculous power of Rama is not exhibited since a real stone was not turned to Ahalya. If a person in coma is made normal just by the touch of the foot, is it not a miracle? There is no difference between a real stone and Ahalya because she was in coma state. This can be stated as a miracle in which a stone is converted in to an alive intellectual lady.

14. It is recommended to be a Sthitaprajna, but Radha left her body when she learned of God Krishna's death. How do I understand this?

[Swamiji, everybody advises us to be a Sthitaprajna. But in case of true devotees like Radha, we see extreme emotions and lack of patience when it comes to love for God. She left her body when She heard the demise of God Krishna. How to understand this Swamiji? Swamiji if any mistakes are there in the question itself please forgive this beggar satthireddy 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied: She did not commit suicide. She died due to shock of the news of Krishna's death. Sthitaprajna is balance of mind in worldly life. Emotion in spiritual life is far better than balance of mind in worldly life. Loss of money in educating the son or daughter is better than earning money

through sinful deeds. Such loss is real benefit and such real benefit is the real loss if you find the future results of such deeds.

15. Is it correct to think that I should pass the test of God?

[Ms. Bhanu Samykya asked: Padanamaskaram Swami, Is it correct to think that I should pass the test of God? Should we concentrate only on learning knowledge without any thought about tests of God? - At Your Divine Lotus Feet, Bhanu Samykya.]

Swami replied: You should learn the knowledge without any such ideas that cause emotion and disturbance. If the learning is real and if the knowledge is really digested, passing the tests of God Datta is very easy.

16. What is a dream state made up of?

[Shri Anil asked: Padanamaskaram Swami. Kindly please grace Your answers to the following questions-at Your Lotus Feet-anil. Why is the dream state only made up of inert energy and matter? Even in the dream state, during the dream, we are seeing items which are made of matter like tiger, hill etc. Kindly clarify this.]

Swami replied: The dream state is made of energy and awareness. The hill in the dream is also made of inert energy and not of matter. If the hill in the dream is really made of matter, the dreamer will die! The dream tiger is an item of inert energy and awareness. The dream hill is only an item of inert energy.

17. Does God also experience deep sleep?

[Souls do not exist in deep sleep state. How is it for God, that, even the deep sleep state is real, even though God never goes into deep sleep state? Does God also experience deep sleep?]

Swami replied: The items of the world have become absolutely real due to the God-gifted absolute reality. The horn of a rabbit is unreal and hence, the unreality of that item is absolutely real, which means the horn of the object does not exist really. In deep sleep, awareness is non-existent and hence the non-existence of awareness is absolutely real. God does not have even dream state, not to speak of deep sleep. He is always in awaken state and His awareness is unimaginable awareness due to the absence of inert energy and materialized nervous system in the background.

18. What is the opinion of an advaitin regarding dvaita?

[Padanamaskaram Swami: You have given an excellent clarification on the question by Shri Ajay on Dvaita and Advaita (Divine message date: 26/11/2022). I have a small doubt. I felt that the Advaita philosopher is referring Dvaita as a state in which soul believes God existing separately out side of him (which they treat as ignorance) and Advaita means soul itself is God. He is not referring the state of God before and after creation. My observations may fully wrong. Kindly correct me.]

Swami replied: When soul is God as per the advaita philosophy, the soul is expected to be eternal. Whatever is the state of God before and after creation, the same state exists for the soul as well because God is always the soul only. God or soul gifted His absolute reality to the creation to make it absolutely real as per advaita. Actually, this applies to God only and not to

the soul because soul is a part of the creation only (Paraa Prakruti) as said in the Gita.

19. Did the Gopikas jump into the fire due to an excess of emotion?

[Smt. Priyanka asked: Padanamaskaram Swami, Gopikas arrived at the conclusion that whatever pleases God is punyam and whatever displeases God is paapam. Therefore, they must have known that ending their life doesn't please God. Hence, did they jump into the fire only due to excess emotion?]

Swami replied: Yes. They have jumped due to excess of emotion. In fact, Krishna told them many a time that suicide is a very serious sin. But, their love to Krishna made them blind at that moment.

20. Can we say that Gopikas knowingly accepted the punishment for the sin of committing suicide?

[You said that Gopikas made a choice to even accept hell for the sake of Lord Krishna. So, can we say that Gopikas knowingly accepted the punishment for the sin of committing suicide for ending their lives?]

Swami replied: In the situation of excess of emotion, memory is lost. Their brains did not work at all.

21. Was Lord Krishna displeased when His wives jumped in to the fire?

[Lord Krishna's 8 wives also jumped into the fire at the end. Is it a sin in their case as well? Was Lord Krishna displeased?]

Swami replied: Except Satyabhama, who went to forest for doing penance, all other wives jumped in to fire, which was a serious sin and accordingly they underwent punishments. Punishment is only for the reformation of the soul so that repetition of the sin is prevented. Due to the excess of their emotion, they forgot that Krishna is God who left His gross body without a trace of any pain just like a person changing the dress.

22. Is it sinful for the wife to end her life by sitting on her husband's funeral pyre?

[A lot of Kshatriya women in India used to volunteer to sit on their husband's funeral pyre to protect their honor, etc. Was it sinful for those wives to end their lives as well? At Your divine lotus feet, Priyanka]

Swami replied: Certainly, it is very serious sin because God has given this human life to proceed with spiritual efforts and propagation of His true spiritual knowledge in this world. Suicide is against the will of God.

23. Does the expansion of the universe happen in a horizontal or vertical direction?

[Shri Sathireddy asked: Padanamaskaram Swamiji, Swamiji, it is said that space is expanding. Does it happen in horizontal or vertical direction? In Datta Veda Sutram, it is mentioned that space is also bending. can You please explain this concept? Swamiji if any mistakes are there in the question itself please teach to this beggar sathireddy 🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied: Space is bending along the boundary of an object and this is a scientific concept. Space is expanding only when a soul like an angel tries to touch the boundary of the universe. Then, the universe or space expands so that the soul can never touch the boundary of the universe. If the

boundary is touched, the unimaginable God is touched. Unimaginable God can't be touched even by imagination. The universe is finite for God, which becomes infinite for the soul through expansion.

24. How do I understand that the size of God remains unchanged even though space expands?

[Swamiji, how to understand the concept that the size of Unimaginable God remains unchanged although space is expanding? Swamiji if any mistakes are there in the question itself please teach to this beggar sathireddy 🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied: When you said that God is unimaginable, will He have any size? Size involves spatial dimensions and the unimaginable God is beyond space.

25. Can we say that Unimaginable God exists everywhere in the creation?

[Unimaginable God exists in Human Incarnation or Sadguru but is invisible to us. The same unimaginable God may exist everywhere in the imaginable creation as well and be invisible to us always. Hence, can we say that Unimaginable God exists everywhere in the creation? Swamiji if any mistakes are there in the question itself please teach to this beggar sathireddy 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied: Unimaginable God is beyond space or universe and this means that unimaginable God is not in the creation. He is around the creation (*Sarvamāvṛtya tiṣṭhati* – Gita). Unimaginable God entered the ultimate divine space (Parama Vyoma) and merged with the first energetic form to become Lord Datta and this is the permanent residential address of the unimaginable God or Parabrahman. Lord Datta enters the universe and merges with a selected human form to become human incarnation to preach true spiritual knowledge to humanity. Therefore, unimaginable God is not present in the universe except in the contemporary human incarnation.

26. Why am I getting the dreams showing future incidents?

[Swamiji, I am able to see some future incidents in my dreams by Your divine grace. But I am unable to change it because i recollect the dream only after it happens in reality. Why i am getting those dreams Swamiji? Swamiji if any mistakes are there in the question itself please teach to this beggar sathireddy 🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied: You don't care much about these points. Sometimes, the ideas of previous births also come in the dream in the form of some incidents. If these incidents are becoming true in this physical world, it indicates God's grace.

27. What is the meaning of identification of Human Incarnation of God?

[Swamiji, many converted Christians say that they have found true God in God Jesus only even without giving a trial of reading their previous religious scriptures. What is the true meaning of identification of the Human Incarnation of God? Swamiji if any mistakes are there in the question itself please teach to this beggar sathireddy 🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied: Jesus was also a human incarnation of God. God comes as incarnation in every human generation. Identifying the contemporary human incarnation is a wise thing of spiritual intellectuals.

28. How can the soul see God as female when God is the supreme male?

[Sage Bilhana was advised to love God Krishna in place of his girlfriend. He successfully replaced God Krishna in place of his girlfriend and became a great devotee. But how can soul see God as female when God is the supreme male? Swamiji if any mistakes are there in the question itself please teach to this beggar satthireddy 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied: Replacing the girlfriend by Krishna does not mean the homosexual affair. Love need not be always connected to sex only. Draupadi as sister of Krishna defeated all the wives and darlings of Krishna by her sacrifice in which all the sweet devotees got defeated. Love actually means service and sacrifice. You take the case of Radha. Even though she was married to Ayanaghosha, she remained chaste in the love of Krishna. She sacrificed her parents and relatives in this affair before the love to Krishna. This sacrifice is the love and love does not mean her sexual affairs with Krishna. Sex is only one way of the expression of love whereas several other ways of sacrifice also exist as expressions of love. When Krishna's finger was cut and was severely bleeding, His sister Draupadi tore her new sari to use the torn piece of sari as bandage for the finger immediately. All the sweet darlings and wives, who were having sex with Krishna could not tear their saris just for a small piece of cloth to be used for their darling Krishna! Sacrifice of Draupadi surpassed the love of all the sex-mates of Krishna. Love is a big tree with several branches and one branch is the way of sex.

29. Did Lord Dattaatreya have a Sadguru?

[Swamiji, did Lord Dattaatreya (who was born to Sage Atri and Anasuya) have a Sadguru for Himself? Swamiji if any mistakes are there in the question itself please teach to this beggar satthireddy 🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied: Is there a planet to cause shining for the sun?

30. Does the Unimaginable God exist even if multiverse exist?

[Swamiji, You have kindly revealed to us that the Unimaginable God exists beyond the border of this Universe (creation). But there can be a possibility of a multiverse also. Does Unimaginable God still exist in that case as well ? Swamiji if any mistakes are there in the question itself please teach to this beggar satthireddy 🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied: Beyond the boundary of the Multiverse or multi-space, only the unimaginable God exists.

31. Who are our relatives?

[A question by Smt. Lakshmi Lavanya K]

Swami replied: All your co-devotees helping your spiritual progress are your real relatives. Only they accompany you in future births as per the will of God to develop your spiritual progress. All others are only money lenders. You were a money lender to your parents and you are born to them to get the loan cleared. Your life partner and your issues are money lenders to you and came to clear your loan to them. After this birth, the loans are

cleared and he will go as free bird to the next birth. Only your co-devotees accompany you and hence, only they are your real relatives.

32. How should the co-devotees be connected?

Swami replied: You should love them to the maximum and be united with them.

33. How are the devotees, who don't have regular contact with You, be connected?

[One type of devotees are in regular contact with You and are stable minded. Others do not have such chance. How can these two types be connected?]

Swami replied: Any devoted soul who comes in to your contact, you shall have true friendship with such soul and no difference shall be shown based on contacts.

34. A devotee has a specific bond with God. Can another devotee interfere with it?

Swami replied: Where is the question of interference? All shall be united as a group helping each other in the spiritual progress neglecting the worldly matters.

35. When there is no chance to share knowledge, how can such devotees be connected?

Swami replied: When there is no sharing of knowledge, how can such soul be called as a devotee?

36. Some devotees are helping me a lot and I can be free with them. Is it wrong to give preference to them?

Swami replied: Any devotee helps you only by the will of God. You must give preference to God alone.

37. When You share Your knowledge with me, shall I grasp for myself or shall I grasp for others also?

Swami replied: You should grasp in both ways. God is very much pleased if you help other devotees of low level.

38. How do I keep my mind in balance?

[Sometimes, I feel to be with You alone without the presence of this world. Then, I get a lot of pain. How shall I balance my mind?]

Swami replied: Emotion and balance of mind do not travel in the same way, side by side. All these are theoretical dances, which fail before the divine dance of practical devotion, which is like Lord Shiva.

39. Can You please explain the meaning of the three Vedic accents?

[Smt. Priyanka asked: Padanamaskaram Swami, In the bhajan 'Shri Datta Brahma Gayatri', there is a verse - "sṛṣṭi kramavada puruṣasūktam trisvarabaddham pāvanārtham |"]

In the translation it said that sages recite with the three holy Vedic accents, the Vedic Purusha Suktam, which reveals the process of creation. Can You please explain what the three Vedic accents mean? At Your divine lotus feet, Priyanka]

Swami replied: The Vedic accents are just musical modes to increase the pleasantness in the recitation. Udatta is downward sound. Anudatta means upward sound. Svarita means the upwards long stretched sound.

40. Is it proper to have defects while serving You?

[Srivatsa Datta asked: While doing practical service to You, I feel that there are some defects in my ideas. Is it proper Swami?]

Swami replied: Jnana yoga is studying the true spiritual knowledge. This is the causal step. The effect or the product of this cause is either aspiration based-devotion, a Brass chain or aspiration free-devotion, a golden chain. Hence, basing on the material of the chain, we can decide whether the cause is true spiritual knowledge (Gold) or false spiritual knowledge (Brass). The former devotion means Brass since there is aspiration for some fruit in return from God. The latter devotion means Gold since there is no aspiration for any fruit in return from God. In the initial stage, the earning or learning is weak and hence, Brass ornaments or the former type of devotion is inevitable because every beginning is surrounded by defects just like an ignited fire is covered by smoke in the early stage. As the earning or learning becomes stronger and stronger, Golden ornaments or the latter type of devotion results just like the ignited fire in advanced stage shines with bright flames without smoke.

Chapter 23

NEW DATTA JAYANTI MESSAGE

December 06, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,

If you want to go to Mumbai from Hyderabad through a train, there are three items (Triputi) here: 1) yourself, staying in Hyderabad, 2) Mumbai city, which is separate from Hyderabad and 3) the train starting from Hyderabad and reaching Mumbai. The details of these three items give the total picture of true spiritual knowledge.

- 1) You are not the Mumbai city and your Hyderabad is also not the Mumbai city. If you are Mumbai city or if you are in Mumbai city, there is no meaning in traveling to Mumbai city. Similarly, you are not God and you are not with God. Only then, do you make efforts to reach God. These spiritual efforts together are called sadhana and the person doing these spiritual efforts is called as sadhaka.
- 2) God is not the soul (yourself) just like Mumbai is not yourself. God is not with you just like you are not already in Mumbai city. God is unimaginable as told in the three Holy Scriptures of Hinduism. Upanishads (*yato vāco...*, *yo buddheḥ...*, *naiṣā tarkeṇa...*, *yasyāmatam...* etc.) say that God is beyond words, mind, intelligence, logic and even imagination. Brahma Sutras (*Janmādyasya...*) say that God is the creator, maintainer and destroyer of this entire creation. Such description of God is only an associated characteristic and not an inherent characteristic. The former characteristic (Tatastha Lakshanam) describes associated or related characteristics only. If somebody asks which is Rama's cow, somebody may say that the cow, which is on the bank of the water tank is Rama's cow. Standing on the bank of the water tank is only the description of associated characteristic, which is the bank of the water tank. If somebody says that the cow with red colour is Rama's cow, the red colour is an inseparable inherent characteristic of the cow, which is called inherent characteristic or Svaruupa lakshanam. The identity of the cow cannot be given by the associated characteristic because by the time the searching person reaches the bank of the water tank, the cow might have gone to some field. Similarly, by describing God as the creator of this world, no inherent characteristic of God is given with the help of which only, we can identify God. The problem here is that God is

unimaginable and for that reason alone, an inherent characteristic could not be given. Even in the Gita, God is said to be creator, maintainer and destroyer of this world and that God is only one (*Ahaṃ sarvasya jagataḥ..., mayi sarvamidam..., Mattaḥ parataram...* - Gita). In the Gita also, it is clearly told that nobody knows God (*Mām tu Veda...*). However, the Gita says that God takes human form as medium and human devotees insult God due to repulsion between common human media resulting in ego and jealousy (*Avajānanti...*). This human incarnation performs miracles, which are unimaginable events by which we have to infer that the unimaginable God exists in a selected human being to become human incarnation. God Datta enters this human medium and since unimaginable God is present in God Datta, the human incarnation also contains unimaginable God existing in God Datta. By this, the miracles of the human incarnation are explained. The concept of unimaginable God shall be taken in the beginning so that no religion can lay claim on the unimaginable God for only that religion and due to this, universal spirituality of all the world-religions can be achieved through unity.

God Datta also enters some selected energetic beings to form other energetic incarnations like Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva etc. God Datta is having the three faces of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva performing the duties of creation, maintenance and destruction of the world respectively. This satisfies one definition of the Veda that God performs all these three divine duties (*yato vā imāni...*). Another definition of God is that God is only one (*ekamevā...*) and God Datta is only one personality. This proves that God Datta is the first energetic incarnation of unimaginable God or Parabrahman and is the ultimate understood original God. The energetic incarnations are relevant to the upper energetic worlds and the human incarnations are relevant to the humanity of this earth.

Either God Datta or any energetic incarnation can be seen only by doing very long penance that consumes the whole lifetime of the human being and in a such case, there is no time for doing any spiritual effort. The main purpose of the human incarnation is to save all this wastage of huge time so that all of the lifetime can be used for spiritual efforts. Hence, the journey towards the ultimate goal is only to recognise the contemporary human incarnation that gives the right direction for our human spiritual efforts and for this, no physical journey is required. Gita says that one in millions alone can identify the human incarnation (*kaścinmām...*) and the reason for this extreme difficulty in identification is ego and jealousy as told above.

3) The path to the goal now means both identification of contemporary human incarnation and the process of pleasing God in human form. The energetic incarnations and past human incarnations are worshipped by the devotees as statues and photos. These are inert items and are helpful in developing theoretical devotion in the beginning stage, but can't be useful in getting doubts clarified in spiritual knowledge. Also, apart from this, the service and sacrifice done by the devotee to God can be enjoyed by God to get perfect satisfaction in the case of sincere true devotees. Otherwise, the materials wasted in worshipping the statues can't come under the devotional service and sacrifice done for God. However, in the initial stage, the human incarnation can't be recognised due to repulsion between common human media and hence, worship of statues can be done without wasting precious food materials to increase the theoretical devotion of devotees in the initial stage.

The first stage is intellectual learning of the true spiritual knowledge (Jnaana Yoga) from the Sadguru, who is the human form of God Datta. This gives all the excellent details of the wonderful divine personality of God to develop attraction (Bhakti Yoga) to God and such mental attraction is the theoretical devotion in the second stage. The final third stage is the practical devotion (Karma Yoga) that consists of service or sacrifice of physical energy (Karma Samnyaasa) and sacrifice of matter or money especially fruit of hard work (Karma Phalatyaaga). The Veda said simply about the sacrifice of money, but, the Gita tells about the sacrifice of hard earned money. The reason is that anybody is more attached to one's hard earned money than to ancestral wealth. The whole point is that the bond with God competes with the strongest worldly bond so that the bond with God is to be proved to be the strongest. Practical devotion is a proof of theoretical devotion. God is not in need of your service and sacrifice and both these are to be understood as the need on the side of a devotee so that true love can be proved practically. Knowledge is water, theoretical devotion is manure and practical devotion is the mango plant for which alone the fruit will appear. Rukmini heard about the details of Krishna from Narada and developed theoretical devotion to Krishna. Finally, she wrote a love letter to Krishna through a priest (Karma Samnyaasa) after gifting him with her golden chain (Karma Phalatyaaga). She did not aspire for any benefit from Krishna and pressed His feet after marriage throughout her life as the incarnation of Mahalakshmi. This shows that in your service and sacrifice, no selfish aspiration must exist. After hearing the details of Mumbai (Jnaana Yoga), you are attracted to see the city (Bhakti Yoga), you walk up to the railway station (Karma Samnyaasa) and purchase the ticket to Mumbai (Karma Phalatyaaga) so that all the spiritual

efforts of the devotee come to a full stop here as said in the Gita (*Tyāgāt śāntih...*).

Today, there is a lot of theoretical devotion, a lot of service and a lot of sacrifice in the worships of God. But, the correct angle of the worships is missing, which can be known from the true spiritual knowledge or Jnana Yoga preached by the Sadguru only. The wrong angle is that the devotees are doing all the above said types of worship only for selfish worldly benefits only and not for the true love that is generated from the complete study of the details of the divine personality of God. In this correct angle, there will be no aspiration for any fruit in return from God. All types of practical devotion take place only for the satisfaction of true love towards God. God also tests the true love of the devotee expressed through practical devotion not for His need at all. A grandfather bought and brought a biscuit packet, gave to his daughter-in-law secretly asking her to maintain secrecy of the purchaser of the packet. A biscuit is given to the grandson by his mother and the grandfather begs his grandson for a bit of biscuit to test the true love of the grandson. The secrecy of the purchaser of the packet is maintained because the grandfather does not want to get a bit of biscuit based on gratitude. Only the true love of the grandson on the grandfather is tested here. Similarly, God is the giver of all the wealth to us in a secret way so that we think that the wealth is our wealth and God comes as beggar to test our true love. From the beginning of the creation, God is in the role of beggar and is called as Aadi Bhikshu or beggar from the beginning.

Our false love to God is covered by the apparent true love like the tiger covered by the leather of a goat or like a pot of poison covered by a layer of milk on the surface. This love to God can be classified as four types:-

- 1) **Prostitute devotion or Veshyaa Bhakti:-** A prostitute talks very cleverly and sings devotional songs on the customers to steal the money present in their pockets. Similarly, this type of devotee is a scholar of spiritual knowledge and an expert in singing devotional songs so that the devotee aspires for practical boons from God by exchanging his/her theoretical devotion and this is the worst type of devotion.
- 2) **Business devotion or Vaishya Bhakti:-** This is some what better than the above because here the devotee wants to exchange his practical devotion to get practical boons from God like a business man selling an item for its rate.

Both these types belong to false devotion only because aspiration for fruit in return exists in the above two types.

- 3) **Issue devotion or Apatya Bhakti:-** The parents do service and sacrifice to their issues without aspiring for anything from them in return. Even if

they become ungrateful, the parents may scold them but will not change their will written for them. This is true love and a devotee is expected to do service and sacrifice to God without aspiring for any fruit in return from God. Even if God gives difficulties (for testing), their true love towards God should not change.

4) Fan devotion or Unmaada Bhakti:- A fan of a cinema hero or a politician spends from his pocket in all functions without aspiring for anything from his hero. When his hero dies, the fan commits suicide! This is extreme devotion as in the case of the Gopikas. However, suicide is not relished by God since it is considered as a serious sin.

The most important points in this phase of path towards God are:-

- i) Contemporary Human Incarnation of God is to be identified to save the wastage of lifetime, which can be fully used for spiritual efforts.
- ii) Worshipping God through service and sacrifice without aspiring for any fruit in return from God since the worship is based only on true love towards God.
- iii) Practical devotion done to God must be understood from the angle of the devotee and not from the angle of any need of God. Householders are expected to do both service and sacrifice whereas saints can do only service. Gita gives lot of importance to sacrifice since the Gita says that sacrifice of fruit of hard work is the ultimate step. This can be scientifically also understood because lot of energy is equal to a very small amount of matter ($E=mc^2$) so that the sacrifice of small matter is far greater than the sacrifice of a lot of energy through service. However, this does not apply in the case of saints because there is no chance of sacrifice in their case. In sacrifice, one shall not misunderstand that God has gone in to the hands of rich devotees because the magnitude of the donated amount is not at all considered and only the percentage of it in the total possessed wealth is considered by God. A beggar donating one coin is doing 100% sacrifice and a rich person donating 1000 coins is doing 0.001% of sacrifice only. Saktuprastha donating little food and Sudama donating just two handful of grains of parched rice won the grace of God. Sudama stole two handful of grains of Bengal gram and got immense poverty (since he stole the share of Krishna also) and got immense wealth from the same Krishna for donating the same two handful grains of parched rice!

Chapter 24

December 06, 2022 2nd Message**O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,****1. Why are Brahma Sūtrās referred as Nyāya Prasthāna?**

[Shri Ganesh asked: Padanamskaram Swamiji, Why are the Brahma Sūtrās known as Nyāya Prasthāna? At Your divine feet, Ganesh V]

Swami replied: The various statements in the Upanishads appear to be contradicting each other. Through the Brahma Sutras, Sage Vyasa gave the logical analysis to remove these apparent contradictions and correlate them. Nyaya is another word for logic. Hence, the Brahma Sutras are known as Nyaya Prasthana.

2. Why are the Vedas, Bhagavad Gita, and Brahma Sutras important to prove the existence of God?

[Padanamskaram Swamiji, Why are the Vedas, Bhagavad Gita and Brahma Sutras important for theists to prove the existence of God? Aren't genuine miracles enough? At Your divine feet, Ganesh V]

Swami replied: There should be some theoretical background with logical analysis as we find both theory and experiments in science, engineering and medicine etc. These three Prasthanas are the text books of the theoretical side.

3. Why can't the svarūpa lakṣaṇam and taṭastha lakṣaṇam be the same?

[Padanamskaram Swamiji, Why can't the svarūpa lakṣaṇam be the same as taṭastha lakṣaṇam? At Your divine feet, Ganesh V]

Swami replied: Sometimes, the associated characteristic (Tatastha Lakshanam) can act as inherent characteristic (Svaruupa Lakshanam), but, it can't become exactly inherent characteristic. A yellow thread on the neck of a married lady is an associated characteristic by itself since it can be separated from her at any time. But, she will never remove that and thus, the associated characteristic (yellow thread) is acting like the inherent characteristic for a married lady. Similarly, the Veda says that God is excellent spiritual knowledge and here actually, this should be taken that God is the embodiment of excellent spiritual knowledge. When a quality is in excess in a person, that person is told as that quality (*Guṇātīśaye guṇini guṇa vyapadeśah*).

God is associated with a human medium while becoming the human incarnation to preach excellent spiritual knowledge to humanity. In this way also, the associated characteristic (excellent spiritual knowledge) can act as inherent characteristic since such knowledge is never separated from God. In

this way, the Vedic statement that God is excellent spiritual knowledge (*Prajñānam Brahma*) can be explained in both ways:-

1) Treating the possessor of a quality as the quality itself if the quality is in excess.

2) The associated characteristic can act as inherent characteristic when it is not separated from its possessor.

4. What is the inner meaning of ‘why to fast when the bridegroom is with you’?

[Shri P. Surya asked: In the Bible, it is said that why to fast when the bridegroom is with you. What is the inner meaning here?]

Swami replied: In any group of items, the important item denotes God as we see in Bhagavad Gita that God tells He is the Moon in the stars etc. Similarly, in a marriage function, the important item is the bridegroom. Hence, the word bridegroom here denotes God. When God is with you, why should you fast? Fasting is done in grief when the dearest person is far away. Now, here, when God in human form (Jesus) is with you, you shall be happy to eat the feast that indicates excess of happiness. This is the inner meaning.

Chapter 25

December 07, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**1. Can You compare the Quran and the Bhagavad Gita?**

[Shri Anil asked: Can You compare Quran and the Bhagavad Gita in a debate about religious scriptures (Question from a discussion forum)?]

Swami replied: The difference between Quran and the Bhagavad Gita is the difference between the receivers of spiritual knowledge present in different regions. The similarity in both is about God, heaven for rewarding merits and hell for punishing sins. The similarity is the basis of all religions in this world. The difference is the visible apparent phase in all religions of this world. The merit of Islam is the sincerity and emotional devotion. The merit of Hinduism is the logical analysis of spiritual knowledge. These merits are due to the corresponding human tendencies present in different regions.

2. What is the equivalent of the Hanuman-Subrahmanya mantra given to us?

[Swami You have given Hanuman-Subrahmanya mantra for us. For a Muslim or a Christian who do not believe in such divine forms, what will be equivalent mantra? with regards, anil]

Swami replied: You can pray to God of your religion. The external appearance of any God is like the external electrical bulb and the internal single current is the unimaginable God that generates the miraculous light.

Chapter 26 CORRELATION OF VEDIC STATEMENTS

For Intellectuals Only

December 08, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,

(This discussion took place in the morning of 07.12.2022, Shri Datta Jayanti)

[Shri J.S.R. Prasad asked:- Sashtanga Pranams Swami. May I request You to please correlate the following Vedic statements –

- A. Asdvā idamagra āsīt tato vai sadajāyata
- B. Brahma vā idamagra āsīt, tadātmānamavet, Ahaṃ Brahmāsmīti (Bṛhadāraṇyakopaniṣad)
- C. Sadeva Saumyedadagra āsīt (Taittirīyopaniṣad)
- D. Anādimat Paraṃ Brahma na sattān nāsaducyate (Gītā 13.13). --At Your divine holy lotus feet]

Swami replied:- There are two contexts (Prakaraṇams):-

- i) Discussion regarding the existence of creation and
- ii) Discussion about the existence of God.
- iii) When the clue of the specific context is not available, we shall try to apply the Vedic statements to both cases (world and God).

The word '*agre*' means beginning. Beginning may mean 1. Before planning in the mind or 2. Before materializing the mental plan.

I) Context of the existence of creation:

A) **Asadvā idamagra āsīt...** - here the word '*idam*' can mean creation. In the beginning, before the creation of mental plan by God, this world existed as non-existent (*asat*), which is absolute non-reality.

Tato vai sadajāyata:- Then, a mental plan of the world was formed in God and the non-existent world became existent. Even though, mental plan is subtle and not gross, still, the subtle plan also had gifted absolute reality of God and hence, world in this state was subtle-absolute reality.

C) **Sadeva Saumyedadagra āsīt:-** Here, the word '*agre*' stands as the stage before the transformation of the subtle mental plan into gross physical world. This means that the mental plan of the world is not absolute non-reality because it is subtle and it is subtle absolute reality.

'B' and 'D' belong to the existence of God and not to the existence of the world.

II) Context of existence of God:

B) **Brahma vā idamagra āsīt, tadātmānamavet, Ahaṃ Brahmāsmīti:-** This is purely about God only. This means that the

unimaginable God existed even before the mental plan of the world in the mind of God. Mind means awareness and God has awareness due to omnipotence and not because God has relative awareness that is born from inert energy and a materialized nervous system. Hence, the awareness of God before the mental plan of creation is unimaginable (unimaginable awareness). Unimaginable awareness can have unimaginable mind, unimaginable intelligence, unimaginable memory and unimaginable basic ego called ‘the feeling of I’. The unimaginable God got the feeling of ‘I’ and knew the meaning of such ‘I’. The unimaginable God thought “*I am the unimaginable God.*”

D) Anādimat Paraṃ Brahma na sattān nāsaducyate:- ‘Param Brahma’ means ‘Parabrahman’ or ‘unimaginable God’. This God having absolute reality is neither existent (*na sat*) nor non-existent (*nāsat*). 1) He is not existent (asat) means that He is not having relative reality since He is absolutely real. Here, reality (sat) may be absolute (paramārtha) or relative (vyavahāra). 2) He is not non-existent (*nāsat*) means that He is never absolutely non-existent (atyanta abhāva).

III) Existence of both cases (world and God):

‘A’ and ‘C’ are only to be discussed in the context of both cases since ‘B’ and ‘D’ are clearly in the context of God only. ‘A’ and ‘C’ in the context of world are already discussed in (I). Now, we shall discuss ‘A’ and ‘C’ in the context of God.

A) Asdvā idamagra āsīt tato vai sadajāyata:- The absolute God is already said to be asat or non-existent in the sense that relative existence (sat) is not present in the absolute God. Even before the mental plan of the world in God, absolute God indicated by the word asat as said above, is existing. Later on, the subtle mental plan having gifted absolute reality is born in the mind of God and this is said by ‘*Tato vai sadajāyata*’, which means that later on, the mental plan having absolute reality (sat) is born.

C) Sadeva Saumydamagra āsīt:- The word ‘*agre*’ means beginning, which means before the expression of the gross physical world from the subtle mental plan. In such beginning state (state of mental plan), the world existing as subtle mental plan is also having gifted absolute reality (sat).

In ‘A’ and ‘C’ the word ‘*idam*’ (this) can stand for God (Brahman) or world (Jagat) because no adjective for the word ‘this’ is specified. In ‘B’ and ‘D’, God is specified. In ‘B’ also, the word ‘*idam*’ is used, but, it stands as an adjective for the word Brahman. In ‘D’, the word ‘*idam*’ is not used and directly the word ‘Parabrahman’ is used (Paraṃ Brahma).

Chapter 27

December 11, 2022 Evening

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**1. What is the significance of the belt tied around Lord Dattatreya's waist?**

[Smt. Priyanka asked: Padanamaskaram Swami, Can You please explain the significance of the grass belt tied around Lord Dattatreya's waist? At Your divine lotus feet, Priyanka]

Swami replied:- It is tied just as the belt that is tied around the pants to avoid the slip down of the pants. Don't be crazy to find internal meaning for everything. The internal meaning here is only prevention of slip of the cloth tied around the waist.

2. What are the steps and suggestions for becoming Your true devotee?

[Ms. Bhanu Samykya asked: Padanamaskaram Swami, You have said that Maaya exists between a soul and God and it drags the soul away from God. But a soul with true devotion can achieve God crossing that maya. What are the steps and suggestions to become Your true devotee? - At Your Divine Lotus Feet, Bhanu Samykya.]

Swami replied:- First you must follow Pravrutti and settle in life so that you will develop worldly bonds. If you are detached from those strong worldly bonds and put your mind on God, you have achieved God. If you avoid worldly bonds and get attached to God, what is the greatness there? If you are tied and then liberated, there is greatness. Don't imitate the already liberated souls, who have a lot of fixed deposits from previous births.

3. Who is the true human being?

[Smt. lakshmi lavanya K asked: Namaste Swami, Explain the meaning of this quote from Satya Sai baba website "God is searching for the true human being". Who is the true human being?]

Swami replied:- The true human being is he/she having true love on God, who proves theoretical devotion (Bhakti) through practical devotion (Karma Yoga).

4. What is the difference between the highest and climax devotion. Please explain with an example.

Swami replied:- Highest devotion is issue devotion. Climax devotion is fan devotion.

5. Please explain the qualities of a sincere devotee.

Swami replied:- A sincere devotee is characterised by practical devotion or Karma Yoga.

6. How do I get Your association every second?

[Smt. lakshmi lavanya K asked: Namaste Swami, I have been longing to see God, talk with God and touch the God. Now after returning back home, I feel very miserable as if I have left the diamond. How do I get Your association every second?]

Swami replied:- God in original state is unimaginable. He got the energetic or human body as external medium just for the sake of helping meditation since the unimaginable form gives a lot of tension in meditation. The external medium is just to help the concentration on God. Mere nearness is not the path. Serving God with practical devotion is the real path. Nearness develops negligence and staying far alone develops attachment and concentration. Nearness is the path to lose God. Staying far increases devotion. Gopikas always stayed far away from Krishna to protect the strength of their devotion and later on reached Krishna in Goloka and then nearness was not a negative factor because they had reached such a climax level that even nearness did not give negligence.

7. When can I be emotional, and when can I not be emotional?

[Namaste Swami, You say that emotions and tensions will destroy intellect and cause disturbance while learning Spiritual Knowledge. My ambition to become Your permanent servant is the basis for me to learn knowledge from You. Please enlighten me when emotions should exist and when emotions should not exist.]

Swami replied:- While doing service, emotion is a hindrance. When Hanuman went to search Sita and for a long time, Sita was not seen, He became emotional and thought of committing suicide as we find in Sundara Kanda. You are telling about the pre-ground before doing service. Some people stay permanently in the pre-ground only and will never enter practical service.

8. Why are we always having health issues?

[Arati Satavekar asked: Namaskar Swamiji, Why are we always having health issues, why do humans suffer from one or the other disease? Someone told me it is because of karma. Then because of karma, people are born with disability?? Bcz of that, they went to multiple surgeries?? Due to karma, they have to survive on medicine??? Because of karma, society will criticise them. Because of karma, do they get denied in getting admission in school??]

Swami replied:- You worship God Subrahmanya, your problems of health will be solved. Just recite the name of God Subrahmanya.

Chapter 28

DIVINE SATSANGA ON DATTA JAYANTI DAY

December 12, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,

[An online spiritual discussion was conducted on Datta Jayanti Day i.e., December 07, 2021, in which several devotees participated. The questions of devotees answered by Swāmi are given below.]

1. How can sacrifice be done with both love and fear simultaneously?

[Shri Durgaprasad asked: Paadanamaskaaram Swami, The Ishavasya Upanishad says that the entire wealth is the property of the Lord and one should return back the extra money to the Lord with fear. You said that one should sacrifice with love. Love and fear cannot go together. How to reconcile these two statements on sacrifice to God?]

Swami replied:- Veda says that before doing charity, one must have the knowledge (Samvit), which is the knowledge of discrimination of who is deserving and who is undeserving to receive our donation (*Samvidā deyam*—Veda). The Veda says two points regarding the deservingness of a receiver:

- 1) He/she must be thorough with the knowledge of the Veda i.e., Brahmajnaanam.
- 2) He/she should not aspire for money from anybody in this world (*Śrotriyasyā'kāmahatasya...—Veda*).

Lord Krishna did charity only once in His entire lifetime and it was the highest charity done by anybody in this creation. That highest charity was made to Sudaama because he was deserving. Sudaama knows Brahmajnaanam which means identification of Brahman (*Kaścinmāṃ vetti - Gita*). How do you identify the unimaginable Brahman? We can identify Brahman only when Brahman comes as human incarnation in this world (*Avajānanti māṃ mūḍhā mānuṣīṃ tanum āśritam...—Gītā*). Sudaama recognized Krishna as the contemporary human incarnation of God and this means that Sudaama had Brahmajnaanam which is the first quality of a deserving receiver. Sudaama and his family were suffering from severe poverty but he never aspired for anything from God. He came to Dwaraka and stayed in the palace of Krishna for four to five days but he never asked for anything from Krishna. Krishna washed his feet with His tears as He saw a thorn struck in his foot. But when Sudaama started to return back to his home, Krishna did not even give a pair of chappals (footwear) to him. While Sudaama was walking back home with bare foot, Lord Krishna being omniscient was observing the mind of Sudaama whether he was aspiring for

anything from Krishna on his way back home. Any ordinary devotee would scold Krishna for His actions but Sudaama did not get a single negative thought about Krishna and he was chanting the holy name of Krishna identifying Him as the contemporary human incarnation of God. This means that Sudaama also has the second qualification of deservingness of a receiver. Therefore, Krishna created a big palace to Sudaama replacing his house. Had Sudaama aspired for anything from anybody until he reached home, the palace would have disappeared and his old hut would have remained instead.

Generally, we do charity in hurry while we are at holy places like Kashi and during holy times like Shivaratri. But, we should not consider the place or time while doing charity and consider only the deservingness of the receiver. When Krishna donated to Sudaama, that place was not Kashi and that day was not Shivaratri. An undeserving receiver may have addictions like drinking and smoking, etc due to which he/she will utilize your charity to do sins. Indirectly, you are purchasing sin through your charity to an undeserving receiver. Charity is a double-edged sword. If you don't find a deserving receiver right now, do not be in hurry to donate. Store it in a box and give the entire box to the deserving receiver after you find a deserving devotee.

After getting this knowledge of real deservingness, the donor will love the deserving receiver and does charity because donation to deserving devotee is merit leading to heaven. The donor will fear to do charity for the undeserving devotee because the donation to such receiver leads the donor to hell. Hence, in the same subject of charity, both love and fear are involved and they need not go hand in hand at the same time. Love and fear change as per the deservingness of the receiver. In the case of deserving receiver, sometimes, the receiver may be God in human form and in such case, you must donate with shyness because God's hand is below your hand. King Bali felt ashamed for this point while donating three square feet of land to Vaamana, the human incarnation of God. The Veda says "*Samvidā deyam (knowledge), Hriyā deyam (shyness) and bhiyā deyam (fear)*". Shyness belongs to a deserving receiver especially when the deserving receiver is God. If the deserving receiver is a good devoted human being, love comes on the receiver. In the case of God also, love appears along with shyness. The word love is hidden in the word shyness.

2. Is the creation evolving or is it just a pre-shot movie watched by God?

[Is the creation evolving or is it just a pre-shot movie watched by the producer of the movie as seen in the world? If there is a free will to souls, definitely, the creation must be evolving. Kindly remove my confusion. At Your lotus feet, -Durgaprasad]

Swami replied:- Generally, people make movies for the sake of the public. If you take the simile of movie to compare this creation, you should remember that all the public exists inside the movie only and God alone is the audience. The world or movie is created for the entertainment of God (*Ekākī na ramate...*- Veda). God is not only the producer and director of the movie, but also, He enters this movie as Hero becoming the incarnation like Lord Krishna, Lord Jesus, Lord Mohammad, etc.

It appears as if the actors (souls) themselves are leading the story of the movie due to the free will given to them by God. But here, freedom is given but not full freedom. There is no absolute free will for the souls because God gave little free will (freedom) to souls, which is confined to the area within specific boundaries of the freedom. The evolution process involves total freedom as spoken by science not involving the existence of God. Absence of full freedom to souls means presence of a large extent of control by God. The soul is not given freedom to control even its organs like heart or kidneys or lungs, etc. *To avoid the situation of souls becoming robots in the hands of God, God has given a little freedom to souls.* The soul can move its hands and legs as long as God is not interfering. The evolution supported by science also does not show total freedom because partial evolution is only observed. Shri Phani mentioned “*Abadhnan puruṣam paśum*”, which means that the power of God is used by the soul as the energy of work done by the soul. God is like the horse carrying the rider to any desired place based on the direction of the rider. The energy of work is inert and the horse without any freedom can be treated as inert energy only. God is not interfering in the little freedom of the soul and can be compared to the horse (inert energy) or Pashu as told in the Veda. The horse or God is not linked to the good or bad fruits of the direction of the rider or soul and only the soul has to enjoy the fruits.

3. Does Lord Datta exist with three heads all the time, or is it just a symbolic representation?

[Shri Divakar Rao asked: Paadnamaskaram Swami, Does Lord Datta exist with 3 heads all the time or is it just a symbolic representation for Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva as we see in images? Thank you, Swami. Regards, Your Servant, Divakara Rao.]

Swami replied:- If you take God Datta as a single person with single head doing all the three duties, you can imagine that the single head is doing all the three activities. Actually, when God Datta’s energetic body was created by Parabrahman (unimaginable God), it was with single head and two hands. The single head was having the three potencies of creation, maintenance and dissolution of the world. Later on, God Datta created the energetic bodies of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva and merged with them separately to make them God Brahma, God Vishnu and God Shiva. God

Brahma created the creation and this means that God Datta present in God Brahma created the creation. After this, God Vishnu started ruling the world. After this, God Shiva dissolved the world (*Dissolution means transferring the world in gross state to subtle state and subtle state means the plan existing in mind. This is done by not withdrawing the gifted absolute reality but by decreasing the concentration of gross state.*). Then, God Brahma is again creating the world (*World is brought from the stage of mental plan to the stage of physical reality by not withdrawing the gifted absolute reality of the world but by increasing the concentration of the mental plan.*). Like this, the cycle gets repeated again and again, which is just like putting the cinema show on the screen and at the end, storing the film reel for the next show. During the first cycle, after the creation, souls got confused by the Veda, which tells that God is one doing all these three activities whereas the sages are seeing three forms of God such as Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva separately. To remove this confusion, God Datta appeared with three faces and six hands showing the single personality of God doing the three duties. God Datta wanted to show this concept very clearly and hence, the three heads were the heads of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva famous in doing these three activities. Since then, God Datta's energetic form remained with those three heads and six hands forever so that this concept is very clear permanently. Hence, it is actually the representation of the concept only. When God Datta comes as human incarnation, He always comes with single head and two hands in accordance with the nature of humanity. The human incarnation must be understood as three headed God since the three heads are only the personifications of this concept. The human incarnation sometimes appears as energetic incarnation having three heads and six hands.

4. How can 'Love all. Serve all.' be applied to the people who harmed me?

[Smt. Anita Renkuntla asked: PaadaNamaskaaram Swamiji, First of all, Thank You Swamiji for the grace You are showing upon me in both happiness and sufferings and do forgive me for my mistakes. I have a few questions to clear from You. Do enlighten me.

AMMA and Satya Sai Baba say to love all and serve all. By reading this itself, we get positive vibes. But in our daily lives, we come across some people or relatives who have already done harm or humiliation which pricks us a lot. It is hard to develop a good corner for them. How should the above quotation be applied?]

Swami replied:- When God comes in human form to the earth, even devotees insult God (*Avajānanti Mām... Gita*) due to ego-based jealousy based on repulsion between common human media. In order to remove the anger and hatred towards the contemporary human incarnation, elders have introduced a training program of loving and serving humanity that removes hatred towards co-human beings so that at least the minimum positive attitude is developed towards the contemporary human incarnation. The

purpose of the program is forgotten and people believed that the program itself is real and started serving humanity thinking that every human being is God (*Mānavasevaiva Mādhava sevā*). Social service masked the background so that social workers forgot the real basic concept for which only the program is framed. If every human being is God, why did the Gopikas run to Krishna when they have God in their house in the form of husband, father-in-law, mother-in-law, children etc? If every human being is God, why did Krishna advise Arjuna to kill the Kauravas, who are God only? Now, you have understood the concept with its background. There is no harm if you are not serving your relatives who humiliated you and you can even fight with your relatives if they are really wrong.

5. Should a person be an introvert or an extrovert? By being an introvert, is it possible to reach the spiritual goal?

Swami replied:- It is not possible to reach the spiritual goal (God) by becoming an introvert because God is existing outside of yourself as the contemporary human incarnation. Introversion is looking inside, which means seeing the self or your awareness, which is created by God and is not God. Instead of such foolish introversion, you can better look at the screen of electronic instruments in which your awareness appears to you directly as waves of energy. When you look inside, you are looking only at an imagination of your awareness only. Awareness is the nervous energy that is existing as four internal instruments (Antahkaranams). Every idea is a mode of awareness only just as every golden jewel is a mode of gold only. You are experiencing your awareness and what is there to see? By meditating upon yourself, the fruit is that you will be sitting there only where you are already sitting!

6. What is the meaning of the following words?

[Swamiji, here are a few words I want to know the meanings- 1. Panchajanya, 2. tumburu geeta (Sri Vishnu Namavali), 3. aayata subhru (Sri Anagha Namavali)]

Swami replied:- Panchajanya is the conch shell of Shri Krishna. Tumburu Gita means God praised through songs of Tumburu. Aayata Subhru means Goddess Anagha having long and beautiful eyebrows.

7. Would Sri Satya Sai Baba forgive me for I had developed a misconception about Him after watching a news channel?

[Would Sri Satya Sai Baba forgive me for I had developed a misconception about Him after watching on a news channel that He was a fake Baba? But all my doubts about Baba got clarified through Your Knowledge and Satsangas. Every day, whenever I see Baba's photo, I feel that I missed out a great association when Baba was present. I am really sorry Baba. At Your Divine Lotus Feet, Anita Renkuntla]

Swami replied:- Since you have realized, Baba will certainly forgive you. You should not believe words of the public without sharp analysis. A

washer man scolded Sita and Rama left her. In His case, Rama did not believe the blame, but, for the sake of public criticism, any ruler must sacrifice anything. Rama is God and actually Rama punished Sita for scolding Lakshmana in the forest with very ugly words. Decision shall be taken with one's own intelligence after doing sharp analysis. Decision will be perfectly correct if the advice of the Sadguru is also taken (*Ātma buddhiḥ sukhaṃ caiva, Guru buddhiḥ viśeṣataḥ*). If one takes the advice from others, other than one's own intelligence and the intelligence of the Sadguru, it is said that it will lead to loss (*Parabuddhiḥ vināśāya*).

Chapter 29

December 13, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**1. Why is it that we shouldn't buy a house around temples?**

[Shri Sathi Reddy asked:- Paadanamaskaram Swami, why is it said that we shouldn't buy a house or a land around temples?]

Swami replied:- A temple is meant for Satsanga or spiritual discussions. In the future, the area of the temple may need expansion as the number of participants increases.

2. Money is spent to attract the opposite gender but we are not sure whether the other person is committed to us. How to overcome this fear?

[In marriage or in worldly love, people spend their time, money and energy to attract the opposite gender. Even after spending so much, we fear that the other person may not be committed to us. How to overcome this fear, Swamiji?]

Swami replied:- Spending and trying to attract the opposite gender based on that is trying to put up a show of his/her position of wealth. Such attractions are very mean and do not give good impressions. One must expose his/her inherent qualities so that the opposite gender may like those qualities and may get attraction. If you spend much, the opposite gender may think that you are a spendthrift. She may fear that you will burn her earnings also in a very short time. Wealth shall never be exposed and it must be known by the opposite gender itself through enquiries. You must appear very simple and of high thinking. That will develop a permanent attraction.

3. Do the saaligramaas have unimaginable power?

[People having Saaligramaas in their houses were affected with problems when they did not worship it properly. Does it mean that saaligramaas have unimaginable power?]

Swami replied:- Saalagraama is a stone having holes in which an insect that can live in water resides. Hence, Saalagraama is always kept in water stored in a bowl. This is the precaution taken by the elder people in ancient days. Saalagraama is only a representative model of God and does not have any power by itself.

4. How should the parents see God when He is born as their child?

[Swamiji, the bond with one's child is the strongest. When God (Human Incarnation) is born as a child and suppose the parents have two children, one is the human Incarnation of God and another is a normal soul, how should the parents see that child?]

Swami replied:- If the parents identify the human incarnation, they shall look at the boy as God and develop devotion so that all other worldly

bonds are cut. After realization as God, the child must be viewed as God alone and not as the child.

5. Kumarila Bhatta set Himself on fire. Is it not a sin?

[Kumarila Bhatta, who is none other than the human Incarnation of Lord Subrahmanya had burnt Himself in the flames of fire. Swamiji, is it not a sin considering it as suicide?]

Swami replied:- If a human being is considered as incarnation of God, that is not a sufficient proof. Of course, Kumarila Bhatta proposed the concept of knowledge and action (*Jñāna karma samuccaya vāda*), which is a wonderful concept. Shankara read the important portions of His commentary before Kumarila Bhatta and was very much appreciated by him. Kumarila Bhatta committed suicide and this is not a wise act that is suitable for a divine incarnation. God Himself condemned suicide in the Veda (*Asūryā nāma te lokāḥ...*). None shall end his/her life, given by God for the sake of doing spiritual effort in order to please God. A person committing suicide makes God furious.

6. How did Aadishesha, the servant of God, become God Himself?

[Swamiji, Lakshmana who is none other than Aadishesha acted like the brother of Lord Rama (Lord Vishnu's incarnation) in Tretayuga and served Rama. The same Lakshmana (Aadishesha) came as Lord Balarama in Dvaaparayuga and became the 10th Incarnation of Lord Vishnu. How did the servant of God become God Himself?]

Swami replied:- Balarama is the eighth incarnation. In the previous birth, he was Lakshmana and did tremendous service to God Rama. He was younger to Rama, but still left his wife to serve Rama without food and sleep for 14 years. God was so much pleased with his service that God told the army to stop the war when Lakshmana became unconscious. Rama became prepared to leave Sita to her fate when Lakshmana became unconscious! Being pleased with his unimaginable love in service, Rama conferred the status of incarnation in the next birth so that he stood along with Rama side by side. A person passing IAS examination is considered to be the IAS officer. At the same time, the IAS degree is conferred on an officer having long standing good service.

7. Swamiji, how should a student prepare for exams to get good marks?

Swami replied:- $Q=E+W$ is a law of thermodynamics. Q is the heat supplied to the body through food. E is the rise in the internal energy that consumes a part of heat. The rest heat is consumed by the work (W) done by the system. If E consumes all heat ($Q=E$), W becomes 0. It means that if the tension raises the E so that all the Q is consumed, the brain will not work and the student fails in the examinations. The answer is printed in the brain like the information stored in the disc of the computer, but it is not displayed on the screen since there is no current. Similarly, the answer is printed in the

brain as soon as you hear the teaching in the class and the answer will be displayed on the mind-screen if Q is not wasted in raising E and is stored well. This means that if you don't have even a trace of tension in life, the answer heard in the class will be displayed on your mind and there is no need of reading any book after hearing the teaching in the class just once. Krishna told the Bhagavat Gita even though the war-atmosphere was causing a lot of tension in every body. But, in the case of Krishna, the external tension did not raise at all even a little of His E. His Q was also very high due to the eaten butter in His childhood, which is a precious energetic food. In such condition, His W was always at the climax and hence, the excellent Gita came out even in the atmosphere of high tension.

8. Is it not true that the Lord should be higher than the highest Gopikas because He suffered for their sins?

[The Gopikas, who were Sages in previous lives, offered their body to God Krishna and reached the highest position of Goloka. I feel that the Lord should be at the highest position because He took the punishments of their sins and suffered. Please comment.]

Swami replied:- Gopikas did not reach Goloka by offering their bodies alone to Krishna. Gopikas reached Goloka by sacrificing the butter to Krishna that was stored for their children. The bonds with wealth and children are very strong and both these bonds are always joined together, which means that souls earn money even through sins due to their blind fascination for children. Gopikas, who have passed both the tests (stealing butter and dancing with Krishna) alone reached Goloka. In fact, almost all the Gopikas passed in the test of dance (test of the bond with life partner), but, most of them failed in the joint test of stealing butter by complaining to the mother of Krishna (test of bond with money joined to the bond with children). Only 12 Gopikas reached Goloka since they passed in the two tests involving all the three strongest worldly bonds called Eshanaatrayam.

9. I believe everybody like a goat. How should I get rid of this?

[Swamiji, I see some intelligent souls who won't believe anybody even though they received help from them. When they are in need, they believe only themselves. But I am believing everybody like a goat. How should I get rid of this problem, Swamiji?]

Swami replied:- The problem is very clear to your intelligence. One does not find a solution to the problem if the problem is not understood. You have understood the problem very well and so the answer must have become clear to you by your intelligence itself. The solution is that you should stop behaving like an ignorant goat because you have the full knowledge of the problem.

10. Is it correct to give our sins to our Sadguru?

[Swamiji, I learnt that Bhagavan Ramana Maharshi had asked a contemporary devotee to give his sins and Bhagavan suffered a lot taking all the punishments on His own body. Is it correct to give our sins to our Sadguru, the contemporary human incarnation of God?]

Swami replied:- The devotee gave his sins to the incarnation on the instruction given by the incarnation and the devotee did not give his sins to the incarnation by himself. It is the wish of God in human form. Even if the devotee does not like it, God will take his sins even without the knowledge of the devotee! This was exhibited only in the case of that devotee in order to expose the concept. Otherwise, nobody knows this concept. The incarnation of God Datta preaches wonderful spiritual knowledge as God Brahma, loves His devotees as God Vishnu by transferring their punishments on to Him and performs miracles as God Shiva to help the devotees and to change atheists into theists.

11. Is there any action (karma) on this earth (Karma Loka) that happens by chance and does not fall under the Karma Chakra?

Swami replied:- When you are walking on the road, an ant dies accidentally under your feet and this does not come under the cycle of deeds and fruits (Karma Chakra) because there is no intention in you to kill the ant. Always intention is linked with the fruit of action and the mere inert action is not linked with the fruit.

12. What is the spiritual significance of the incident in which Bhima is poisoned, but he drinks nectar and becomes very powerful?

[In the Mahabharata, the Kauravas gave poison to Bheema Sena and threw him in the lake. But he was bitten by a snake and became normal. He drank some nectar and became very powerful. Swamiji, please explain the spiritual significance of this incident?]

Swami replied:- Bhimasena is born by the grace of the angel Vaayu. All Pandavaas are angels only and all Kauravaas are demons only. God always protects angels and human beings who are like angels. God destroys demons and human beings who are like demons. Human beings are mixtures of good and bad. There is no 100% good human being and a 100% bad human being. Angels are 100% good and demons are 100% bad. A human being may behave good in some situations and behaves bad in some other situations. Hence, human beings will go to both heaven and hell. If good is more and bad is less, they will go to hell first and then to heaven. If bad is more and good is less, they will go to heaven first and then to hell. When Dharma Raja went to the upper worlds, he found his brothers in hell and the Kauravaas in heaven. Since Pandavaas are born angels, God Krishna protected them every minute. This clearly means that God always likes justice and dislikes injustice. Hence, in Pravrutti, this principle should be always followed in order to please God. In Nivrutti, sometimes even injustice

pleases God because God competes with justice and the devotee has to vote for God against justice (*Sarva dharmān parityajya...* Gita). Pandavaas also had some negligible minor mistakes because of the influence of human birth.

13. How can You say that world peace can be achieved through True Spiritual Knowledge?

[Shri Rajasekara Reddy asked: To get rice on to our plate, paddy harvesting is needed which includes the activities of reaping, stacking, handling, threshing, cleaning, and hauling. If we consider these activities as sin and stop, we cannot survive. If a lion considers hunting as sin, it cannot survive. Therefore, world peace is a myth. How can You say that world peace can be achieved through True Spiritual Knowledge? Please enlighten me.]

Swami replied:- Who told that sin exists in the activities concerned with plants? God Himself told in the Veda that you must take food from plants (*Oṣadhībhyo'nnam*). Plants do not have a nervous system to undergo pain whereas zoological organisms have nervous systems and undergo pain and hence, only non-vegetarian food is objected. When the lion hunts and eats soft natured animals, it need not be considered because the soul of lion is permanently condemned to have permanent cycle of ignorant animal births only. You need not search for a black charcoal in darkness because the entire thing is black only. The world itself is a myth (Mithyaa), which means that it was originally and inherently unreal, but, is absolutely real due to the gifted absolute reality of God by God. In that case, justice and injustice are also myths. But, a myth to another myth is always real. If the world is real, justice is also real. For any soul, the world is real because the soul is a part of the world. A mythic soul is real to the mythic world and vice-versa. If spiritual knowledge cannot bring real transformation in the world, nothing else can bring transformation in which case peace is a myth. Actually, the mythic peace is real to the mythic soul and hence, world peace is reality and not unreal. Myth does not mean unreal because it means that it is real at present and was unreal before its creation by God. Such path of your question is not correct.

Chapter 30

December 15, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,

1. Swami, Why did God Shiva go in disguise of a bachelor and test Goddess Parvati by scolding God Shiva (Himself)?

[A question by Ms. Thrylokya]

Swami replied: Goddess Parvati was Goddess Sati in the previous birth. When Daksha scolded God Shiva (his son-in-law), Sati Devi answered well to her father. God Shiva was listening to her replies from Kailasa itself. Suddenly, Sati changed her mood and committed suicide saying that she shall end her life because she heard abuses of God Shiva. This is a sudden emotional development. Next time, God Shiva went in the form of a bachelor and scolded God Shiva (Himself). This means God Shiva repeated the same situation of Sati to see her reaction. This time Goddess Parvati answered to the abuses of God Shiva like Sati, but did not commit suicide. Parvati stood up and told that she cannot hear the scoldings of God Shiva anymore and tried to go away. This time Parvati used her wisdom and did not become emotional to commit suicide. Now God Shiva is satisfied with the behaviour of Parvati and suddenly appeared as God Shiva and took her hand into His hand, which is called as Paanigrahanam or marriage. The essence is that God Shiva was shocked with the emotional behaviour of Sati previously and now once again He created the same situation and found the change in the emotional behaviour of Sati, who was born as Parvati. Only then did He marry Parvati because such emotional decision gave an unassuming shock to God Shiva and God Shiva wanted that such emotional tragedy must not repeat again.

When Manmadha shot arrows on God Shiva in the presence of Parvati, God Shiva burnt Manmadha and immediately disappeared from the spot along with all His associated servants. The cause of the sudden disappearance was that God Shiva feared that Parvati may rub her feet on the ground and generate fire due to Shiva's non-acceptance of her marriage with Him. God Shiva wanted to test her emotional behaviour in such situations. Parvati also did a lot of penance and changed her emotional behaviour into peaceful non-violent responses to such emotional situations.

Scholars say that God Shiva tested the love of Parvati towards Him, but this is not correct because Parvati had already proved her climax love to Shiva in the previous birth. Hence, it was only to test the emotional behaviour

of Parvati in highly emotional situations since there was previous experience. Finally, remember that God Datta acted in the roles of Shiva, Sati and Parvati to teach humanity that peaceful mental balance with wisdom must be maintained in any emotional situation.

December 16, 2022

2. Why did Krishna steal butter from the houses of Gopikas having ordinary wealth?

[Smt. Lakshmi Chaitanya asked: Why God Krishna steal butter from the houses of the Gopikas having normal level of wealth whereas He was the son of Nanda, the wealthiest of the village? Even His mother asked Him about this point, why did He not reply to her question except giving a smile?]

Swami replied: The reason for this question was the actual background of God Datta who came as the incarnation of Krishna. The previous incarnation was Rama and the sages approached Rama in the Dandakaranya forest requesting Him to give salvation. The actual meaning of salvation is misunderstood by everybody as reaching the world of God and live there with infinite bliss as we see in film shows. The actual meaning of salvation is to get liberation from these worldly bonds. But, mere liberation from worldly bonds is meaningless. When we have taken birth in this world, why should we aspire liberation from the worldly bonds? We are feeling happy and really entertained by these worldly bonds. Therefore, salvation is not mere liberation from worldly bonds. A stone is also not having any worldly bond. Do you think that the stone has full salvation? Therefore, the liberation from worldly bonds should be based on the attachment to God or the bond with God. We are having bonds with several worldly drinks. Why shall we cut our bonds with these worldly drinks and lose the happiness that is attained by drinking these worldly drinks? Only a mad person will do such things. Our detachment from the worldly drinks should be based on the bliss we get by drinking divine nectar. When we have tasted divine nectar, naturally we will lose all our interests on any worldly drink. Such detachment from the worldly drinks is called as salvation. Similarly, if we have tasted the bliss in the bond with God, all these worldly bonds are dropped off naturally without any effort. If the bond with God is not tasted, detachment from the worldly bonds is impossible in spite of our hectic efforts. Had we not tasted the divine nectar, we cannot leave drinking coffee in spite of our terrible efforts. When the divine nectar is not tasted, it is also utter foolishness to leave the happiness in drinking coffee. You are lost from both sides, since neither you have tasted the divine nectar nor have drunk the coffee. Without tasting divine nectar, if we leave coffee by putting hectic efforts, it is called as liberation from the bond of coffee. If the coffee is naturally dropped, without even a trace of effort due to tasting divine nectar, it is called as salvation from

the bond of coffee. Similarly, if anybody is liberated from these worldly bonds without tasting the devotion to God, it shall be called as liberation from worldly bonds. If these worldly bonds are spontaneously dropped without any effort due to devotion to God, it is called as salvation from worldly bonds.

The fascination to a worldly bond is called *eshanaa*. Among the various worldly bonds, the three strongest worldly bonds are fascination to money, fascination to children and fascination to life partner. Among these three strongest worldly bonds, fascination to money is the strongest because if money is absent, even if you are fascinated to any worldly bond, it will leave you mercilessly. Of course, money is always linked with the fascination to children. Hence, these two bonds are always linked together and hence the bond with money becomes the strongest. If the soul is liberated from these three worldly bonds, the soul is liberated from all the worldly bonds. If the strongest fighter in a city is defeated by you, all the people of that city are indirectly defeated. Hence, if the bond with money or wealth is destroyed, all the worldly bonds are destroyed. The sages prayed to Rama for total salvation from all the worldly bonds. Rama was born as Krishna and the sages were born as the Gopikas. In the case of the bond with money, a special point exists, which is that the bond with hard earned money is always stronger than the bond with ancestral wealth. Therefore, the strongest bond can be the bond with hard earned wealth. God wanted to compete with this bond of hard-earned wealth. If the strongest bond is defeated by the bond with God, the bond with God will become the strongest or the highest. This competition is the test conducted by God Datta which is called as *Datta pariiksha*. The Gopikas did a lot of hard work in preparing butter, which is their hard-earned wealth. The ancestral wealth is called as *Dhanam* whereas hard-earned wealth is called *Karma phalam*. *Tyaga* means sacrifice. Hence, *Karma phala tyaga* or sacrifice of hard-earned wealth is the strongest worldly bond, which is stronger than *Dhana tyaga* or sacrifice of ancestral wealth. The Veda emphasized on *dhana tyaga*, whereas Krishna emphasized on *Karma phala tyaga* in the entire Gita. The butter that was prepared by the Gopikas was reserved for their children in the houses after deducting some part of the butter that was sold in Madhura city, to get the groceries and money for other expenses. This butter stored for their children becomes doubly strongest and Krishna started stealing this stored butter to test the Gopikas. Now the Gopika is leftover with the hard-earned wealth linked with children. Gopikas were sages for the past millions of births doing penance for God and therefore, their strongest feeling or *samskara* was God only. Due to the power of their previous long penance, they knew very well that Krishna

was God. Apart from this, Krishna did several miracles to show that He was God. Therefore, there was no question of the Gopikas treating Krishna as an ordinary human being. This point was also stressed in the Narada Bhakti sutras (*Tatrāpi na māhātmyajñāna vismrtyapavādaḥ*). Hence, for the sages, the test was very clear between the bond with God and the strongest bond with hard-earned money stored for their children. But what happened? We expect that the sages who have done penance for the past millions of births must have won the test. Alas! The expectation completely failed. Almost all the Gopikas complained to the mother of Krishna regarding this stealing of their hard-earned butter. Almost all the Gopikas failed except 12 Gopikas, who alone reached Goloka, which was higher than the highest fruit (the highest fruit is the abode of God). This is the main background of the incarnation of Krishna. All this should be explained to Yashoda when she asked the question. Even if He tells, Yashoda cannot understand this mystic historical background. Hence, Krishna smiled since the actual candidates, the Gopikas know all this background thoroughly. Therefore, He just smiled and closed the divine drama.

Chapter 31

December 22, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**1. How to channelize jealousy for improvement?**

[Ms. Bhanu Samykya asked: Padanamaskaram Swami, How to channelize jealousy for improvement? Because that emotion in me is very frequent and it wastes my health, time, work and mainly displeases You. Thank You for coming into my life Swami. Please tell me the steps to convert my jealousy into development in which I always fail. Sometimes I feel I shouldn't see anybody but focus on my goal only, Is this approach the correct way of avoiding jealousy? Please Guide me Swami. - At Your Divine Lotus Feet, Bhanu Samykya.]

Swami replied:- I have already told that the merits in any human being were given to that soul by the pleased God and the main point is that the merits always belong to God and defects always belong to the soul. When you recognize those merits as the inherent qualities of God, you will not get any jealousy because God is omnipotent and the ultimate. As soon as you see a merit, immediately connect it to its source, which is God only. In such a case, you will never get jealousy on seeing any meritorious soul. It is impossible to go on concentrating on your work only because souls always appear before your eyes.

2. Namaste Swami. Please explain Narada bhakti sutras 7, 38, 44, 49, 63, 66, 72.

[A question by Smt. Lakshmi Lavanya K]

Swami replied:- Please read the translation and explanation of these Narada Bhakti Sutras already given in Telugu language and in understanding the meaning of these sutras, if you get any doubt, I will clarify it.

3. Please explain Rajasa Bhakti, Taamasa Bhakti, Saattvika Bhakti, Suddha Saattvika Bhakti, Paraabhakti.

Swami replied:- Rajasa Bhakti is devotion aspiring for power. Taamasa Bhakti is the devotion aspiring for wealth. Saattvika Bhakti is the devotion aspiring for doing good deeds to attain heaven. Suddha Saattvika Bhakti is the devotion aspiring for a place near to God. Paraabhakti is the devotion aspiring for doing service to God without any aspiration in return.

4. What is the real meaning of loving God?

Swami replied:- Doing service and sacrifice practically to God.

5. Explain the difference between the two. I should be happy with God, and God should be happy with me.

Swami replied:- Pleasing God is a better way than getting pleasure from God.

6. Please explain the strength of unity among devotees.

Swami replied:- I have already explained this topic in detail while giving the message on Datta Jayanti.

7. Why was Hanuman silent when Ravana kidnapped Sita?

[When Sugriva was driven out of Vali's kingdom and Sita was abducted by Ravana, Hanuman remained silent, intervened only after Rama arrived. Why?]

Swami replied:- Hanuman is God Shiva, but, playing in the role of a devoted servant of the contemporary human incarnation of God. Hence, without the instruction from God Rama, Hanuman did not act.

8. May I ask You all the questions about which I want to discuss with my friend?

[You are saying helping others spiritually pleases You mostly. My friend doesn't listen to me but she accepts whatever You say, may I ask questions about what I want to tell her. Thank You Swami]

Swami replied:- Yes.

9. Namaste Swami. Can You please sing Gopi Gitas and Miira Bhajans in Your own voice? Please forgive me if i am asking anything wrong.

Swami replied:- Already the cassettes on Gopi Gitalu exist with Shri PVNM Sarma garu and Ms. Thylokya.

10. Padanamaskaram Swami ji! What is the relationship among Vedas, Tantra and Yoga?

[A question by Shri Jayesh Pandey]

Swami replied:- Vedas give spiritual knowledge. Tantras give the main technique, which is to love God without any aspiration in return (This is the technique in reaching God and generally Tantras mean various techniques to attain some powers.). Yoga gives the attachment to God that results in the spontaneous drop out of all worldly bonds.

11. What are the different branches of spiritual knowledge?

Swami replied:- Jnaana Yoga, Bhakti Yoga and Karma Yoga.

12. What is the difference between Tantric Scriptures, Vedic Scriptures and Yogic Scriptures? Pardon my ignorance. Below Your feet.

Swami replied:- Already this is answered above.

13. Is it true that every situation in a soul's life is solely God's will?

[Ms. Bhanu Samykya asked: Padanamaskaram Swami, Tesselonians say- "In everything give thanks for this is the will of God for you in Jesus Christ". Is it correct to say that every situation in a soul's life comes by the will of God only? - At Your Divine Lotus Feet, Bhanu Samykya.]

Swami replied:- Every situation is coming by the result of your past deeds and present mental setup. Only, when a miracle is done, God is to be thanked directly. Whenever a benefit happens, the devotee thanks God and that shows his/her intensity of devotion to God.

14. Please differentiate between faith and expectation.

[Ms. Bhanu Samykya asked: Padanamaskaram Swami, Does my thought, "God will get me through this tough phase of life", come under faith or expectation? Please differentiate faith and expectation with some examples, Swami. - At Your Divine Lotus Feet, Bhanu Samykya.]

Swami replied:- Faith is the belief in the existence of God. Faith also covers the belief in the good qualities and unimaginable powers of God. Expectation varies from one person to the other, which is aspiration for some type of fruit in return from God.

15. What do You want us to learn from the following incident?

[Padanamaskaram Swami, When You came here as Jesus, You walked on water in the storm. Your disciples were in the boat and got scared by thinking of You as a ghost. But, Peter alone asked You whether he can join You to walk on the Water. You said yes and Peter started to walk but Peter fell due to fear. Here, I have few questions Swami. What do You want us to learn from this incident?]

Swami replied:- In practical situations, the faith in God shall not be disturbed.

16. Does the fear of the disciples indicate a lack of proper faith on God?

Swami replied:- Yes.

17. What do You expect Your true devotee to do in that situation?

Swami replied:- A true devotee will not aspire to walk on water unless God Himself instructs to do so.

18. Was Peter correct in stepping out of the boat to walk on water to reach You?

Swami replied:- Peter did not step out of the boat to reach God. He stepped out to have the entertainment to walk on water like Jesus. Hence, fear entered him and made him fall.

19. Was it faith or ego that made Peter step out of the boat?

Swami replied:- Lack of perfect spiritual knowledge made him to step out of the boat. He should not have asked for such a thing because God did not want so.

20. Please explain the following statement of Shri Rama Krishna Paramahansa.

[Smt. Lakshmi Lavanya K asked: Namaste Swami. Please explain "The real thing is... One should love God truly, as a mother loves her child, as a pious wife loves her husband, as a worldly man loves pleasures. The love of these three persons, these three attractions combined together, if we can give that much to God, we can get His grace..." Shri Rama Krishna Paramahansa.]

Swami replied:- True love means loving God through practical service and sacrifice without aspiration for any fruit in return from God.

21. My students (2 members personally) have asked me to tell them about God. Please suggest me how I should tell them about You.

Swami replied:- You have to introduce God step by step. First, you inform about the unmediated unimaginable God. Next, you inform about the first energetic incarnation of God (Datta) mediated in energetic form. Next, you say about the other energetic incarnations of God Datta like Brahma,

Vishnu, Shiva etc. Finally, you say about the human incarnation and especially about the contemporary human incarnation.

22. Can You please arrange the following in ascending order?

[Ms. Bhanu Samykya asked: Padanamaskaram Swami, Can You please arrange them in either ascending or descending order- 1. Relationship with the Human Incarnation of God. 2. Serving the Human Incarnation of God personally. 3. Serving God's mission. 4. Understanding the spiritual knowledge given by Human Incarnation of God. 5. Propagation of spiritual knowledge. -At Your Divine Lotus Feet, Bhanu Samykya.]

Swami replied:- The above order in ascending order of importance from 1 to 5 is correct.

23. How do we know whether God listened to our prayer?

[Diana Vemulapalli asked: My query to You is.... we all do Pooja or keep on praying that some wishes get fulfilled or some bad times pass away like that.... I always doubt whether God really listens to our prayers and chantings? How do we know whether He listened to our prayer? By, Diana Vemulapalli]

Swami replied:- You can easily know the answering of the prayer by observing its result. Sometimes God keeps silent because you have already reached the stage of true love to God without any aspiration in return. Answering the prayers is the initial stage whereas keeping silent to the prayers is the advanced stage. You are given chocolates while you are studying LKG and UKG classes. If you ask for chocolates even while studying PG class, it is horrible!

24. Do I have to be myself or change to meet the needs of the world?

[Smt. Amudha asked: Padhanamaskaram Swamiji, Please forgive me Swami, I am writing this question because of my ignorance and I am unable to understand and implement it. Do I require to be myself or change as per worldly bonds says or needs? I feel very sensitive, emotional and getting angry when anyone bothers me or if they insist to be as per their decision. I can't confirm if its ego or my rights. Swami I feel I am going some distance away from You because of all this. Really, I feel like in a whirlpool, unable to come out Swami. Please help me. On Your divine feet, Amudha]

Swami replied:- You pray to Lord Subrahmanya uttering “Shri Subrahmanya” keeping His photo before your eyes.

Chapter 32

December 23, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**1. How to focus on current work without thinking about anything else?**

[Ms. Bhanu Samykya asked: Padanamaskaram Swami, I'm constantly failing to control my mind. My thoughts are so unfiltered and unstoppable. I'm feeling like a failure at the first step only, being very unproductive. How to focus on the current work without thinking about anything else? Please give Your suggestions, Swami. - At Your Divine Lotus Feet, Bhanu Samykya.]

Swami replied: You pray to God Hanuman with full concentration so that He will bless you with full concentration on the goal set up by you.

2. How to please Goddess Laxmi Devi?

[Padanamaskaram Swami, How should the devotion towards Goddess Laxmi Devi be in Pravritti and Nivritti? How to please Her? - At Your Divine Lotus Feet, Bhanu Samykya.]

Swami replied: I have already told that if you avoid unnecessary expenditure so that you are not insulting her, She will be pleased with you and bless you with wealth.

3. Who is yoga bhrashta and why does a man become a yoga bhrashta?

[A question by Smt. lakshmi lavanya K]

Swami replied:- After being attracted to God, if the devotee is again attracted to worldly bonds, such a devotee is called Yoga Bhrashta. The reason for this is that the devotee was not fully attracted towards God due to incomplete spiritual knowledge.

4. Please explain about Bhramara Keetaka Nyaya.

Swami replied:- People say that a bee makes rounds around a small insect so that the insect becomes bee. This is not scientifically correct. This simile is given to the concept that one becomes God by constantly thinking that he/she is God. Neither the concept is correct nor is the simile correct. Hence, both suit to each other very well.

5. Will thinking of qualities lead us to acquire such qualities?

[When we think of acquiring someone's qualities, will thinking of them and their qualities lead us to become like them? Tell us your opinion.]

Swami replied:- By thinking about the qualities deeply, one may attain those qualities because thinking and qualities belong to awareness.

6. I heard that King Janaka conducted 3 tests to Sage Shuka. Please explain about them.

Swami replied:- King Janaka neglected sage Shuka, who stood near the gate for 10 days. Then, King Janaka approached him and appreciated him.

7. Please explain what is “diving into Shastras”.

[Shri Rama Krishna Paramahansa said "Shastra Marmas should be learned and practiced from a Guru, Sadhana is done properly only when one dives into it completely, what is the use of just sitting and discussing what is mentioned in the Shastras". Please explain what is “diving into Shastras” in the above?]

Swami replied:- Diving means examining the concepts with sharp logic. Help of the Sadguru will give a lot of guidance.

8. A book about You can be written like Rama Krishna Kathamrita.

Swami replied:- The above book was not written by Rama Krishna Paramahansa and was written by a devotee only.

9. Please elaborate the explanation of dharma again.

[Shri Anil asked: Padanamaskaram Swami, Please give answer to the following questions-At Your Lotus Divine Feet -anil. Swami, You gave an excellent explanation of Dharma during the Satsanga on 17-12-2022 by taking the example of Rama killing Vali, Krishna instructing Arjuna to kill Bhishma etc. and also mentioned Buddha as the next birth of Krishna who did not suffer for the killing of Bhishma etc through Arjuna. Kindly please elaborate this again.]

Swami replied:- A video is ready to be released.

10. Why did God not make sure that the scriptures reach every tribe and hermit?

[An atheist said: God is responsible, in your model, for a situation in which the scriptures will not reach some people. They haven't reached many, many people alive in places where the scriptures did not reach. Why, if the scriptures are so important, did God not make sure that they reached every tribe and hermit? Swami Kindly give a response to this.]

Swami replied:- If the scripture did not reach another country, such question has value. Even in such context, a question becomes meaningless because the same subject was explained in the scripture present in another country. Human beings must have some responsibility to enquire about God from the preachers. It is not like an election manifesto to be delivered at every door.

11. Did production of world have 2 stages?

[Padanamaskaram Swami, Please give answer to the following questions-At Your Lotus Divine Feet -anil. Did production of world have 2 stages (steps): 1. Mental plan in God's mind (Subtle state) 2. Conversion of the mental plan into gross form? Or this happened simultaneously?]

Swami replied:- Even if it happened in one stage simultaneously, there is nothing wrong to divide it into two stages in comparison with our human mentality for the sake of convenient understanding. You can say that the planning and executing steps have no interval of time.

12. Why can't it be told directly that world did not exist?

[Why can't it be told directly that world did not exist, rather than saying that the world existed as non-existence(asat) before creation. Is it mere tautology?]

Swami replied:- It is not tautology because there is no play of logic feats. Anything before production is non-existent. If anything exists even

before its production, it means that it is never produced and hence, it is beginningless. God is like that.

13. What is the significance of my dream Swamji?

[Shri Saththireddy asked: Padanamaskaram Swamji, a few months back I got a dream where I was subjected to black magic. You indicated to me that Lord Adi Shankaracharya saved me. You also told me to chant the name of Lord Hanuman and later everything became normal. What is the significance of this dream Swamji? Swamiji, if anything wrong is there in the question itself please teach to this beggar saththireddy 🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied:- You do as indicated in your dream.

14. Is it true that sins are caught to the hair of human beings?

[Padanamaskaram Swamji, many gurus say that sins are caught to the hair of human beings. The reason for removing hair which came at time of birth is like removing sins of previous birth. Is this true Swamiji? Swamiji, if anything wrong is there in the question itself please teach to this beggar saththireddy 🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied:- Such Gurus shall be admitted in the mental hospital.

15. Please give significance of the following types of friendships.

[Padanamaskaram Swamiji, please give significance of the below types of friendships?

A) Krishna and Arjuna, B) Krishna and Kuchela, C) Karna and Duryodhana.

Swamiji, if anything wrong is there in the question itself please teach to this beggar saththireddy

🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied:- Both Karna and Duryodhana are bad having good friendship. Kuchela is better than Arjuna because once Kuchela realized that Krishna was God, he never slipped from devotion. Arjuna slipped twice from devotion after hearing the Gita from Krishna (1. Arjuna wanted not to participate in the war when his son was killed in the war. 2. Arjuna did not get down from the chariot in the end of the war even though Krishna asked him to do so.).

16. Is it true that Shiva stood behind the Kauravas reducing their energies in the kurukshetra war?

[Padanamaskaram Swamji, I've heard that Arjuna saw a vision of Lord Shiva standing behind the Kauravas reducing their energies in the kurukshetra war. What is the inner essence of it Swamiji? Swamiji, if anything wrong is there in the question itself please teach to this beggar saththireddy 🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied:- God reduces the energy of evil people so that justice can win easily.

17. Why did Kanchi Paramacharya leave His body by keeping His mother's photo in front of Him?

[Padanamaskaram Swamji, why did Kanchi Paramacharya leave His body by keeping His mother's photo in front of Him? Swamiji, if anything wrong is there in the question itself please teach to this beggar saththireddy 🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied:- He wanted that everybody shall respect his/her mother in Pravrutti.

18. Is the concept of metaverse true?

[Padanamaskaram Swamiji, is the concept of metaverse true? If true, does every universe have the same yuga? Can we say that You are enjoying many movies at same time? Swamiji, if anything wrong is there in the question itself please teach to this beggar saththireddy 🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied:- Metaverse means the fourteen worlds existing in this creation.

19. Is it true that issues shouldn't be touched by parents after a certain age?

[Padanamaskaram Swamiji, it is said issues shouldn't be touched by parents after a certain age. Some gurus says that physical touch creates runanubandha and that body stores all the memories. Is this concept of runanubandha true? Swamiji, if anything wrong is there in the question itself please teach to this beggar saththireddy 🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied:- Runaanubandha is cleared when the issues collect their loans along with interest from the parents. Restricting touch between different genders is advised for the sake of precaution.

20. Please suggest how to do proper analysis after reading spiritual knowledge?

[Padanamaskaram Swamiji, Please give suggestions how to do proper analysis after reading spiritual knowledge? Swamiji, if anything wrong is there in the question itself please teach to this beggar saththireddy 🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied:- Every concept must be clearly discussed with sharp logic based analysis.

21. How to overcome the habit of copying in exams?

[Padanamaskaram Swamiji, I have a childhood habit of copying in exams and it's still present. You also worked as chemistry professor in a college and might have noticed these incidents. I do it due to get more marks and sometimes to pass. Please tell me how to overcome it Swamiji? Swamiji, if anything wrong is there in the question itself please teach to this beggar saththireddy 🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied:- If you strengthen your faith in God that God likes justice and does not like injustice, this habit will disappear.

22. Was Ravana really a good mannered person?

[Padanamaskaram Swamiji, some people believe Ravana as a hero as he didn't touch Sita at all. Was he really a good mannered person or he couldn't touch Her because of some superpower that Sita possessed? Swamiji, if anything wrong is there in the question itself please teach to this beggar saththireddy 🙏 🙏 🙏]

Swami replied:- As per Valmiki Ramayana, Ravana touched the body of Sita. Ravana is sinful and the unconscious Sita is sinless.

23. Namaste Swami. Explain the difference between Vaidi Bhakti and Raga Bhakti.

[A question by Smt. lakshmi lavanya K]

Swami replied:- Vaidi or Vaidika Bhakti means the devotion observed in doing Vedic rituals. Raga Bhakti means devotion with love and love may be in different forms. Raga Bhakti is very near to the natural state having free atmosphere. Certainly, Raga Bhakti is the higher form of devotion.

24. What are Ashta Pashas?

Swami replied:- The eight superpowers always bind a soul with name and fame. Some say that the eight negative qualities like hatred, fear etc., are the eight bonds. All these are related to the world.

25. What is Urjita Bhakti?

Swami replied:- It is excess of expressed emotional devotion.

26. Please explain the following statement of Shri Rama Krishna Paramahamsa.

[Shri Rama Krishna Paramahamsa said "The main characteristic for the awakening of wisdom is love of God, we sit for hours and study the shastras and make inquiries, but there is no inner impression, this is not the characteristic of wisdom." Please explain.]

Swami replied:- The knowledge shall develop devotion to God, which makes the knowledge to be transformed into practical service and sacrifice to God.

27. Please explain the following statement of Shri Rama Krishna Paramahamsa.

[Shri Rama Krishna Paramahamsa said "If someone has a child, will the father take care of its responsibility, or will the villagers take care of them? God is our own Father, we have the right to force Him. We even threaten those who are dear to us." Please give me Your opinion.]

Swami replied:- This shows the confidence developed in excess of true devotion.

28. Is it true that ego is the basis for fear?

[Ms. Bhanu Samykya asked: Padanamaskaram Swami, is it true that ego is the basis for fear? - At Your Divine Lotus Feet, Bhanu Samykya]

Swami replied:- In some contexts it is true, but, not true always.

Chapter 33

December 24, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**1. How do You reconcile the contradicting concepts of climax devotion to God?**

[Shri Ganesh V asked: On one side, You praise fan devotion to be the climax, in which the devotee commits suicide on hearing the human incarnation leaving it's gross body and on the other side, You say that suicide is the greatest sin mentioned in the Veda written by God and clearly say that God never relishes the suicide of the devotee. How to reconcile both these contradicting concepts?]

Swami replied: If you use sharp analysis, there is no contradiction between these two concepts. I will enlighten this correlation with the help of an example. Doctors say that whenever the season changes, fever appears indicating the sign of good health. But the same doctors give antibiotics to remove the fever thereby removing the suffering due to the fever. Here, on one side, fever is appreciated as a sign of good health, but on the other side, the fever is destroyed by using antibiotics in order to remove the suffering due to the fever. Both are correct. Fever should come and that fever must be removed by using medicine. Similarly, a climax devotee (Gopika) of a human incarnation like Krishna tries to commit suicide on hearing the death of the human incarnation due to climax emotional devotion. This is a good sign of true devotion. Devotion (Bhakti Yoga) is theoretical phase and hence the attempt to commit suicide in the absence of the most beloved form of God should not enter the practical field called Karma Yoga. As far as the boundaries of theoretical Bhakti Yoga are concerned, the emotional decision to commit suicide is appreciable. At the same time, the practical action of committing suicide comes under the boundaries of Karma Yoga. In this Karma Yoga, good deeds to be done called merits and bad deeds not to be done called sins are mentioned by God in His constitution called as Veda and Dharma Shastra. The Veda clearly says that suicide is the greatest sin and such sinners will fall in a special dark hell called 'Asurya Loka'. In Karma Yoga, the action of suicide shall not be implemented even though its decision is taken in Bhakti Yoga. Decision to commit suicide is like seasonal change-fever that is very much appreciated, but its implementation is to be restricted like using the medicine to cure the fever. Even in the case of the Gopikas, who committed suicide on hearing the death of Krishna, Krishna took equivalent amount of pain as the punishment of such sin in order to save the Gopikas from such hell. Gopikas are sages, who have done tremendous penance for God for millions of births and such an exceptional case can never

be found in this creation. If the devotee decides on suicide and at the same time restricts it due to the word of God, such a devotee is also given Goloka by God. Such a wise devotee is better than the Gopikas because he/she did not give pain to God in a foolish way! A wise devotee must continue his/her life on the earth engaged in the propagation of spiritual knowledge and devotion preached by the beloved human incarnation of God. God gave the human birth as the final chance to do spiritual effort and no soul shall waste it, which is equal to insulting God. A true devotee is said to be a perfect devotee when he/she always pleases God and never pains God. As mentioned in Sundarakanda of Valmiki Ramayanam, Hanuman also decided to commit suicide when Sita was not found by Him in Lanka. But He controlled Himself when such decision was to be implemented. Every devotee shall take Hanuman as the ideal because He is the incarnation of God Shiva and no devotee shall take Gopikas as ideal in this context because they were only souls. Even when Rama left this world, Hanuman did not commit the foolish suicide. Hanuman still continues in the service of God Rama by protecting the devotees of God Rama during difficulties. Similarly, Gopikas should have propagated the Bhagavad Gita after Krishna left.

2. Kindly explain the sweet devotion of devotees towards recent human incarnations.

[Smt. Sudha Rani asked: Paada Namaskaaram Swami. Thank You for Your enormous grace, Swami. Shirdi Sai is worshipped as Baba and Satya Sai is worshipped as Sai Maa. In every avatar, You enjoy the devotion of ample of climax devotees. Could You please reveal the way of devotion of those devotees who worshipped Shirdi Sai or Satya Sai or any of the recent Naraavataraas with Madhura Bhava, which can be a compass for us. Thank You Swami for enlightening us. Ananta koti Padabhivandanamulu Swami.]

Swami replied:- It is not a rule that every human incarnation of God must have devotees of sweet devotion (Madhura Bhakti). When such devotees are available on the earth, God takes a suitable human form and descends to earth. The sweet devotion is one of the forms of love to God and this alone need not be treated as the monarch of all the devotional bonds. There are instances where the bond of sweet devotion is defeated by other bonds of love. For example, Draupadi as sister of Krishna defeated all the sweet devotional bonds by immediately tearing a piece of cloth from her new sari to be used as bandage for the finger of Krishna. All the sweet bonds ran in all directions to fetch a small piece of cloth to be used for that bandage. The sweet devotion of Gopikas gave them Goloka, which is higher than the highest abode of God. This is not because of the specific form of devotion (called sweet devotion), but, because of the weight of true love present in such bond. The most important factor of the sweet devotion is that this type of bond is based on the devotion to God and not to the hormonal lust towards

the body of the incarnation. Narada Bhakti Sutras say that even the lust of Gopikas towards Krishna while dancing in Brundavanam was purely based on the continuous awareness that Krishna was God and not an ordinary human being (*Tatrāpi na mātmyajñāna vismṛti apavādaḥ*). Narada warned that if Gopikas had forgotten this essential point, Gopikas should have been prostitutes (*Tadvihānam jāraṇāmiva*). Therefore, this topic shall not be taken as the subject of romance or applied sex-education of Kaama Shaastra of Sage Vaatsaayana. This is not at all the subject of sex that is used for getting children. Unless the correct angle in this subject is perfectly understood, one can't explain this book called as Bhaagavatam. There is a saying, which is that the explanation of Bhaagavatam is an acid test for the scholars (*Vidyāvatām Bhāgavate parīkṣā*).

The life histories of incarnations of God were many and were written by sage Vyaasa. Only in the case of the incarnation of Krishna, Krishna is called as Bhagavaan or God. The life history of Krishna is called as the story of God or Bhaagavatam. Even the preaching of Krishna is called as the song of God (Bhagavat Gita). Why such special attention is given to Krishna? The reason is that the life history and preaching of Krishna contain very dangerous angles by which we will slip very easily to misunderstand Krishna as a worst human being. Hence, He is called as God or Bhagavan every minute to enlighten our minds that Krishna is not an ordinary human being, but Krishna is the ultimate God.

This topic is very much misunderstood by even devotees. Much more than misunderstanding, misinterpretation has taken place, which is exploited by characterless sinful devotees and fraud incarnations. Sometimes, misunderstanding may be the cause of the misinterpretation and sometimes, even though properly understood, misinterpretation might have been done due to purposeful sinful intentions. Hence, this topic is most dangerous and can very easily disturb the balance of justified Pravrutti or worldly life. Unless one understands the genuine value of the devotees like the Gopikas who were sages reborn and the genuine value of human incarnation like God Krishna, this topic can be very easily misunderstood and has been misinterpreted to such an extent that other religions have made this topic as their weapons to attack Hinduism. Even the marriage of Jesus with a prostitute and the multi-marriages of Prophet Mohammad must be understood in a correct angle as we understand Krishna in Bhagavatam. You should not decide and draw conclusions by looking merely at current accounts of devotees. Who were the Gopikas? Look at their fixed deposits. They were the most holy sages, who did burning penance for God through past millions of births. Even the word lust cannot stand before them and not

to speak of illegal lust! Even the most beautiful heavenly dancers, who were trying to spoil the penance of those sages ran away once the sages opened their eyes! Krishna is said to be the root original God Datta straight, who is the common God present in all the ten incarnations of God (*Kṛṣṇaastu Bhagavān svayam, Paripūrṇa tamaḥ sākṣāt...*, etc.). Both the God and devotee are the rarest Kohinoor diamonds. If any wrong idea is thought by anybody, such a soul is thrown in to the eternal liquid fire of hell.

Just after the story of the Gopikas, the Dvaapara age ended immediately and there was a good deep communication gap between the story of the Bhagavatam and the present Kali Age. Due to this strong communication gap, the story of the Bhagavatam could not be much misinterpreted and exploited in this Kali Age. But now, the Kali age is continuing and this age is the climax of sin. Even though Miira worshipped just the statue of Krishna, her husband gave a cup of poison to Miira! The discipline of Pravrutti will be very much disturbed due to the maximum possibility of misinterpretation of sweet devotion. Hence, in the Kali age, even if genuine cases of sweet devotion exist, they are kept secret by God for the sake of protection of Pravrutti or worldly life.

3. God said in the Gita that the creation is both in Him and not in Him. How to correlate this?

[Sri JSR Prasad asked: Sashtanga Pranamas Swami. In the Gita, God said that the creation is in Him and also not in Him (Matsthāni sarva bhūtāni..., na ca matsthāni bhūtāni). How to correlate this?]

Swami replied: The clarification is given in other verses like '*bhūtabhṛt na ca bhūtaśthaḥ*' (I am the possessor of the creation and not present in the creation.), '*mayi sarvamidaṃ protam*' (all this creation is possessed by Me), '*na tvahaṃ teṣu te Mayi*' (I am not in the creation but the creation is on Me.) etc., reveal that God is the basic substratum (ādhāra). The shape of the pot is based 'on' the mud atoms whereas, the shape of the pot is not present 'in' the mud atoms. The creation is present 'on' God (aupashleshika saptamii vibhakti), but not 'in' God (abhivyaapaka saptamii vibhakti). The saptamii vibhakti (locative case) in Sanskrit means both 'on' (aupashleshika) and 'in' (abhivyaapaka). I am possessing the shirt means that the shirt is 'on' me. I am possessing blood means that blood is 'in' me. Both these statements belong to the same locative case. If we take the locative case only, there is no difference between 'on' and 'in'. Of course, it is clearly said that the locative case has both the separate meanings, which are both 'on' (aupashleshika) and 'in' (abhivyaapaka). In this locative case, another meaning is also said, which is 'vaishayika' (subject) and the example here is that I am a scholar 'in' grammar. But, this third meaning also is adjusted in the 'in' (abhivyaapaka) only as per English language. When we take similes

for the creator and the creation, people take mud and pot as a simile in which we have already told that pot is based ‘on’ mud particles (aupashleshika). If we take the simile of magician and magic, the creation or magic is based ‘on’ the magician since the magic is appearing outside the magician. Here also, ‘on’ (aupashleshika) is used in the verse *Aham ātmā... sarvabhūtāsaya sthitah*. Here, God is said to be the basic substratum of the creation. The word ‘jalaashaya’ which means lake, tells us that the lake is the basic substratum of water (jala). The word Aatmaa is used for God because just as the soul is the basic substratum of the body maintained, God is the basic substratum of the creation. The word Aatmaa means that which is extending (*atati*). God extends as the basic substratum for this entire creation. The word Aatmaa need not be taken as soul only, but, in general, can be taken as any basic substratum that extends below the supported items.

God referred to in this context is the first mediated God called Iishwara or Naaraayana or Hiranyagarbha. Since medium has spatial dimensions, ‘in’ and ‘on’ are suitable for usage. But, if you take the unmediated, unimaginable God, He has no spatial dimensions and words like ‘in’ and ‘on’ have no meaning. In His case, we can only say that He is not affected or contaminated by the creation (*asaṅgohyayaṃ puruṣaḥ*- Samkhya). The reason is that the absolute reality of the creation is not inherent to the creation, but, the absolute reality of the unimaginable God (Parabrahman) is gifted to the creation by the unimaginable God Himself. Depending upon the nature of God and medium, we have to use the words like ‘on’ and ‘in’. Even in worldly items, we have to follow this. For example, in the case of space, we can never use the word ‘on’ because space is not showing its boundaries. We can say that the air is ‘in’ space, but, space is not contaminated by air (*Yathākāśagato nityam... Gita*). Krishna says that He is sitting at the centre of the entire creation rotating the entire creation (*īśvarassarva bhūtānām*). The word ‘*hrddessa*’ means the centre of gravity which is the essential part for rotation. We say the essential meaning of the poet as ‘kavi hrdaya’, which does not mean the physical heart of the poet. God told that He is extending Himself for the entire creation as the basic support (*mayā tatamidam*). God also told that He is ‘Aatmaa’, which means the basic support that is extending for the entire creation so that no part of the entire creation is leftover without the support (*Ahamātmā...*). The word ‘*sarva bhūtāsaya sthitah*’ can be taken as 1. *sarva bhūtāsaya stitah* which means that God is standing as the support, 2. The word ‘*āsaya*’ may be taken as the alternative of ‘*hrddeśa*’ or centre of gravity to rotate the entire creation.

Logic says about four types of Abhaava (absence):- 1. Praagabhaava means that which did not exist before its production. 2. Pradhvamsaabhaava

means that which will not exist after destruction. 3. Anyonyaabhaava that which does not exist in a different item and vice versa. 4. Atyantaabhaava means that which never existed at any time. This creation has praagabhaava because it did not exist before its first production. This creation has no second type of absence because in destruction, it only goes from gross state to subtle state. The creation has third type of absence because it exists based on God and God also exists in the creation as incarnation. The creation has no fourth type of absence because it exists forever after its production by God for the sake of His entertainment. The gross state is the film show and the subtle state is the film reel. The reel always exists after its generation because no fool destroys the reel after the first show and reconstructs it for the second show. The shape of the pot is always associated with the eternal existence of the mud and only a fool destroys the pot, which is useful to bring water.

4. Shankara said that His Atmaa is generating the materialistic creation. Please explain.

[Mamātmā bhūtabhāvanāḥ - in this verse, Shankara wrote that His Atmaa is generating the materialistic creation (bhāvayati – utpādayati - vardhayati), please explain this. -- At Your divine holy lotus feet]

Swami replied: The word ‘mamātmā’ can be taken in two ways:- 1. My individual soul (*prakṛtiṃ viddhi me parām*). This means that the individual soul (jīvātmā) of His creation is always thinking about the materialistic world only (bhāvayati) and not about God. 2. The word ‘mamātmā’ means the soul of the incarnation Shankara. Such soul is Parabrahman or unmediated God. Such Parabrahman is creating and developing (utpādayati) the materialistic creation. Ramanuja told that ‘mamātmā’ means the mind of God (saṅkalpa) creates and develops the materialistic creation. Madhva told that ‘mamātmā’ means the external physical body of God, which is creation (This body is not the energetic body of God. The creation is surrounding the energetic body and the creation itself is taken as the external body like a coat over the shirt.). This external body is having cosmic energy as the source of matter and awareness and hence, the external body or creation itself is generating the material of the creation. All these meanings are possible as per the concept selected for the word ‘*mamātmā*’.

Chapter 34

December 27, 2022

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**1. Swami, When hell is there, why are human beings punished in this world also?**

[A question by Ms. Thrylokya]

Swami replied:- When you are trying to punish others for their faults here, you are also punished by God for your faults here itself. If you excuse others' faults, God will also excuse your faults. God's punishments are appearing as difficulties and problems in life. If you try to reform others through love without harsh words, God will also help you in reforming you through love without any harsh action on you. Every human being is a mixture of good and bad qualities. Sometimes good comes out and sometimes bad comes out. Every human being sees one's own good only and not bad. Similarly, every human being sees bad only in others and not good. This is the reason why the human being thinks that he/she is good and all others as bad. This is the reason for God's anger on you. To teach a lesson to you, He gives punishments for your faults also here itself. This is the reason why all the human beings are getting difficulties or problems in their lives. You shall change your faults with mental peace and without emotion. Similarly, you shall advise others to rectify their faults through loving and soft words. Then God will love you and excuse your faults without punishing you.

Bhartruhari says "*Paraguṇaparamāṇūn parvatīkṛtya santah*". This shloka means

1. Everybody sees one's own large bad as small bad.
2. Everybody sees one's own small good as large good.
3. Everybody sees small bad in others as large bad.
4. Everybody sees large good in others as small good.

This is the reason for quarrels everywhere in the world. If everybody wants a peaceful and happy life in this world,

1. Everybody shall see one's own small bad as large bad.
2. Everybody shall see one's own large good as small good.
3. Everybody shall see small good in others as large good.
4. Everybody shall see large bad in others as small bad.

All this message is for every human being in this world. I am not specifying anybody because this message applies to every human being in the entire world.



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