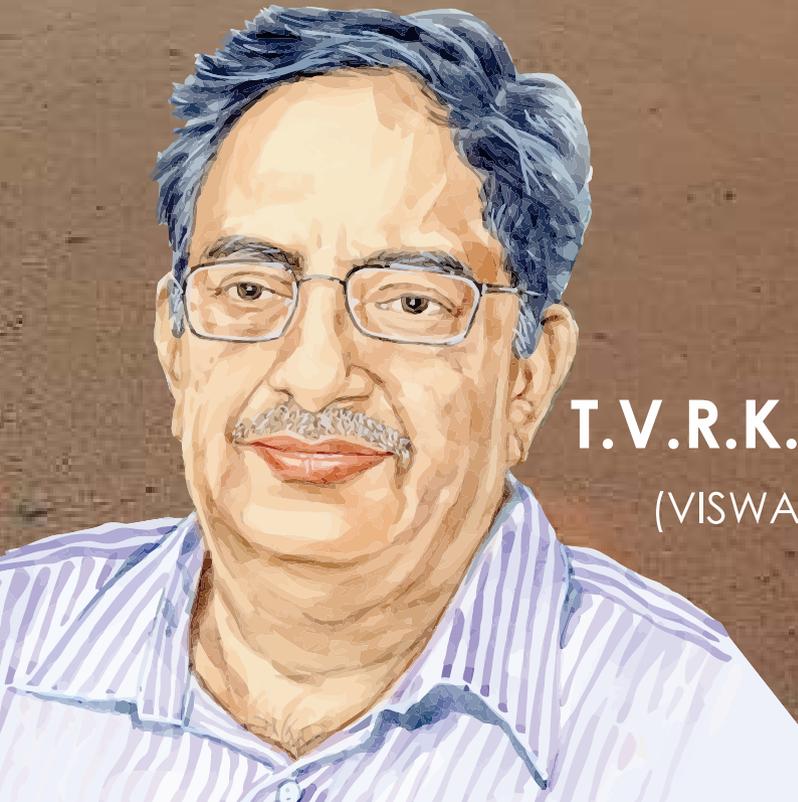


# AMRUTHAPADHAM

*Divine experiences in my life*

*Viswapathi's devotional books are read by millions of devotees across the world.*

*AMRUTHAPADHAM offers an insight in to various divine experiences he had while writing these books.*



**T.V.R.K. Murthy**

(VISWAPATHI)

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*Divine experiences in my life*

VISWAPATHI

(Timmeraju Viswapathi Rama Krishna Murthy)



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*Divine experiences in my life*

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# NIVEDANA

*Venkatadri samamsthanam brahmande naasthi kinchana*

*Venkatesa samodevo na bhootho na bhavishyathi*

-Brahmandapurana

There is no place equal to Venkatadri in this universe. No God equal to Lord Sri Venkateswara either existed earlier or would be in future. He is revered by millions of devotees around the world. They call Him Srinivasa, Venkateswara, Balaji, Govinda, Venkatachalapathi, Venkataramana etc. By His immense grace, so far I have written 24 devotional books, 14 of which are on Lord Sri Venkateswara. I am glad that all these books have become very popular with the devotees by the grace of Srivaru. We print about 10,000 copies every six months and distribute them free to devotees. We consider it as yagna to spread *Sri Venkata Tatwam* in the whole world.

The most popular books are *Sri Venkateswara Vrata Kalpam*, *Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Vrata Kalpam*, *Sri Ananda Anjaneyam*, *Sri Maheswara Vratam*, *Sri Subrahmanya Vratam*, *Sri Sai Raksha Vratam*, *Sri Gnana Saraswathi Vratam*. These 8 Vratas are being read and performed by devotees not only in their homes but also in many temples across the world. I deem this as my great fortune!

I have experienced several miracles while writing each of these books. Many devotees reading these books too had miracles in their lives. Some of them became my friends over the years. Many of them have quite often been asking me

how a person with an engineering background could write so many books. Some great scholars too were surprised to see some quotations from very old puranic texts appearing in my books. They wondered how I could quote extensively from ancient vedic texts which are not available today in any form. I tell them that I am transported to a different plane altogether while writing these books. Some maharshis have blessed me with these; I hear them while I am in deep meditation. I had many such divine experiences while writing these books.

Many of my friends have been requesting me to write a book of my experiences. But somehow, I hesitated for several years as I was not sure how people would perceive or receive them. Finally, I wrote the book *Amruthapadham*, in Telugu last year, wherein I have written about some of my experiences. It was received well by both scholars as well as laymen. Many of my friends who read the Telugu edition were very happy and requested me to translate it in to English as its reach would be wider then. They told me that the book changed their perception of life. So, I decided to translate it in to English, so that many more would get benefitted. I have added some extra chapters in the English edition.

I thank everyone who has been with me over the years in my *yagna* of spreading *Sri Venkata Tatwam* through my books. But for their noble support, it would not have been possible to print and distribute so many copies free of cost. I thank my wife Rukmini, elder daughter Anandi, son-in-law Suresh, grand daughter Tanvi, younger daughter Amukta, son-in-law Dheeraj and son Aditya for giving great support all

along. I am grateful to my wife Rukmini & Sister-in-law Radhika Dasu, for helping me in English translation. I thank Sri Sivaram for wonderful cover design. I am grateful to Sri Alamuri Satyadev, Smt. Alamuri Sree Parimala of AALAMURI FOUNDATION, Sri Srinivas Bhadriraju and Smt. Satya Bhadriraju of Dallas, USA for helping me in printing of this book. I thank Sri Mohan Vudali of Omega Communications for excellent printing of the book. I pray Lord Sri Venkateswara to shower His blessings on all of them and their families.

I have believed in three things in my life...‘*Dharma, Dharma and Dharma.*’ From my personal experiences, I have learnt that it is Dharma that not only protects the one who practises it, but also those around him. May Sri Lakshmi Srinivasa shower their Blessings on each and every one who has played a part in enabling the publication of this book.

*Sarvejanasukhinobhavantu  
Sri LakshmiSrinivasa Kataksha Siddhirastu  
Samastha Sanmangalanibhavanthu*

T.V.R.K.MURTHY  
(Viswapathi)



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## DEDICATION

I dedicate this book unto the Lotus Feet of Lord Srinivasa with reverence.He is my mother, father, guru and god...He means the world to me.

T.V.R.K. MURTHY  
(Viswapathi)



## **DIVINE DREAM**

All of us dream every day. But we do not remember all our dreams. We forget them the moment we wake up. Dreams are very significant. They speak of the past, the present, and the future. Some dreams forewarn us about forthcoming events. We sometimes dream experiences we had in our previous births. It is for this reason, that we cannot give any logical explanation as to why we got a particular dream. You might have got a dream in which you were a king. Perhaps it was true. You might have been really a prince of a state in one of your earlier births. The strong impressions of some births last for several janmas and keep on appearing in our dreams. We should not dismiss them as nonsense.

Dreams come from cosmic worlds. When you dream, you feel as if it is really happening at that time. You feel you are experiencing it really. The state of sleep is an important phenomenon. Your soul travels to different planes during sleep. It can experience incidents that happened in your previous births again. It relives those wonderful experiences. Sometimes dreadful experiences too appear in our dreams. If you get a dream in which you have fallen in to a river, it may signify that you have had a similar mishap in an earlier birth.

Sometimes, ancient saints appear in our dreams and give a message to us. As we all know, many saints are living today in Himalayan region who are more than 400 or 500 years old. They do not like to visit us personally but they appear in our

dreams and give instructions to carry out a good deed which is very helpful to the society. It has been the experience of many great scholars that elevated souls give them message or use them as a medium to do good to the society. There is a belief that many such great souls in the Himalayas were instrumental in seeing that India got its independence. They have all worked through such great leaders like Gandhi, Patel, Nehru, Lala Lajpat Rai, Balagangadhar Tilak etc.,

I had a dream in 2001, that changed the course of my life. That night, I went to bed after saying my prayers and remembering Lord Srinivasa in my mind. I hardly dream in my sleep but that night, it was a strange dream that awakened me; startled, I ran into the puja room. I was experiencing intense heat in my body and woke up from my sleep unable bear the intensity. I never had such an experience earlier. I did not know what was happening to me. It was an out of the world experience.

The amazing scene in my dream...a village with green fields and fertile lands. The pleasant sounds of the birds on trees added to the ambience. There was a hillock in the suburbs on which there was an ancient temple with exquisite sculpture. The temple seemed to generate an incredible aura. I could see the Dhwaja sthambham from a distance and guessed it to be a Siva temple. I could see the villagers thronging the temple. Villagers were walking up to the temple in a long winding queue. They were all walking slowly and quietly.

I was part of the crowd walking towards the temple uphill. The sights I saw there, transported me into a different world altogether. This particular experience of mine remains unique so far, in my life. It has left an indelible impression in my mind.

In the temple premises, adjacent to the dhwaja sthambham, an old brahmin, who looked like an ascetic, rested against a wall. There was an ineffable radiance on his face and

he sat there with his limbs folded closely to his body. The devotees who entered the temple prostrated at his feet before moving on. The old ascetic, who seemed to remind one of Lord Siva, smiled at every devotee and blessed each of them. Even his smile seemed to mesmerise each and everyone.

As the line of people approaching the ascetic moved forward, I was awaiting my turn and as I came closer, I was completely taken away by his charm. Everyone was only putting a namaskar and no one was touching him. But somehow without thinking, mesmerised by his magnificent aura, I bent down and touched his feet. The minute I touched his feet, the old ascetic placed his hand over my head and blessed me and said, “My dear child, hereafter, you are going to experience many miraculous events. You shall be doing lot of good things. Lord Siva will always protect you and your family. Wish you good luck!”

I was stunned as he spoke, for, he was silent until then. He had blessed every devotee but had spoken only to me and this surprised even the other people there. As he spoke, I could feel some strong current passing through my body that suddenly seemed to increase in its strength. My heart was resonant with the *Pranavanada* “Aum” and it was so intense, that it generated great heat within; as a result of which I woke up from my sleep.

I could still hear the “Omkara nada” within, though I was awake. I was totally perplexed and chanting the Omkaram aloud, I entered the puja room. I sat there meditating upon the same. Pranava nada was simply vibrating in my body. Half an hour passed, and then I felt the vibration of nada slowing down. Though the sound seemed to have diminished, my lips were uttering it. I seemed to have regained normalcy after 40 minutes of waking up and my body was drenched in sweat as a result of the tremendous heat generated within.

I can never ever forget that night's experience. I saw the picture of Kanchi Paramacharya *Sri Chandrasekhara Saraswathi* in a book after 4-5 days. I was surprised, as I realised that the old swamy I saw in the temple in my dream, was none other than the Acharya! I felt truly blessed as He had not only blessed me in my dream but also gifted me with the *Pranavanada mantropadesam* during the *Brahma muhurtam* (before dawn). Sri Chandra Sekhara Saraswathi Swamiji is revered by many as Walking God. He was a very pious man. I'm really fortunate to have the blessings of such a divine Seer (incarnation of Lord Siva) as I do not think I have done anything worthwhile in this life of mine. From then on, many miracles have happened in my life and I have undertaken the task of completing several works delegated to me by the Lord himself as if He has reminded me of the purpose of my birth.

As I already said, my life changed after the dream. I could sense the Divine Hand in every aspect of my life thereafter. People associated with me also experienced many amazing things. I realised that each and every person known to me in this life, was a part of my previous janmas too. I understood that there is a defined role for every person, associated with me, in the fulfilment of my unfinished works - as a friend, acquaintance or a relative. Some people seem to very well understand the underlying significance of our bonding, as I have. Some may not understand, but are associated with me in all my works. So far, I have written 24 books out of which 14 books describe the leelas of Lord Srinivasa. 8 books relate to different gods and the *Vratas* pertaining to them. People who have read these books have miraculous stories to share. What more could one ask for?



## **SRI VENKATESWARA VRATHA KALPAM**

Everyday thousands of devotees visit Tirumala to have divine darshan of LORD SRI BALAJI SRI VENKATESWARA. May be it is a darshan of few seconds! But they feel very happy and greatly blessed. They leave Tirumala with a heavy heart; with a strong desire in their hearts to return at the earliest. Such is the magnetic pull/sway of Lord Srinivasa. The moment they enter the main temple, they are simply mesmerised by His magnificent charm forgetting all the stress and strain of standing in the serpentine queue for several hours. For lakhs of devotees, Lord Balaji means everything to them. He alone is their deity...no, not deity alone...He is father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister...everything to them. He is their master too. Such is the faith of millions of devotees of Lord Sri Balaji. They visit Tirumala from far off places in India and abroad.

It is the tradition in many Indian families to perform SRI SATYANARAYANA VRATHAM on auspicious occasions like marriage, gruhapravesh, naming ceremony of new born etc., In fact many households perform Sri Satyanarayana Vratham every year. One day, in the year 2002, I got a call from a devotee saying that their family is forbidden from doing Sri Satyanarayana Vratham. No one in their family could perform the Vratha. He sounded a bit disappointed. He asked me how nice it would be, if a simple vrath kadha of Lord Sri Balaji existed, so that they could instead perform this vrath and get blessings of Lord Srimannarayana. I came to know later that it is a custom in

quite a few families that no one should perform Sri Satyanarayana Vrata.

I was thinking how wonderful if a simple vrata kadha of Lord Sri Balaji existed so that everyone can perform easily. Not that we do not have any puja vidhan of Lord Sri Balaji. Since generations, many devotees are performing a vrata called seven Saturdays vrata. It is a bit lengthy process and one should observe some strict practices while performing it. One has to fast the whole day and should perform it in the evening. It is not very easy to perform in today's highly busy life. Lord Srinivasa, the Merciful, heard my voice. I got a dream one early morning in which I got a message from Lord Srinivasa to write His vrata kadha book. My joy knew no bounds! My god blessed me with His grace! How fortunate I am! It was my poorva janma punya that He gave His blessings to me.

In 2005, I wrote *Sri Venkateswara Vrata Kalpam* which has become the most popular book that I have written so far. Many amazing incidents have been occurring in the lives of many bhaktas. The first story in this Vratam was ordained by none other than Sri Srinivasa Himself on the Tirumala Hills. I stayed on the sacred Tirumala Hills before I began to write this book. I had Lord Srimannarayana's Viswaroopa darshan on that day which cannot be described in words. I was bestowed with a divine vision to witness the spectacle for a few seconds by the Lord Himself. His Cosmic form with a thousand arms and faces covered the Tirumala skies. It was a visual treat for me but an ordinary mortal cannot withstand the scale of such a sight for long. It was then that He described to me the Vratam in detail which happens to be the content of the first chapter. He also told me that the next four chapters would be narrated to me by His beloved league of Maharishis...*Viswamitra*, *Vasishtha*, *Bharadwaja* and *Athri*. Such an incredible experience! It is the

grace of Lord Srinivasa and nothing else! The experiences associated with this Vratam alone are enough to make me feel blessed in this life.

*Sri Swamyvaru* (as Lord is often called by devotees) described the Vratam procedure to me in His Cosmic form. One needn't practice austerities to perform this Vratam as it is difficult to do so in the Kali Yuga. Srinivasa, the Supreme Lord knows all our limitations in today's highly mechanical life. He blessed us all with a very simple vratha to get His blessings. Anyone can perform the Vratam in just 30 minutes. You can do it in your home, a temple or a religious place...anywhere. You can do it in an elaborate way by taking the services of a priest or in a simple way all by yourself. You would be equally blessed. Since 2005, we have been printing 10,000 copies of this vratha book every 6 months and distributing them freely to devotees. I have not given them for sale to any one. People across the world are performing the Vratam regularly. Today, it is available on several websites on the Internet where it can be freely downloaded. It has also been translated into several languages on the demand of devotees.

Lakhs of devotees are reading the five stories given in this book every Saturday and enjoying the fruits of the same and are leading happy lives. Every day I receive phone calls, letters and e-mails from many people who share their experiences with me. It makes me happy when I receive phone calls of people, that their problems have been solved after reading the book...some have got married, some secured good jobs, some have been blessed with children while some others have seen great progress in their health.

Many *peethadipathis* (hindu religious heads) have included the Vratam in their daily rituals and one such swamiji has advocated the practice of this Vratam as the easiest method in

*Kali Yuga* to seek the blessings of the Lord. It is being regularly read in many Veda pathasalas and has also become a custom to perform it once a month in many temples across the world. There are some who carry the book with them all the time and believe that it protects them from any difficulties if it is on their person.

Let me narrate the tale of a Kannada woman who called me one day from Goa. She had the Hindi version of the Vratam with her and kept the copy of the same in her car. Once while going to Belgaum from Goa by road, the car slipped and almost fell into a valley. The book that was on the dash board of the car, slid to the other side of the car! The book then apparently, balanced the car and stopped it from slipping over the edge of the road, into the valley. The passengers inside were stupefied as they believed it was Lord Srinivasa who saved their lives. A small book of 40 pages was balancing the whole car with four people in it! No, it is not a small book...It is Lord Balaji Himself who was there at that time in the form of VRATH KADHA book and saved His ardent devotees.

Soon after going home, they phoned me and told how Lord Sri Balaji saved their lives...they felt they must spread this powerful vratam...they sought my permission to translate the book into Kannada and Marathi and propagate the importance of following the book among as many people as they could. I readily consented and in no time, they visited me with the new versions and printed copies of the book. Some others who are railway employees, by name Smt. Vijyalakshmi and her husband Sri Satyanarayana Murthy, Smt. Jayanthi and her husband Sri R. Srinivas translated the book into Tamil. They have also translated *Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Vratam* and *Sri Subrahmanya Vratam* into Tamil. A septuagenarian Marathi teacher dropped in some

time back and gave me the Marathi translated version of the same. Likewise, I am told, it has been translated into French also. A couple Rishikesh and Lalitha in California experienced many miracles and translated it in to several languages. In fact I learnt that many devotees are translating it in to their languages. It is absolutely the divine grace of SRI VENKATESWARA and nothing else. Otherwise, how an individual like me can see that it is spread across continents? Lord Himself is getting it done through chosen ones.

Here's another interesting tale...An archaka (priest) called me from a temple in Rajahmundry, a town in Andhra Pradesh, and said that he had received *Sri Venkateswara Vrata Kalpam* through courier the previous evening. At the first glance he was impressed and decided to take his own time in reading it. He kept it in one corner in the *garbhalayam* (sanctum sanctorum). He was sleeping in the temple premises as usual, but was awakened, by a knock on the temple door late in the night, when he was about to retire for the night. He was puzzled as to who could it be at that time of the night. He couldn't believe his eyes when he opened the door and saw a woman bedecked with jewels and a radiance emanating from her body. She was draped in a pattu saree with a big coin-sized kumkum on her forehead. He was a bit shocked at the sight of her but regaining his composure at once asked her the reason for her visit at that odd hour and if she was scared to be out at that hour. She replied immediately, she had no reason to get scared. He asked her where she lived and wondered what brought her there at that odd hour. She replied that, 'Every home is my home'. She continued even before the priest could ask some more questions and told him that he should make it a habit to read the Venkateswara Vratam every day. He would greatly benefit by the same. Archaka was surprised that she knew

about the book that he had obtained recently. She told the priest that she would stay in the temple for the night. The priest said yes, and she walked in. The anklets on her feet tinkled as she walked in and went into the garbhlayam. Presuming that she chose to sleep there, the priest slept in the verandah on a mat.

The priest woke up at 5:00 A.M. as usual, and went to sanctum sanctorum to wake up the lady. To his astonishment, he did not find the woman inside. There was no chance of her leaving before the priest woke up as he had the keys of the main door with him. The priest was baffled. He then understood that it was none other than *Goddess Sri Mahalakshmi* who had come, it being *Sravana Pournima*, a most auspicious day. He never had such an experience in 70 years of his life. He regretted not having recognised the Goddess and praised Her with stotras. He begged to apologise if he had done any mistake. He had thought she was an ordinary mortal and only worried as to how she would go back alone. He had failed in identifying her even with the lustre that shone on her face. He then told me that the Goddess graced the temple soon after he received the SRI VENKATESWARA VRATHA KALPAM book and told me that thereafter, he would read it every Saturday without fail.

Whenever I recollect such episodes, I feel how blessed I am. I regularly hear such miracles from many devotees. Recently a woman called me from Kakinada and said she received a copy of the Vratam sent by me. She said that her family was going through tough times. They are strong devotees of Lord Srinivasa and have always believed that He will take care of everything. They were asked to perform the Vratam and were assured of good times in the near future. She said, that they had not heard of the book earlier, and as she had some urgent

work to finish, went to the RTC bus stand in the afternoon after keeping the book in a shelf.

As she finished her work and was leaving the place, she met an old man who wore the *Namam* on his forehead similar to that of the Lord. He stopped her when she was walking past him and said to her, “Do start reading the *Sri Venkateswara Vrata Kalpam* from the next Saturday. I assure you that your troubles will end.” Even before she could speak, he walked away hurriedly and merged with the crowd. As she had kept the book aside, she felt the Lord Himself came to remind her that the book was a godsent gift to them for bringing better times into their lives.

Such has been the significance of this book. As stated in the first chapter of the Vratam, Lord Srinivasa graces the homes of all devotees in some form after the performance of the Vratam. Each time the vratam is performed, someone will definitely come to take prasad. He may be a friend, a relative or some unknown guest. There are instances when the Lord comes in the form of some bird or animal to take the Prasad. But it is certain that Lord Sri Balaji will definitely come to anyone’s home who performs it. There are many interesting experiences shared by many people in this context. Isn’t it wonderful that remarkable changes are taking place in the lives of so many people? It is my humble supplication that I shall spend my life in the seva of the Lord and His devotees. My only aim in life is to spread *Sri Venkata Tatwam* across the world.



## KALACHAKRA

It is not necessary that a soul enters another body that is, takes birth again, immediately after death. Our soul goes to subtle plane and remains there for years. In some cases it may be 200-300 years, whereas in some cases it could be just a few days. It is not necessary that we are born again as human beings .We all should remember that manav janma is the most precious in 84 lakh species. It is only in this form that one can do good deeds and come out of the cycle of birth and death. No bird or animal can do good karma and get a better janma in the next birth. Sometimes we see our pet dog looking at us pathetically. It is possible that it is cursing itself for being born as a dog. Poor thing, as it cannot communicate its feeling verbally, it shows through it's behavior. If a stray dog barks at you ferociously, do not think it has mistaken you for a thief. It may simply be trying to tell you that you are so blessed to be born as human being. Perhaps it was human being in one of it's earlier births and committed many sins and is born as an animal in several births thereafter. Unable to come out of the cycle, it is begging you to show the way to get *manava janma* again.

Sometime ago, I used to go to a temple regularly. I noticed a stray dog roaming near the temple. It would not harm anyone. One day I sat in meditation and after contemplating for a while, learnt that this dog is none other than an archaka of

the same temple in the previous birth! He swindled temple funds, and attained this janma in his next birth. He would have been born as a dog in far off Africa! But why was he born again here? That archaka was well versed in Sanskrit and used to recite *Vishnu sahasranama* every day. Because of this punya, he was born again, nearer to the same temple. We observe several such incidents in day to day life.

Many of us are totally shaken at the drop of a hat. The smallest of problems we face, disturbs us to the greatest extent, and we feel as if we are the only unfortunate ones on this earth. How many of us realise that we are just a drop in the mighty ocean of Lord's Creation. In other words, do our neighbours know us fully or vice versa? So goes with the area, town, state, country and so on. Just go to the window and see outside...you see many people walking on the road...each one's problems are to be faced by him only...what is our identity in this universe?...Forget about universe, many people in your own apartment complex may not personally know you...they are least bothered about how you live and what your miseries, worries or joys are!

The average life span of a person is 70-80 years. Is it highly insignificant when compared to the infinite flow of time (*kalachakra*)! At the most, one knows the life and times of one's parent, grandparent and great grandparent. How many of us know the names of the parents of our great grandparents, leave alone their lives? Do we know how your great grandfather lived and what problems he faced? No, certainly not. The fact is, he has not lived thousands of years ago, just about 100-150 years ago! So, if we do not know about our own great grandfather who lived a hundred years ago, what about us? We

too are no exception. After hundred years or so, our grandchildren or great grand children will not remember us...our miseries, our worries, how hard we have worked to take care of the family, how much suffering we have undergone, how many times we felt insulted...all this will vanish into thin air, the moment we are dead...No one, not even our own grand children will remember all this...when life is such a short affair why should we worry at all? Just be happy and happy always...

Life is too very short. One has to live each moment as it comes by neither brooding over the past nor worrying about the future. One has to thoroughly understand that each and everything in this world that we see and feel is transient and short lived. Centuries ago there may have been a great mansion where you are staying now in an apartment complex. May be it was a huge palace...but as centuries rolled by all those old monuments have gone...There are no traces of what it once stood for. Similarly one doesn't know how many more buildings of historical importance might have been there and gone down the earth. The same will be so of our home tomorrow. We should always remember this aspect. To make the most of life, we should try to help others, wish them well and follow the dictum-'Live and let live'. We should do away with all the negative emotions of hatred, jealousy, selfishness in our lives. We should not blame others for the adverse situation we might be facing in our lives as we are reaping the fruits of our karma in our previous births. When we realise that everything in the world is transient, we automatically do away with the differences we have with others. We learn to react to every situation in a nonchalant manner and nothing affects us from then on.



## PREVIOUS BIRTH'S IMPRESSIONS

The soul is eternal. It goes from one birth to another leaving the physical body in this physical plane. A soul takes millions of births before attaining *moksha*, the ultimate liberation. Many souls may not attain moksha at all, thus going through this cycle of births for millions of years. They take birth as different species in each birth, not necessarily as a human being. The strong experiences we undergo in a janma will have lasting impressions in the next janmas too. Those incidents appear in our dreams even after several births. Almost all of us get such dreams in our lives.

The concept of reincarnation offers a fantastic view into our previous births. Many great emperors who lived centuries ago may have taken several re-births and may be living among us today as ordinary people. Similarly many ex-presidents and prime ministers of several countries may be among us today. Many prominent people of yester years may be among us today. They may be in some country or other...Either as human beings or as some other species. Neither they nor we know who they were in their previous birth. But it could be very true that many of them are certainly living among us as a bird or an animal or a human being....who knows your own brother may have been a very prominent personalty of yester years like Mahatma Gandhi, Shakespeare or Indian Emperor Ashoka or

the great Comedian Charlie Chaplin in one of his earlier births?...Yes! It is true...some of your own relatives or friends could have been a very famous person in their earlier births... Why them? You yourself might have been a very famous personality of yester years! It may sound incredible and interesting too...

Most of us know that many dictators of yesteryears committed several atrocities...they thus accumulated tremendous negative karma (*pap karma*) for killing thousands of innocents... And, to undergo the effect of this, they will have to take several thousand births...The magnitude of their *sanchitha karma* (karma accumulated in previous births) and *prarabdha karma* is so vast that it cannot be mitigated in just one janma alone...actually, this holds true for any ordinary person also. So they are sure to be among us today, living in some country...fortunately neither they nor anyone around them knows he was none other than a dictator of yester years...A great soul told me sometime ago, that Srinadha, a great scholar of yesteryears in Telugu is living in a town in Andhra Pradesh in this janma!...Great persons, who do lot of *sadhana*, know about our previous births...what we were and where we were in our earlier births...they can tell exactly where, when and how one lived in his earlier birth. Another interesting aspect is, some of us still carry the feelings or emotions of our earlier births in us, even though we have taken several births thereafter! Recently I met a Telugu poet. His works are very similar to a great poet of yester years. But, the wonder is, he has not studied literature. After meditating for a while, I realised that he is none other than the same great poet. It is for this reason, that his works bear similarity to that scholar's works. Similarly, I know a doctor who is very popular today. He takes care of his patients very well. In one of his

earlier births, he was a great engineer. But, he had then always felt, that he could have served the needy better, had he been a doctor. His will was so very strong, that he became a doctor in this janma and has been serving the poor. Such strong emotions remain for several births. Sometimes our personality traits, characteristics, emotions are carried for several births. Or they may surface again after several births. Recently I heard about a great scientist who got a prestigious award at an young age. In fact, this scientist did great work in his earlier janma but he did not get any recognition. He died as a frustrated man in that birth. His desire to do greater work and achieve recognition remained with the soul. Because of this strong will, he took birth again as human being and did great work at a very young age itself and achieved the due recognition. We find several such cases everyday in our lives.

The strong *vasanas* (impressions) remain with the soul for several births. Sometime they appear suddenly in some particular janma. They may not necessarily surface in the very next birth itself. It may happen after several births. Suppose you were a king in one of your earlier births; when you meet a person in this *janma*, you do not take a liking to him for apparently no reason at all. This puzzles you and the other person too. The reason could be that he could have been your enemy in one of your earlier births...or the one who dethroned you while you were a king...he too took several births and appeared again in this janma. It is a strange coincidence that you both met again in this janma. But neither of you know your relationship of earlier janmas. Because of earlier birth's strong emotions surfacing now, you have animosity towards him. You are angry with him for every small thing. You feel very sorry after shouting at him. But you cannot restrain yourself. You will repent every time after

shouting at him unreasonably, or for no fault of his. However best you try to be cool, you do not remain so. It is because you had such a strong enmity with him in your earlier birth. The earlier birth's reminiscences dominate you.

Long time ago, I witnessed one interesting incident. One of my friends was very attached to his mother. So much so, that even at the age of twenty, he was sleeping on the same cot by her side. He eventually got married, and had to move to a far away place for his employment. He could not live without seeing his mother for fortnight at a stretch. So he used to travel every other Sunday to see her. After a couple of years his wife got annoyed. What I discovered when I was in my meditation astonished me. My friend had a sister in one of his earlier births. He was very attached to her. The affection for her resulted in his being born of her womb as her son in this janma!...What an irony!...So, his past life's vasanas are dragging him to be nearer to her always!...It is for this reason he could not spend a week without seeing her...All of us experience such emotional attachments to different persons...May be we are related in our previous births in some way...but just think how fortunate it is that we forget everything the moment we die...and take a birth...maya engulfs us, the moment we are born again.

It is not necessary that a man is again definitely be born as a human being. Depending up on the severity of the sins he committed he may be born as a dog or a cat or an elephant or some other species. Recently I went to a Zoo park and visited elephants place. One of them was very ferocious. On enquiring, the person in charge was telling me that however well they trained or whatsoever punishment was given, this particular elephant was always ferocious and never obeyed the orders of

the mahout. Upon meditating for a while, I understood the reason. This elephant was a king in one of its previous births. He was very cruel. No one in his kingdom liked him. He took several births and committed many sins and took birth as an elephant in this janma. It did not lose its ferocity or defiance even now.

Sometimes we see a young scholar quoting extensively from vedic texts. He has not studied it in this janma, but he has knowledge of it through one of his earlier births. Suddenly the flow comes to him...the verses flow spontaneously in his mind...We hear about child prodigies. It is certain, that they were experts in those fields in one of their earlier births. It continued the moment they are born again and in a very young age itself, they show considerable expertise in that particular field. We hear about amazing kids who recognise most of the ragas by the age of five years itself.. We must understand, that these children are born with reminiscences related to their poorva janmas wherein they must have been renowned musicians. Once, a great man told me that one of the famous musicians of our times actually lived during the rule of Sri Krishnadevaraya. He adorned the royal court! After many janmas he regained the '*sangeeta-sadhana*' of the earlier janma in this life and has therefore earned name and fame for himself in the field of music. The people who lived during the Dwapara Yuga are also born in the Kali Yuga and they continue to be driven by those very traits they were once born with. Some of them were great warriors and noble men in that period. Today they are living as ordinary men in this life.

Sometimes the places we visit for the first time seem to be very familiar to us, as if we've known them for years. You feel

you visited it several times, a feeling of déjà vu. The reason is that in one of our previous births there must have been a strong connection with that place. Perhaps you were born in that place in one of your earlier births or visited it in your previous birth. People who are habituated to doing dhyana (meditation) and those who are always pious in their behaviour get connected with this aspect easily.

Once a person dies and is reborn, the memories of the earlier life are totally erased. Maya or delusion is the main reason. Maya engulfs you once you take another birth. You will forget everything about your previous birth. Very few people have the ability to remember details of their previous life and only the mahatmas or enlightened souls are gifted in recollecting several earlier janmas and not just the previous life alone. However, they do not reveal the same to anybody. They do not want anyone else to know about their powers. They have a pleasing behaviour and look like ordinary mortals. It is difficult for others to understand the innate power that they possess. The energy and ambience surrounding such people send such positive vibes that those who go to them experience a sense of serenity and calm. None living in the vicinity of such elevated souls will be affected with any kind of ill health. But we, the ordinary people, do not realise that this is due to the sheer presence of a great person around here. We feel a magnetic power pulling us to spend more time in their presence. We feel very happy in their presence.

Many such great people exist among us even today. They look like you and me. They may be working as a doctor, an engineer or a typist or an IT professional...they could be in any profession. They may be married and leading normal life like all

of us. But they know past, present and future. They have great abilities. Some of them can even understand the language of birds, animals and other creatures. They can tell you what you were in your earlier births and what you are going to be in your next birth. But they do not disclose this to anyone. It is very difficult to recognise such great people unless we move closely with them for a long time and go very near to their hearts with our good thoughts and actions. Unless we are destined to know, we will not be able to recognise them. But such great souls are certainly present among us. They do not like to disclose their powers as they do not like hype and publicity.

It is commonly observed that whatever some people utter, it will definitely happen sooner or later. We often ask such people not to speak negatively. The truth is that such people were very noble in their *poorva janmas*, but due to some sin committed by them, they are reborn to undergo the effects of negative karma. It is for this reason, that whatever they speak comes true. But it may not always be so. Usually, this happens on days ruled by a particular *nakshatra* (star). If it is the birth star of these people in their *poorva janma*, then every word uttered by them during the time of that particular star may come true. However most of the people are not aware of the same. Once a man called Rama Rao visited me. He was a great sadhu, 7 *janmas* prior to this one and was born in Haridwar. He had practised '*mouna vratam*' (vow of silence) for 14 years and earned many powers thereby. But at the fag end of his life he nurtured negative emotions and was envious of the other sadhus. He therefore was caught in the quagmire of *janana-marana*. The powers acquired then, as a sadhu are visible now; at times, he not only has an intuition of what's

going to happen but also words spoken by him come true. It is not intentional on his part but purely accidental. There are many people like him in this world.

Thus, the cycle of *janana-marana* is very complex and intricate. Very few people, out of millions of species born, attain *Moksha* and merge with the *Paramapurusha*, the Supreme Being. Rest are perpetually caught in the vicious wheel of time, forever sinning and being born again and again to pay for their sins. The *atma* dons various forms by entering different wombs each time till it attains *sampoorna jnana*, the complete wisdom. Some may not obtain deliverance from the cycle of births and deaths. When at the time of *pralaya*, the great deluge, when all species are destroyed, it is believed that everyone attains *moksha*. But it is not so. After *pralaya*, those souls take birth again carrying the *sanchita karma*. It is not true that at the time of *pralayakala* everyone attains *moksha* automatically. We are born again carrying the previous birth's *sanchita karma*.



## WHO GETS THE FIRST COPY?

Lord Srinivasa, the presiding deity of Tirumala, is the most powerful God. Everyday, thousands of devotees throng the sacred Tirumala hills to have His divine darshan. They are mesmerised, dumbstruck by His magnificent charm. He showers His blessings on all of them. For those who have complete faith in Him, He is the Supreme. They experience His immense grace through several miracles in their lives. Every devotee's experience is unique to himself. He knows what to give us. And when to give us. Most of the times, what we ask, is different from what we need. Like an affectionate parent, He always takes care of us. He may not give what we ask Him for. But, He gives what we need the most at that time. His miracles are simply mind blowing. I have experienced several in my life. In fact I owe my whole life to Him.

I wrote my first book SRI SRINIVASA MAHATMYAM in 2001. After four years, in 2005, I wrote *Sri Venakteswara Vratha Kalpam*, a vrath kadha book on Lord BALAJI SRI VENAKTESWARA. Since then, I have been writing a new book every six months. I have seen many divine experiences not only while writing, but in getting them printed too. Each time, it was a different experience, more wonderful than the earlier. I want to distribute these books for free as long as I can. We send hundreds of copies to various temples regularly for free distribution. It is absolutely His grace and nothing else that I am able to write these books, get them printed and distribute them in this way. It is difficult to understand His tatwam. When

thousand hooded Lord Adishesha could not explain even a thousandth of His glory, what an ordinary mortal like me can do? It will be poorva janma punya even to understand a millionth of Sri Venkata Tatwam. His Vibhuthis, Leelas are wonderful and astonishing at times.

I've made it a practice to offer the first copy of every book that I write, to the Lord by going to Tirumala. In the last twelve years, I have written one book in every six months, only due to the Blessings of the Lord. They are being followed in many of the veda pathashalas (vedic schools) and have been translated into many Indian languages. We print at least five thousand copies of each book after it is written. I take the first 100 copies of the same to perform the customary puja to 'SriVari Padaalu' at Tirumala. Thereafter, I offer the first three copies to the Lord through '*SriVari Hundi*' followed by the distribution of the rest of the books.

I have written 14 books on the '*Leelas*' of Lord Srinivasa so far and have followed the above procedure. I went to Yadagirigutta when I wrote '*Sri Narasimha Vratam*'; I went to Bhadrachalam to dedicate '*Sri Rama Raksha Vratam*' and Tiruttani with '*Sri Subrahmanyeswara Vratam*'. In this way, I visited the corresponding kshetras of Gods on whom I wrote the books, for doing puja and offering the first copies of the books. The recipient of the first copy, during distribution of each book, after the customary puja, is also ordained by God. There are some unbelievable instances to prove that even though I desired to give the first copy of a book to a particular person, it went to the person ordained by God. Let me share with you who received the first copy of my first book '*Sri Srinivasa Mahatyam*.'

I reached Tirumala in the afternoon on foot (uphill) along with my wife Rukmini and 4 copies of the book. I had the Lord's Darshan in the evening after the tonsure ceremony. The next day morning, we took 100 copies of the book and proceeded to Narayanagiri 'SriVari Padaalu' by 6:00 A.M. That region was not very well known in those days. Two police constables used to be posted at the microwave tower there on a daily basis. With not even ten people frequenting the place, it used to be very quiet there. I was laying the books at the Lord's Feet as my wife was applying *haldi* (turmeric) and *kumkum* (a red powder - symbolising Goddess Lakshmi...used for social and religious markings in India) to each of them as it is considered auspicious. One of the constables, who was observing our activity, approached me and asked me for a copy of the book. I nodded my head in consent but asked him to meet me at our cottage in the evening as I wanted to first offer three copies in '*SriVari Hundi*' before I started the distribution.

There was one officer uphill, in those days, called Avasarala Apparao who was known to me. As a senior officer, he always made arrangements for our accommodation whenever we visited Tirumala as he had lot of respect for me. I wished to give the first copy of the book to Apparao garu after depositing the first three copies in the Hundi. After the Darshan, I went to Apparao garu's office in the evening to give him the first copy. I was told he was on leave that day. I was a little perplexed, as he had promised me the previous day, that he would meet me the next day. When I called him on phone, he said he had some urgent work to attend on that day which was why he was absent. He said he would meet me the following

morning at 7:30 A.M., as he knew we would be leaving Tirumala by 8:30 A.M. the next day.

I returned to the cottage, but was in a fix. I had intended to give the first copy to Apparao garu. However, I had asked the constable to come to the cottage and I wasn't sure if I wanted to give the constable the first copy. Soon I realised that the constable did not come, and I told myself that he must have forgotten about it and must have left Tirumala for Tirupathi. I went to Apparao garu's office the next morning at sharp 7:30 A.M., with a few copies of the book. He had not come and I was getting late; in an hour we had to vacate the cottage and go downhill. When I rang him up, he apologised for not being present even on that day and asked me to hand over the copies of the book to his colleague from whom he would collect them the day next.

As I did not like the idea, I decided to send him the copies later and returned to the cottage. My wife hurried me and said if we didn't start immediately, we might not be able to visit the temples of Govindaraja Swamy and Tiruchanoor (temple of goddess Padmavathi) for want of time. As we set out to step into the car, we heard the '*Sri Vari Ghantanadam*' – sound of the first bell that marks the first Naivedyam (food offering) to the Lord for the day; *Naivedyam* is marked by ringing the two bells. The Seven Hills were reverberating with the sound of the bells and I didn't feel like leaving at that moment. I told my wife that we would wait there as long as the bells tolled. I alighted from the car and stood listening to the *ghantanadam*. After 15 minutes, as the sound of the bells subsided and I was about to get in to the car, I heard a voice from behind, asking me for a copy of the book. I turned

around and recognised the man who was addressing me as the constable who had asked for the book the previous day at ‘*SriVari Padaalu*’. He explained to me that he had to rush downhill the day before urgently and therefore could not come for the book. He was back on duty now and remembered to collect the copy. I gave him the copy immediately and he was more than happy to receive it. He touched the book to his eyes as a mark of respect to honour the book and greeted me with folded hands - before leaving the place, totally gratified.

The first copy of the first book written by me on Lord Srinvasa was destined to reach the hands of the constable. No matter how much I tried to give it to Apparao garu, it was finally obtained by the constable. If the ‘*ghantanadam*’ hadn’t commenced at that time, I would have left and he would not have been the recipient. Swamy varu’s ‘*Naivedyam*’ timings are also not always strictly adhered to. At times, there is a little delay, if a VIP is seeking His Darshan. But on that day, the bells rang on time, when I was about to start, and I understood that it was the Lord’s ‘*Sankalpam*’(Will), that the first copy of my book has to be given to the constable. Lord wanted me to handover the first copy to the constable.

I have observed the same with respect to all the other books that I have written so far. The first copies of each and every book have fallen only into the hands of devotees chosen by God even if I wanted to give it to someone else.



## WHY ARE WE HERE?

Why are we here? Every one of us faces this question in our mind at some point of time. Why am I here at all? When you undergo suffering, feel frustrated, feel depressed, this thought surfaces and dominates our minds. Why all this suffering? In the first place, why should I be born at all? For that matter, why all this Creation? When nothing is permanent, why should it be created in the first place? What is the purpose of Creation? Innumerable number of people have been born and have died since the creation started. No one remembers them. Most beautiful palaces have been built. Nothing exists now. Beautiful cities of previous yugas have all vanished from the face of the earth. If nothing is permanent, why should it be created in the first place? Some of us pose this question to intellectuals, elderly persons and spiritual leaders. But seldom do we get a reply that we are able to comprehend fully.

In the beginning, GOD and GOD alone existed. He was in state of complete happiness, *brahmananada*, full of eternal happiness. He was alone. He thought, why not I create wonderful plants and beautiful lakes which will be very pleasant to behold. He just wanted to expand the canvas of happiness. After doing so, He thought why not I create many creatures, so that all of them too can experience this happiness. So, He created this whole world full of various species...beautiful peacocks, deer, kangaroos, rabbits, butterflies...and finally beautiful

men and women. He created 84 lakh species. And they have all emanated from Him, the source of infinite happiness. So the moment they were all created, all of them were happy...very happy...everyone was simply experiencing *brahmananda*.

All of us are basically divine in nature. The whole universe is divine. This is why we say GOD is everywhere. Whole creation was happy in the beginning...for several million years. Every one was living happily. All animals were behaving like friends. Man was in fact their best friend. The problem started later. Man, the most intelligent one of God's creation, could think, had feelings and emotions. When he saw beautiful birds and animals around him, a thought came to his mind, why are they more beautiful than me? In fact each of the species was equally beautiful. He started feeling that all others were living more happily than him. He thought if somehow he tamed them they would become less happier than he was; he would be their master, controlling them. Thus, man started taming them and started owning them. This process gave rise to anger, greed among his own people. If someone owned two animals, one wished to possess more than that. Everyone started feeling that if they owned more animals, they would be happier. Gradually, a thought came in the mind of man that if he could control some animals why not he try and control some men too?...That gave rise to show of power and force.

Once caught in the race of acquiring more and more, man lost peace. He became greedier. All our problems started thereafter. Not just started. They started growing day by day. We have fallen in to this cycle of birth-death and re-birth by doing wrong deeds and thus accumulating negative karma. As you have seen, all of us were very happy in the beginning. And

remember, even today one can be very happy. Only thing is, one should seriously feel that one wants to be happy. Everyone says they want to be happy, but none puts any effort towards achieving it. Unless one puts in effort, one will not get that happiness. In fact one can be happy by practising simple things. Remember happiness is nothing but GOD. As we know GOD is everywhere, HAPPINESS is everywhere...in abundance. We need to only tap it...understand it. Start feeling it. Over millions of generations, you lost even simple happiness. You do not have to go thousand years back to know how true it is. Just think how happy kids are, when they buy a small eraser for just 25 paise. Whereas, after one grows up, one may not be happy even when he buys a pen worth Rs. 500. Happiness is not in the product or object...it is in your mind. We experience great happiness in the company of a child, children are closer to Divinity.

Most of us live through our whole life, without enjoying even small things. We always think of what the others have, not about what we have. You go to a hotel and order a plate of idly because you love idly with sambar. You start eating and enjoying it. Then you find someone sitting opposite to you orders poori. He gets his poori, starts eating it. The moment you look at him eating the poori, you feel you too should have ordered poori. You feel he is enjoying more than you do. The moment this thought comes to your mind, your happiness in eating your favourite idly sambar is lost. Who knows even man eating poori might be thinking he should have ordered for idly sambar! This is what life is all about. Many of us worry about many things which are not possible to acquire in this present janma. In fact many times what we think may make us happy, might not give happiness once we possess it. Instead why do

not you enjoy many things in this universe which are free for everyone? Rivers, mountains, green trees, all these make us happy. Watch green tree for half an hour and see how happy you feel. Happiness is the state of mind. Mere possessions would not make one happy. Recently, I heard a top industrialist saying that having a chai from roadside vendor gives him more happiness than an expensive coffee in a five star hotel. He has most modern music systems in his home. But he says he enjoys listening to old hindi songs in his old transistor radio.

Another interesting thing is, all species around us are happy. Only man is not happy. No species has anger, greed or hatred. Because they are all still living nearer to nature. It is for this reason that many of them have sixth sense too. They can foresee an earthquake or a Tsunami where as we cannot. Leave alone sixth sense, we have started losing other five senses too! Birds, animals are all living happily as they are living in nature, which is full of happiness. Yes, nature is full of happiness. You walk half an hour in the morning in a garden and compare it to walking half an hour in your busy locality. You feel more happier after walking in the garden. Because you were close to nature during that half an hour. Just go to your window and observe the tree outside for ten minutes. Notice how your mood changes.

God gave us free will when He created us. He wanted all of us to be happy. After all we are part of HIM only. God exists in all of us even now. Each one of us are part of Him. If you start thinking positively, you feel very happier.



## IS GETTING MOKSHA DIFFICULT?

The simple answer is No. Not really. The fact that you are born as a human being in this birth, vests you with the innate ability to do *sadhana* and attain *moksha*. Only man has got the wisdom to do think; to differentiate between the right and the wrong. You can good karma with your wisdom and attain moksha easily. Even devathas, gods envy us. Because they cannot do karmas as they are formless. So you should be very happy that you are born as human being now. Another reason for you to be very happy is that you would have done great deeds in your earlier janmas, otherwise you would not be born as human being now.

Creation started several billions of years ago. You would have undertaken millions of births till now. As you may have committed some sins in your earlier *janmas*, you are suffering now. But this is purely temporary. You will enjoy all good things or better things again. Always be happy for being born as a human being. Do not worry about any worldly shortcomings. May be you are not rich...may be you are not very beautiful...may be you do not own a house...may be you are not occupying high position...may be you are not a celebrity like Amitabh Bachchan...but remember, you may have had all these things in your earlier births...Yes! Very true. Perhaps you were very rich in your earlier janma. Maybe because you have not shared your riches with the poor, you are born with out much

money in this janma...You were indeed a celebrity in your earlier janma...as you were very arrogant for being such a great celebrity you are an ordinary person in this janma...you were a great scholar in one of your earlier births...perhaps you were very proud of it then and now you are illiterate or not well educated...but remember, you will definitely get all those good things again in your next births, if you do good deeds, what we call punya karma. Do not worry about anything. You have undergone millions of births earlier too. And remember you were in TRETAYUG with SRI RAMA, in DWAPARYUGA with LORD SRI KRISHNA...you enjoyed the company of SRIMANNARAYANA...or lived in HIS kingdom...What more you need? How fortunate you were! So do not worry if you are not rich or having a problem with your husband or wife or son or daughter or your father-in-law or mother-in-law...after all this is just one janma of 70 or 80 years...whereas you were very happy in thousands of earlier janmas totalling perhaps to millions of years...what is just 70 or 80 years compared to those millions of years!...you were very happy and moved with LORD HIMSELF in several hundreds of years...in *tretayug*, people were living for more than 10,000 years!...you lived 10,000 years in kingdom of SRIRAMA and SRI KRISHNA!...what is this 70 years!...just forget about all those worries...think of those wonderful days you have spent in your earlier janams...be happy...you will again get manav janma and be very rich and very happy...!

Karma in Hinduism (sanatana dharma) is considered to be a spiritually originated law that governs all life. God is fair and humans have a free will to choose good or bad Karma and therefore will face the consequences (good or bad) according to their Karma in the past. Karma initiates the entire cycle of cause

and effect (i.e., the cycle called samsara) *Jivatma* (soul) cannot attain *Moksha* (salvation) until the sanchita (accumulated) karmas are completely exhausted by undergoing them. Not even few of us make an attempt to strive to attain Moksha. For those who wish to traverse the path to salvation, it is a Herculean mission, next to impossible. There are four aspects or goals of human life according to Hinduism...Dharma, artha, Kama and Moksha. How can the first three be useful to attain the last one? For, the first three, relate to the world one lives in, and the fourth is a state of freedom and release one hopes for. The world we live in requires action as well as thought as it is interconnected; and change is continuous and all pervading. Moksha, on the other hand, is the final blissful state where there can be no change. It is a state of thought and consciousness that excludes action. So a person attempting to tread the path, falters at some point and has to pay the penalty for the same. A great person known to me, tried his best to practise *viveka* and *vairagya* (prudence and detachment, respectively), the prerequisites to gain Moksha, but at the twilight of his life couldn't overcome malice for another person. Thus his total effort got nullified and once again he was caught in the *kaalachakra*.

It is a misconception that Moksha can be attained only after one's death. He who annihilates his Karma (actions) in the embers of *atma gnana* (enlightenment of the soul) and performs *nishkama karma*, attains salvation or mukti in his lifetime and is called a *jivan-mukta*. Moksha, in simple words, is becoming one with the Absolute Form of Supreme Bliss. Since Moksha is Immortality and Immortality is synonymous with God, the one who attained it becomes equal to God. Such great souls do exist among us today. They enjoy the state of Absolute Bliss. They are always happy and emanate great radiance around them.

One experiences serenity and joy whenever one is in close proximity with such great souls. The animals and birds living in the same vicinity forget their natural differences and live amicably with no animosity. The people living there also lead happy lives as everything in nature is favourable to them and brings them prosperity.

Lord Indra creates many obstacles in the path of people who practise sadhana (ego-transcending spiritual practice) to procure atma jnana for, once they exhaust their sanchita karma, and perform nishkama karma, they are at the threshold of salvation. At that stage, they will not perform any *Yagas* (yagas are means for attaining prosperity, spiritual desire and the essence of all our karmas; they are performed for our upliftment). This will deprive the gods of havissu (offering made in the yaga for the gods). Very few people overcome the obstacles thus created by Indra and one such immortal persona is that of Sri Ramana Maharishi of Arunachalam who attained salvation.

I know of many people striving to tread the path of moksha-sadhana not only in this life but since many janmas prior to this one. They've fallen prey to some temptation or the other mid-way and failed in reaching their goal. There are others who missed it 4-5 janmas back. They are once again part and parcel of the *janana-marana chakra* and they don't even realise at this stage that they were on the verge of achieving the Ultimate a few lives prior to this one. Sometimes we come across people who have led ordinary lives but suddenly at some stage in their lives rise to the status of a scholar and earn a name as a well versed writer. There was a man in the recent past whose exposition of *Vishnu Sahasranama* made him popular overnight. He himself didn't believe that he was skilled to do so as he

didn't have much knowledge of the scriptures. But he wrote with expertise. The reason is that there was one sadhu who had performed severe penance in the Himalayas thousands of years ago and he desired to spread the essence of *Vishnu Sahasranama* across the world. He fulfilled that wish through this man in this life.

I have also written many books only at the behest of several *maharishis*. I myself can't believe at times that I've been able to write books on different Gods and that the readers have incredible experiences after reading them. There was one mahatma who met me once at a sacred place and said, 'prior to this life in one of your *poorva janmas*, you performed severe penance for 400 years in the Himalayas. The books you have written will remain for generations to come and the readers will feel reinvigorated after reading them. There is a subtle energy hidden in every line in all these books. Though they seem to be simple books with respect to the content, there is an innate supernatural energy in each syllable of each word and word sound thereof. Therefore, whoever does *paarayana* (recitation or study everyday with a stipulated set of rules) of these books daily is assured of a happy life.'

If we sit down to meditate, many truths of life, hitherto unknown to us, will be revealed to us. It is said that if one is capable of controlling one's mind and sits down to meditate with eyes closed, in deep concentration, one can even hear the invaluable words of wisdom spoken by maharishis. One can even get their message delivered through them for the benefit of mankind. This is similar to the transmission of sound waves from the speaker to the listener when one uses one's phone regardless of the distance between the two. However no

technology based tool has so far been able to transmit cosmic waves that are part of this universe. It is only when we reach the summit (mostly it is the Samadhi state), in our *dhyana*, that we are able to hear many important truths preached by our maharishis.

When one reaches the highest level during meditation, Samadhi, one is totally detached from the physical worldly bindings and his sojourn into the metaphysical plane takes off. One's mind is enlightened and the Self or Spirit is truly acknowledged. The higher we soar, the more we trespass into the mystic realms, wherein we not only meet many *mahapurush* (noble souls) but also the celestials. They are more than glad to have us there and do not show any kind of contempt. Instead they are eager to use our services as messengers of whatever they'd like to convey to the world of ordinary mortals. After traversing the extra terrestrial, we can get back to our own world to spread their message.

To acquire such power, we needn't renounce the world or go to a forest and undertake *tapas*. Being an integral part of this world and nurturing good qualities, doing away with hatred and jealousy and staying detached in any and every situation, we can succeed. In spite of being in *samsara*, fulfilling our duties towards our family (spouse and children), we can practise the same. We must be contented with our life and not hoard excess money. Instead of being greedy, we should utilise the extra that we earn for a social cause. We should never use demeaning language and be congenial with one and all. These qualities are pre-requisites to one's '*sadhana*'.

Once we cross these milestones, we are in a state to be transported to the cosmic world as and when we intend, whether we are among people, or alone. One needn't practise *pranayama* (yogic discipline of controlling breath) by locking oneself in a room to prepare oneself for the same. I remember going into 'dhyana' once, when I was talking to a man who came to me for some advice. I just happened to close my eyes for a minute. Just then, my visitor swooned to a side and I rushed to his side to help him regain his composure. I asked him if he was alright and he said, 'sir, I suddenly lost sight of you and in your place, I saw Lord Sri Venkateswara. As I wasn't prepared for it, I felt I was fainting.' He was a man who practised meditation regularly. A man of noble stature. No wonder he had such an experience which seldom happens with ordinary people. It is not difficult to be good. Once you enjoy the benefits of being good, you will never attempt to do any wrong deeds. You will get eternal happiness by being good to others...to everyone around...to every creature around you. So, let's all be happy. Let us all strive to get moksha while living in this physical world itself.



## **COSMIC ENERGY**

Cosmic energy exists everywhere in the universe. We feel it's presence in more abundance in sacred places. It is the bond between galaxies and human beings. Meditation is the best and easiest way to receive cosmic energy. You do not need to do any rigorous practice for receiving cosmic energy. Just close your eyes and keep your mind free of all thoughts. You will start receiving cosmic energy. You will feel happier. Your body becomes lighter.

The inflow of cosmic energy depends entirely on your thoughts. If your thoughts are always pure, in your day to day life, the energy flows in automatically. You will not even observe it. It cleanses the whole body, mind and soul. You will not get any illness. If you receive cosmic energy regularly, you will feel physically and mentally stronger. You will always be in state of comprehensive happiness. Sometimes we observe some of the people around us are always happy even in most difficult times in their lives. We wonder how is it possible to remain so calm and serene, in those most stressful times. The fact is, they are constantly receiving cosmic energy by always having pure thoughts. If you are sincere, honest and straightforward in your day to day life, the cosmic energy flows in to you regularly.

Though not the entire country, one can experience the divine vibrations in many of the holy places in India. The intensity differs from one place to the other. One finds them strongest in places where God manifested on His own (*Swayambhu*) and other places where man consecrated God in idol form for worship. In fact, any religious place where continuous chanting of vedic hymns is done, cosmic energy will be in abundance. When I went to Bhadrachalam, the famous shrine of Lord SriRama, while standing in a particular place I felt that Lord SriRama had set His foot and walked around in Tretha Yuga at that place. In another place, it seemed that Lord Rama spent time with his brother Lakshmana. The place at which currently prasadam-distribution is being done in the Bhadrachalam temple, was where Sri Rama had rested for a short while. At that time, the temple had not been built. I am talking about the Tretha Yuga period when Lord Rama went about on his mission to search for Sita via Bhadrachalam. As none other than Lord Sri Rama happened to move around this place, it has acquired great glory. The entire route taken by Rama to reach Lanka is known for its temples today. All the important pilgrim centres in India today, surely must have had a great significance in the bygone eras. People of our times however, are not aware of the same. Many among us contribute to the construction of temples at many places. The construction site is mainly chosen after its vastu (Vastu shastra is the science of architecture and construction. Found in Indian subcontinent, these are manuals on design, layout, measurements, ground preparation, space arrangement, spatial geometry and other aspects of architecture) is certified. We do not give thought to any other factor but I am sure that some *maharishi* must have done penance there, thousands of years back-precisely, the

reason for a temple to stand in that place today! I have thus observed intense vibrations in many of the temples that I have visited.

All of us need to remember one thing...the region where we live today or made it our dwelling, has existed for centuries and lakhs of people have lived here before us, having taken birth time and again. The Earth, which we made our habitat today, has been in existence in the earlier three Yugas-Krita, Tretha and Dwapara also. The spot where we have built our house today must have been home of some important personality in the Tretha Yuga. Similarly, it may have been inhabited by some warrior in the Dwapara Yuga. All of us need to understand that the material used to build the house we call 'ours' today, also dates back to the past. The same spot/locality must have been the residing place of someone, sometime earlier; the traces of which may only be found in the relics of the dilapidated structures. Certainly, the region must have been the ashram (hermitage) of some maharishi or the palace of some king or even the horse stable of some zamindar and so on.

Sometimes we see people living in houses that have been built without adhering to the norms of 'Vaastu', prospering very well. The strongest of reasons, in my opinion, is that thousands of years ago, some maharishi did severe tapas there. As a result, that area becomes 'privileged' where energy in the form of terrestrial magnetism rises heavenwards (what I already defined as divine vibrations). Such places are usually Gods' dwellings and this explains why the family living there today, is thriving.

In this way, some places retain the positive energies released long back, even today, as they were frequented by

many great people then. Prayer and spiritual practice leave better 'vibes'. Our thoughts are influenced by the places we live in. That is why, some places are also known for healing people who go there to improve in terms of their health. Often, people are recommended to go to certain places during convalescence and elders talk of 'change of place' generally for the betterment of a person. People used to meditation or 'Dhyana' will easily understand this theory. We feel mentally elated and shun negative emotions as long as we are there. It is as if we are suffused with the sublime energy that is 'all pervading.'

Thousands of years ago, many maharishis are supposed to have done severe penance in the renowned punya kshetras (holy sites of pilgrimage) of today...Kasi, Haridwar, Kedarnath etc. They remained deeply engrossed in 'tapas' for centuries. Slowly the inhabitation increased in these places prompting the maharishis to move to the Himalayas. They performed tapas for the betterment of mankind. They moved in their physical forms in the Himalayas until 4-5 centuries back. Later they gave up their sthula shariras and transcended to the realm of the celestials...we are made up of the *sthula sarira* (physical body), *sukshma sarira* (subtle body, made up of the mind & the prana) and the *karana sharira* (causal body, a storehouse of all our *punya & papa*) it comprises the individual mind and intuitive level of mind, the entire psycho mental complex that can exist independent of the physical or gross body. Even though not visible to the naked eye, yogis, through their higher level of intuition have been able to identify it. It has now, over the centuries been proven to exist as also its direct connection to our Sthula Sharira - Physical body. As a matter of fact, it influences the sthula sharira in more ways than one...In fact they are in communion

with each other, making all efforts collectively to maintain the terrestrial equilibrium preventing it from obliteration.

Thus the maharishis who have taken on the 'subtle bodies', are eager to enlighten the people of India, but since they have given up their physical forms, they are not able to do so directly. Therefore, they have infused people, who have attained the highest spiritual awakening, (enhancement and advancement of body, mind and self) with the powers and sublime energy acquired by them over the years, to carry forward their mission of serving society. We must understand, that the famous seers of our times are in fact the *sadhakas* (he is someone who follows a particular sadhana or a way of life designed to realize the goal of one's ultimate ideal, whether it is merging with Brahman or realization of one's personal deity) who strive for upliftment of mankind on behalf of the *sukshma sarira* mahatmas (subtle bodied noble souls). Though they live among us, we fail to perceive that they have these innate strengths. Even they don't disclose the same to us. Their prime concern is the happiness of mankind, the only factor that makes them happy. But for such mahatmas, the earth would have been doomed long back.



## **SRI LAKSHMINARASIMHA VRATAM**

Sri Narasimha avatar is the fourth incarnation of Lord Sri MahaVishnu in the famous dasavataras. Lord appeared as half-lion and half man in this avatar. Lord Srimannarayana descended on *bhooloka* as *Sri Narasimha* to kill demon *Hiranyakasipu*. We find several ancient temples of Lord Sri Narasimha in South India. In fact, Lord Sri Narasimha is the family deity for many South Indian families. It is sad that some very old temples of Lord Narasimha are in total neglect and no puja is performed regularly. I had been thinking of writing a book of puja vidhan of Lord Sri Narasimha for quite some time. How wonderful if a simple puja vidhan existed? Lord Sri Narasimha, the most benevolent, heard my voice, and blessed me with Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Vratam.

The second book of Vratam that I wrote is Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Vratam. I wrote it only with the Grace of God. There are thousands of Lakshmi Narasimha temples in South India. Simhachalam, Yadagirigutta, Vedadri, Sholinghur are some of the famous temples of the Lord where daily rituals and a prescribed schedule for puja is being followed while many other lesser known temples are devoid of daily rituals and puja unfortunately. These unsung temples are found in our villages in thousands. People in such places are finding this vratam very beneficial; since the procedure for performing the Vratam is very simple, devotees are able to follow it.

Whenever I write a book on Lord Venkateswara, I've made it a habit to visit Tirumala with the first few copies. Likewise, when I wrote this book, I decided to visit Yadagirigutta, a prominent shrine of Lord Sri Narasimha nearer to Hyderabad. I wrote another book, 'Sarvarupa Srinivasam', around the same time. It is a small book of 40 pages describing the various Tatwas of the One Lord, SriMannarayana. As usual, I wanted to go to Tirumala with the first copies of the book. But I preferred to visit Yadagirigutta first, as it is close by and decided to go that Saturday. My brothers too planned to join me. But on Friday, the Telangana Movement intensified its struggle for secession and there was a rasta - roko (blocking of roads-highways). We thought it might be difficult for us, as we would be travelling with our children. So we scrapped our plan of going to Yadagirigutta. We had earlier made our reservations to go to Tirupathi the following week. The Samaikya (united) Andhra agitation (to keep the state united) intensified in Tirupathi just two days before the date of our journey. We came to know that all vehicles going uphill were being stopped by the agitators from the date of our arrival in Tirupathi. We didn't want to take a chance with our families and finally dropped the plan of visiting Tirumala then.

As my brothers had taken leave from their offices, we decided once again to go to Yadagirigutta as there were no disturbing events happening at that time. The change in plan was thus sudden. All of us went by road, and reached Yadagirigutta that evening. The following morning, we went for Swamy's darshan and handed over the first few copies of Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Vratam to the archaka there. He kept the books at the Sacred Feet of the Lord and performed puja in our name. While doing puja, the '*sankalpam*' is told (mention the '*gothra-*

*namam*’ and the *nakshatra* (star) and *thithi* of the day). I heard the priest uttering *Swathi nakshatre...etc.*, I was surprised to know that I had offered my books to the Lord when the ruling star for the day was the birth star of the Lord - Swathi nakshatra. I felt blessed that though, not planned by me, the Lord deemed that the book be consecrated on that day. What more could I ask for? Instead of going to Tirumala, we were here and I presumed it to be God’s Grace and ‘leela’ that it coincided with His birth star. This Vratam also gained immense popularity and has been recently translated into Tamil.



## **CAN WE CHANGE OUR DESTINY?**

Can we change our destiny? Or is everything pre-ordained? Is it that if an event is destined to happen in the life of an individual, it will certainly happen how much ever you try otherwise? Is it that one has no role in shaping his destiny? Is it true that we must undergo the effects of previous births karma at any cost? Such questions often puzzle us...more so, when we are suffering. Or when we do not get what is desired by us. From times immemorial, this is a question for which we hardly get a convincing reply. We get different explanations from great intellectuals or spiritual leaders. But we are seldom satisfied. We feel that we are able to comprehend it for a while, but the very next day this question bothers our mind again.

Destiny of an individual can definitely be changed to some extent. It is possible if we do continuous sadhana. As I mentioned earlier, sadhana is not doing yajnas or yagas. It is living honestly and sincerely...doing good deeds...and, not having any attachment with things around. Do your work with utmost dedication and always be happy. Then you will experience the divinity in you. You will get lot of powers which you can use for betterment of people around you in general and society at large. This is what I have observed and experienced over the last few years.

Sometimes people approach us with serious problems. Someone may be suffering from serious health issues. We feel

extremely sorry for such people. If his ill health continues, the upkeep of his family will become difficult. If we have divine qualities in us, we can get a vision of his past life and know everything. He may have done noble deeds in the present life but some misdeeds of their previous janma have resulted in this misfortune today, in the form of his ill health. In the case of one such person, in my vision it appeared that he seemed to be destined to suffer in this way for a longer period of time, another two years. Leave alone two years, if the same suffering continued for some more months the family would be on the road. Their life would become miserable. However, our 'sadhana' can help him. In order to bring some relief to the family, the remaining karma was transferred to another janma. This is possible through sadhana.

Hindu scriptures divide karma into three kinds. They are called *Sanchita, Prarabdha and Agami karmas*. One cannot avoid the prarabdha karma...they can only be worn out through living them out, Just as an individual settles past debts, I have seen many people who come to me suffer on account of their prarabdha karma in their lives. Though they might have done several good deeds in this life, owing to the prarabdha karma, they suffer a lot. All of us have to go through this...there is no escape. If we have divine qualities, we can transfer it to some other janma. We can transfer the remaining karma of an individual to his next life, i.e., the karma that he was supposed to experience over the coming two years, was transferred to his next life so that in this life, he would immediately start living in a better manner for the rest of his life. The family is saved from being ruined and it is the end of their suffering for this life. Enlightened souls who have divine qualities in them, can transfer a person's prarabdha karma too in to another janma.

The moment we are blessed by such souls through their 'sankalpa' that we will not suffer any longer, our remaining

'*karma phala*' gets transferred to our next *janma*. But we do not believe in the ordinary words of these 'extraordinary persons.' So to make us believe, they ask us to visit some temple, go on a pilgrimage and spend a night there, or take a vow for 40 days and follow certain austerities. We then believe, and have faith in their words, that our bad period will surely come to an end. But after blessing us or acting as the means to transfer our *karma phala* to our next *janma*, the '*sadhaka*' or the enlightened soul has to bear intense heat generated in his body, depending on the severity of the individual's karma for at least a day. It is only *sadhakas* of the highest order that are able to endure this.

Some people are fortunate as their *prarabdha* karma does not bother them with severity. It may exist for a short period. In some cases, the karma can be sent into their dreams, i.e., the misery he has to undergo in this physical world will be undergone by him in his dreams. As a result, he will have bad dreams for 2-3 days wherein he meets with an accident or some deadly disease affects him. He undergoes all the suffering in his dream. The way we would suffer adversities in the real world, we would suffer similarly, with the same intensity even in our dreams. The only difference is that in our dreams, we alone suffer whereas in the real world, even our family suffers. Therefore some people's '*prarabdha* karma' is sent into their dreams by '*sadhakas*' to relieve them of the same in the physical world.

However, it is not possible for even the noblest of souls to help hundreds of people in this way as such act would have a bearing on his persona. This can't be applied always but only under exceptional circumstances where the person is suffering greatly, for, the '*sadhak*' would have to possess extraordinary energy. One needn't perform austerities like *yajnam*s or *yagas*.

We need to control our mind and treat each and everybody around us as equals, to get such powers. It is not that difficult for of us to achieve if we really are keen about it.

We come across people suffering on account of their prarabdha karma almost every day. Our friends, relatives, acquaintances...all are living out their respective lives undergoing the effects of the same. We can send part of their prarabdha karma into their next life if we possess that kind of 'shakti'. We need not reveal it to them as our purpose is to see everyone happy which in turn makes us happy. We need not think that we have achieved some great thing. No noble soul reveals to the world the fact that he possesses these kind of special powers.

It is not necessary that only people known to us can be helped through this 'power'. People who have never met us, but only have spoken to us on phone may have met with some accident. His misery can be immediately transferred to his next janma without disclosing the same to him. As a result, instead of meeting with a catastrophe, he shall meet with some small trouble. In this way we would be saving him and his family. Many great souls are always doing it but do not proclaim to the world that they are doing so. Their sole aim is to make people happy. Therefore they do not find any reason to reveal the truth to anyone. They undergo some suffering in this bargain, but are more than happy to do so as majority of people are benefitted by their noble act.

Some great souls who are used to doing this, suffer ill health in their last days. Sometimes it may extend to two three years and we wonder why such a great soul has to suffer so much. We fail to realise that this is to bring about happiness to majority of the people. We all know that Ramakrishna Paramahansa suffered much physically in his last days. Sri

Ramana Maharshi of Arunachalam is another great soul who suffered before his demise. These two personalities are known to us. There are many others, not known to us, but have used their special power to mitigate the sufferings of people and bring them joy. They take the suffering that they have to go through in this process in their stride, as their motive is '*loka kalyanam*', universal well-being. Thanks to such noble people, Dharma is still prevalent in this world.

Gods do not like this aspect of sending the prarabdha karma into the next life. That is why they subject the noble souls to suffering but since the purpose is also noble, the Gods do not put them to severe test.

Because of our '*sadhana*', a person's misery is arrested the minute we do the '*sankalpa*' (Spiritual resolution). We must not help them hoping for some favours in return or for recognition. In that case, our *sankalpa* is weakened (action without expecting any favours or incentives makes us divine, empowering us with energy). We are enabling the gratification of one soul. The blessing conferred on us by such a soul will make us happy.

At times, some people remark to me that, 'almost everybody is doing well thanks to you, except me' and they add that I'm biased and also blame me for the same. They complain that there is no progress in their lives. They do not realise that the intensity of their miseries has reduced. They were not destined to have even two meals a day but are leading fairly good lives. It is typical of human nature to crave for more and be discontented with what we have.



## **DIVINE NATURE**

Nature has great healing powers. Mankind was very close to nature for millions of years. It is only in the recent 100-200 years that man started moving away from nature. How many of us can see a tree from the balcony of our apartment? When we were living nearer to nature we were living very happily. We were a part of nature then. Our life was in tune with nature's cycle of seasons. Man is not only living far from nature but also destroying it. It is for this reason, we are facing severe cyclones, drought, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions etc., We should conserve nature at any cost. We feel happier and energetic by living close to nature.

If we observe closely, we find many undiscovered marvels in nature. Nature is shrouded by a mystique power. The unravelled mysteries of nature are astounding and beyond our imagination. Nature has remedies for most of our illnesses. Our forefathers believed in the healing power of Nature to cure themselves of general ailments. The fabric of the Universe is permeated with infinite energy. We can address our health issues by tapping the latent energy prevalent all around us. Our ancestors saw Nature as being a manifestation of God. So, our natural environment – comprising of mountains and hills, rivers, trees and plants – is considered auspicious enough to provide

space for meditation. We ought to retreat into nature's lap and merge with it in the course of our *Dhyana* with a serene mind. After a while, we are drawn towards Nature as though it beckons us to become one with it. As you meditate, you allow yourself to experience the sights, sounds and smells of Nature, becoming mentally involved with them-green trees, lush fields, natural locales in the wild; gushing rivers, oceans and the vast expanse of the sky. If you learn to embrace Nature, by being in harmony with it, your mind is rejuvenated, your body is relaxed and you forget your material woes for a while. You can adopt this and make it a daily ritual at anytime and anywhere. Close your eyes in concentration and spend fifteen minutes to start with, by getting 'connected' to nature in the first ten minutes and then blend with it.

Once you are habited to this practice, you reach a stage wherein your mind wanders amidst Nature, even in the company of people or when you are preoccupied with some work, the minute you resolve to do it. I'm sure you've never experienced such an allegiance with Nature before! We all go to spend time in resorts, zoos and other such places to invigorate our bodies and minds and derive an inexplicable joy from those trips. This is so, as everything around us is believed to be pervaded by a subtle divine presence in the form of Prana/Shakti energy, power, in every electron, particle, atom, cell and in every manifestation of matter. We may not be able to assimilate it completely but are benefitted by the regenerating forces of Nature to a great extent in maintaining our physical and mental well-being.

Once we are trained in establishing profound contact with Nature, we can learn the methods of assimilating its energies. This is also quite possible. You don't need to chant any

'*mantras*' for the same. You only have to imagine the transmission of the energy from outside into your system by 'submitting' yourself to it for, nature and environment are not outside us, not alien or hostile to us. They are an integral part of our existence, and they constitute our very bodies. Within minutes you feel the energy flowing in your body, the 'evergreen' nature is a symbol of eternal life, with all its bounties of divine herbs and vegetation that enrich our lives preventing us from falling prey to serious diseases, provided we take refuge in Nature. In other words, Nature's energies when taken in by us leave us stimulated.

In contrast to man, who has distanced himself from Nature, the rest of the God's Creation remains irrevocably linked to Nature. Therefore the birds and animals that live in wilderness are better off than man and his deplorable condition today as they are part and parcel of the natural environment for, the energy prevalent in the surroundings is passed on to the flora and fauna quite naturally. We need to follow suit and change our attitude towards Nature to nurture ourselves. The fact that we climb the Seven Hills of Tirumala with minimal effort stands testimony to the hidden power in Nature that equips us with the same to accomplish this feat. Our spirits are elevated and souls nourished when we are at Tirumala because of the omnipotent Lord and the divine vibrations felt profoundly all over the place.

Birds and animals predict natural calamities or disasters as they are attuned to the environment and have a heightened sense of perception to discern the slightest imbalance in Nature, unlike man. It is observed that the survival instinct of the birds and animals enables them to perceive impending dangers. Most of them survived the Tsunami by moving to higher altitude areas

much before its occurrence. Once, on our visit to a zoo, we happened to watch the elephants in their Reserve in the afternoon around 2 P.M. It was very hot. The elephants were rumbling away continuously. In a few minutes, there was a heavy downpour which the elephants had sensed well in advance. The sky was clear with no sign of the onset of rain but the elephants' hunch regarding the rain came true as though they warned us (by roaring) to seek shelter and not get wet as we were busy watching them. In this way, animals can sense sudden changes in the weather.

If we adopt 'sadhana' in our daily life, we can also predict natural disasters before they befall us. 'Sadhana' does not connote doing '*tapas*' or performing *Yajna* or *Yaga* on a large scale. It has to do with mastering our mind by controlling the impetuosity of our mind and strengthen it by purifying it. We must always wish everyone around us well and do away with malice. We must strive to maintain peace and calmness in all times and try to hold on to lasting peace as much as we can. By controlling the mind, you will be able to bring it under your control, make it work as you like and compel it to concentrate its powers as you desire. He who has learnt to control the mind will get the whole of Nature under his control. There is no limit to the power of the human mind. The more it learns to concentrate, the more power is brought to bear on one point.

You are close to the summit in the course of your 'sadhana', if your mind imbibes the attributes discussed above. Once you reach this stage, your mind is empowered to transcend all physical barriers and wander in the place of your choice-you may virtually experience the ambience and cold

conditions of the Himalayas even from the portals of your home. As your mind is steered to such places (by the power of concentration), your body behaves akin to those surroundings. At that moment if somebody touches you, they feel your cold body. As long as the mind is there, the body remains cold, experiencing the typical weather of the Himalayas.

Likewise, you can catch the smell of objects located elsewhere. For example, you can visualise the '*Garbhalayam*' of Sri Swamy at Tirumala as your mind takes you there-as if you are sitting in front of the Lord. You breathe in the aroma of the '*Prasadams*' being offered to the Lord there, even though you are at home. Similarly many Mahapurush wander in holy places like Kasi meditating upon Lord Vishwanatha, Manasarovar in the Himalayas though they are physically amidst us. We notice a unique glow and radiance emanating from them. There are others, more superior, who are endowed with the power of appearing in more than one place at the same time. This is possible only for a sadhaka who has reached a certain level in his '*sadhana*'. Such people exist amidst us but do not reveal their supremacy to us. They are only spotted by their kith and kin and those who move closely with them, observing them and their astral ingenuity.



## SRI PADMAVATHI PARINAYAM

According to puranas, Lord Srimannanarayana descended on bhooloka in search of Goddess Sri Mahalakshmi. Sri Mahalakshmi, angry with Lord Srimannarayana, had left *Vaikuntham*. Coming in search of her Lord wandered around Seshachala mountains and found Sri Padmavathi, the daughter of King Akasaraja. Lord Srinivasa married Padmavathi in grand style. Gods from all lokas descended on Seshachalam to participate in the celestial wedding. Viswakarma, the divine architect created wonderful marriage mandapam and decorated Seshachala with beautiful arches.

Sri Padmavathi Srinivasa Kalyanam is for the benefit of the world. The word Kalyanam literally means auspicious. When it is the Kalyana of the Supreme Lord, the auspiciousness will be in abundance and it will be for the universal welfare and well being of the humanity. He is an epitome of auspiciousness, the one who bestows wealth and fulfils all the desires of his devotees who sing His Glory. There is a strong belief that one's marriage gets settled soon by reading Sri Padmavathi Parinayam. For a long time, I wanted to narrate the wedding of the Divine couple. I fulfilled that desire of mine in the year 2009. With the Grace of Lord Srinivasa, I wrote the book, "*Sri Padmavathi Parinayam*". I felt as if I was part of the celestial wedding, while writing the book. Those who have read the book also

have felt similarly. Some people felt emotionally charged while reading the book. My elder daughter's (Anandi) wedding was fixed while I was writing this book. The day the celestial wedding took place (in *Vaisakha masam*), my daughter got engaged. Many prospective brides and grooms are getting married after reading this book. I am also told that married couples are leading happy lives after reading this book with no animosity. I went in to a trance while writing this book too like all my earlier books. When I was mentally transported to a different plane, various maharshis appeared in front of me and described the celestial wedding. I only wielded the pen and wrote whatever they told me.

The book was ready to be printed in a short time. By then I had written 7 books on the Lord. I have taken great pains in designing the cover of each and every book. Our printer, Jagadish, is very meticulous in using the right colour combinations in designing of the covers. Lot of research is done before deciding on a particular picture, colour for the cover. I had a secret desire of wanting to personally design the cover photo of one of my books. I have had a flair for drawing, from my childhood, and thus wished to do one of the covers of my books. However, I didn't have enough courage to do so. Each time, in the last minute, I would give up the thought and use some photograph of the Lord instead.

I had made up my mind when I started writing *Sri Padmavathi Parinayam*, that I would do the cover design and also kept the sketch ready for the same. But at the last minute, I gave in to my fears and shelved the whole idea of using my sketch. There is a senior artist by name Sri Bhima Rao and I decided to request him to do the cover page design. I saw his

cover page designs for many books and was greatly impressed. I, however, did not have his contact number with me and asked our printer Jagdish but he was of no help to me in this regard as he said he did not know that man's number. In fact he said he has not heard of him. I asked many others for his number but in vain. As we had wasted some time in this way, our printer told me that he would use the sketch done by me for the cover page and go ahead with the printing. The sketch done by me therefore became the cover of the book.

One day Jagadish brought and showed me the first copies of the book. I looked at the cover page and told Jagadish that it was not looking really nice. I told Jagadish that we should have waited for a few more days and got it designed by Sri Bhima Rao. Then, Jagadeesh said he knew Sri Bheema Rao very well and has his contact information too. I was stunned and asked Jagdish why he feigned ignorance when I had asked for Bhima Rao's number several times. Jagadish told me his mind became blank every time I asked for Bhima Rao's number and said he himself was puzzled as to how this transpired in this way. It was then, that I inferred that Lord Srinivasa had given me the chance to fulfil my long cherished desire and so blanked Jagdish's mind everytime I asked about Bhima Rao. This is how Swamy gave me a sense of gratification, proving to one and all, that the Lord's love for His devotees is exceptional!

After a few years, this book went into second print. I requested the renowned artist PadmaSri Bapu garu to do the cover design for the second edition and he immediately obliged. The design on the cover today is the one done by Sri Bapu garu. Devotees doing parayana of this book are finding their wishes come true. Particularly, the parayana is helping people for

whom marriage is getting delayed. Such persons are able to get married immediately after reading this book. This is only due to my poorva janma punya phalam. Let me emphatically reiterate that Lord Srinivasa is easily accessible to all His devotees. He's always protecting His devotees who bestow their faith in Him. The moment you call out to Him with compassion, He is in front of you. He is personification of Compassion. We may forget to worship the Lord, pray and meditate upon Him but the Lord never ever forgets to protect His devotees; they are the 'apples of His eyes'.



## **SRI KRISHNA RAO'S TALE**

By the grace of Lord Srimannarayana, so far I have written 24 devotional books. Millions of devotees across the world, read these books regularly. Many report that miracles are happening in their lives after reading them. Some devotees themselves have translated few of these books in to their mother tongue and put them on internet. Every day, I get e-mails, phone calls, letters from devotees from near and far, sharing their experiences with me. Some call me over phone to tell me how a long pending issue is resolved soon after reading a book. Out of affection, many of them request me to visit their homes. Somehow, I do not like the idea of visiting their places. I have not done any thing great. It is their belief in God that made miracles happen in their lives. I always prefer keeping a low profile. In fact in none of my earlier 23 books I have put my photograph even. But some people keep on requesting me to visit their homes. Sometimes I feel I am hurting their emotions by not accepting their request.

The devotees who have read my books, have great experiences to share. I receive calls almost every day from some one or the other who has some incredulous truths to share with me. I am more than glad to listen to their revelations as each one has a different story to tell. All the devotees attribute the unbelievable changes in their lives to the books that they have been following; I am not only happy for them but also amazed after listening to each of their tales!

I can't forget one such occurrence that took place many years ago. One of my younger brothers had a friend called Venkateswara Rao. His father received a copy of '*Sri Srinivasa Mahatyam*' written by me through somebody. Krishna Rao was a ripe old man, 90 years of age. I wrote my first book, '*Sri Srinivasa Mahatyam*' in the year 2001. I followed the literary style instead of the colloquial style of writing. Even then, the book became quite popular with devotees who started using it for their daily 'paraayana.' This book is still in demand and people keep asking me for a copy of the same. Venkateswara Rao garu used to often tell my brother, his friend, that this book was very dear to his father Krishna Rao. Though he was a nanogenarian, he was a healthy man. He made it a point to read one chapter from this book every day. After some time, he got used to reading it three times a day...morning, afternoon and in the evening. I came to know about this through my brother. In this way a year passed. Krishna Rao garu suddenly felt that he had lived his life, having fulfilled all his responsibilities. He developed an aversion for life and awaited his end; quite common with many aged people.

Consequently, he stopped taking food and isolated himself from people. He receded into a shell...stopped watching television and reading the newspaper. The book, '*Sri Srinivasa Mahatyam*' meant the world to him. The only activity he continued was, to do the *parayana* of the book every day. He expressed a desire to meet me and asked his son to take him to our place. I came to know about this, once again through my brother and I told him that we should go and see him as he is such an old man.

As I was not very familiar with the locality where their house was situated, I waited for my brother to accompany me on my visit. Venkateswara Rao also wanted to be present at the time of my visit. I therefore decided to go on one of the evenings as he would also be available after office hours. It was decided that we would go one day, but in the last minute, my brother could not come because of some urgent work in his office. After 4 days, Venkateswara Rao called up my brother to tell him that he would come to my place, pick me up and take me home to see his father. However, he did not come that evening; he called me up to apologise and tell me that he had to attend to some other work, more urgent. He promised to come in a couple of days but even after 10 days there was no news from him.

Two months passed. Meanwhile, my brother came to know that Krishna Rao had totally stopped his intake, and had just a cup of coffee in the mornings. He had become extremely weak and bedridden. He would not listen to any of his family members who felt sad at his physical state. It was as if he was determined to reach his end soon by abstaining completely from food. But he did not forget to read 'Sri Srinivasa Mahatyam' which he kept under his pillow and kept reading it whenever he felt like. I felt very sorry for the old man and told my brother that we would go there that evening without fail. I told him I would meet him at his office at 5:00 P.M.

Finally my brother and I made it to Krishna Rao's house on that day. I was told that he laid in bed with closed eyes and even refused to see people. We were led into his room by his daughters. One of his daughters went close to him and spoke in his ear to tell him of my arrival. He immediately opened his

eyes, gathered all his strength to greet me with folded hands. I reciprocated immediately and said that he was older than me and I must greet him and not the other way. I also assured him that his health would be fine by the Lord's Grace. He had tears in his eyes for some reason and he closed his eyes. I then saw the book, 'Sri Srinivasa Mahatyam' beside his pillow. After spending little more time with him and talking to the other family members, I took leave of them and left.

After two days, my brother informed me that Krishna Rao garu died the night after our visit. I was shocked and wondered whether he had survived until that day only to see me. His soul had waited with that single wish before leaving his body! What if my visit had got delayed further? I shudder to think of this incident. There are many mysterious relations. God alone knows why he pined to see me before his death and of our 'past relationship' (*poorva janma bandham*). I did not meet him until the day before he died, but he awaited my arrival. This happened eight years ago. The bonds that stretch beyond one life time are beyond the understanding of the common man.

A similar incident happened recently. There was a doctor called Sri Ramayya on the Tirumala Hill. He ran a private clinic there by treating the pilgrims rendering free service. Those who go to Tirumala regularly, will be able to remember his clinic; adjacent to the Hathiram Math opposite to the temple, one could see his name plate. No one is allowed to practise medicine on the hills, but this man was an exception. He lived there along with his wife, Nirmala. They also owned a kalyana mandapam (marriage hall) at Tirupathi but preferred to stay uphill and serve the Lord by serving His pilgrims.

I was known to them through my books. One day Smt. Nirmala called me and told me that both her husband and she

liked ‘*Sri Venkateswara Vrata Kalpam*’ a lot. She asked me to visit them in my next trip to Tirumala. I agreed and sent her the other books written by me. Both of them felt very happy on reading them and Smt. Nirmala called me up once again. She expressed her joy and said that though they were residing in Tirumala for years, they were not aware of so many facts that they came to know through my books. She added that both of them felt mentally peaceful after reading my books. She reiterated that her husband was looking forward to my visit to their house. I promised to meet them.

Though I made three trips to Tirumala later, I failed to keep my promise. Time seems to always fly in Tirumala... waiting for the Lord’s Darshan, booking cottage, vacating the same, so on and so forth. Each time I told myself I would make it the next time. After two of my trips, I received another phone call from Smt. Nirmala. She complained that I did not keep up my promise and asked for a book, ‘*Sri Ananda Anjaneyam*’, written by me which she had seen at some friend’s place. I promised to send her all the books that I had written and casually asked her about her husband’s welfare. I added that I would see them the next time for sure. There was silence on the other side of the line. Then, she told me that he had passed away a fortnight ago. She expressed how eager he had been to meet me and how much he liked my writings. I was dismayed by her words and asked her to forgive me for not being able to make it when Dr. Ramayya was alive. This incident moved me greatly and I felt guilty for quite a long time for not having spared a few minutes to visit the couple that had been so eager to meet me.



## CAN WE ALTER THE COURSE OF NATURE?

Is it possible for a human being to alter the course of nature, however powerful he is? Can anyone stop a cyclone or change its course or lessen its severity? I heard in my childhood, that when a sage or saint enters a village the severe rain that has been lashing the surrounding villages for several days comes to a stop. We also hear in the times of acute famine, the moment a saint enters that village it starts raining. Can seers or elevated souls control the five elements of nature?

I received a phone call a few years ago from a small village near Amalapuram in the evening. The caller, a woman, in a feeble voice addressed me as 'Swamy' and spoke, 'You are our refuge. We read Sri Venkateswara Vrata Kalpam every day. By the grace of Lord our daughter's wedding has been fixed. It is to take place tomorrow morning at 7:30. The house is packed with relatives. As we are not very well off, we have erected a pandal in front of our house for solemnising the wedding. It has been raining heavily for the last one hour and the house and pandal (fabricated structure erected for a ceremony) are totally water logged. Relatives are panicky and we are worried, as the wedding is slated to take place in a few hours from now. You are our refuge swamy. Please help us complete the wedding as planned. We believe in you as our God and that is why you have to protect us.' I was a bit surprised, as I never saw or met the woman. I keep receiving

several phone calls from people in distress seeking advice. I was moved by the woman's plight and consoled her saying that the wedding would take place without any problem as the rain would subside in another hour.

I forgot the episode later. The following day the woman called up again in the morning at 10 o'clock and told me that the rain had stopped totally after an hour. The skies cleared by morning and there was sunshine. The marriage took place as scheduled without any problem and the waterlog dried up completely. I was delighted with the news. All I did was to pray Lord Srinivasa to stop rainfall at her place and let it fall elsewhere or perhaps on another day. He heard my voice and it stopped immediately. They however had a heavy downpour after a few days but that did not create any problem for them. My prayer deferred the moment to a later time but did not altogether control nature. No one has such a power. Positive resolve or will enables us to perform a pre-determined act in order to achieve a pre-set goal! For example if a person is threatened by something and we wish he remains safe, our 'satsankalpa' (solemn vow) has the power to save him from the impending calamity.

Sometimes we go to a spiritual discourse. Imagine, over thousand devotees are listening to the discourse. It is in the open air. Suddenly, the sky became completely cloudy and it looked certain to rain very soon. Everyone is worried. If it rains all the people will be simply drenched fully as there is no shelter in the near vicinity. The meeting went on for three hours. The clouds disappeared and there was not a drop of rain. That is the power of satsankalapa,; as all those present, prayed to God to see that there was no rain. He heard their voice. So the

*Amruthapadham*

clouds disappeared completely. Nature listens to you. Nature is God. It listens to you affectionately. After all, Nature and we humans, have lived together for millions of years. Nature is our best friend. It is we who came away from Her. Mountains have not moved away from us. We moved away from the mountains. Forest did not move away from us. We moved away from the forest. We should always remember that nature is our best friend and if treated affectionately it will take care of us well.



## SRI SUBRAHMANYA VRATAM

Lord Sri Subrahmanya is worshipped by many devotees in south India. He is also known as Karthikeya, Shanmukha, Kumaraswamy, Skanda and Murugan. He is the son of Lord Siva and Goddess Parvathi. Among thousands of Murugan temples, there are six temples in Tamilnadu, famously known as *Arupadai Veedu*. Lord Sri Subrahmanyeswara, is the leader of combat forces of the gods. *Devasena* and *Srivalli* are his two consorts. His vehicle is peacock. Many devotees believe that if a childless couple pray to Him, they are sure to beget children. Muruga means beautiful. Lord Sri Subrahmanyeswara is most beautiful and very affectionate towards His devotees.

Sri Subrahmanyeswara Swamy is *Jnana Swarupa* (He holds a spear given by His mother Sakthi. This spear-*Vel*-represents Jnana-knowledge). Devotees worshipping Sri Subrahmanya are blessed with the essence of all the scriptures. He will not face severe financial problems. Whatever one desires to do, one completes it without obstacles, with His Blessings. I have witnessed many of Swamy's '*Leelas*' in my life. We have been visiting Tirupathi since 1995 almost every year, but we never went to any other place in and around Tirupathi. Tiruttani, the famous shrine of Sri Subrahmanyeswara is located close to Tirupathi, but we could not make it. My desire to visit Tiruttani was unfulfilled for a long time.

In 2001, when I started writing the book, ‘Sri Srinivasa Mahatyam’, I stayed at Tirumala for 5 days along with Mr. Vijay Kumar. I contemplated on going to Tiruttani in that trip, on the last day, when I came out of the restaurant, after having my breakfast. It would be convenient as it was just the two of us in that trip. I had to take the return train in the evening at 5:00 P.M., and if I had to go to Tiruttani, I had to start immediately from Tirumala to get back in time. I had only Rs. 600 with me. Vijay Kumar enquired one of the taxi drivers about the tariff for a round trip to Tiruttani and he said it would cost us Rs. 1100. On further enquiry, few other drivers also quoted not less than a thousand; one of them agreed to come for a sum of Rs. 950, I was still short by Rs. 300 and felt that I had missed the chance of making the trip and would have to wait for some more time.

Suddenly, a car stopped in front of us and the driver asked us where we wished to go, and said it would take us at least Rs. 800 to make the trip and I told him I had only Rs. 600 with me. He then asked us to join him immediately and said that we could settle the account later. We rushed to vacate the cottage and later, boarded the taxi. We reached Tiruttani around 12:30 P.M., just at closing time. The driver quickly said something to the people, in Tamil, and in a minute the three of us went in for darshan. The driver showed us around and we had a wonderful darshan of Lord Sri Subrahmanyeswara. I do not know what the driver told the priest but he garlanded me with the ‘*mala*’ (garland) that adorned the *utsava murthi* of the Lord (every temple has a ‘*Moola Murthi*’ -the prime deity in the *garbhalayam* and the ‘*utsava murthi*’ -the festival deity taken out during processions). This

was indeed a blessing; I deemed it to be the grace of Lord Subrahmanya. We reached Tirupati around 3:00 P.M. I gave the driver the amount of six hundred rupees that I had after alighting, and he took the same without complaining. I casually asked him his name to which he said, '*Palani*'. He drove away instantly and I understood that the Lord Himself came in this form to fulfil my wish. I exclaimed in joy, 'Oh! Karthikeya! Your Leelas are marvellous! You show your leelas to devotees who have great faith in you each and every day!'

In 2014 I wrote the book '*Sri Subrahmanya Vratam*.' I wrote '*Sri Maheswara Vratam*' before that. While writing this book, I had the vision of Sri Balasubrahmanya virtually sitting in front of me, with a smile, observing every word that I wrote. I feel exalted whenever I recollect it. After a few days, I wrote '*Sri Subrahmanyeswara Vratam*.' We went to Tiruttani, with the first few copies of the book. The priests placed the books at the sacred feet of the Lord and performed puja. However, none of the archakas took the books, as they were written in Telugu, whereas, they could read only Tamil. I looked around for a Telugu speaking person to give the book but found none. After a while, when we were about to leave, a person asked me in Telugu if he could get a copy of the book. I was surprised and turned around and saw a person with '*Vibhuti*' on his forehead. I told him that the book is in Telugu and asked him if he could read Telugu and he replied that he did. He further told us that he is the priest from the temple town of *Sri Kalahasthi*, a famous shrine of Lord Siva. I gave him 4 copies of the book. He disappeared the minute he took the books and left me dazed as to how did he come from nowhere and how did he vanish? Then I inferred that Lord Parameswara Himself, father of Lord Karthikeya, came to take the first copies of His son's

vratam books from me to make me happy. Once again, I went into raptures and exclaimed, 'I am blessed! To me everything seems a marvel! Writing of '*Sri Subrahmanya Vratam*' by me, Lord Maheswara receiving the first copy! Can there be greater fortune? What else could I ask for, in this life?' I was exhilarated that I had the Blessings of both Lord Maheswara and Lord Subrahmanyeswara at the same time. These books have appealed greatly to all the devotees. Many '*Sankaramaths*' (a Hindu monastery that follows the teachings of Adi Sankaracharya and His advaita philosophy; they worship Lord Siva) found "*Sri Maheswara Vratam*" very much to their liking. '*Sri Subrahmanya Vratam*' has been acclaimed as the choicest tool to fulfil the desires of the devotees. I pay my obeisance to both the Lords for bestowing me with the honour of writing books on them.



## SRI SATYANANDAM'S TALE

The concept of life is fascinating. When we leave this physical body, our conscious has lot of thoughts in it. We may leave the physical body, but the stream of strong thoughts are continued to next birth. Sometimes, the past life's desires, are so strong that we try to achieve them in our next birth. What if the soul does not take human form in the next janma? We may be born as an animal, a bird or an insect. But the strong '*vasanas*,' remain with the atma and are carried forward to the next *janma*. If in the next life, it is born as an animal, it cannot convey to us the emotions of previous births. So it behaves strangely sometimes, or, so it seems. This is the reason, why, at times, we observe our pets behaving in a strange manner.

I wish to share an anecdote, to stress upon the extent to which relationships of previous janmas may be carried forward to the next life. Once, I happened to visit one of my friends. I observed a cat moving around in their house, while I was busy chatting with my friend for an hour. I noticed that none of his family members had any objection to its presence. My friend, realising that I was curious about the cat, told me that it had made his house its 'abode' a few months back. Though they tried leaving it far away from their home 4-5 times, it came back. The family then decided to allow it to be a part of their home, presuming that it had some strange relation with either the

place or one of them. He added that it was not at all troublesome. It accepted whatever was given by them as food and never touched anything on its own...reason enough for sharing the same roof as them for life!

I came home after sometime, but was engrossed in thinking about the cat in their house. I clearly visualised the cat to be my friend's father, Sri Satyanandam garu, in its earlier life. He had passed away two years back due to some health problem. He had lived a miserable life with no consistent job or income. He had four sons. He was not a responsible father and none of his sons made it big in academics. My friend, who is the eldest son, struggled a lot to complete his graduation. The other sons are employed in menial jobs and with great difficulty make two meals a day. Satyanandam garu had become bedridden before his demise. Though he was filled with remorse for the state in which his family was, in the twilight of his life, it was too late to make amends.

Satyanandam garu was reborn as a cat in a small village close to Vijayawada. He had been totally irresponsible and a slave to several vices in his poorva janma. The thought that pinched him at the end about his family being in distress, stayed with him even after his death, in his new life. One day, a dog chased this cat that was on the road and the cat ran at great speed on the highway. The dog continued to chase the cat. There was one lorry loaded with onions, heading for Hyderabad. The driver and cleaner of the lorry had stopped on the roadside to have some tea. The cat that had come from the opposite direction, leapt on to the lorry and hid behind the onion filled gunny bags. It was seven in the evening. The dog stopped there and started barking aloud, looking for the cat. By then, the

driver and the cleaner returned and stoned the dog and started off on their journey.

The lorry reached Osmanganj Market around 2 o'Clock at midnight. The cat immediately jumped out and sneaked into a fruit godown. As it was pitch dark, nobody noticed the cat in the godown. The following morning, the fruits were being loaded into number of small vans to be distributed across various parts in the city. The cat feared for its life amidst such hustle and bustle. It jumped into one of the vans randomly. The driver set out immediately as the van was fully loaded. That van came to the colony where my friend and his family stayed. Without wasting any time, the cat jumped out of the van and entered my friend's house. Sri Satyanandam garu, in the form of a cat, came back to live with his own family as he experienced the strong pull of the previous life's attachment. The reminiscences of that life prevailed over him even now, and pulled him strongly to get back to the place where he belonged even though it required traversing a long distance.

Attachment is the root cause for all pain and despair. One should discharge one's duties towards one's family with love and dedication. However, one who performs one's duty without attachment, without thinking about the results, is unaffected by actions, just as the lotus is untouched by water, says the Bhagwadgita. Detachment is not indifference. It is the prerequisite for effective involvement, be it with one's family, relatives, friends or others or material things (like clothes, house, etc.,). Detachment should be towards the result of one's actions. Some of us are strongly attached to the place we reside or the house that we have built. A man known to me had such a strong attachment to his house that he took birth, four times repeatedly,

in and around the same region! Therefore one must learn to adopt detachment to avoid getting entangled in the bondage of the life and death cycle.

To renounce things, does not mean, to give them up. It is to acknowledge that all things go away and that all relationships are transient; nothing is permanent. One has to be a '*sthitha prajnya*' (*jivanmukta*) who is truly free while still living, free from the conflicts of the pairs of opposites, such as pain and pleasure, virtue and vice, honour and dishonour, and good and evil. In short, the *sthitaprajna* is free from all attachments and aversions. Firmly grounded in the wisdom of the one Self, the *sthitaprajna* is at peace and ease with everything in all situations, leading a successful and happy life.



## SRI ANANDA ANJANEYAM

Lord Hanuman is revered by millions of devotees in India. Hanuman is very affectionate towards His devotees. Those who pray Him daily do not get any obstacles in their path. They will not get any illness too. Lord Hanuman is said to be *Chiranjeeva*, eternal. He is still living among us. He will definitely present in some form or other wherever devotees sing Bhajans of Lord Sri Rama. Hanuman's faith towards Lord Sri Rama is supreme. Hanuman showers His blessings on His devotees always. He simply takes care of you in the way a mother looks after her offspring. We may forget to pray every day. But He does not forget his bhaktas. He is always there by their side.

The books that I wrote on the Gods and the Vratams are being read and followed everyday by many devotees. Many temples are conducting the Vratams on a collective basis, i.e., people assemble together at the temple and perform the Vratam under the guidance of the chief priest. For this reason, I have sent 200 copies of several books to each temple that has asked for them. In 2012, one morning, I received a phone call from a priest Sri Narasimhacharyulu who belonged to Warangal. He addressed me and said, 'Swamy, I heard that you wrote a book, *'Sri Ananda Anjaneyam'*, a Vratam on Lord Hanuman. I understand that devotees following the book are benefitting

greatly from the same. I am a priest in the temple here and I request you to send me maximum number of copies so that I can distribute them among all the devotees who come to the temple. Another reason is that my Guru will give ‘*Hanumat mantropadesam*’ to 1008 devotees on the coming Hanuman Jayanti. He wants to give this book to each of those devotees. We would be glad, if you could send us 1008 copies; if that is not possible, please send us at least 400-500 copies of this book.’ Both the priest and his Guru were strangers to me. I did not know them, but I was very glad about their interest in the book and their devotion to Sri Anjaneya and decided to send them as many copies as I possibly could.

I sent them 500 copies of the book after a few days. Sri Narasimhacharyulu called me up to tell me that his Guru had distributed these books to the devotees on Hanuman Jayanti after the *mantropadesam*, and people were very glad to receive the book. Most of them called me up later, to share their wonderful experiences with me. Each and everyone who read the book has seen miracles in their lives. A person who was struggling to tie the knot (for 8 long years) was successful soon after reading this book. Another person secured a much awaited job after reading the book. A couple that was childless even after 5 years of marriage was blessed with a son soon after reading this book.

One day, a 75 year old retired teacher from Mulugu, forest area of Warangal, spoke to me on phone and said, “Swamy, I happened to read your book, ‘Sri Ananda Anjaneyam’, which was given to me by someone. I performed the Vratam in the morning today and had a wonderful experience. Lord Hanuman came and sat next to me in the form of a monkey. He listened

to each and every story, without giving us any trouble. In fact, I had arranged bananas, mangoes, guavas, oranges and many other varieties of fruits along with a glass of milk for ‘*Naivedyam*’ (offering to god) but the monkey did not touch anything until the completion of the Vratam. He waited till the end when the ‘*aarti*’ was done and Swamy was offered ‘*naivedyam*’. Later it took one banana and jumped over the wall and left. I believed that it was none other than the Lord Himself who came to attend the Vratam. I am very fortunate to have had this darshan of Sri Anjaneya.

On another day, a person called up from Kakinada and said, “Swamy, for many years now, I have been used to reading ‘*Sundarakanda*’ book daily in my prayers. I keep it on the top of all the other books in the puja room. Yesterday evening, an acquaintance of mine gave me the book, ‘*Sri Ananda Anjaneyam*’ written by you. I was impressed the minute I saw the book and decided to read it the following day. Therefore I kept it along with the ‘*Sundarakanda*’ book. I wanted to read the same today in the morning but surprisingly, I did not find my Sundarakanda. I was puzzled and searched the whole house but could not find it. I felt that probably Lord Hanuman wanted me to read ‘*Sri Ananda Anjaneyam*’ everyday instead of the other one. That’s why ‘*Sundarakanda*’ book seemed to have disappeared suddenly.”

In this way many devotees have amazing experiences to share. It was six months after sending 500 copies of the book to Warangal, that one day I received a phone call from Sri Narasimhacharyulu once again and he said, “my guru told me that the same man who wrote and gave us the books on Lord Hanuman is presently writing a book on Lord Rama. Find out if

he has finished doing it.” I couldn’t believe my ears because at that point of time, I was writing ‘*Sri Rama Raksha Vratam*’. None except me knew that I was writing that book, not even my wife. My wife never asks me when I am in the process of writing. I tell her about it only on the completion of the book. How on earth did the Guruji come to know? I wondered if it was the ‘*leela*’ of Lord Sri Rama. I asked Narasimhacharyulu to tell his Guru that I was indeed writing a book on Lord Sri Rama and I would send them the copies of the same on completion. In this way, I have been observing the amazing ‘*leelas*’ of each God on whom I write a book. It is my good fortune that devotees reading these books are benefitting in incredible ways.



## SRI RAMARAKSHA VRATAM

Among all incarnations of Srimannarayana, Lord SriRama's avtar is supreme and unique. In this *avatar* He lived like a normal human being. He has shown all of us how a man should live. He too has undergone suffering like an ordinary human being. He showed all of us, how one should face all obstacles in life. His friendship with Lord Hanuman is simply friendship defined. Even now, thousands of years after *Tretayug*, Lord Sriram is still giving His darsan to those devotees who have immense faith in Him. Lord Sriram is benevolence personified. It is very hard to find an Indian village without a temple of Lord Sriram.

I wrote my first book, '*Sri Srinivasa Mahatyam*' in the year 2001 followed by *Sri Venkateswara Vrata Kalpam* in 2005. By Lord Srinivasa's Grace, this Vratam became very popular and has been translated into many languages. People across the world are following this book and performing the Vratam on a daily basis. The first story in this book has been dictated by the Lord Himself. The rest of the four stories have been the Blessings of Maharishis *Vishwamitra*, *Vasishta*, *Bharadwaja* and *Atri*. I felt as though they were sitting in front of me, while I was writing this book. I have written it exactly the way they made me write. Though I tried improvising after completion of the book, on what I initially wrote, I could not do

it and it remained the way the maharishis intended it to be. I could not change even a single letter.

From then on, I wrote a new book almost every six months. I have had soul-elevating experiences behind every book that I wrote. Many famous literary scholars have become my good friends because of my books. There are some devoted readers of my books and I have recorded all their addresses in a separate book. I make it a point to send them a copy of all the books written by me as and when I did. Out of them, some are ardent devotees of Lord Siva, some Sri Ramachandra, so on and so forth. Some of them asked me many a time as to when I would write a book on the God they revere most, the way I wrote on Lord Venkateswara Swamy. I used to tell them that it will happen when I am ordained by those Gods to do so. I strongly believe one can not write a divine book unless one is blessed by God.

For years, we contemplated on performing '*Sahasra lingarchana*' during *Karthika Masam*. But for some reason or the other it never materialised. This was so, from the year 2002. In 2011-12, it got deferred in the last minute and I always told myself that Parameswara had not given me '*anujna*' (permission) to do it. Surprisingly, after writing '*Sri Maheswara Vratam*', we could realise our long cherished wish of performing '*Sahasralinga archana*', without any hiccups. Similarly, we happened to visit three temples of Lord Siva in a row after writing the book. I had the vision of Sri Balasubrahmanyeswara sitting in front of me, looking curiously at my manuscript while I completed this book. I thought as I was involved in writing a book on His Father, Lord Siva, He was very eager to go through the same, when it was still being written. I go in to a

trance whenever I recollect the vision. Very soon, I wrote another book called ‘Sri Subrahmanya Vratam.’

Another interesting incident happened about three years ago. One afternoon, someone knocked at our door. When I opened the door, I found two strangers on my doorstep. One of them was quite tall, He wore a ‘*Namam*’ and looked like an archaka. He seemed to belong to the ‘*Sri Vaishnava Sampradaya*’ (a lineage consisting of worshippers of Vishnu) and had a radiant face. He was accompanied by a young boy. He addressed me and said, “Nayana! I read your Sri Venkateswara Vrata Kalpam and liked it a lot. I have come to collect few more copies of the same.” As someone or other visits our house for copies of my books, it was not a surprise. I immediately went in to my room and gave him some books. I asked him where he had come from, in the hot sun. He said, that he stayed near a Ramalayam at Yousufguda, a place about 2, 3 kilometres from our house. I asked him his address but he said that he lived in the temple itself. In some temples there are two or three rooms built for the living quarters of archakas, so I did not wonder about it. He also suggested that I should write a book on Lord Sri Ramachandra. to which I immediately responded and said that I would do if the Lord so willed. He blessed that it would happen very soon and I expressed my warmth and gratitude for the kind words uttered by him and folded my hands in namaskar. I observed the silent boy who was with the ‘archaka.’ He had not spoken a word, but was looking into the eyes of the older person with utmost devotion and hanging on to every word spoken by him. On our request, they accepted some buttermilk, and after that, left my place. Wondering why they came at that time of the day when it was

so hot, I went into the balcony to see them off but did not find them. They simply disappeared in no time.

Another surprising truth that I came to know later was that there is no Ramalayam in the area they told me. I immediately understood that my visitors were none other than Lord Sri Ramachandra and Lord Hanuman. “I’m grateful to you O Lord! For being merciful towards me and giving me your darshan”, I said in an elated tone. After a short period, I happened to write ‘*Sri Ananda Anjaneyam*’ and ‘*Sri Rama Raksha Vratam*’. These books are giving lot of joy to all the devotees. The Lord not only made me write the books but also ensured that they reached His devotees who are spread far and wide. The fact that the Lord initiated the book on Lord Hanuman, ‘*Sri Ananda Anjaneyam*’, prior to the other book, ‘*Sri Rama Raksha Vratam*’, proves the immense love that the Lord has for His foremost devotee and friend Hanuman. This goes to prove the deep bonding and love between them.

We went to Bhadrachalam with the first few printed copies of ‘*Sri Rama Raksha Vratam*’ just before *Sri Rama Navami*. The chief priest of the temple was pleased to see the books and placed them at the Lord’s sacred Feet during the puja. We distributed almost 1000 copies to the devotees there itself. We returned to Hyderabad four days before the festival of *Sri Rama Navami*. People thronged to my place to take these books for distribution during the festival when *Sri Sita RamaKalyanam* is performed. In fact I thought of sending these books to many temples of Lord Srirama but could not do so as I have no office or many people working for me. How wonderful it would be if I could send to some temples at least?...I just thought of a temple in an area called Nallakunta...

*Amruthapadham*

I knew there was one Ramalayam at Nallakunta and wished I could send the books to that temple. In the next hour, a devotee came for books and said he came from Nallakunta and would be more than glad to distribute the books in that temple. It is but the leela of 'Swamy' yet again; He sent a person to me soon after knowing my desire. How can I single-handedly distribute so many books to thousands of devotees spread across the state, nation and world? The Gods have taken the onus on themselves for ensuring that their books reach their devotees in such a widespread manner.



## **LORD SRINIVASA'S GRACE**

Lord Srinivasa is the supreme God. He is the most benevolent. He takes care of His devotees as His children. One need not do yajnas or yagas to please Him. It is very easy to get His blessings. Just pray to Him for a minute at least every day. He will grant all boons to you. He knows the limitations of present day life. He is the kindest of all. It is for this reason millions of devotees across the world pray to him every day. For many of them He is everything. He is supreme Lord for them. Their unwavering faith is to be seen to be believed.

Ravindra, is a good friend of mine for whom I designed two logos in the year 2005. From then on, both Ravindra and his wife Smt. Jayalakshmi have become our good friends. They are very amiable by nature and are a wonderful couple. I am impressed by their plain heartedness and sincerity.

It has not been possible to be in touch with them regularly. May be we spoke to each other a couple of times over a span of two years. Nowadays, people have no time for their loved ones and hardly keep in touch with each other. However, people make up for it when they meet each other and spend time together.

One morning two years ago, Ravindra called me up and said he was in Tirumala and had gone there the previous

evening. We were talking to each other after an year. Earlier, we had met at a common friend's place. Ravindra told me on the phone that some acquaintance had invited him to join them for the 'Vastraalankara seva' of Swamy on the Friday. He thought himself to be very fortunate and immediately took the morning flight and reached Tirumala in time.

*Vastra seva* is a very important seva of Lord Srinivasa performed every Friday morning. You can sit in front of Lord for nearly an hour. It is considered very auspicious and the tickets for this seva are hard to come by. Ravindra was fortunate to be asked to join his dear one for the Seva. He completed the darshan on that seva ticket that morning along with his friend. He was very happy that he had been 'chosen' by god to attend the seva in place of someone else who could not make it.

He was overjoyed that he could spend considerable time in the temple, being part of the 'seva' and meditated on the Lord, sitting in front of the Almighty. It was then that he had an amazing experience of seeing the Lord in his 'Dhyana'. He added and said, "Viswapathi garu, in my vision I saw that you were standing next to Him. Pointing at you Lord Srinivasa told me that I should go to your house and give you *Kalyanam laddoo*. Kalyanam laddoo (Tirupathi laddoo, commonly called 'Srivari Laddoo', is the mainstay of T.T.D. Prasadam for the last 300 years). I was bewildered and thought to myself that I didn't think of you at that moment and it was almost a year that we had not even spoken to each other on the phone. During the seva, one gets to spend 30 minutes in front of the Lord. It is difficult for one to see the Lord continuously and one closes one's eyes involuntarily because of the Lord's

radiance. When I did it I could not believe my eyes...I not only saw the Lord but I saw you next to Him and was dazed when He asked me to deliver His Laddoo Prasadam to you. I'm taken aback by this incredulous experience which I've never had before. I realised the great affection that the Lord has for you. I'm starting tonight for Hyderabad and will see you at your place tomorrow morning." As promised, Ravindra visited me the following morning and delivered Lord Srinivasa's Prasadam. I took the *Mahaprasadam* from him with utmost reverence and both of us discussed the leelas of the Lord and the love He has for his bhaktas. He brought the kalyanam laddoo and vada which made me very happy.

I am privileged and honoured as I receive the Lord's Prasadam almost once a fortnight through someone or the other by His Grace. I remember a similar incident occurred in 2007. I received a courier one evening in 2007 and was surprised that it was sent from Tirumala. It was not sent by anyone known personally to me. I opened the neatly packed parcel wondering about the contents and was even more surprised to find a variety of the Lord's prasadam. The sender's name was Krishna from Tirumala which was not a clue enough for me to understand who it was. There was a letter inside the packet that said, 'I'm sending you the prasadam on the Lord's order.' The different Prasadam were packed individually in separate covers with labels denoting which day that Prasadam was made and for which seva. For example, during the '*Sahasra deepalankarana seva*' every day in the evenings, Swamy is offered a prasadam called '*Pancha Kajjayam*', made of 5 kinds of *sugandha dravya* like *kasturi*(musk), *pachcha karpoor* (edible camphor), etc., mixed with dates, cashewnuts, raisins, dried coconut, jaggery. I came to know only then that such a

prasadam was offered to the lord. There was another packet with the pieces of coconut offered as '*nivedana*' to the Lord. I still do not know anything about the sender of these prasadams, as I did not receive any kind of communication from him again. It is but Lord Srinivasa's Blessings and Grace that I received the Prasadams through the anonymous sender, I can never forget this in my life.

All this goes to prove that Lord Srinivasa is easily accessible to all His devotees. He's always looking after the welfare of His devotees who pray and meditate upon Him. We might forget to worship Him owing to our *samsarik* (worldly life) commitments but He fulfils our wishes even before asking for the same. He's happy when His devotees are happy. Lord Srinivasa is most benevolent.



## VEDIC LOGOS

One day in 1993, I got a call from one of my friends from engineering days. He told me that he started an engineering industry soon after graduation. He was doing well for the initial 2-3 years. Since then, he has been incurring heavy losses. In spite of his best efforts, he has not been able to revive the unit. He told me that he was fed up with business and wanted to seek employment.

I thought about him that night. He was a brilliant student, and very hard working too. But why he did not succeed in business? Why could he not revive it despite best efforts? It was a simple fabrication industry and did not require any specialised machinery or expertise. Still, he could not run it successfully. We often hear something called 'Luck'. We hear that someone made big money overnight in some business even though he does not know ABCs of it. Is there really anything like luck in someone's business running profitably? Is it that some lines of businesses do not suit some people? Or, are some individuals better off working for someone as employees? All these questions puzzled me.

I thought of Vedic Astrology. Does Astrology hold any clue to the suitability of a particular business for an individual? Does our birth chart indicate anything about which business suits us more, which name is good for the business etc., Is there any relation between our birth sign to the brand name or logo of our business? All these questions came up in my mind. Then I

decided to study the effect of Vedic Astrology on running of Business Organisations. I analysed it in detail for about two years and found some interesting observations...the observations that changed my profession itself!

I observed that an individual's birth star, birth sign have an important role in his running a business successfully. They give an idea about which line of business is good for us, which geometrical patterns to be used in the logo or which colours are to be used for maximum prosperity etc., It is very easy to understand it. All of us are familiar with *navagrahas* in Vedic Astrology. Many of us know that each planet has a corresponding colour. Similarly, certain geometrical patterns exist corresponding to each of these planets. If we incorporate these colours and patterns in to the logos, it helps in running the Company successfully.

When a promoter approaches me for advice, I study his birth chart. Based on that, I decide which planets give him maximum prosperity. Later, I pick up the corresponding geometrical patterns and incorporate them in the logo. There is another aspect here...there are different curves corresponding to various factors affecting an industry like good reputation, good profits, loyal manpower, no legal problems, no problems relating to machinery etc., I will analyse all these factors and pick up all the corresponding curves and then form them together in to a meaningful symbol like a flower or a pyramid or a combination of some wonderful geometrical patterns. So all the curves relating to the planets are hidden in the logo. It looks wonderful for a layman but has in it most powerful patterns required for the prosperity of the firm.

With this knowledge, I tried to help and advice businessmen who were incurring losses. I designed a new logo, and within six months, such units experienced a complete

turnaround. In fact, many units which became sick came back to life and on to the path of success, after using the new logo. Apart from the promoters, their bankers too were very happy. So much so, they wondered how a simple logo could effect such a change in the fortunes of a unit into which they have pumped several crores for years but in vain. A small logo made a lot of change. I have addressed members of Hyderabad Management Association, Institute Of Cost and Works Accountants of India, Institute of Company Secretaries etc., on the efficacy of my system of logo design. Many people who came to me for advice, have become good friends over the years. Many of them do not start a new industry without consulting me. If a sick company comes to life and provides employment to several people what more blessings do I need?

Many persons who used these logos had unique experiences. I will share one here. In 1995 or so, Director of a school in Tarnaka area of Hyderabad came to me for a logo. He wanted to change the existing logo after hearing about me. I designed a new logo, based on birth particulars of the promoters. There were about 400 students on the rolls of the school then. After they started using the new logo, it's strength increased to 1,000 in the very next academic year. One day the director came to my house with a packet of sweets and told me he was very happy at the growth of the school. But of late, they were facing a very peculiar problem. The school had about 10 buses plying in different routes to pick up the pupils. Strangely, on every Monday, one of the buses would develop a snag while on the way to school. The children would be late by more than an hour as the problem had to be rectified. They were thus missing their classes. It happened only on Mondays. But with a different bus, in a different route every Monday. If it is Route no.4 bus this Monday it could be route no.6 bus next week. Come Monday, at least one bus would be reaching the

school late. This peculiar thing baffled the director. He wondered what could be done if at all to have a remedy to the situation.

I asked him whether he was using the new logo on the buses. He said he was not doing so. He was still using the old logo on the buses. I told him to get the new logo painted on all the buses immediately. He called me after two weeks. He sounded very relieved and happy. He told me that he replaced the old logo with the new logo the very next day after meeting me and since then, no bus had developed any snag on Mondays! Two Mondays had elapsed since then and there was no breakdown. The school grew very well in the later years and today it has a strength of 6,000 students and is running from three different campuses.

I have seen many such miracles happening after using my logos. It's all the greatness of our Vedic sciences. Vedas have tremendous information for prosperity of mankind. We can find great information relating to medical, scientific, engineering, financial fields etc., in our Vedic texts. Over the years, I have designed logos for more than 5,000 organisations, spread across various Indian cities and abroad. Owing to the experience of over twenty years, I am able to accurately assess the company's turnover, its strengths, its weaknesses, the problems it is facing etc., when I take a look at the logo. After long years of study and research in this field, the moment I see the birth particulars of the promoter the most favourable patterns for him flash in my mind instantly. I put all of them together and design the logo. And the company's profile changes for the better. No wonder many of them believe it is not just a logo that I design, it is a *yantra* for their company!











T.V.R.K. Murthy, popularly known as 'Viswapathi' took his M.Tech., in Elec. Engg. From NIT, Warangal in 1982. He worked in industry and teaching till 1998. He has keen interest in Vedic sciences and has done extensive research on application of Vedic principles to Business organizations. Since 1998 he is into Logo Designing. He has so far selected company names and designed logos for more than 5000 organizations worldwide.

Mr. Viswapathi is an ardent devotee of Lord Sri Balaji Sri Venkateswara and has so far written 24 devotional books of which 14 are on Lord Sri Venkateswara alone. All these books are being distributed free to devotees. Millions of devotees across the world read these books regularly and are living peaceful and prosperous lives. They strongly believe their problems are solved once they read any of these books. Some of these books are translated into various languages.

Mr. Viswapathi had several divine experiences while writing these books. In AMRUTHAPADHAM he shares those experiences with us. He always believed in practicing dharma. He says if we follow the path of dharma in our day-to-day life then it will become AMRUTHAPADHAM, path of nectar.

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