

22. Sweet Abode Of The Lord

Every day is a festival day here. At Prasanthi Nilayam, it is year-round Dasara. And yet, to show that it is desirable to value tradition and observe ancient and well-established rites, this festival is celebrated at this place.

When the fruit grows, it is filled with sweetness. Even the margosa fruit loses its bitterness and turns sweet when it ripens. So, too, the ultimate destiny of each person, however hard or bitter they may be now, is to ripen and turn sweet. Everyone will shed bitterness and turn sweet; there is no doubt. The sweet (*madhura*) taste will then win for them the Lord of Madhura (Mathura, or Madhura, is a name of Krishna's kingdom).

I am not very happy when I hoist this Prasanthi Flag on this building. I will be happy only when each one of you hoists it and keep it flying on the mansion of your heart. Only then can you enjoy peace, contentment, and purity. Grow the twin wings of love and faith; then you can soar freely in the sky of the Lord's grace.

You can see the Lord only through His wonders. His laws are unique and mysterious; there is no use arguing about them, for experience is the only proof of their reality. You taste them, and therefore they are real. Do not spend your intelligence in devising crooked queries. The mystery of the *Avatar* is beyond the reach of intelligence. It can be grasped only by means of genuine faith. It cannot be reached by logic; the sense organs of action and perception are useless instruments, for the body, mind, and intelligence all are of the category "seen" but not of the category "Seer". To see the Seer, inner vision has to be cultivated. As long as you feel you are separate, you cannot see the whole. The individual (*vyakthi*) can never see the Supreme Power (*Sakthi*).

Attachment to any body is not desirable

Even when the Lord appears in person, doubt assails. It is of the very nature of things! I utter no meaningless word. I do no purposeless deed. I plan no significanceless action. I never engage in unholy activities. I have nothing that I need. My joy consists in fulfilling your aims, in making you reach the goal. The one thing that I ask for is a love-filled heart. Believe and hold fast, without entangling yourselves in a mesh of empty explanations and imaginary arguments—that is the way to profit.

Do not develop attachment to this body. Why, attachment to any body is not desirable. This hand gives you things, but My hand is that which creates all this. That is My body. My course is unique, different from all that you know. I do not identify Myself with anything. Ice is water, water is ice. The Form (*saguna*) is without form (*nirguna*), without form is this form.

You may fall into the quagmire of doubt: "Rama came, Krishna came, Sai Baba came, this Puttaparthi Sai Baba comes and challengingly declares that He is all these! How can this be?"

You can never understand this phenomenon. That is the understanding you need. I am incomprehensible. You will see the world coming here in about a year or two. Remember that in no previous era (*yuga*) did the people get so many clear intimations of the nature of *Avatar* as now; you are indeed fortunate. The Lord's Form can be perceived only by means of the eye of love (*prema*) or the eye of wisdom (*jnana*) or the eye of *yoga*, not the eye of sensual activity.

The Lord is interested in your keeping the heart pure

The *Kali yuga* (the age we are now in) is, in reality, very holy; you too are very fortunate. You have the chance to see, touch, and converse with the *Avatar* of the Lord.

The *Avatars* are not ten; there are very many. You must distinguish between those who are born as parts of Divinity, as imbued with the divine essence, as messengers of divine mission, as instruments of divine will and purpose, and *Avatars*. Parasurama is not an *Avatar* in the real sense.

The *Avatars* that have come and gone have all cut down trees because they were white-ant infested, but this *Avatar* is different and unique. Now, the white ants are removed, the tree is saved, protected, fostered, and encouraged to grow. I am not inclined to punish; I am the goldsmith who repairs and reshapes broken ornaments. Rama came as the embodiment of truth, virtue, and peace (*sathya*, *dharma*, and *santhi*); Krishna came as the personification of love (*prema*); now, the embodiment of all four is needed, because, at the present time, knowledge has increased beyond the capacity of character.

You cannot realise how much the Lord feels for your sake. His concern is over your wantonness and wilful disregard of His words, for He is interested in your keeping your hearts pure and unblemished. I am very anxious to make you all reach the goal. My task is to purify your hearts. If you engage yourself in constant meditation of the Name of the Lord, with devotion, humility, and faith, the Lord will stand at the door of your worship room, awaiting your wish. Only, do not allow your mind to waver. Genuine yearning will make your heart pure.

What is important for you is your own experience. What is your basis for understanding the Divine? It is your own bliss (*ananda*), felt and tasted by you. You say, He saved one Droupadi from ignominy, one Ahalya from petrification, one Prahlada from torture, one Gajendra from death, but do you know how many more such have been blessed similarly, through grace? The stream of grace is ever flowing fast and full. That grace has no limit, but you see it only as limited.

The three activities of the Lord

I have come now with the limitations that you need. The Lord's activities are three: Creation, Preservation, and Dissolution. They are the characteristic attributes of the Lord. His aims are all pious and pure (*sathwic*) for the protection of the world, the welfare of the world. My exultation is Mine, My prompting is Mine. I will never abide by another's likes or dislikes. I do not pay heed to such. I am the Witness of everyone and everything. All are in My control. So who can tell Me what to do? In a few years, years that can be counted on one's fingers, all of you will realise that I am the embodiment of all powers. The wise, the inquiring, and the suffering will gather here from all parts of the world. Have the fixity of hold; say, "Whether I succeed or not in getting from you the external fruit, I shall never give up." Do not get dejected when suffering comes and estrange yourself from the Lord, blaming Him for it. The loss will be yours and the repentance will be agonising.

You have no hunger. If you have genuine hunger I will not keep you suffering from it. Churn the mind and collect the butter and melt it in the yearning of the heart. When the butter has not melted, the reason is: the warmth of the yearning is insufficient.

I do not appreciate your extolling Me, describing My glory. State the facts. That produces joy. It is sacrilege to state more or less.

Demand from Me the removal of your sufferings, as a right. Give me your heart and ask for My Heart. If you give Me only your word, you will get only a word in return. I give you just what you ask for, remember!

Sweetness cannot arise without suffering.

When sufferings come, why do you estrange yourselves from the Lord? He gives you suffering for your good, for the advancement of your devotion. If suffering is granted, you seek peace; you search for the knowledge of the mystery; you go to ten persons and they each tell you some aspect of the truth. Without suffering, sweetness cannot arise! When you suffer, if you feel, “The Lord is no longer mine,” and stray away, the Lord too will declare, “He is no longer Mine!” Beware.

Wherever you are, when you wholeheartedly seek to do obeisance (*namaskaram*) to Me —My Feet are there, before you! “Hands and feet everywhere (*Sarvathah paani paadhah*),” it has been announced. If you feel poignantly, “Lord, do you not hear My prayer?” My ears are there! If you cry out, “Don’t you see, O Lord?” My eyes are there that instant. Rama, Krishna, Shirdi Sai, This Sathya Sai Baba; that form is so, this form is thus—why all such misgivings and doubts? The body is the same, only the dress worn is different. Do not be led away into the morass by others.

The Lord will never deviate from the word. It may be that you take Me to mean something else. It is My will (*sankalpa*) that happens always; it is My will that is being worked out at all times. *Sankalpas* are of three different types: the decision is arrived at after long deliberation, the decision is taken after the desire to do arises, and the wish and the fulfilment are like the sound of the shot and the hitting the target, both happening at the same instant.

Remembrance of God’s name should become automatic as breathing

Do not slander or abuse others or your own selves as weak, sinful, wicked, or low. When you do so, you are slandering or abusing Me, who resides in them and you. All are of the divine nature of the *Atma*; all are pure and holy. Some might have erred in using the intelligence and discrimination given by the Lord and so might have been guilty of “mistakes”, but they are not therefore “sinful”. To condemn oneself as “I am a sinner born of sin (*Paapoham paapasambhavah*),” is itself the direst sin! Use your intelligence and march on, putting one milestone after another behind you! Practise remembrance of the Lord’s name (*namasmarana*) steadily so that it becomes as automatic and as necessary as breathing. Of what benefit is it to be in the same stage of spiritual practice forever? Take the Form you like, the Name you love, do repetition of the Name and meditation, and no evil thought will arise. Wicked thoughts will flee. When they have fled, what remains is the Embodiment of *Atma* (*Atmaswarupa*).

You must lead your lives according to My words, without the slightest modification. First have faith, then experience is granted. Even in the case of the previous *Avatars*, that is the order of events, is it not? You worship with faith and you experience Grace. Faith results in Grace without your being aware of it. You must take in the medicine I give and also follow the diet I prescribe and avoid the things I prohibit.

I always act, calmly. I never hurry. I do say, “Let it be so,” to every request of yours.

You have come into this world to reach the Lord. Ignorant of that purpose, you have hoisted on your head the weight of illusion and are struggling to unload it, suffering under its weight. What is the use of running after external pleasures and temporary joy? As long as you are caught in this ignorance, you can never taste the bliss of realisation; you cannot even recognise it much less attain it. But if you are patient and calm, I shall grant you joy without fail. Do not yield to despair. Even the infant lotus buds will bloom in their own good time. By the cumulative effect of the good done in many previous births, you have secured this fortune; you do not know how much you have gone through, but I know! And, whether you know or not, I shall certainly give you your need.

Do not treat the body with contempt

You get the ‘body’ through the *karma* of the past; you get the ‘type of character’ according to the tendencies (*vasanas*) cultivated in the past. The body is the result of *karma* to be exhausted in the present life; the quality (*guna*) is the product of *karma* stored to be experienced in future lives. Do not delude yourself that you are the body or be fascinated into an attachment for it. But it is your task to guard it from harm and keep it in good trim. For, isn’t it with your body that you are imbibing the exhilaration of the bliss of the Lord, the Majesty of the Lord? Therefore, do not deride the body or treat it with contempt. That equipment is intended for your journey toward the Lord; it is the chariot of the Lord; do not neglect or keep it in disrepair.

“Oh, this is my fate, my own past punishing me, I must go through it and suffer it, I cannot escape it.” Thus people get disheartened. If it is so inescapable, what is the use of prayer, of remembrance of the name, of meditation, or of the ritual of worship? Win the grace of the Lord, and all the accumulated burden will be burnt into ashes in a moment! Why blame the Lord for the “writing on your forehead?” It is you who wrote there, and it is you who must wipe out the script. The evil you do writes; the good you do wipes! Let your mind dwell on the Lord, and the mist of the past births will melt before the rays of that sunrise; if you do not project those rays, the mist will thicken into darkness.

Never deprive yourself of the joy in store

While in the previous body, I had said, “I will come again after eight years.” Dikshith wrote it down as if I said I would appear as an eight-year-old! That is a mistake. Having cast off that body on the Vijayadasami Day, 1918, I granted actual concrete *darshan* off and on to various devotees for about six years. Once, I appeared before Abdul Baba and told him, “The body has been disposed off, but who can dispose of Me?” I had revealed to Abdul Baba the news of My coming advent.

But do not waste your time in arguments about the identity, whether this is he or he could be this! Believe only as much as you have known; never deny the joy you have derived or deprive yourselves of the joy in store.

Worship, offerings, incense, waving of lights —these are all preliminary steps, the first few rungs in the ladder. If you are ever on the alphabet, when are you to learn to spell and read words and sentences? Does the Lord need the things you offer? Does He require articles of comfort or luxury? No, it is you who need them! Does He live upon the food you place before Him?

Remember, the person who goes beyond the externals wins the victory. The Lord is not pleased with externals; He searches for the feelings, the internal urges. I do not want the flowers and fruits and miscellaneous packets that you bring in your hands when you come to Me. Come with your hands empty, saying “What can I give You that has not come from You Yourself? When You gave me this heart, it was clean and pure; now, after preparing in that vessel the food for life so far lived, I am offering it to You, as clean and as pure as when You gave it to me, after removing all traces of the impressions or smells of the things cooked in it.” Say that, and offer that heart.

Cultivate kinship of the heart through devotion

How long are you to stagnate in the same primary class of leaf, flower, fruit, and water (*pathram, pushpam, phalam, and thoyam*)? Keep in the leaf of the body the fruit (viz. the heart) and the flower (viz. the mind) and the water welling from the eyes; then, grace will descend on you without fail. Let the hands be empty but the heart be

full. Cultivate the kinship of the heart through devotion and faith. Reduce these external attachments and demonstrations. What I seek is your joy, your happiness, your mental peace, and your unfailing courage and resolution.

You are indeed more fortunate than the sages, the monkeys (*vanaras*), and the cowherd maidens (*gopis*) Your chances are greater; you get the seeing, touching and conversing, all three. Therefore, do not ask for the fulfilment of paltry desires; ask, “Make me eternal, absolute.”

I have started the work for which I have come. Till now, I was engaged in collecting materials —iron, cement, brick, lime, and the rein. Now the foundation has been firmly concreted and the building has to rise. That structure of Mine will cover the entire Universe. No longer can this prayer hall or the auditorium now being erected hold the people who will gather. The sky alone can be the big enough shed. Hereafter, there are no stops! Within a short period, you will witness many miraculous events. Even while you are wondering, this Puttaparthi will be transformed into Madhura.

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Life is a game football; you can kick the ball of the objective world (*samsara*) with as much gusto as you can command provided you remember that if it crosses the lines of the path of Brahma and the path of righteousness (*dharmā*), you are out and the ball has to be brought in again. They set the limits within which you can play the game, remember!

Sathya Sai Baba