



RAMĀ ŚAKTI MISSION

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The nature of the environment is dependent upon the samskaras of the individuals. The environments in the respective homes of a butcher and the Pundit were created by their respective samskaras. That was the reason why the two parrots though born of the same mother-bird, behaved differently. Another factor, equally powerful, is the influence of association. Associations with the butcher had its own impact upon his parrot; so too, association with the Pundit made his parrot behave in a different way. Association is very powerful. Samskaras are born of one's own thoughts and actions; but the influence of association is imbibed in a subtle manner.

Home should provide a noble, pious and peaceful environment for the children to imbibe noble samskaras. Harsh utterances, unkind behavior and demoniac qualities, on the part of the parents adversely influence their children too. The instance of one Prahlada, who though born in the Asura clan, grew into a prince among Vishnu Bhaktas, is a rare, almost an isolated, instance. It is an exceptional case. One in millions may be able to grow unaffected by the environments and family tradition. Spiritual samskaras of innumerable lives, the power of penance and the grace of God: when these three are combined, a magnanimous soul like Bhakta Prahlada may emerge. Ah! Such a bhakta purifies and redeems his lineage by the sheer truth of his advent in that family.

The power of one's own inherited adhyatmic samskaras should come like a mighty force, as a great ocean, in dimension. Then alone one can overcome all alien influences and grow into a great devotee. Such a devotee cannot be affected by anything in the world. Even deadly poison turns out to be nectar for him. Let the world scoff at him, hurl abuses at him, and malign him day and night, he will accept everything as a blessing from his Beloved. Nothing can disturb him. No force can make him swerve from his path of love. Truth is his forte. Faith is his plank of support that makes him float on the sea of life. Unswerving Devotion is the perfume of his soul. The ocean may dry up, or the deluge may come over the world, yet, the divine force of a Bhakta never suffers any diminution.

He is a coward, who at the sight of waves, give s up the idea of having a holy dip in the sea and beats a retreat. The heroic bhakta is not afraid of the waves of life's tests, trials and tribulations. He faces any problem with courage and equanimity. The weak-minded lose temper when others blame or abuse them. They also get depressed at trivial tests of life. How can such persons tread the path of spirituality and earn competence for God-Vision? Only the pure of heart, the strong of resolve, those who are ardent votaries of truth and righteousness, become sadbhaktas and sadshishyas. Of all paths, bhakti is the easiest, the sweetest, and the safest.

The path of bhakti is open to one and all. To forget the body, to transcend the ego, to rise above the realm of gunas, there is no path as efficacious as bhakti. Extolling the glories of God, meditating on His greatness, muttering His Name with devotion and childlike dependence on God, the simple Bhakta crosses easily the formidable ocean of samsara. Within his heart emerges another ocean, the ocean of love, where the waves of ecstasy constantly dance, where the Beloved is experienced in the form of unending bliss. His eyes may be open, but his gaze is indrawn; he sees only his Beloved in the world. He may be busy with his duties, but his heart is always with God.



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Bhakti, pure love for God, is not a joke; it is the acme of blessedness. It is the elixir of immortality. The way to Bhakti is through self-denial, sacrifice and patient penance. When the Bhakta sings praises of God, the whole congregation catches the contagion of Bhakti. All are swept away by the current of Bhava, into a plane of self-forgetting rapture and sense of oneness.

Into such scene of sankirtan, God Almighty plunges and makes His sudden manifestation. What does it mean? It means that He manifests Himself in the hearts of all devotees in the form of overwhelming Bliss. God is invisible; but amidst sankirtan, His subtle presence is palpably experienced by one and all. Hearts expand, egos subside, surroundings are forgotten, and the sense of divine presence becomes pronounced. A current of bliss and strength courses through every limb of the body of every participant and the body-idea itself is transcended. Such is the effect of Nama Sankirtan and congregational Bhajan upon minds concentrated on the Lotus Feet of God through devotion.

Upon return from a tour, a person, tired and exhausted, refreshes himself, by a bath. Similarly, for the jivas, suffering from the threefold fires of samsara, a plunge into the Nama Ganga has a purifying and uplifting effect on them. By Bhajan, worship, upasana and other devotional sadhanas, the divine power dormant in every one becomes manifest. Divine Mother used to emphasise the need for attending Sunday Bhajans in the Mandalies for this very same reason.

It will not be out of place to narrate an anecdote in this connection. Many years ago, in Mangalore, the weekly Bhajans used to be held in Pentlandpet. It was rainy season, and transport facilities were not so much in vogue those days. People from remote areas of the city, especially the womenfolk, had to walk the whole distance. There was an old woman among the devotees, who was very regular and punctual in attending the Bhajans, strictly following Mother's instructions and principles. One day it rained heavily. This old woman, caught up in that downpour, gale and lightning, plodded on with great difficulty, with Mother's Name of her lips. At that time a Car stopped near her and the occupant seeing her condition offered a lift for her. The old woman gently declined the offer with thanks, for she was a person who did not like to accept any favour from anybody, having imbibed Mother's principles.

As soon as the car passed on, a miracle was witnessed. The downpour suddenly stopped, wind subsided and the lightning too came to an end. The woman reached the Bhajan Hall, fully drenched. After the Bhajans, Divine Mother, moved to compassion, called her and lovingly said: Look in such situations as you found yourself in today, there is no harm in accepting a simple favour. You could have come by the car. The woman, with tears of joy in her eyes, narrated her experience of Mother's grace, how the rain and the wind stopped, enabling her to walk without difficulty. Divine Mother commended her example to others in the Hall and said: See, how the observance of just one principle of Mother, has revealed to her the intervening blessing of Mother. How happy she is!

Yes, true joy is in kinship with God, in the anusandhana of God. Worldly pleasures are fleeting by nature. They bring misery afterwards. They weaken the mind and strengthen the worldly bondage. But brahmic bliss is one's own natural state. It is beyond pleasure and pain. When the mind becomes pure, this bliss becomes manifest. Anything may happen in the world; but one should maintain purity and tranquility. This is possible only through surrender to God. The Bhakta is always happy, contented, serene, strong of mind and equanimous in all situations. He does not depend upon men and worldly situations. He is God-fixed. His reliance is only on God.



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Bhakti is a crucible that melts all passions. Sattwic food has been recommended as an aid in controlling the mind and in conquering anger. But food alone cannot conquer anger. It is bhakti that will sublimate all passions. I remember one incident. Once, an old man decided to conquer his anger. He took to sattwic food. He called his wife, son and daughter-in-law and said: Look, I am determined to subdue my anger. All of you should help me to achieve this. For one year, do spare me from all responsibilities. Do not ask me anything concerning affairs of home and business matters. Days passed. The management of home went on smoothly. Nobody consulted the old man for anything. The son independently started managing the business. Then, the old man started feeling that he was being slighted and ignored by all in the household. The poor man could know that in such a feeling itself was lying buried the root of anger.

Gradually, the old man's anger, suppressed for long, started raising its head. Then came the actual outburst. He suddenly remembered Divine Mother and left for Mangalore for Her Darshan. Learning that Mother was in Tellicherry at that time, he went to Tellicherry. He was welcomed with all love and cordiality by Mother and Bhagawan. There were about 20 guests already camping there. In that home of peace and holiness, the old man stayed for four days.

The stay in Tellicherry, in the company of Mother and Bhagawan, was indeed a period of intense education for the man. He observed how even in the midst of manifold duties of home, Mother was maintaining Her natural serenity and blissful poise. Mother's love, hospitality, service, blissfulness and the general atmosphere of piety and holiness in that home enhanced by daily sessions of congregational bhajans, all opened his eyes. On the eve of his departure, Divine Mother lovingly advised him on the ways of mind-control. She explained to him about the intricacies of anger, in their subtle and manifested forms.

The man returned, thoroughly changed in his outlook and mental state. He started developing a special liking and love for the Divine Name. Mother's radiant form constantly shone in his heart. With the wake of devotion, anger eventually left him and he himself, on a later occasion, described his experience of Mother's grace in a talk to the devotees in the presence of Divine Mother. That day also, Mother blessed him.

This man, years later, was admitted in a Nursing home in Mangalore. Doctors and Nurses attended on him, and his own relatives were by his side. But his mind was always with Divine Mother. As his end drew near, he longed and prayed for the company of Mother's Devotees, who would repeat Divine Name in his presence. Then, evidently in response to his prayer to Divine Mother, two women devotees of Divine Mother happened to visit that Nursing home on some errand. They sat near him and went on chanting the Divine Name. A spiritual atmosphere came into manifestation in his room. That evening itself he left his mortal coil, in profound peace. His face shone with uncommon spiritual lustre and he had the beatific vision of Divine Mother before he closed his eyes!

Worldly relatives accompany us up to the grave only. Only God is the eternal companion and saviour of the souls, here and hereafter.