



# RAMĀ ŚAKTI MISSION

**BULLETIN NO: 265A**

23rd May, 1979

Lakshmi too, took the form of a sannyasini. It is Bharatiya culture to accord a warm welcome to a holy personage, a sannyasi or sannyasini who has given up the worldly life for the sake of God-realization and divine work. So this divine sannyasini was welcomed into the homes of the householders every day. There was another reason why Lakshmi got enthusiastic reception at the homes of the Grihasthas. This sannyasini, though supposed to be a penniless ascetic, would take with her a set of plates, tumblers, spoons etc, all made of gold, when she visited the homes seeking alms (bhiksha).

After finishing her meal, she would magnanimously leave those gold plates and vessels with her host as her present. Which householder would not like to have such a generous guest in their midst! The news started spreading in every nook and corner of the country and all people fell into the lure of the gold. Lakshmi was satisfied with the success of her mission and returned to Vaikunta. The Lord also went back to His divine abode.

Some time passed, and then came one day, the roaming minstrel of God, Narada Maharshi again. In a triumphant tone, Lakshmi asked the sage how things were going on in Bhooloka. The sage replied: No doubt, O Mother, your work has been wonderful in the human world. Learned men, men of social distinction, scientists and savants, poets and philosophers, religious preachers, all have become your worshippers, the lovers of riches.

But Mother, in a small house in the corner of a remote village, lives a Vishnu Bhakta. He cares not for your riches or enjoyments. He is an embodiment of renunciation. He excels all in his great bhakti for the Lord. So long as a single being like him is there on earth, your mission cannot be completed. If you go to him and make him accept your presents and bounteous gifts of gold, you can certainly attain what you wished to attain.

Lakshmi saw the force in the Sage's reasoning and counsel. She saw in her divine vision the aforesaid Vaishnava. Taking the form of a sannyasini again, she appeared on earth, this time her glow and radiance increased a hundredfold. She carried with her, glittering plates of gold, and with her natural enchanting carriage, approached the Vaishnava's home. The brahmana received her with respect, showed her his hospitality, and fed her in her own gold plates. But one thing more he did, which the Sannyasini did not anticipate.

By the time the sannyasini washed her hands, the brahmana was there with all the gold plates and tumblers washed, which he returned to her. Despite her repeated offers, the Vaishnava refused to accept her gifts. For him, the Name of God was all-sufficing. His mind, which had tasted the ambrosial sweetness of the Name, could not be unsettled even by Lakshmi. Nothing could tempt him.

Such was the firmness he had achieved through devotion to Vishnu, the Omnipotent Lord. Lakshmi returned to Vaikunta and joined her Lord. She said to the Lord : O Lord, I am myself worshipping and serving your Lotus feet. Blessed are all those who take refuge in You. You are eternal. Those who are devoted to You, alone know real peace and happiness.

The moral of the story is this: Those who are slaves of the vishayas, who crave for fleeting sense pleasures, cannot achieve the steadiness and peace of mind. True devotees of God are heroes in "aparigraha", an ethical virtue extolled in the vedantic scriptures. Their heart is only



## RAMĀ ŚAKTI MISSION

with Gold. One-pointed devotion alone can give the mind such a tremendous strength to renounce the pleasures of the world and to resist its temptations.

Giving up the sense of 'I and mine', the sadhaka should know that he is related only to God. This relationship should be strengthened through devotion. On a strong ethical base only, the mansion of spirituality can be raised. All sattwic qualities are encompassed by peace. Peace should never be given up. If peace goes, everything goes. To keep the mind in undisturbed peace in all conditions of life is the primary duty of a Sadhaka.

When a road is cleared of stones, thorns and other garbage, it becomes fit for a pleasant and comfortable journey. So too, when the mind is cleared of passions, attachments and impurities, it becomes the highway to Realization. After a bath a person feels refreshed. So too, with a dip in the Jnana Ganga, the jiva feels refreshed and rejuvenated with peace and God-consciousness.

With indrawn nature, peaceful frame of mind and bubbling dynamism, Mother, during Her sadhana days, shone as a sadhaka par excellence. Nothing could disturb Her mental serenity, nothing could eclipse Her smile and cheer. Those who visited Her home, were surprised to notice Her supreme peacefulness and ever-blissful nature. The air has movement; the sea has waves; but Mother's mind was a motionless Vast of peace. For Her, sadhana and domestic duties were a non-stop Yajna. Her meditation, Her vows of silence, Her penance and fasts, never interfered with duties as a housewife, never caused any annoyance or trouble to other members of home or the visiting guests. Her sadhana was not there on the surface for the society to see. It was a hidden movement of fiery aspiration, blazing vairagya, love and renunciation.