

Premaswarupa Vahini

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Sri Gopala Krishna Baba

Contents:

2	The word Rama	<i>Sri Gopala Krishna Baba</i>
4	How I came to the feet of Chinna Swami	<i>Dr. P. Ramamoorthy</i>
6	Sai Gopal Baba's showers of compassion	<i>Chayya Mukherjee</i>
8	A Rainbow	<i>Sita</i>
10	White Horse V	<i>Shwetashva</i>

THE WORD RAMA

Extract from the speech given by Sri Gopala Krishna Baba in Mumbai April 2003.
As recorded by Sri Subbharamayah.

The word 'Rama' and its enchanting sound have captivated the human heart. Is there any Indian who does not respond to this word and its sound? This word represents to us the noblest qualities of man, an ideal that has remained unsurpassed.

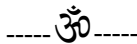
The word Rama is a synonym for sacrifice and renunciation. It is this characteristic and it is the value, which is the very foundation of our world, both external and the one, which is inside us. The quintessence of a Vedic intuition is the word 'yagna' (sacrifice). The story of Ramayana revolves around this idea of sacrifice and renunciation. Sri Rama is an embodiment of this quality. The sacrifice associated with the name of Rama is not an act of self-abnegation but it is an act of self-fulfilment, and satisfaction. The world of ours is a product of sacrifice and it is sacrifice, which keeps the world intact and makes it move smoothly. The law of sacrifice governs our world and our lives. It is for this reason that the celebration of Rama Navami is not just a household festival or a public ceremony where people jump with joy and dance. It is a national event, a day of remembrance, a day for introspection and renewal of our faith and commitment. The celebration of Rama Navami is a reaffirmation of our faith in cosmic solidarity and Rita (way to cosmic harmony). If a temple is to be built for Sri Rama, it should therefore be national endeavour and any dispute about this can only be a display of dark evil and ignorant forces of our lower nature.

The sadhu's and saints of India, in the endless continuity have been reminding us about this traditional value and responsibility. Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Sri Shirdi Sai Baba, and Sri Sathya Sai Baba, among others, have been asking us to realize ourselves, to become Rama like beings. The 'Rama Tathva', the Rama-principle, is the recognition, realization and awareness of the fact that we are not the body-the physical frame- but we are the 'Atman', the Soul.

It is the body-consciousness, which makes 'sacrifice' so frightening and unwelcome; if you know that you are the 'Atman', sacrifice becomes your natural breath. We are poor mainly because of our poor memory. We have forgotten the truth of our being (Atman) and transact in unawareness. Our

life is indeed a journey to the Atman. Instead of walking along this grand trunk road, we seem to get attracted to the by-ways and side-lanes. I am very much pained to find that our devotees are taking to the sidetracks. Discord and disharmony appears to have overtaken us. Our words and thoughts and actions are differently directed. There is no unity within us. We are a divided lot, even in our external dimension. We seem to have lost touch with our inner being.

Why do we go to saints? Is it not to seek and realize a transformation within and without? Have we cared to pause for a second and inquire into our own conduct? Whether our actions betray us, whether our conduct is unbecoming of our status as Sai Devotees, whether our speech spreads parochial feelings and provokes a narrowness of thought? Do we not miss this life too, as we have recklessly did in the past? Should our devotion be always supported by indifference and calumny about others? Is our lower nature so dominant, so as to remain uninfluenced by the contemporary Mahatma's and their association and proximity? It is no consolation to say that the general run of devotees always disregard the holy man around whom they have organized into a group. Should we drive our Guru also to such a pass? I know you have the will and ability to understand what I am saying. On this Rama Navami day, let us through this introspective examination, cleanse ourselves and purify ourselves in thought, speech and action. Let us become pure in thought, speech and action. Let us become pure at heart and taste the sweetness of Rama on our tongues. A Sai devotee cannot go astray. Sai Ram, Sai Nam rescues the worst of sinners. In that hope let us continue our pilgrimage.



Swami had gone to Mumbai to fulfil the persistent and long awaiting invitation from the Mumbai devotees. Earlier at Sri Chablani's residence where Gopala Baba was lodged, a large number of devotees had Gopal Baba's Darshan. In an informal group meeting the devotees requested Swami to say something to them. At that time I was in my mind ruminating over the significance of Ramayana to our contemporary society. Sri Gopal Baba virtually walking into my thought factory said, 'Valmiki's epic the Ramayana can be reduced into a single formula and a simple and beautiful principle.

The constant struggle between the forces governed and directed by the physical organs and the functional mind and that of the Atman and Pure Consciousness. The Ramayana is the story and workings of this pure consciousness, surrounded by human and demonic forces. In our world too if

we can discriminate between the eternal and the temporal, the real and the apparent, we tend to grow in the spirit of Rama.

The product of this discriminating skill is dispassion towards the temporal and the apparent, like the root and the fruit. 'Viveka confers Vairagya'. Dispassion and sacrifice and renunciation of all that is temporal, becomes an effortless and natural propensity. This is Rama Tathva, the Rama principle.

How I came to the feet of Chinna Swami

Extracts from the discourse held by Dr. P. Ramamoorthy, former Brindavan Sevalal Convener, on the occasion of Swami's birthday 6th of November.

I call Sri Gopala Krishna Baba, Chinna Swami, because most of us call Sathya Sai Baba, Swami. Chinna means Bangara (younger brother) in Kannada. It is my good fortune and the grace of our beloved Sai that brought me to the feet of Chinna Swami. I have found him in the midstream and my fervent prayer to him is to take me along to the sea of Satchitanda (being, awareness and bliss). I first met Chinna Swami on 18 September 2003. He talked to me sweetly and during the bhajan the same day looked at me with the love of a thousand mothers. I was reminded of the glance of Baba at me in 1978.

Gopal Baba is, according to both Sri Ananthasayana Rao and Prof. Nanjunda Sastry, the incarnation of Sri Sharada Devi, which Chinna Swami does not deny! Lord Shiva came in the form of Shirdi Sai Baba, The forms of Lord Shiva and the Divine Mother Parvathi are both found in Sathya Sai Baba and now the energy of the Divine Mother is there in the form of Gopal Baba. There is no doubt about that.

My long-time friend Sri Ananthasayana Rao is instrumental in bringing me to the feet of Gopal Baba. Our friendship goes back for more than 23 years when we both served Sathya Sai Baba in different capacities.

Very few people had the type of association with Sathya Sai as Rao had and this long association has subsequently brought him to the feet of Gopal Baba. When I read his biography of our Chinna Swami, I cried. Rao has poured all his love, reverence and even anger towards Baba to provide a proper canvas to enact the story of our Chinna Swami.

I know Prof. Kasturi who has written the biography of Baba 'Sathyam-Shivam-Sundaram'. He loved my family and me immensely. In this biography he spends significant time in establishing the identity of Shirdi and

Sathya Sai Baba. Similarly Rao spends much time in his book in establishing the fact that Baba has really blessed our Chinna Swami with powers and instructed him to continue His spiritual and seva work.

This fact is confirmed in the article, 'There is only one God and He is omnipresent' by one of the very old Sai devotees Mrs. C.N. Padma, which you can find on Swami's website. In the article she mentions at two places how Sathya Sai Baba confirms this fact. When she told Baba, "Swami, whenever I find time I go to Girinagar Ashram for Bhajans as it is near to me", Baba answered, "Very good, continue going, my Sannidhi is there." When she could not go to Puttaparthi for Baba's birthday because of family problems she felt very disappointed and prayed to Baba. That same night Baba appeared to her in her dream and said, "My birthday is on 23rd and Gopal's birthday is on 6th November." He smiled and disappeared. In fact next evening Gopal Baba himself wondered how Mrs. Padma came to know about his birthday.

Ganga Kauveri Sangam (GKS) program has been started by our Chinna Swami to continue Baba's seva activities and some of us are blessed with the opportunity to be part of it. Baba can be physically present in only one place (unless He chooses otherwise) and that too only 24 hours a day. No wonder he has chosen our beloved Chinna Swami as His Amsa Avatar (A partial manifestation of an Avatar) to continue his work. (An Amsa-Avatar will have mainly Tejas or radiance and Ojas or brilliance. He will show great devotion towards God and inspire many others to follow him.)

Those who have eyes and ears can easily see this phenomenon unfolding more and more in the days to come. Those whose minds are closed will be the losers. I believe that among all the gifts that Baba has given to humanity Chinna Swami is the noblest and priceless! Here I utter a word of caution to all my fellow devotees of Chinna Swami; that It will not be too long, before Giri nagar will become Gopala nagar and our beloved Swamiji will become as scarce as Sathya Sai Baba. As Baba always says, we should board the plane whenever it lands and not miss the opportunity! As far as I am concerned He is my safety pole in the Ganges clutching which I am not swept away in the high flood of samsara.

The life of Chinna Swami is his message. Having reached the Divine by intense devotion, consoling and helping people, curing their diseases and spending most of his hours in seva, sankeertana and sadhana. One day I was with Rao hearing the bhajans from a reputed party in the Mandir. He said, "Look, how He is busy with cooking," referring to Swami. I said, "Yes, yes, He is like a Zen-master who never distinguishes between a temple and the market. He lives the ordinary life in an extraordinary way.

In another place Rao quotes Swami in his book saying that if Bhrama (illusion) is shattered, Brahma (total awareness) manifests. Everything is happening by the limitless Energy (Shakthi) in the universe. This energy is breathing through us, sleeping in us, awakening in us but the foolish man thinks that he is doing it. The day one knows that he is not the doer but that everything is happening through him then his actions become God's actions. If you ask the wind: "Who is blowing?" It will answer, "No, I am being blown." The day "doing becomes happening", God takes over.

For my repeated question as to who are the apostles of Baba and who will have at least one percent of His Divinity I got my answer in the form of our beloved Chinna Swami who personifies such immense Divinity. He is the true apostle of Baba and carries on the work and message of His Master.

Sai Gopal Baba's showers of compassion

By Chayya Mukherjee

Just a short time ago in the month of July 2003, the uncle of the girl who helps me in my household chores brought a boy to me who requested me to pray for him since he has not been getting a break in the kind of job he is specialised in. He came to Mumbai after finishing his aircraft maintenance diploma from a reputed place in Chennai. He told me that though he applied to several airline companies for the last seven years nobody ever called him for an interview. He was right now working as a motor mechanic in some place and was sending money to his parents belonging to a very middle class family. The parents somehow managed to bring up this boy and depended on his earning.

The boy was in tears. I felt immensely moved but did not know what to do. Since he had come to me depending on my prayers, I brought him some paper and pen and made him write a letter to our dear Swamiji seeking His help and also made the boy to promise to Swamiji that if he gets a break he will always look after his parents. The letter was sent through Pradeep. After that I left for United States for two months. When I returned in October 2003 I got a call from the same boy saying; though he applied to a reputed air line company who had advertised in the paper for his kind of experience he was not called for an interview though he knew that a fairly large number of others were called to come for interview after two days. I was very perturbed and sat in my prayer room asking what to do. I was prompted to call a certain Mr. Iyer and tell him about this boy. I immediately called his wife and told her about what I was asked to do. This particular family are devotees of Swamiji and Mr. Iyer immediately acted since he belonged to the same reputed airline company. The miracle happened. The boy not

only was called for interview but was also chosen and has joined the work, which was elusive to him last seven years.

My brother-in-law, Jayant Mukherjee, resides in California and both husband and wife are doing well. During my stay in U.S.A, I stayed with them quite some time and talked about Swamiji. He was quite bewildered since he knew I am a staunch Sai Baba bhakta and our original Guru is Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Gurus from Sri Ramakrishna Mission initiated us all, including my daughter.

My brother in law is very much attached to Ramakrishna Paramahansa and though has heard about Sri Sathya Sai Baba he just remained a listener. Now when I told him about Swamiji, he wanted to know who he is and I, with my limited knowledge, just tried to explain about Swamiji. After my coming back to India in the month of November a huge forest fire broke out in California damaging properties of millions of dollars. My brother in law had just bought a beautiful bungalow on top of a hill overlooking a lake, which is an expensive property. They live somewhere down at Riverside and spend the weekends at this place. When the fire started he called me to find out whether I was watching CNN, a news channel that was covering this fire news. I told him, "Yes we are watching and also praying."

Next time when he called I could feel he was very worried because the fire was spreading towards Lake Arrowhead on top of the hill where his house is. I once again repeated that we are praying and I also called my husband staying in Bangalore at that time to pray hard.

On a Tuesday evening, when we conduct a bhajan practice class at our residence, the phone rang again. He tells me that the fire is hardly two miles away from his bungalow and he also questioned me about the kind of prayer I was saying since it was not bringing any result.

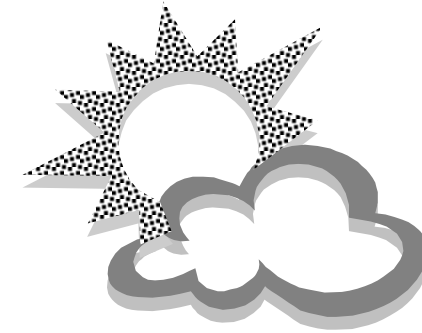
I was very alarmed and told him to be patience and pray to Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa and told every body in the class to pray. All of them did. After everybody left I went to my prayer room and started praying fervently. The prompting came: CALL GIRINAGAR!

I got up and called Girinagar temple and left a message with Ravi to request Swamiji to do something. Ravi replied that he would ask Swamiji. I called my husband in Bangalore and told him the status. He also wanted to talk to Swamiji but I told him not to bother Swamiji again so late at night. My husband was very perturbed and called the temple early in the morning. Venkat told him that Swamiji said to them last night that the fire would be taken care of. Then my brother in law called to tell me that the weather conditions suddenly cooled down and there was a heavy rain shower, his house never got affected.

It is never enough to let people know how much grace we receive from Swamiji.

My sincere prayer is: let more and more people experience it.

Jai Sai Ram.



A Rainbow

By Sita

One of the most beautiful things in God's creation is the rainbow. When we want to watch the sunlight directly, our eyes are blinded by the brightness of the Light, and it can even damage our eyesight. But we can enjoy the beauty of her Light when the Light is veiled. When the sun sets or rises, the humidity in the atmosphere breaks the Light and we see the Light in all the beautiful shades of red and orange. During daytime when rain falls and clouds appear, before or after the downpour, when a ray of Light kisses a raindrop, we see the beautiful colours, which are born out of this embrace.

This is the story of bhakthi or devotion.

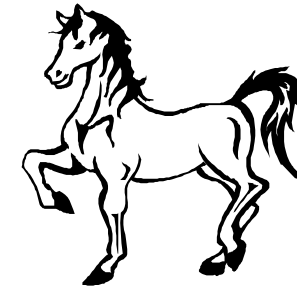
God is like the sun, we want to see and understand His Light. But what misery, His Light is too bright for us to see and understand; our eyes will not be able to see the brilliance. We long and pray and tears fill our eyes, born out of the pure longing in our heart, the tear finds its way down, softly, gently rolling over our cheek and then a ray of His Grace kisses a rolling tear and out of this union God reveals Himself to us, in the colour most appropriate for us. Some see many colours and some see Him only as one or two of them. It all depends on the way the Light meets the teardrop and it is always right.

Water stands for emotions, so when emotions are directed to the One, they will become pure and raise this intense longing for God in us. This longing will purify our heart and will bring the tears of devotion. When we reach that stage our Divine Mother will come, just like the sun She was there all the time, only She waited for us to reach that stage of longing and yearning. The rainbow can only show her beauty when there is at least one raindrop. That is why it is written that God tells us: 'Take only one step towards Me and I will take a hundred towards you.' All He needs is a raindrop...

But there is more, the rainbow has more to teach. It shows the white light of Divinity in myriad colours, now each of us represents one of these colours. Each colour has its own beauty. All these colours are born out of the same Light, so how can there be a wrong colour. Why do we judge our selves and others because we see the difference between colours? Is it because we forgot for a moment that we are all born out of Light? My red is beautiful, just as beautiful as your blue and his orange. We exist all out of Light. God enjoys many colours; this is why He made us so different. Do we doubt His wisdom? Do we want to have another colour? Why? Do we really think that other colours are better or are we so afraid of our own light that we pronounce that our colour is the only good one, the best and most beautiful? What foolishness!

The rainbow is so beautiful because he is a blend of many colours. God's creation will be even more beautiful when we all can take the courage to stand for our own colour and shine like that. Do I serve someone when I dim my light, hide it or try to pretend to be another colour? Will not the whole rainbow be affected and be less beautiful? God has given all of us a very special colour. The colour in which He loves to see us shine for He knows that this colour suits us as none other will. It will make us happy, and give happiness to those around us. The moment you accept and appreciate the colour you are, you will start loving it and shine like never before. There will be a deep satisfaction in your heart, for you know you finally found your destination by being the way He wants you to be. It was there all the time waiting for you to be recognized. It was hidden in your heart, it was the whisper in your dreams and now through the union of devotion and love you finally surrendered to your own Truth.

When the rainbow has served its purpose the raindrop evaporates again and travels high in the sky as a cloud on the winds of Grace, until the moment that God wants him to take form again and creates him into a beautiful snow crystal. When this crystal travels down to earth it will be a raindrop again and ever ready to form another rainbow.



White Horse

Chapter V – Guru's Happiness.

I could clearly see the transformation that had taken place in me. Though the outside world had not changed my inner world were full of peace and joy. In fact I had a lot of time on hand even after completing my daily chores when I could sit all by myself and delve deeper into my own thoughts and conscience. I would usually sit in a place and revise all the actions that I performed in the day and critically analyze them. I would erase out every bit of anger, jealousy and hatred from my thoughts, words and deeds. There was something interesting I observed. Even with the best of my intentions certain traits in me still persisted doggedly. No matter how much I tried to erase them they would not go. My Master had asked, to be good to all, do good to all, see good in all. That was a bit difficult because I could never go across the negatives of certain people or certain actions. I saw that this was a block in my development. I went to the Master and explained my predicament to Him. My Master smiled and said "It is so simple. You Love me so much, you cannot see anything bad in me. So see me in all the others. So you will not see bad in them." Truly, how easy He made it look, my Master. I tried my level best to do this and finally succeeded.

This was the fructification of the Love for my Master. He had brought about the transformation in me in such a simple and unassuming manner. Only a Master would be able to do so. I knew that the Master had complete understanding of my progress and also of my needs. He knew when to give me the exact advice that I needed. The timing was so perfect that I always gainfully utilized the advice. It seemed so futile to ask anything from my Master because even before I asked for it it would be made available. There were no requirements from my end. Instead of asking for anything, it was time for me to give something back to Him. So for the first time I went back to Him and asked Him what He wanted from me. Tears of Joy rolled down His cheeks and he said "Nothing my child nothing. Whatever I have

given to you, give it unconditionally to everybody around you." He then explained that the definition of the words of advice that he had first given to me across the gate of the ranch were to be modified. Those words rang in my ears loud and clear - "I am the embodiment of Love. I Love you all. If you Love me too then spread this Love and Peace in all your family members". He said that the words "Love" and "Family" were understood with the relationship to the individual, he asked me to transform them into a universal relationship. Thus the "Love" would mean "Expanded and Selfless Love" and the term "Family" would encompass the entire "Universe".

Guru – is also called as the "*Guru Mauli*". This is because the Guru has the heart of a Mother and cares for the devotees as a Mother. The earthly age of the Guru is of no consequence; He has the heart of a Mother for all. However the Guru or the Mother is not happy by just taking care of the children and expects the children to grow and transform. Most of you readers must be Mothers having daughters or sons. I am sure that the happiness and satisfaction that you have experienced when your son or daughter became a Mother or Father was more than when you yourself became a Mother. The happiness is far more when your child becomes a Mother. So also, with the Guru. He is not happy if you were to sit at His feet and grow up, He will be infinitely happier if you yourself became a Mother, that is to say that you yourself possessed a heart of a Mother towards all. That can happen only when you have uniform and unadulterated, un-conditional Love for all the beings. The more the Love that one secures from the Guru, the more is the responsibility to transform faster into a Mother for others. Do not doubt this, it is very much possible, and that is why the Master has come all the way to the gate of the ranch to advise us all. The investment of Guru's Love in you has to fructify into Love for fellow human beings, this alone is the goal of life. Then you do not have any desires or expectations for yourself, as everything is unconditional.

- Shwetashva (White Horse)

Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love,
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is doubt, faith,
Where there is despair, hope,
Where there is darkness, light,
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much
seek to be consoled as to console,
not so much to be understood as to understand,
not so much to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
it is in dying that we awake to eternal life.

St. Francis of Assisi

