

Transcript of Sarma Allakki Ramanuja dasa's talk on Oct 22nd 2006 on Telebridge -

Jai Srimannarayana to you all. Dr. Satyavati garu wanted me to talk about our Swamiji. Yesterday, Sriman Ramakrishna Reddy garu spoke very eloquently about Sri Swamiji and the activities in India. I do not think I can add anymore to it.

In our recent trip to Badarinath, we were very fortunate to have a room next to where Sri Swamiji's mother was staying. We talked on many occasions. Maybe I can share some of those with our devotees here. We know that Sri Swamiji was born on Nov 3rd 1956 in A:rtamur village near Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh. His divine parents are Smt. Alive:lumanga Ta:yaru garu and Sriman Venkata:cha:ryulu garu. Ma:ta:ji told us that the young Srimannarayana never showed any interest in traditional activities like pujas, going to temple etc. Even the Upanayanam was not done on time. Coming from the traditional family, this was a surprise to me. The real reason was that Srimannarayana did not want to cut his beautiful curly hair for Pancha Sikhas. Ma:ta:ji also told that Srimannarayana was reading Bible all the time. She was very much worried what would happen to the young boy at that time. After His father's demise, responsibilities fell on young Srimannarayana. Then, he joined HH Pedda Jeeyar Swamiji's ashram as a typist. Until now, Srimannarayana never met HH Pedda Jeeyar Swamiji in person even though He was his grandfather.

One day, young Srimannarayana was asked to carry some books from the Ashram urgently to HH Pedda Jeeyar Swamyvaru. It was an overnight trip. So, Srimannarayana reached there early in the morning. Since He had to deliver them urgently, He approached HH Pedda Jeeyar Swamiji immediately in the early hours. This was the first time that both met each other face to face. After introducing himself, Srimannarayana delivered the books. It looks like that HH Pedda Jeeyar Swamivaru asked many questions including that why he did not have the Upanayanam also. After that first meeting, Srimannarayana came back. Ma:ta:ji told us that he was a different boy. Ma:ta:ji believes that HH Pedda Jeeyar Swamiji has transferred energy to Srimannarayana at that time. Then, things started happening quickly. Shortly after that Upanayanam was done in a traditional manner with Pancha Sikhas. Srimannarayana took samasrayanam from Pedda Jeeyar Swamiji. He also started going to Sriman Gopalacharya Swamy for traditional studies.

Once, Srimannarayana accompanied HH Pedda Jeeyar Swamiji and Sriman Gopalacharya Swamy to Badarinath. After few days, both Jeeyar Swamiji and Sriman Gopalacharya Swamy returned, but Srimannarayana stayed back to perform the Ashta:kshari Deeksha for 40 days (chanting Ashta:kashari 800,000 times). Normally, the Japa is done for about 6 hours a day in the morning. Sri Swamiji told us that He used to go around the hills in Badarinath in the afternoons. One day, He went up the Narayana Parvatam and circumambulated, got lost and came down in the dark. There may be leopards roaming on the hills at night.

When Srimannarayana was 23 years old, HH Pedda Jeeyar Swamiji reached Paramapadam. It looks like there was confusion at that time who would be the next Jeeyar. Then, one Jeeyangar from Titupathi proclaimed that young Srimannarayana would be the next Jeeyar. Ma:ta:ji said that this announcement surprised many. With the blessings and encouragement of Ma:ta:ji, and with the support of Acharya Sriman

Gopalacharya Swamy, Srimannarayana proceeded to Sri Perumbadur to take Ka:sha:yam and Tridandam.

Sriman Ramakrishna Reddy garu explained our Swamiji's achievements during the last 25 years as Jeeyar. Sri Swamiji celebrated the 25 years in 2005 with Acharya Seva Yatra. Swamiji was the first Jeeyar, actually the only Jeeyar who came out of India to deliver the people like us in the foreign lands. Though there was hesitation whether to take this step or not, but with Sriman Gopalacharya Swamy's anugraham and encouragement, Swamiji made the decision to come to USA. Coming to USA was not an easy task to Swamiji. Since the time He steps into the airport in India and until He reaches back to the Ashram in India, there are many hurdles that Swamiji has to face. At the airports, Perumal and Tridandam also have to pass through the x-ray machines. Many questions have to be answered. Also, we talked many times about the state of our Lord Venkateswara Swamy in Tirumala. Right! With half an hour rest and with one meal, the Lord has to bless the devotees all day long. When our Swamiji comes to USA, we do the same thing. After the teertha goshti around 10am, we take Swamiji out for pada pujas, pravachanams, samoohika pujas etc., and we bring Him back to residence at about 11 or 12 in the night. During this time, Swamiji does not even take a glass of water. After coming home, Swamiji spends few more hours answering the devotees through emails. This routine continues throughout in all centers.

Though Sriman Ramakrishna Reddy garu covered yesterday, I want to highlight and give my opinion on two simple Sutras (Rules) that Swamiji gave. I do not want to call them as slogans or even messages. They are the essence of all the knowledge put together. Why do we do pujas and why do we take shelter from Acharyas? Everything we do, we are looking for Moksha, the ultimate release to reach Parampadam where there is no coming back. Why do we have to go Parampadam? To attain the ultimate bliss, A:nandam. Say, if we can create that A:nandam right here on this Earth, do we have to go to Parampadam. No, Parampadam comes to us.

In this world, we face two kinds of problems; one is man-made and the other is through natural disasters. We have seen both of these especially in the last few years. We experienced many natural disasters like tsunami, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, tornados, volcanic eruptions etc. More and more seem to be happening every year. Our history tells us that these natural disasters, pollution, greenhouse problems increased in the last 300 years since the development of modern science. Before that for millions of years, the civilization existed, but they faced fewer disasters like these. Why? Because the man is meddling with nature in the name of science, without fully understanding the repercussions. Our Acharya gave a simple Sutra here. "Serve All Beings as Service to God". In the past, this message used to be "M:nava Seve: Ma:dhava Se:va" means Serving Humanity alone is Service to God. Is this correct? Many thousands of life forms live on this Earth. Humans are one of those among many Trees, Animals, Birds, Insects, Sea Creatures etc. Trees live on their own, do not depend on Man. Animals live on their own, do not depend on Man. Birds, Insects, Fish etc, are same. They all can live happily without Man. Do you think Man can live on this planet without any of those? No. On top of that, Man is the one who is creating problems to all those living forms. So, Swamiji said "Serve All Beings as Service to God". 'All Being' is the entire nature. If we can take care of the Nature, the Nature takes care of us. Then, we bring the harmony back to this planet.

The second type of problem is man-made. We have seen many disasters that man inflicted on man; like 9/11, bombings, wars etc. This is due to general hatred between the groups of people and their beliefs. Our Acharya gave a simple Sutra here. "Worship Your Own and Respect All". You worship your own mother and father, but respect all mothers and fathers. You worship and follow your way of life, but respect all other walks of life. You worship your own God you choose, but respect all others who may chose different path. You do not need to worship other fathers and mothers, other Gods, but your own. But you do not hate others, you have to respect them. Just imagine what would happen if we follow this simple rule.

Put these two Sutras (rules) into practice; then, we are creating A:nanda Loka right here. With the first Sutra, we are in harmony with nature, and with the second Sutra, we have created harmony among ourselves. So, we have created that Parampadam right here. Of course, you may say that there are 6 billion people living on this Earth. How long it takes to reach that point? It is not going to happen overnight, it is not going to happen in a year, it is not going to happen in 10 years. It may take 50 years or 100 years or may be longer. That is ok. As Swamiji's disciples and devotees, we can take some responsibility and speed up this process. First let us understand and practice these two rules. I may be able to influence 10 people, you may be able to influence 100 people and some other one may influence 1000 people. Let us propagate this message to the people who listen to us. We can help speed up the process.

Our Swamiji is doing so much to us especially for us in the foreign lands. I was thinking what kind of Guru Dakshana we could give to our Acharya. Swamiji said many times we could never repay the Acharya Runa (the debt we owe to our Gurus) no matter what we do. Still, as a token, what could we give back to our Acharya? Of course, Swamiji has many projects like; blind schools, tribal schools, Vedic schools, JIVA Vedic University, housing for Tsunami victims, medical camps etc., as Sriman Ramakrishna Reddy garu talked about. Those projects require funds, and we are giving what we can. Can we call that Guru Dakshana? In my opinion, No. Because, we are able to earn with the grace of the Lord and with the grace of our Acharyas, and less than a percentage of what we earn we are thinking that we are donating that money. We are giving a very small portion of what we received from them. I do not call that Guru Dakshana. Then, what can we do?

If we understand our Acharya's teachings, especially those two Sutras, practice them, propagate them to the people we can influence. In that process, we are creating a society that love each other and love nature. When Swamiji sees that we are reaping the benefits of the teachings, the satisfaction that our Acharya gets is the Guru Dakshana that we can give, we should give. I hope you agree with this.

With this note, I want to conclude. I want to thank Dr. Satyavati garu for giving me this opportunity to say few words about our beloved Acharya especially during Acharya Tirunakshatra celebrations. I want to thank all the devotees for patiently listening to me. Thank you. Jai Srimannaryana.

I also want to add Swamiji's Acharya Bhakti. Whatever our Swamiji teaches, He also practices. I want to take Acharya Bhakti to illustrate this. When HH Pedda Jeeyar Swamyvaru was doing the Ashtakshari Deeksha in Badarinath, Ma:ta:ji said that Lord Badari Narayana appeared to Him. Swamiji also quoted many times that HH Pedda Jeeyar Swamyvaru was Srimannarayana Swarupam. When our young Srimannarayana

came home after completing the Ashtakshari Deeksha at Badarinath, it looks like Ma:ta:ji asked who appeared to him. Srimannarayana replied that all the time that HH Pedda Jeeyar Swamyvaru appeared to him. Though HH Pedda Jeeyar Swamyvaru was not there physically, he never left Srimannarayana alone. That shows the unparalleled love towards Acharya. Swamiji developed that Acharya Bhakti at very early age. On the silver jubilee year of taking ashram, Swamiji performed Acharya Seva Yatra to commemorate HH Pedda Jeeyar Swamiji's Sri Rama Krativulu. Swamiji also quoted when talking about HH Pedda Jeeyar Swamiji, "What testimony one needs to have to know the greatness of our Acharya, other than me. Acharya brought me from nowhere and made me like this today." This shows how much our Swamiji loves His Acharya. This kind of Acharya Bhakti, we need to cultivate towards our Acharya.

When I heard about the greatness of HH Pedda Jeeyar Swamiji, I started blaming myself that during the first 25 years of my life, Swamiji was in Andhra Pradesh in person. But I never had the opportunity even to know about Him. Then, in Badarinath, Ma:ta:ji mentioned that HH Pedda Jeeyar Swamiji is with our Swamiji always. Then, I understood what our Swamiji also mentioned many times in pravachanams. I cannot imagine how fortunate we are to have a close association with our Acharya, HH Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji who is the personification of HH Pedda Jeeyar Swamiji, Bhagavat Ramanuja and also Lord Srimannarayana. Let us cherish this understanding, learn and spread our Acharya's message as service to our Acharya.

Jai Srimannarayana!