

## APPROACH LORD OR A DEVOTEE ?

-Giridhar, Deepa

Once, *Sri: Nampillai* was leisurely sitting after completing the worship activities. At such a time, a disciple by name, *Pinbalagara:m Peruma:l Swa:mi*, came to him and posed a question thus, “Sir! In this world, those in trouble generally approach a *Sri:Vaishnavite* and request him to save them from trouble and shower their blessings upon them. As it is said – ‘*subhe:na manasa: dhya:tham*’, the devotee (*Sri:Vaishnavite*) assures the suffering person that all his difficulties will soon be put to an end and thus blesses the one in trouble. Soon, the anxious person’s problems are solved. Such incidents have been happening and continue to occur too. Is Lord’s influence the reason behind such incidents or is it *A:cha:rya*’s magnanimity which is responsible for this? Kindly resolve this doubt of mine.”

*Sri: Nampillai* replied that Lord’s grace is the cause which removes sufferings from life as blessed by a devotee. “In that case, the person in trouble can directly approach Lord. Why should he seek the blessings of a *Sri:Vaishnavite*?”, asked the *Peruma:l Swami*.

*Sri: Nampillai* said, “Directly approaching Lord is not appropriate. To obtain His blessings, one should take refuge under the guidance of a devotee. Lord is bound to keep the words of the devotees. Lord Himself bestows power on

the words of the devotees. If they bless us with their well wishes, the Lord fulfills their words by eliminating our troubles. Thus, to earn the favour of the Lord, His devotees should be approached. There is no other way!” *Jeeyar Swamiji* put forth another question, “Sir! Can you kindly exemplify this fact of Lord fulfilling the words of the devotees without letting him down?” The *A:cha:rya* conferred the below mentioned incident from history as the apt example.

In *Sri:mad Maha:bha:ratham*, several incidents quote *Arjuna*’s tendency to take vows. He would go to the extent of putting his life on stake by saying that he would end his life if he is not able to keep his word. *Jayadrath* was responsible for the deceitful killing of *Arjuna*’s son, *Abhimanyu*. *Abhimanyu* was ruthlessly killed in a *Chakravyu:ha*. Furious with this incident, *Arjuna* pledged to kill *Jayadrath* before the sunset of that day or end his life by jumping into the pyre the same evening. To avenge his son’s death, *Arjuna* blindly vowed to kill *Jayadrath* before sunset. It was obvious for *Jayadrath* to take cover in the most difficult place to unearth. Despite of all efforts put forth by *Arjuna*, *Jayadrath* was not to be seen or heard of, till late afternoon. Evening approached. Nothing happened till evening. Soon, the Sun



drowned away from sight. Finally, the pyre was lit for *Arjuna*. As *Arjuna* was about to enter into the fire, *Jayadrath*, deeming himself to be free from any danger, came out of hiding and anxiously awaited *Arjuna*'s end. All of a sudden, the Sun appeared from behind the clouds, Lord *Krishna* commanded *Arjuna* to lift his bow and finish off *Jayadrath*. *Arjuna* swiftly lifted his bow and shot an arrow right through *Jayadrath* and thus fulfilled his pledge. Just to keep the word of *Arjuna*, Lord *Krishna* used His divine discus to block the Sun for a while, so that *Jayadrath* could be brought out, and as soon as *Jayadrath* was seen, He

withdrew His discus, *Sudarsana*. Without Lord *Krishna*, *Arjuna* could not have accomplished this task. The devotee swore and the Lord worked towards the realization of that pledge.... It was *Arjuna* who blindly took vows.... and it was Lord *Krishna* who would make them happen.

This way Lord transforms the words of the devotees into deeds. The blessings of devotees bear fruits only because of Lord. The blessings of elders ought to be sought during difficult times.”

The *Jeeyar Swamiji* was quite satisfied after relishing the wonderful response of his revered *A:cha:rya*.

*Jai Srimannarayana!*

O:m namo: Ve:nkate:sa:ya

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HH Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji decided to make atleast 11000 crores handwritten before the end of this year... Thousands of devotees have already crossed several lakhs.. what percentage are you sharing ?



### **BADARINATH**

Lord Narayana is performing penance along with Nara in the form of mountain at Badarinath situated in the Divine atmosphere at the peaks of Himalayas.

After Devathas perform worship for 6 months (during which the temple remains closed ) the temple at Badarinath is opened for human worship from May 13th this year. Our Ashtakshari Kshethram offers free food to all the Pilgrims and Sadhus during those 6 months.

