

MY EXPERIENCES

I was actively associated with a couple of spiritual organizations. The knowledge that I got through those organizations did not completely satisfy me. I was wandering here and there in my quest for spiritual knowledge. In the course of my wanderings I reached the Sathya-Narayana Swami temple in Anna:varam. After having a darshan of the Lord I was just standing in the corridor of the said temple. There I overheard some strangers talking about H. H. Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji Maharaj.

As I had heard a lot about H.H. I immediately requested those strangers to tell me about the means to meet Swamiji. They said H.H. is very merciful and is easily accessible to everyone who approaches His Divine Grace. They started to describe various glories of Swamiji. In the end they told about the presence of H.H. in Sithanagaram asram at that time and they also asked me to visit the said asram immediately so that I could easily meet H.H.

I was in a dilemma as I had planned to go to Sri-Rangam from there. I had to choose between Lord Ranganatha, who is very dear to me and Swamiji (Whom I haven't even met). As I had to go to Sri Rangam via Vijayawada. Hence I finally decided to stop in Vijayawada and have a darshan of H.H. before going to Sri-Rangam.

I reached JEEYAR EDUCATIONAL TRUST (Sitha nagaram asram) by around 4 p.m. on the 1st of November 1999. There were lots of people in the asram on that day. I was feeling very uneasy, as I am normally not comfortable in the crowd. I asked someone in the crowd to tell me the process of meeting Swamiji. He pointed his index finger towards the biggest building in the asram and said, "Swamiji is in *Thi:rttha sadan*." I went into that building. As soon as I entered the building I could see H.H. seated on a chair and there were some people seated on the floor, around Swamiji.

I offered my obeisance to H.H. from a distance and started to walk towards Sri-Swamiji. The people around H.H. seemed to be exited whereas H.H. was very calm and composed. Sri-Swamiji was speaking to the people around with a pleasant and inviting smile on His face. His appearance seemed to soothe my disturbed mind. The divine glow on the face of H.H. seemed to attract everyone around Him.

Even as I was walking towards H.H. I felt that His graceful looks are sufficient to captivate anyone. I offered my obeisance once again to H.H. as soon as I approached Him. Swamiji smiled at me and nodded His head. Immediately I said I am very disturbed and I want to speak to Your Holiness. To that H.H. said

we have to do our *A:ra:dhana* so you will have to wait. I immediately said I am prepared to wait for a day or two, as I desperately want to get rid of my confusion. To that H.H. smilingly said you need not wait that long, we will see you after our *A:ra:dhana* and disappeared behind the curtains in that hall.

I came out of that big hall and started to stroll around the asram. Immediately after the sunset all the kids in the Asram came out and started to perform their *Sandhya: Vandanam* (the evening ritual in which ablutions are offered to the Lord). Their chants, their actions and the atmosphere in the asram made me to recollect my musings of an ideal Asram.

After witnessing their evening ritual I went into the administrative office of the Asram. In the office I inquired about the courses offered in the Asram. They said that the institution presently conducts courses in different branches of *Ve:das*, *A:gamas*, *Divya prabandhams* and Indian philosophy. I was yearning to learn Philosophy, yet I did not feel like joining the said course, as I had developed aversion towards the so called Asrams during my previous association. I just wanted to meet H.H. and go to Sri Rangam at the earliest.

I could listen to the sound of the students chanting *Sri Vishnusahasra na:ma stho:thra* in *Thi:rttha sadan* so I rushed to *Thi:rttha sadan* and sat there. They chanted some Tamil hymns after *Sri*

Vishnusahasra na:mam. Immediately after that a *Ha:rathi* was performed to the Lord and the *Thi:rttham* was distributed to everyone by Sri Swamiji. I returned to the office immediately after that.

I was waiting for H.H. to come to the office. Sri Swamiji came to the office by around 8.30 p.m. and I was led to H.H. by a youth, who was clad in yellow robes. I offered my obeisance to H.H. and He offered me a chair in front of Him. I was hesitating to sit on a chair in front of H.H. but H.H. once again asked me to sit hence I sat on the edge of the chair. That day H.H. clarified all my philosophical doubts and immediately I decided to become His disciple. That rendezvous with Sri-Swamiji changed the course of my life. I humbly requested H.H. to accept me as His disciple and H.H. was merciful enough to grant my prayers. Since then I am with H.H., as His humble servant.

(The selected extracts of the said discussion between H.H. and the author of this article will be published in the next issue.)

- Madhu, Bangalore



All the good things are to be shared with others. Many of us would have experienced some wonderful moments with H.H. or while participating in our service activities. The subscribers are requested mail such experiences. Remarkable experiences will be published in this column.