

MY EXPERIENCES

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I went to take a dip in river Krishna during the Krishna *Pushkara Mahotsav* in the year 1992. There were many people in a particular place and many of them were standing in a long queue. My curiosity made me to approach a person who was guiding the people in the queue to find out what they are up to. On enquiring he said "all the people are standing in this queue of take *Thi:rttham* (consecrated water) from H.H. Sri Sri Sri Tridandi Srimannarayana Ramanuja Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji." I too decided to participate in the *Thi:rttha Go:shti* and take *Thi:rttham* from H.H., after taking a dip in Krishna. As planned I finished my bath and joined others in the line.

After covering some distance in that long queue I could see the radiant personality of Sri Swamiji. I was captivated by His radiant personality. His bright mien and charming smile seemed divine. I took *Thi:rttham* from H.H. and returned home with my mind

being devoted to Sri Swamiji. I could meet Sri Swamiji on two occasions. I was totally captivated by His enlightening lectures and charming personality. I took *Sama:srayanam* i.e. initiation from Sri Swamiji in the year 1996, at Jaggaiahpet. I started to associate frequently with H.H. and take an active part in the activities of our institution since then.

I used to practice the Transcendental meditation that was taught by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi before getting initiated from Sri Swamiji, for the purpose of attaining good health and mental peace. I had practiced it for fifteen years. I used to go into a state of total hollowness while practicing the said meditation. That state was very fearful and I could not find a way to get out of that state. I had stopped practicing Transcendental Meditation due to the fear of that state.

This fear continued even after getting initiated to *Asta:kshari Mantra* from Sri Swamiji and I was

afraid of contemplating on *Asta:kshari Mantra* too. Once a while, speaking to Sri Swamiji I expressed my fear. H.H. casually said "nothing of that sort will happen from now on" after patiently listening to me. I thought that He is saying so to comfort me as He did not even bother to ask me about the cause of my condition and I continued to be afraid of going into that state of total darkness. However my fears were allayed and my faith in Sri Swamiji was cemented due to the following incident of my life.

On one *Sivarathri* night all the devotees of our Satsang group were singing *Harina:ma Sankirthans*. I too was absorbed in that melodious Bhajans. I started to notice that I was gradually attaining that fearful state of total darkness. I was terrified. All of a sudden I recollected Sri Swamiji's words and Sri Swamiji's radiant figure was brightly dazzling on my mental screen. I haven't experienced that fearful state of total darkness since then, in spite of meditating many times.

I am totally surprised and I could not understand the cause of

this strange phenomenon. Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa says in his biography that he experiences both the inner and the outer worlds through the "*Bha:vadwa:ra*," whenever he felt like doing so. I thought that even our beloved Swamiji might be doing the same. Strange are the ways of the great *A:cha:ryas* and their mystic power. How can ordinary human beings like us understand their divine activities?

Few such miracles have happened in my life after becoming a disciple of Sri Swamiji. I have heard of many such miracles from various disciples of Sri Swamiji. The course of my life and my approach towards life is changed altogether after becoming His disciple. I am very grateful to Sri Swamiji for everything that He has bestowed on me. I deem it to be my good fortune to have become a disciple of such a great *A:charya*. Sometimes I look upon Him as my father who safeguards me and at times I behold Him as my child who is to be safeguarded.

JAI SRIMANNARAYANA!

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