



With Best Compliments from
SATSANG AMERICA
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Be Ye Peaceful

Volume - XIVIII

SATSANG AMERICA



What does Satsang want

Satsang wants man
in the name of the One Supreme Creator
of all beings,
God, Khooda or Existence,
Whatever you call Him.
Satsang does not think in terms of
Hindu, Christian, Muslim, Buddhist;
regarding each and everyone
as a child of Him alone,
Satsang wants to make all
submissive to that One.

Satsang does not think in terms of
Pakistan, Hindustan, Russia, China,
Europe or America either-
Satsang wants man, every individual of
mankind
whether Hindu, Muslim, Christian or
Buddhist or whatever—
to be gathered in His Name
at the clarion call of Panchabarhi*
in pursuit, nurture and fulfilment,
in elevating offering,
in mutual compassionate co-operation
and in an uplifting, efficient and
industrious go of life
so that everybody by proper work
earning their food and clothing can
survive,
maintaining distinctiveness of being
and moving in the way of becoming,

so that everyone can understand
that everyone belongs to him,
so that no one can think
that he is helpless, penniless, shelter less,
so that every single person can say
courageously
with active co-operative zeal of love
"I am everyone's
and everyone is mine".

Satsang wants the greatest co-operation
between states
so that there is not the least flaw
in anyone's existential becoming
and so that each and everyone
can move on freely
in this world
in one accord
with self-elevating, efficient and active,
progressive go of service,
growing in integration
that is mutually fulfilling—
being illuminated with the inspiration
that cultivates the good,
with an eye to fulfilling that Ideal man
being meaningful in that unparalleled One.

-Sree Sree Thakur
(Dhriti Bidhayana, Vol-I, 394)

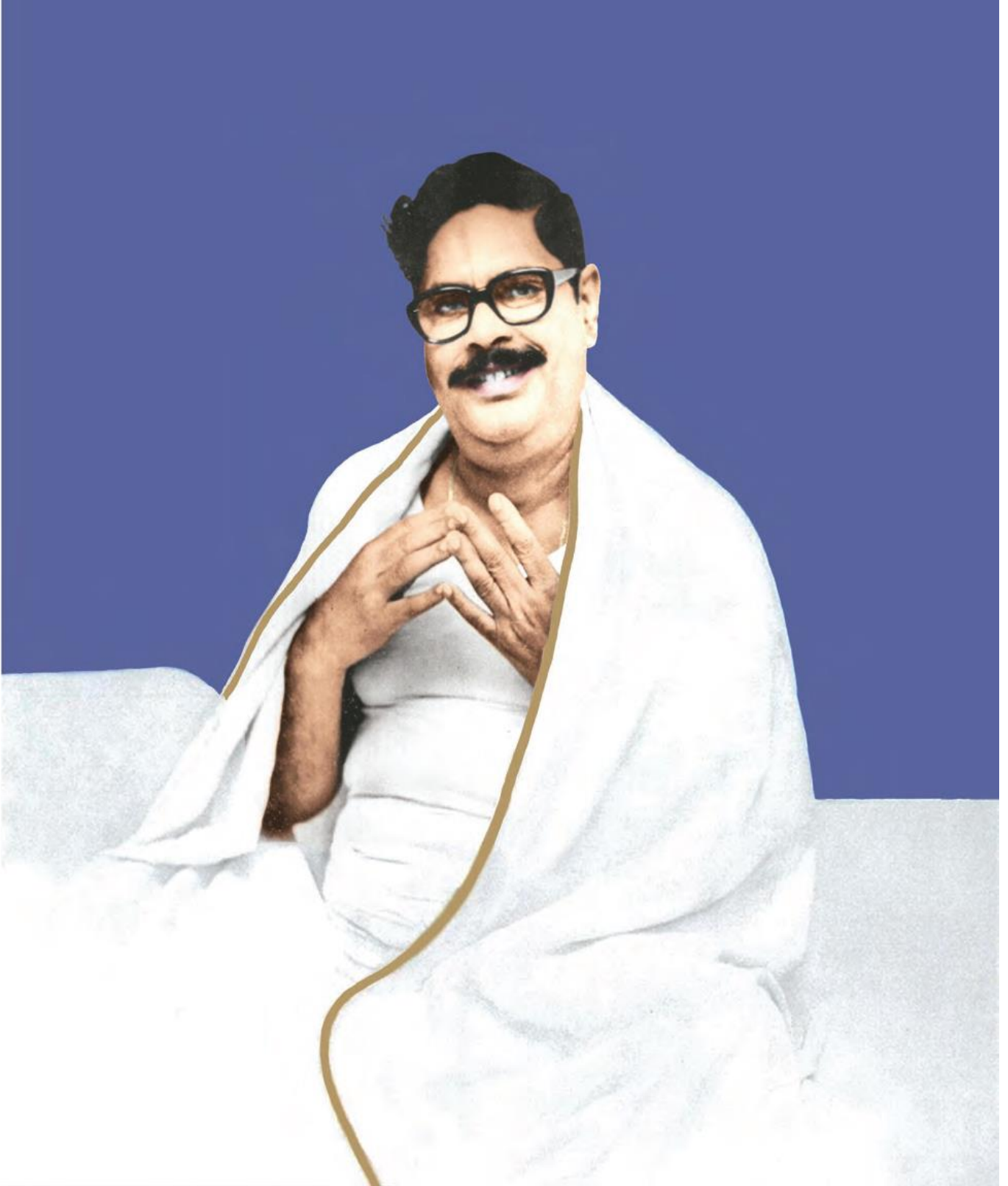
*Panchabarhi - Five fires symbolizing the five disciplines for becoming: service to Almighty one, the seers, the grouping of the varieties of similar instincts, devoutness to the forefathers that followed the existential path, and self-dedication to the present Fulfiller the Best.



Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra



Sree Sree Barama



Parampujyapada Sree Sree Borda



Parampujyapada Sree Sree Acharyadeva



Parampujyapada Sree Sree Dada

Sree Sree Thakur is our Ideal, the very center of existence of all of us. Only by remaining totally adhered to Him with every mighty urge and worshipful-endeavor. Serving him piously with unquestioning allegiance and doing everything for his sake with whole-hearted sincerity and vigor, we become true to ourselves and come to true piety for others. He is fulfiller the best. Only by serving and loving Him, we may attain perfection in all our actions, words and behavior. By remaining in tune with his existential ordinance, we join true happiness and may make others happy too.

May your resolve to be His and His only, resonate your own heart and also that of everyone else with ever undiminishing peace and happiness.

Love and R.S.

Dada

26.08.2010

Satsang, Deoghar



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EDITORIAL



Two years have passed since we had congregated "in-person" for Annual UTSAV(celebration)on the occasion of Sree Sree Thakur's Birth Anniversary. The world off late has been struck with a myriad of events. The pandemic took the entire world to stand still. The geopolitical situation has brought put a question mark on our future generation. Global humanitarian crises, totalitarian regimes, and armed conflicts have persisted ceaselessly for ages. One thing is clear from the recent pandemic: we are not disconnected. There are no two separate countries. We form one United World.

Several news and research agencies confirmed that only a few people were initially infected with this deadly virus. Did we ever imagine that this virus could bring the entire world to stand still with the medium of a few people? Everyone, including the country's Presidents, prime ministers, administration, agencies, doctors, and entire healthcare forces – worked day and night to prevent the spread of the virus. Despite all the efforts, the entire world was gripped by this deadly virus which has taken millions of lives worldwide. When few people suspected of carrying the virus could affect the entire world, how can we say – we are disconnected? We are not.

When countries were fighting, when humanity was suffering from the tyranny of armed forces, Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra said the world was connected. No two countries are separate. According to Him, "The Man" is the basic entity of the universe. If a man does not exist, how will family, society, town, district, state, nation, world, etc., stand? If the man does not support his family, society, and nation and does not care for fellow beings, it

raises a big question mark on human existence.

We may have the power to change the entire universe, detach a planet from an orbit, and create as many planets as the universe; however, nothing will be of any use unless human civilization exists. It was quite evident from the recent pandemic, which threatened human existence and forced us within the four walls.

Satsang – The philanthropic institution that Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra started around this basic principle – How to save mankind. "Satsang" is known as a "Man making institution." Sree Sree Thakur's teachings, ideologies, practical skill development, scientific approach, and unparalleled love for people have transformed many individuals. Naxalites transformed into responsible citizens who, in turn, transformed thousands of others. Terrorist left their weapon, preached, and worked for thousands – to transform mankind and build a better society. A Muslim became a better Muslim, a Christian became a better Christian, and a Hindu become a better Hindu.

With the ambrosial blessing of Parampujyapad Sree Sree Archaryadev, we are celebrating His 135th Annual Birth Anniversary and "Annual Utsav" in New York City. This version of "Be Ye Peaceful" is only possible because of His unprecedented love and blessing. We are thankful from the bottom of our hearts to our content contributors. We hope the contents of this publication will reinforce the basic principles of Satsang – "*Jajan, Jaajan, and Istavrity.*"

*JoyGuru.
Bande Purushottamam!*

UNIVERSAL FATHERHOOD OF GOD

*Jaindra Nath Mobanty,
Secretary, Satsang Vihar, Delhi
Organising vice-chairman of Satsang*

“Know this for certain: You are responsible for the present and future – of yourself, your family, your environment and your Country” - Wrote **Sree Sre Thakur Anukulchandra** (1888-1969), at the age of 22 only. In-fact a family is the extension of an individual; environment (society) is the extension of family; country is the extension of society; and the world is the extension of country. Thus an individual is the basic unit of the world as a whole, a member of the world family. It has been aptly said by *Manu*, the social scientist five thousand years ago **Basudhaiba Kutumbakam**. But under the overpowering pressure of ego the individual is utterly ignorant and unaware of his universal self and behaves like a narrow selfish person totally oblivious of his intimate relationship with others. He confined himself to the cosy cocoon of his nuclear family and supposed it to be his world. This sort of attitude breeds in him all kinds of narrow and negative complexes such as selfishness, lust, greed, anger, hatred, doubt, disbelief, intolerance etc. He becomes self-seeker at the cost of others not sharing with others. When individuals of such nature constitute the vast majority of mankind, the world as a whole suffers immeasurably. Such kind of thinking and life style is the cardinal contribution of the modern western civilisation. The planet earth today is over crowded with such people.

In order to enlighten the homo-sapiens about his universal self, nature out of its own instinct of self-preservation creates super human beings known as **avatars** from time to time. Such avatars down the ages have blessed this planet earth, who are worshiped as Lord Rama, Krishna, Buddha, Jesus, Mohammed, Ramakrishna and Anukulchandra. Though born at different places of the world, they have shared a common thread and lived the ideals of universal fatherhood of

God propagating the message of common brotherhood of all men and women irrespective of caste, creed, community and country etc., the world-over.

In the present context of the world situation, the very existence of which is seriously threatened by two great impending disasters viz (I) natural & (II) man-made. Among the natural being global warming with all its attendant consequences viz melting of glaciers, rising of sea levels, submerging countries and continents, earth-quake, incurable diseases etc., and the man-made threat is posed by various terrorist outfits and their world-wide network well-equipped with weapons of mass destruction who are bent upon to barbarously eliminate the people of other communities without sparing even particular sects of their own.

In the back drop of such world-wide alarming scenario, it is high time that all the people of the world irrespective of all sorts of differences need to be integrated under one banner, certainly not political, social, economic, scientific or cultural of any hue but the banner which is absolutely spiritual unfurled by Him and Him only, who is the ever loving, dynamic, inspiring, possessing the wisdom of the eternal, which embraces the mineral, the vegetable, the animals, the human and super human, that unites the physical with the transcendental the known with the unknown, the lower with the higher, the smaller with the larger in a word the all fulfilling **Purushottam** the person supreme Divine, the true and highest God-head, who is both personal as well as impersonal, higher than either and both of them. Likewise, he surpasses both matter and spirit, absolute and relative, quiescent and active, manifest and un-manifest, **purusha (Supreme Being) and prakriti (Nature)**. Absolutely in the

Interest of the individual and larger interest of the mankind as a whole, as many people can be spiritually connected with the latest saviour of mankind, the Universal father **Purushottam**, sooner the better. Every **Purushottam** has

promised to visit this planet earth again and again when the existence of mankind is on the verge of extinction.

(Bande Purushottamam!)

হারা হাসি বু

ঋচীপ্রসাদ মিত্ত্রী, Indianapolis, Indiana

জাপানের দ্বীপদেশ ওকিনাওয়ার লোকেরা খাওয়া শুরু করার আগে *হারা হাসি বু* কথাটা বলে।
এই কথার মানে হল - পেট ৮০ ভাগ ভর্তি হলে খাওয়া বন্ধ কর।

পৃথিবীতে যে কয়টি ব্লু জোন নামে পরিচিত জায়গা আছে ওকিনাওয়া তাদের মধ্যে অন্যতম। উল্লেখ্য ব্লু জোন গুলোতে সবচাইতে বেশি শতাব্দী মানুষ বাস করে।

হারা হাসি বু কথাটা চীন দেশীয় দার্শনিক কনফিউশিয়াস এর একটা উপদেশ।

ঠাকুর বললেনঃ - খিদেকে বিসর্জন দিও না (নারীর নীতি, বাণী সংখ্যা ৫২)- খুব সহজ ভাষায় বললেন - দীর্ঘায়ু হওয়ার এই মূলসূত্র।

SREE SREE ACHARYADEVA - AN EPITOME OF CONDENSED LOVE

Asis Basu, Georgia, USA

Before arriving at the Ashram in the summer of 2022, I had some inhibitions about how different the Natmandap may feel. My last trip to Deoghar was right before the pandemic, the last time I had been in the physical presence of ParamaPujyapada Sree Sree Dada.

However, when I actually entered the Natmandap, my heart felt the same Love from our gleaming and bright AcharyaDeva –my Living Master – as it has always felt. All of my confusion got swept away, and I saw a man who simply emitted unconditional love, just like His Father.

I would like to take this opportunity to share some memories of an experience in my last few months in His holy company. Before I do, I want to note that it is impossible to depict the magnanimous and illustrious truth of my AcharyaDeva in words, or any other form, so let me not try even to pretend that I could accurately paint, reproduce, or illustrate the latest incarnation of love.

Creation of Plant Anesthetics

Who does He love? His love has no bounds. In June, a “Bakul” tree (Spanish Cherry tree) was in the path of a newly proposed construction and expansion site of Sree Sree Thakur’s Duta Deepti Hospital. What was His vision? It was to save the tree from being chopped and destroyed. The tree in question was 5-6 feet in diameter. AcharyaDeva directed to dredge this huge “Bakul” tree by utilizing gigantic earth-moving equipment but with minimal invasion.

What He already knew, and hopefully, one day,

we will know for sure that all the trees we killed, the grass we pulled out, all the plants we mutilated, and the flowers we arranged in vases – all of them have the same senses and intelligence as us. They are not inanimate. Like us, they also have pain and a pain threshold.

GuruBhai Sree Subas Chandra Pradhan, Ex-Deputy Director of the Department of Horticulture from Bhubaneswar, was summoned and advised to save the tree somehow. AcharyaDeva created a team of doctors – plant biologists, horticulturists, etc. – to come up with creating a “plant anesthesia” that could be used to induce insensitivity to pain in the tree so that the tree could be moved painlessly.

By AcharyaDeva’s vision and guidance, Dr. Kriti Mandal, a renowned human orthopedist, deployed a fitting formulation for a plant anesthetic after due research. The tree was successfully excavated from the Hospital campus and was transported to the PaharBaree area of ThakurBaree. Before and after pulling the tree from the earth, the plant experts used plant anesthetics to ease the tree’s pain and lessen any trauma. They also sprayed a lot of nutrients, including hydration, for the branches and leaves of the humongous tree.

A large hole was prepared in the tree’s new home for the tree to settle in, supplemented by appropriate amounts of irrigation and plant fertilizers for about a week. When the tree finally arrived at PaharBaree, it was placed in that hole with many prayers. Subas Da gave me a rare opportunity to touch the tree and pray for its well-being after the replanting process was completed. After this occurred, many times while

accompanying Him on His way to Thakurbaree, I noticed AcharyaDeva looking gracefully at the replanted tree, blessing its new home.

Have you ever heard of plant anesthetics before? In my life, I had never before. This fellow-feeling for all things is shown to us by example by Love Incarnate, and it was His love for the tree that led to the solution being found.

Have I ever heard of such immeasurable love for a mere tree? It reminded me of the story of the "KrishnaChura" tree in the Philanthropy campus of ThakurBaree decades ago that was saved by Sree Sree Borda. Just how deep can love be? How can a human being feel the pain of a tree? Is this level of compassion possible? How detailed can one's planning be to mitigate pain in a tree? Is He a human being?

"Abajananti Maang Mudha, Manusim Tanum Asritam, Param Bhavam Ajananto, Mama Bhuta-Mabeshwaram"
(Fools deride me when I descend in the human form. They do not know my transcendental nature, and my supreme dominion over all that be) - Srimad Bhagavad Gita (Chapter 9/Text 11)

Who is He?

"He within whom all the resources of the world – knowledge, love, and activity – are spontaneous, and by the inclination towards whom, the scattered lives of men and all the diversities of the world find a final solution, is the God of men!"

He whose intense and active inclination for a Living Ideal, transcending time and space, has made Him into God normally; whose literature, philosophy and science, penetrating the scattered good and evil prejudices of the mind, have been meaningfully adjusted in the Ideal, is the True Master". - Satyanusaran by Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra

When we look at Sree Sree AcharyaDeva, we can

feel that the above definitions of Sree Sree Thakur (God of men & True Master) are aptly manifested in His life. He can normally inspire, striving so hard day in and day out - works about 20-21 hours a day in my estimate, thus transcending time and space.

Accurately Precise Scientific Mindset

So the monsoon was slowly settling in the Ashram in June, bringing out the variety of flora and exceptional foliage. First time in my life, I saw extremely green trees all over the Ashram perimeter. And it was not the gift of mother nature alone. AcharyaDeva, by His usual scientific observation and practice, implemented Rainwater harvesting throughout the Ashram. Rainwater harvesting collects and stores rain rather than allowing it to run off. Rainwater throughout the year is collected in ThakurBaree from a roof-like surface and redirected to underground tanks worth millions of gallons. He informed us that without the Rainwater Collection and Harvesting system in place, the whole Ashram would have to be shut down by this time. AcharyaDeva also implemented a Greywater treatment system and reutilization in Manikpur, which is situated about 6 kilometers away from our main campus. This system prevents about 5000 liters of greywater from being wasted on the Manikpur campus. Now they are stored in the underground 2-3 Tier Filtration system for reuse.

He informed us that the state of Punjab, known as the most fertile "BreadBasket" of the entire republic, is now dangerously threatened by going arid. Punjab is already facing a water crisis. There is a shortage of irrigation water, and groundwater is no longer potable in most areas of the state.

Earlier, I came to know that Satsang Ashram, Deoghar bagged the first prize as 'Best Religious Socio-Cultural organization for successful campus usage Water Conservation' in 2019.

Unfathomable Love

A little girl in Ashram whose entire body erupted

with some strange eczema-like rash for a sustained period of time. Nobody wanted her to be associated with. Nobody wanted to make the adoption promise. Her parents abandoned the girl in desperation. When it was brought to His attention, AcharyaDeva took it over and gave Boro Bouranee Ma the responsibility to take care of the little girl. Years of personal care, love, and attention by AcharyaDeva and Boro Bouranee Ma cured the girl with an amazing result. Boro Bouranee Ma saved the girl from utter disaster by caring for the girl the same way she would care for her infant son Abin Dada.

When the girl was completely normal and no longer had the rash and was very desirable, the adoption request was accepted by a family in Ashram. Another family never came to ThakurBaree (although Ashramites) felt the need to accept the girl in an adoption process. Boro Bouranee Ma was deeply saddened to lose the girl due to her strong attachment bond. Now, after so many years, the girl goes to College and leads a normal life like other girls her age.

This is just one story out of thousands and thousands that we came to know about. This gets replicated multiple times on a daily basis. Some or many of which will never be known or published.

Unlike me, He never wants to publicize His good Samaritan efforts and keep them concealed. (নিজেকে লুকাতে তিনি অতি যত্ন করেন)।

Inquisitive Grace

At the start of the monsoon, He saw my wife and me roaming around the Ashram without any umbrella. The next day, He sent a brother with two umbrellas for us to use. From that day, we never had to get wet in the deep monsoon season in Deoghar.

What a sweet, graceful, and timely gift to remember and acknowledge! I ensured I went out with an umbrella every day or night, rain or shine. It would protect me from the scorchy 95-100 degrees temperature if it were not raining. We

could not be more thankful.

Ready for an eye-popping lesson about IQ?

Another “Never Heard It” concept. AcharyaDeva taught us about the latest in the scientific world.

IQ is known as “Intelligence Quotient,” In today’s world, it is a measure of a person’s relative intelligence.

Whereas, Emotional Quotient (EQ) is the ability to identify and manage your emotions and the emotions of others. An emotion is a spontaneous mental reaction, such as joy, sorrow, hate, and love.

“Emotional intelligence is distinct from IQ. EQ is the level of one’s ability to understand other people, what motivates them, and how to work cooperatively with them. In some ways, EQ is far more important and valuable than IQ.” Harvard Education Professor Howard Gardner explains.

AcharyaDeva was aligned with Professor Gardner in this finding. He is the biggest corroborator of Science & Technology. (ধর্মস্য তত্ত্বং, নিহিতং গুহয়াং)।

A shared Folk Story by AcharyaDeva

How would we make God hear our prayers? By the jungle, there was a “Kalpataru” (a tree that dispenses all wishes for everyone - কল্পতরু). Whoever seeks whatsoever, it gets to be magically filled. Once a tired pedestrian was thinking of food sitting under that tree. Instantly, the food was dispensed. After his hunger got satisfied, he then thought about a bed. The bed was also delivered instantly. It was time for him to have a nice nap.

He was somehow afraid there could be a ghost who could come down and break his neck! Soon the ghost appeared and broke his neck too.

I pray for y parents, husband, wife, children, etc.,

to whom my selfish interest is attached. This is what is known as lustful prayer (“সকাম প্রার্থনা”). God does not respond to this kind of prayer. Instead, my prayers for others (not related to me) can be characterized as dispassionate prayer (“নিষ্কাম প্রার্থনা”).

“He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” (Bible > Matthew 10:37)

Am I living on a Detached Island?

AcharyaDeva shared this story a couple of times.

When the conjugal life started for a family, they had a lot of love among them in a close-knit situation. Lately, after the honeymoon, a lot of unrest, bickering, and mistrust surfaced. The conjugal partners are now looking to spend their lives in this turmoil somehow. The wife now has half the heart to share. She is spending her life with her husband unenthusiastically. If she opens her full mind, the conflict flares up. The same is true for her husband, who is also pursuing conjugal life with half the heart.

They were unable to open their minds being afraid of instigating conflicts. This was the state of their conjugal lives for years. When family members are together, one person may be engrossed in newspapers, one may be busy watching TV, and another may play on the mobile phone. All the physical bodies are in. But the minds belong somewhere else. How in the world are they spending time with each other?

If we throw a pebble in a bucket of water, there will be some ripple effect. This effect will get lost when we throw the same pebble into an ocean. We can infer that the emotional worlds of these persons are not huge like the ocean, it's rather tiny such as the bucket. That's the reason this family encounters undesirable conflicts in petty matters. AcharyaDeva wants us to expand like an ocean.

Just like this family, another family came to Him and asked to rescue them from disaster. “My family is in utter disaster - nobody has love,” the devotee informed. AcharyaDeva said, “I am a common person. What may I advise you?” After hearing the complete story, AcharyaDeva responded, “Do one thing. During the day, you all should get out for your job or school, etc. In the evening, let all of you eat together. With an open mind. What a simple solution. Congregate together at night. Speak your minds out, opening everything from inside. And wake up early in the morning. Pray together. Everyone.” We all live on detached and disconnected islands. We can bridge ourselves only when we remain connected to Him.

Ever since we came to know about this story, we started practicing this in the USA and many western countries.

The happy family came back after a month or so to visit AcharyaDeva. Their lives are now full of delight. AcharyaDeva was so happy to see a resolved family. We can make all our families shine like this.

The mother, while cooking, had a burn and a blister from hot oil. No one was there to take care of her in the previous family environment. In today's improved family, the daughter came forward and applied some ointment on her mother's wound.

We gain love and hearty approbation when we deliver our Dearest (PriyaParam) to others with compassion.

*“Hari Bolche Jaaraa, Praner Bondhu Taaraa”
“হরি বলছে যারা, প্রাণের বন্ধু তারা”।*

AcharyaDeva To Employment Seekers

A straightforward solution for those who are seeking employment. When we finish our academic studies, we must understand that nobody jumps to get up to the highest floor.

Whatever job becomes available, don't give it up. No honest earning is characterized as high or low esteem. Sitting idle is equated to the devil's brain. Being attached to work is also being connected to God. Get engaged in any work offered to you. So, you don't like the job? Think of it as a step on the stairs. You must reach the floor of your desired destination by ascending each step of a stair. We must use the staircase for scaling up.

AcharyaDeva for Businessmen

AcharyaDeva says that doing business is like making Chhanaa (Cottage Cheese or Paneer) from milk. It's like making money from conducting your life. The easiest way is to be aware of the Five Principles of Thakur for conducting business.

AcharyaDeva mentioned that Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook also follows the Five Principles of business (ব্যবসায়ের পঞ্চনীতি) in his way. Following this golden rule is the ticket to the success of the company.

Also, you must have a 2% return on investment. This is the minimum. If that is not eked out, we should realize that this business is not conducted properly. We should find and fix the problem. Then move forward. And if you cannot identify the hole in the pot (the reason for the drainage), do not invest further. Dissolve the business. Do not continue. Do not burn the Capital.

Here is the translated version of Sree Sree Thakur's Five Principles of Business:

1. Along with regularly offering *Istavriti* (holy oblation) – Characterize Sweet, Serviceful, and Existential Behavior inside and out.
2. Profitable management of successful business along with accurate, daily accounting.
3. Direct Supervision.
4. No “Go-Between” (Thinking or saying one

thing and doing another).

5. Regularly adding a quarter (25%) of the Profit back to the Capital.

A story of His Grace (করুণা) in my life

Lastly, I would like to narrate a story of my life - a story of the Savior saving my life.

It was a 2018 December morning. We were on the North Shore beach on the island of Oahu in Hawaii. We flew there from Honolulu the preceding night. Our daughter Sambita was immersed in a book lying on the warm sand while her mother and I chose to walk along the shore.

According to many, this beach is one of the best, if not the best, beaches in the world. We were stunned by the beautiful creation of ParamPita, which only He can manage to create. I became captivated by Thakur's work of gift, reminiscing what I read in books while Thakur visited Puri beach about 100 years ago.

So we were strolling along the shore, about 30 feet from the waterline. The mighty Pacific ocean was on my left. And my wife was on the side of the bank. This is the notorious beach where surf can be as high as 40-50 feet. And the professional surfers flock from all over the world to brave the surfs here. And many surfers get killed for their passion for the sport of Surfing every year.

I was thinking about how pleased Sree Sree Dada would be to look at the sheer spectacle. And would perhaps create another masterpiece lyric on Sree Sree Thakur.

We started humming on “Okhane Saagar Dekhi, Kokhono Aabaar Mone Hoi, Bipul Aakaash Aachhe, Bujhi Setha Hoye Ekakaaar...”. (ওখানে সাগর দেখি, কখনও আবার মনে হয়, বিপুল আকাশ আছে, বুঝি সেথা হয়ে একাকার...)

It was about thirty minutes later or so. A rogue

wave that was large, unexpected, and dangerous completely engulfed me. Although a regular swimmer for about three decades, I could not swim away from this giant killer with my weak knees.

This was before my Savior AcharyaDeva cured me by advising me to get the knee surgeries done on both of my knees. Ever since my surgery, I can walk, swim, and bike like ever before. Without His graceful advice, I would still be limping and sustain pain forever. His timely advice brought me the confidence to undergo two TKRs (Total Knee Surgery) in 2019 and 2020, respectively. My Orthopedist Dr. Kenneth J Kress, MD of Alpharetta, Georgia, informed me if there is any delay in the execution of surgery, my knees could become inoperable from the sheer erosion of arthritis.

Anyway, as I felt like drowning, I was thinking about Sree Sree Thakur bidding goodbye to this beautiful world. And I begged for saving my life to my Creator and AcharyaDeva at the same time. A Brazilian girl was enjoying the beach and creating software for an App under the shadow of a coconut grove. Luckily, she watched me drowning and decided to rescue me by running about 100 feet and rushing into the water, grabbing me out of the danger zone.

While I was supposed to lose my life, I just lost my dark pair of sunglasses. She told us that she had a career as a professional LifeGuard on the beach for years. We exchanged our phone numbers. Alas, I could never get her on the phone to express my gratitude.

Actually, was it she who rescued me?

Who sent Ms. Emily to North Shore Beach to carry out the rescue mission?

Once, our Narada Muni enquired, “Iswar, where do you reside?”

Iswar replied,

“Nahang Tishthami Voikunthe, Yoginang Hridaye Na Cha Mad Bhakta Yatra Gayanti, Tatra Tishthami Naarad”.

(I am not in Vaikuntha, nor in the hearts of Yogis. I remain where my devotees engage in glorifying my activities) - Srimad Bhagavad Gita (Chapter 9/Text 11)

Okay, we saw Him. Now, what can we do?

We need to be like Him. In compassion. In benevolence. In empathy. In clemency. In condolence. In tender-heartedness. In fellow-feeling. In grace.

We can thus enable ourselves to get rid of our animosity, meanness, cruelty, hatred, mercilessness, and tyranny.

“Kobe Ami Emon Habo, Amai Dekhe Bujhbe Loke - Tumi Aachho Jiban Ballabha”

(“কবে আমি এমন হবো, আমায় দেখে বুঝবে লোকে, তুমি আছো, জীবন বল্লভ”।)

- Hem Kobi (হেম কবি)।

Bande Purushottamam!

WHY INITIATION

*Subrat Mohanty
President, Satsang America
Winnetka, CA*

Man is the supreme animal in creation; why? Many an answer have been expounded to affirm this statement. One day, one of the devotees of Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra put the same question with a passionate craze to know the answer. Without going into the other aspects of such a being, Sree Sree Thakur abruptly answered the question, referring to man's physical appearance. Three types of living beings are seen on this earth-the plant, the animal and the man. Sree Sree Thakur said- "look at the plant'- its head is downward into the ground, the animal-its head is parallel to the ground but of man – his head is upright straight to the sky." Man can receive all the cosmic promptings in the brain and then utilize the same in accordance with his need. This prompts him to adjust to circumstances, whereas other living beings are not. As the assumption goes, human existence on planet earth is two hundred crore years old, and for these many years, humanity has attempted to secure life by overcoming hurdles of any sort. This, in short, may be defined as live and grow.

In the annals of human history, it has been found that whenever man has failed to abjure decadence, The Great Seer- (God Incarnate) has come to his rescue, and this process has saved the human race. The Indian epics have described their roles in thousand ways. In this age, Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra is not only a God incarnate but also the Great Seer, the redeemer of all, Fulfiller-the-Best, with unerring version and has spoken of the things that no one unfolded before. His hegemony is over and above all the knowledge that has been accumulated so far. He has spoken of all things happening in the sun and other

cosmic bodies much before the human mind can learn by being in the process of scientific investigation.

Man has invaded almost all aspects of his life, visible and invisible, but he has certainly ignored and is unaware of one very essential thing in his life: his breath itself. Sree Sree Thakur says that all 'isms' veer round one 'ism'-that is in his language – 'life-ism.' The living man feels the first expression of life in his breath, but he does little or nothing for its protection or upliftment until its arrest at death.

As Sree Sree Thakur has ordained, the first and foremost work to be performed by all individuals is to take "Initiations," whose area of activity and result is widespread. But the firsthand achievement of initiations is adherence to Love-Lord. Here mention may be made to the working of the physical world. Water flows in a wave, air blows in a wave, and sunshine comes to us in a wave. Hence life has come to us in the form of a wave. It may therefore be told that one has not life but the urge or the potency of the life or the life current. A man may be equal to another man, but as an individual, he has no match in the totality of human existence. It is because of this urge or potency which is unique in each individual. Man's instinct comes from the urge of life, which is an uncommon factor in every individual. Sree Sree Thakur says that the whole universe has sprouted from the 'booming commotion' of the Holy Name, and we must accept it as the absolute truth. This means that the chanting of the Holy Name is ever present in everything, including the individuals. Sree Sree Thakur is the materialized master of the Holy

Name. With initiation, one is blessed with the Holy Name. Sree Sree Thakur says that the moment one is infused with the Holy Name, his life –urge starts to glow. So, by initiating, one gets the clue to enhance his urge to live. When one is strong in life force, no counterforce can make him weak, and as such, he shall come out successful in all respects. Sree Sree Thakur has depicted this Holy Name as having a radiating effect. When Holy Name is practiced with all intensity, no other effort is required to fight away the citadels of suffering –the passions. Many things have been told about the process of practicing the Holy Name-like Enchantment (JAPA), Meditation (DHYANA), and so on. But the essence of practicing the Holy Name, as has been told by Sree Sree Thakur, lies in the process of breathing itself. When one enchants the Holy Name, the first letter gives a push to the life current, and this push comes to stagnation at the vibration of the second letter. After stagnation comes the outward motion of the sound in the third letter and the inward movement in the fourth letter. Even if we don't know the Holy Name, the thing amounts to the above process in all animals, including man though he is ignorant of the same. Therefore Sree Sree Thakur has categorically mentioned making

everyone initiated, and even a lizard may not be spared. The Process of breathing (respiration) is two-fold: one is inhaling air, and the other is exhaling the same. Sree Sree Thakur has told in *Punya Punthi*(Holy Book) that if the breath is two, i.e., inhaling and exhaling, then the Holy Name be enchanted four times, i.e., twice while inhaling and twice while exhaling. It may be intensified to four, six, eight, and so on times as the mediator can, but all the time the eyes must be closed and fixed to the nose's root. The mechanism may appear to be easy, but it requires—long-standing regular practice. In a man, more is the imbalance of mind, and more irregular is the respiration. Reversely, if the breath is systematically regulated, it will remove the imbalance of mind. This will lead to normalcy in man. God is ever normal or neutral. Hence, the meditation process prescribed by Sree Sree Thakur is the simplest and most normal way ever found for self-realization and, through it, God-realization. Let each one of us be initiated in the Holy Name, and tread on the path of Being and Becoming as desired by Sree Sree Thakur.

Bande Purushottamam!

UNREPELLING ADHERENCE TO THE IDEAL

Be concentric
with every unrepelling urge
and adherence
to the Ideal,—
the Fulfiller,
make thy personality
intact and undivided
through a meaningful sieving
of complexes and impulses
within and without,
goad thy being to becoming
by an adjustment

of your special aptitudes,
and enjoy life
equipping thy environment
with the elixir of existence
embracing them
with every nurturing service
that is possible for you,
leading your every gait
to the eternal,—
the good and God,
and be blissful.

—Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra
The Message, Vol-2

COMPLEXES AND OBSESSIONS

Purna Ch. Nayak, SPR, California

Nowadays, we witness a steady decline in the credit of religion and religious institutions. This may be because of the rise and growth of materialistic philosophies that consider religion and religious institutions irrelevant.

We all know when the entire world goes into chaos, forgetting its duties and responsibilities, and moves fast towards its destruction, PARAMPITA descends on this earth in human form to save His creation by destroying evil elements. This is an accepted truth. This has been proved on many occasions in different ages. He is the most evolved person in evolution. He formulates principles of life and growth and insists on following those principles meticulously to uplift dharma, i.e., being and becoming. People call Him as Prophet. A prophet is He who, by birth, acquires the required knowledge to solve every problem with its diversities. He takes birth again and again according to the necessity of ages. He descended on this earth as Sree Rama Chandra, Sree Krishna, Buddha, Jesus Christ, Rasul Mohammed, Sree Chaitanya, Sree Ramakrishna, and Sree Thakur Anukulchandra. All of them are the incarnations of God. They are also known as the living ideal or Guide. Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra once told, "He within whom all the resources of the world as knowledge, love, and activity are spontaneous, and by the inclination towards whom the scattered lives of men and all the diversities of the world find a solution is the God of Men" (*Holy Satyanusaran*). That God in human form has characterized all the principles of life & growth and presents himself as Acharya before every man. It is, therefore, necessary for everyone to accept Him as a Guide and follow the principles He formulated to be successful in life. The disciple must also remain in close touch with the

guide and take care of His comforts and every necessity with love and dedication every now and then.

Once Jesus Christ told his disciples:

- i. He who is not with me is against me, and who does not gather with me scatters.
- ii. To obey the Guru's commands without hesitation or doubt is the only way to achieve success in life.

Once while Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra was surrounded by His disciples, and discussion was going on about the contributions and sacrifices towards the master. Sree Sree Thakur immediately took the name of Hanuman and appreciated the irrevocable and incomparable love, respect, and dedication that Hanuman exhibited for the cause of his master- Sree Rama. On many occasions, people have been unsuccessful even after accepting Ideal or Guide in life. The only possible reason behind their failure may be, not meticulously following the formulated principles of life and growth because they might have become victims of passionate desires, complexes and obsessions. The complexes and obsessions do not allow anyone to proceed on the right path. Therefore, to achieve success, one must come out of the clutches of complexes and obsessions, which happened in the case of Hanuman, only because of his devotion towards his master- Prabhu Sree Rama. Initially, Hanuman was not a devotee of Sree Rama; on hearing the discussion between Prabhu Sree Rama and Sugriva, Hanuman was greatly inspired to know the entire episode of Sree Rama's exile to the forest for 14 years and then being awarded the throne of the kingdom for exercising his sovereign power on return from exile. Hanuman, therefore, thought to

render relentless service in every matter for the comfort of Sree Rama with some vested interest in mind that once Sree Rama would become the king, He might offer some good position for the services rendered by Hanuman. Keeping that idea in view, he started to serve his master wholeheartedly for years and finally landed in a position where his entire thought process was confined to only his master's work, comfort, benefits, etc., and nothing else. Thus, the absurd and irrelevant thoughts settled earlier vanished automatically, which he could not know. Here Sree Sree Thakur says that the passionate desire settled earlier in the mind of Hanuman, a victim of complexes and obsessions, got washed away only for his love and attachment towards his master. His temperament changed altogether. Here Sree Sree Thakur's verse comes to mind:

“DHARMA IS EMBODIED IN A LIVING IDEAL, INITIATION BY A LIVING IDEAL BEGETS ADHERENCE, ADHERENCE BRINGS ADJUSTMENT OF COMPLEXES, AND ADJUSTMENT COMPLEXES INVITES UPHOLD OF EXISTENCE”

Another glaring example can be cited here also. Hema Chandra Mukhopadhyay, popularly known as Hemakabi was a liquor addict and always found in a drunken state. When he met Sree Sree Thakur for the first time, he leaned toward Sree Sree Thakur, and Thakur embraced him and saved him from falling. Hemakabi asked: *"I have just swallowed plenty of liquor which must be giving a foul smell. Don't you feel uneasy and hate me?"* In reply, Sree Sree Thakur said, *"You have swallowed liquor, but the liquor has not swallowed you"* Hearing the response Hemakabi was delighted and felt he had found a

definite shelter because he was driven out of his house and then expressed his desire to take initiation and stay permanently as an ashramite, but he must be provided with a bottle of wine every day. Sree Sree Thakur accepted the proposal and allowed him to stay in Ashram fulfilling this conditions. Hemakabi was very much pleased with his love and respect for Sree Sree Thakur, which multiplied gradually as days passed. Everyday, Hemakabi saw many devotees coming to Sree Sree Thakur to seek His holy blessing and find solution to life problems. One fine morning Hemakabi thought that devotees were coming to Sree Sree Thakur to gain knowledge on various matters, but he brings a bottle of wine every day, which is a matter of shame. He suddenly repented for what he had been doing so far, and decided to stop drinking wine henceforth, and accordingly, he informed Sree Sree Thakur about his decision. Sree Sree Thakur was delighted that Hemakabi would return to the right path. Many more culprits (*subsequently turned into devotees*) have come back to the right path after coming in contact with Sree Sree Thakur and following his ideology.

Sree Sree Thakur said that the victims of passionate desire could be brought back to the right path through love and affection and not by awarding punishment. Moreover, it would be possible and easy to bring back a perverted person with a depraved character to the right path when he would think positively that the beauty and meaningfulness of life lies in being devoted to one with intensity and continuity.

Bande Purushottamam!

WEAKNESS - THE BLOOD SUCKING VAMPIRE

Surya Prakash Mohapatra, Bangalore, India

Weakness: what are its characteristics?

Weakness means the fact or state of not being strong or powerful. Weakness can be both physical and mental. In this article, we shall focus primarily on mental weakness. A mentally weak person often experiences emotions like fear, nervousness, depression, anxiety, stress, frustration, etc. Such a person may harbor thoughts like: *"I am hopeless. I am useless. I am no good. I cannot succeed no matter how much I try. I am finished. What would happen to me now? All hopes are gone."* Mentally weak people generally overthink. Their thoughts are usually about the adverse situations (either perceived or real) they are in and the consequences of being in such situations.

There is a pattern that is observed in the behaviors of weak people. They tend to avoid challenging or difficult tasks or situations. While pursuing a goal, they give up very quickly and sometimes even before trying. In the face of adversities, in *fight or flight* situations, they generally choose 'flight' as the option. They generally lack faith in their abilities and that of others. In other words, they are suspicious.

Moreover, they cannot stand up to their values and beliefs. They become mere onlookers when any injustice is meted out to someone else. They don't speak up or act against injustice. They always expect the worst in every situation.

Other variants of weak people are the ones who adopt double standards. Their thoughts and words don't agree. Such hypocrites have a false notion that they are smart and intelligent. But in reality, they are weak in mind and foolish in their

actions. Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra says, *"With the least weakness, you cannot be truly sincere, and so long as your thoughts and words do not agree, the dirt within shall not be touched."*

Another category of weak people is the one who knows the difference between right and wrong. But despite being able to do the right thing, they often choose to do what is wrong. In this context, I am reminded of an incident. On one fine morning, Param Pujyapad Sree Sree Borda was sitting at the Natmandap in the Satsang Ashram, Deoghar, surrounded by devotees. A discussion on **weakness** was in progress based on a message of Sree Sree Thakur from the holy book Satyanusaran. Exactly at the same time, about 25 guru bhais and guru maas from Mumbai arrived at the ashram. They had just arrived after traveling for many hours by train. They all looked exhausted and badly needed to freshen up and get recharged. Especially the elderly people and children in the group were feeling very restless. One member of the troupe had gone to the Ashram Guest house to arrange accommodation. In the meanwhile, a few minutes had passed. While Sree Sree Borda was engaged in a discussion with the devotees sitting around Him, His mind was with the travelers who had just arrived from Mumbai. He was feeling disturbed looking at their discomfort. He asked one devotee to go near them and provide them with any assistance they might need. The devotee immediately got up and went towards the disciples from Mumbai to provide them some comfort and assistance.

Sree Sree Borda then turned towards the devotees sitting near Him at the Natmandap and said,

“These people from Mumbai were in a pitiable condition, and you all realized that too. But none of you stood up and went near them to provide them any assistance. Knowing your responsibilities but not carrying out your responsibilities is also a sign of weakness.” This indeed was such a practical lesson on weakness.

How does weakness harm us?

Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra describes weakness as a blood-sucking vampire. Vampire is a type of bat which sucks the blood of other animals when they are in a deep sleep. This shows how dangerous weakness can be. It can cause havoc in a person’s life. It can destroy one’s happiness. Weakness can trigger a vicious cycle of nervousness, failure, frustration, and suffering. Describing the plight of the weak people, Sree Sree Thakur says,

“Weak minds are always suspicious. They can never trust. Their faith has been lost; so they are generally sickly, tricky, sensually inclined. For them, all of life is a burning. Ultimately joy and sorrow are dissolved in despair. What is pleasure, what is pain, they cannot differentiate. If asked, they sigh, ‘What’s the difference!’ Ever restless, their lives deteriorate in dullness.”

What are the causes of weakness?

A weak mind is an outcome of one’s past experience and especially one’s childhood experience. Parents and immediate family members have a great influence on the personality of children. Sometimes over-enthusiastic parents exert a lot of pressure on their children to excel in academics and extra-curricular activities. They face rebuke and taunt from parents and elders when they fail to live up to expectations. Continuous discouragement by others leads to loss of confidence and self-doubt.

On the other hand, parents who protect their children from hardships in life do more harm

than good. Children born and reared with a silver spoon break down when they face the hard realities of life in later years.

Moreover, Children in broken marriages generally grow up to become over-aggressive or over-submissive adults. Both these personality types are the manifestation of a weak mind.

How to defeat weakness?

Here are three powerful ways to make weakness powerless.

1. Auto-suggestion

Auto-suggestion is a powerful technique to deal with weakness effectively. When you feel weak, you can try this. According to Science, our mind accepts and starts believing what we constantly feed it. If we constantly remind ourselves that we are helpless and weak, our minds would accept that and would make us act accordingly. On the other hand, if we constantly remind ourselves that we are strong and confident, we will act accordingly, too. In the Holy Book, Satyanusaran Sree Sree Thakur has gifted us a very powerful auto-suggestion which is as follows:

“Say not you are timid! Say not you are a coward! Say not you are evil-minded! Look towards Father! Speak fervently, ‘Oh, I am Your son. Within me there is no more dullness, no more weakness. I am no longer a coward! Never again forgetting You will I run towards hell with my back towards Your light crying, ‘Darkness, darkness, darkness!’”

What a powerful and energy-invoking auto-suggestion indeed!

2. Reliance

A person who lives next to the river bank doesn’t worry about shortage of water at home because he or she is connected to the source of water. Similarly, one who is connected to the source of

strength never feels deprived of strength or energy in life. Sree Sree Thakur says, *“To ignore the source is to be deprived of resources.”* We must be connected to and rely on the Supreme Source of strength. And this supreme Source is the Master or Guru.

Let me share with you a story. Once upon a time, a passenger plane was flying in the sky with several passengers onboard. A few minutes after take-off, there was a huge turbulence, and the plane started bouncing and shaking. All passengers were frightened. However, among the passengers was a little girl who looked calm and unperturbed. When the turbulence stopped, a co-passenger asked the little girl if she was not worried about the severe turbulence. The little girl said, *“The pilot who is flying the aircraft is my father. He is the best ever pilot I know of. I rely absolutely on his ability to navigate this plane through bad weather and make us land safely. Hence I was not worried at all!”* This short story provides us a powerful lesson on reliance.

Sree Sree Thakur says, *“Rely, and you shall never be frightened.”* But the question is, who should one rely on? Well, we need to rely on the true Master

or Guru who is Omniscient and embodiment of Godly qualities. Here is another assurance by Sree Sree Thakur, *“Believe. You shall master the world within.”* He again says, *“In no way, at no time, is there weakness in devotion.”*

3. Focusing Mind on Remedy

When we are in a difficult situation, we come under severe stress. In such a situation, our mind gets inundated with fear, anxiety, frustration, etc. Sree Sree Thakur asks us to shift our focus from fear and anxiety to remedy the situation.

Sree Sree Thakur says, *“To be anxious about one’s own distress, suffering or death on seeing that of others and to be broken, bewildered and distraught thereby is weakness. But the eyes of those who are strong are always seeking for a remedy in everything they do and in such a way that no one is shattered while in that condition. To find the remedy with love, as did Lord Buddha, is the sign of a courageous heart.”*

Focus on the Remedy makes us inquisitive. It develops our problem-solving ability. And thus, it ignites our confidence and willpower.

Bande Purushottamam!

ESSENCE OF MEDITATION

To attend and imbibe
 the Love-Lord
 with eager, repeating urge
 and to serve Him
 with active service accordingly
 is the essence of meditation.

The Message Vol.II

MANIFESTING THE MANIFESTO – A PERSPECTIVE

Manoj Kumar Nanda, SPR, New Jersey

This article is written keeping the growing kids in mind. People may have different opinions about this, and I agree they should have. If someone has contradictory thoughts, please consider this as just a person's viewpoint. Anything that creates confusion or lack of clarity can be discussed over a phone call.

We want to live and grow. We know the principle of life and growth is simple, but manifesting those principles may not be easy. Why is it simple but not easy? Well, that is debatable. Let me put some facts. When we say we are living a life, the first thing that comes to mind is that we live through days/months/years. **Living a day is the building block of living a life.** If we focus on living each day of life to the best of our abilities, then we can live a good life. Now for all of us, the word 'best' should be consciously observable to feel confident that we are progressing in the right direction. Let me come back to this little latter. Let's focus on what activities we should do to live a meaningful life in the long term. When we think about living a good life, we must remember a few things.

Health Quotient: We all know that we need to maintain good health. When we think about good health, we may think about a good-looking, muscular body free of disease. We may call it a well-maintained body; however, what is the benefit of just maintaining the body well, if it is not willing to move for someone? It is like maintaining a car well and enjoying its look but not driving it. Do we know how a body with good health is expected to perform?

Emotional Alignment: Do I know how to use our emotions like happiness, anger, fear, loneliness, and jealousy to make the best out of life? Sometimes using anger as a tool to correct a loved one is a wise decision, fear of not following traffic rules may help to avoid a mistake in the

future, jealousy that motivates not to compete but inspires us to work on ourselves is not a bad idea, taking alcohol to heal from a disease has not been mostly discouraged or negatively perceived.

Attention to Priorities: How do I prioritize my tasks one over another? We need to learn to maintain a balance between different tasks. When should I wake up? What are those few things I should be doing in the morning rather than postponing later in the day? When should I have lunch or dinner? Have I set aside some time to read something to support my career? Have I set aside some time for family?

Owning social responsibility: Taking an interest in building a healthy and positive environment with inquisitive service and uplifting words. Do I have something serviceable to help my friends, environment, and surroundings? Do my words uplift them for living activities?

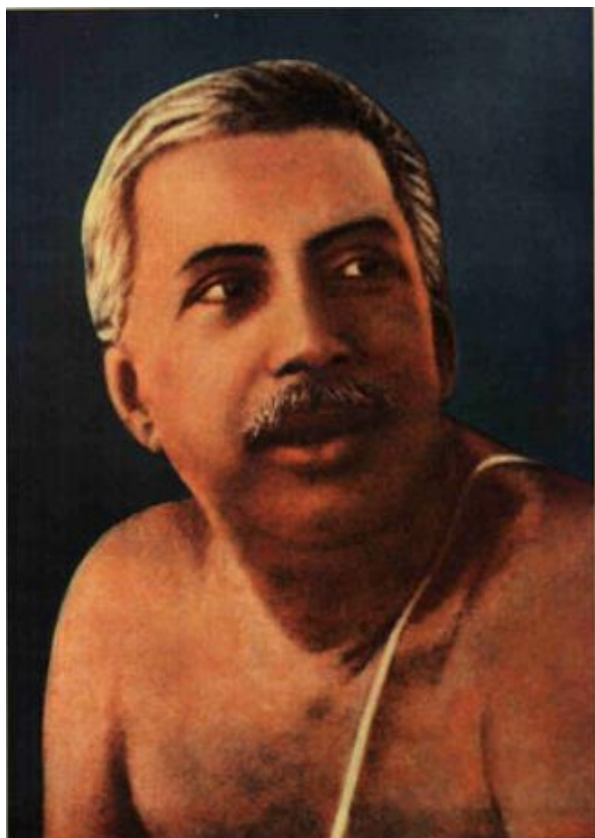
Be grateful and progressively increase working potential: Be grateful to parents, teachers, relationships, God, and continuously. Most importantly, wherever we are, what kind of situations we are going through, we need to stay grateful for everything we have. God has made everyone special, so we cannot be like someone else. We must keep working on ourselves to become a better version of ourselves every day.

Knowing everything before implementing may not be a solution; however, knowing enough before starting may be. While entire life will be too short to know everything and implement it all, it is never late to start the exciting journey. We need to enjoy each moment of the journey. How is that possible? Yes, I believe it is possible. But how? It is possible by choosing a true guide of life before anything else and then slowly following His directions and realizing the outcome step by step. A true guide can be a person who has

unlimited love and genuine interest in us, a guide who never discourages but also gives scope for misdoings. We must be submissive to Him with love before following a true guide's command. Love without loving activities makes no sense. **Actions without love are like opinions without knowledge.** He who is submissive to a true master will never fail in life. One more important thing to note is that anybody can work on something worthwhile and get the outcome, which may bring momentary happiness; however, one who keeps his true guide at the center of life will always feel bliss. He progresses on this path of being and becoming with confidence, takes pride in His commands, feels blessed, and feels

joyful. I hope my note will ignite some level of introspection within us to pursue an ideal-centric life, stay excited, stay joyful and enjoy the bliss. We should be spending enough time to correct a day to make it more productive by having a vision for our entire life. Once a day is corrected, the same will be repeated for the whole life, and humanity will immensely benefit from it. It sounds simple but not easy, having a living Ideal at the center of life makes it easier.

Bande Purusbottamam!



LOVE THY LORD-FOLLOW AND FULFIL

Love thy Lord
 with every unrepelling consistency
 and serve Him accordingly
 with ardent volitional upheaval,
 heal up all thy
 erroneous erosions
 with a meaningful adjustment
 through actual adhesion
 and rational searching
 of thy heart;
 thus follow, fulfil
 and worship Him
 and make thy love and go of life
 ardent and active
 in fulfilling Him;
 thus be thou fulfilled.

—Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra
 The Message, Vol-2

YOUR WISH, OUR COMMAND

Sanjib Das (SPR), Nevada, USA

The recent pandemic affected almost every living being on the earth. We were also not out of that natural adversity. In fact, most of us lost more than two years of life from our generation. As a devotee of Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra, we usually try to visit the Holy place, Deoghar, India, as and when the opportunity comes. With that pull in our hearts, we planned to visit Deoghar in mid of 2020, and unfortunately, we had to cancel the trip due to travel restrictions everywhere.

With the burning desire, we rearranged our travel plan this year. I had my 10-year tourist visa on my passport but didn't have a visa for my wife and children. So, I applied for a tourist visa at the San Francisco visa office. We started in the early morning from Reno, Nevada, and drove four hours to meet the visa office on time. When we reached there, we were asked to provide various papers we didn't have then. We were asked to reschedule or send the passport and other relevant documents through postal services. With an upset mind, we drove back to our home. We spent the whole day without any outcome.

However, the surprise did not end yet. We started collecting all the relevant documents as fast as we could. We had a bit of urgency as my elder son also wanted to join his graduation ceremony at the end of the month. So, he needed his passport to travel back to Canada for his graduation. We were thinking about what to do since it was a very important life event for him. We had no ways other than praying to our Love Lord. Within two days, we collected all the documents and sent them to the San Francisco visa office to process the Indian visa. We did an assessment and were hoping to get back the passports on time, so my son could attend his graduation ceremony. Since I

had my ten years visa, I didn't send my passport for visa processing. After two days, we received an email saying that the visa office couldn't process visas due to a lack of proper photo background.

As usual, we were shocked by this news. We didn't understand the unsolicited mercy of the benign Lord at that moment. We were praying, chanting the 'Holy Name,' and thinking about the next course of action. We became a bit concerned as the flight to India was fixed, and it was approaching faster than we were thinking. The other reason was my son's graduation date which was not very far. I didn't discuss this with my family, and the next day, I asked a few of our Guru brothers if there was a faster way to get a visa. With HIS absolute grace, suddenly I remembered about one of our guru brothers who had been working in the Indian Embassy in Canada. I called him and asked for alternatives. He told me that VFS services were the only solution to get an Indian visa in the USA. During the conversation, he asked me about my trip details. Then I told him that I had my ten years visa taken from Toronto, and I was applying for the rest of my family members. Then he immediately picked up the fact and told me my long-term visa might get cancelled by the Indian Government.

Without further delay, our guru brother called one of his colleagues from the Indian embassy to confirm the information about the long-term visa. After a while, he called me again and confirmed that the Indian Government had canceled all long-term visas for Canadians. I was stunned and speechless, thinking of the consequence of traveling to India with a canceled visa. It could be

even worse if I were turned back from India. Then I shared the message of my visa cancellation to family members who were planning to visit India. Nevertheless, the next day, we prepared documentation to apply for the visa for all family members. We got our visa within a few days, which was well ahead of my son's graduation time and our planned visit to India. Tears were rolling out, considering HIS mercy to a simple person like me.

I shared this incident with a few of our guru brothers in the USA and Canada. After a few weeks, one of our guru brother's family, who might not be aware of the incident, was traveling to India with his family. His daughter had a ten-year-long Indian visa, similar to that I had on my passport. Their flight was delayed for twelve hours, and when the counter was opened, they were informed that their daughter couldn't go to India because the Indian Government canceled all ten-year visas for Canadians. He was shocked and devastated after waiting twelve hours at the airport and not being able to go to India. It was unquestionably painful for them as everything was planned in India, and their parents were waiting to meet them after a long pandemic gap.

When I heard the news, I wondered how Sree Sree Thakur saved us from the same incident. We went through a frustrating back and forth process but not a painful situation like other guru brother family. My tears were rolling out again, thinking of HIS gracious compassion on us. I might not fully realize the agony of our guru brother's family who missed the trip, but I realized that HIS kind wish is always beneficial for us though it is miserable for the time being.

We should try to understand HIS wish in every situation. HIS shower of love is always there if we are attached to HIM. We just need to love HIM, which is life's secret mantra. Our life is very short but full of challenges at the same time. In this

short period, we try to acquire a lot of knowledge which eventually helps us to grow intellectually. Despite all this knowledge, we fail most of the time to face the challenges of our day-to-day life. As a result, we are stressed out and continuously hurting our living instinct. Sometimes we don't know what is good for us and feel like a radar-less ship.

Therefore, it is always better to live without expectations and just surrender to HIM. Living without expectations is a great way to continuously experience a happy and peaceful life. It does not mean never making a goal or plan for the future, which are essential to a full, purposeful life. It simply means that we live the journey happily and thankfully rather than gripping on the destination of those goals and dreams. If we have the Love center in our lives and surrender solely to our Love Lord, our journey becomes very pleasant and peaceful. This helps us as well as those surrounded by ourselves. What a magical way to serve ourselves and humankind!

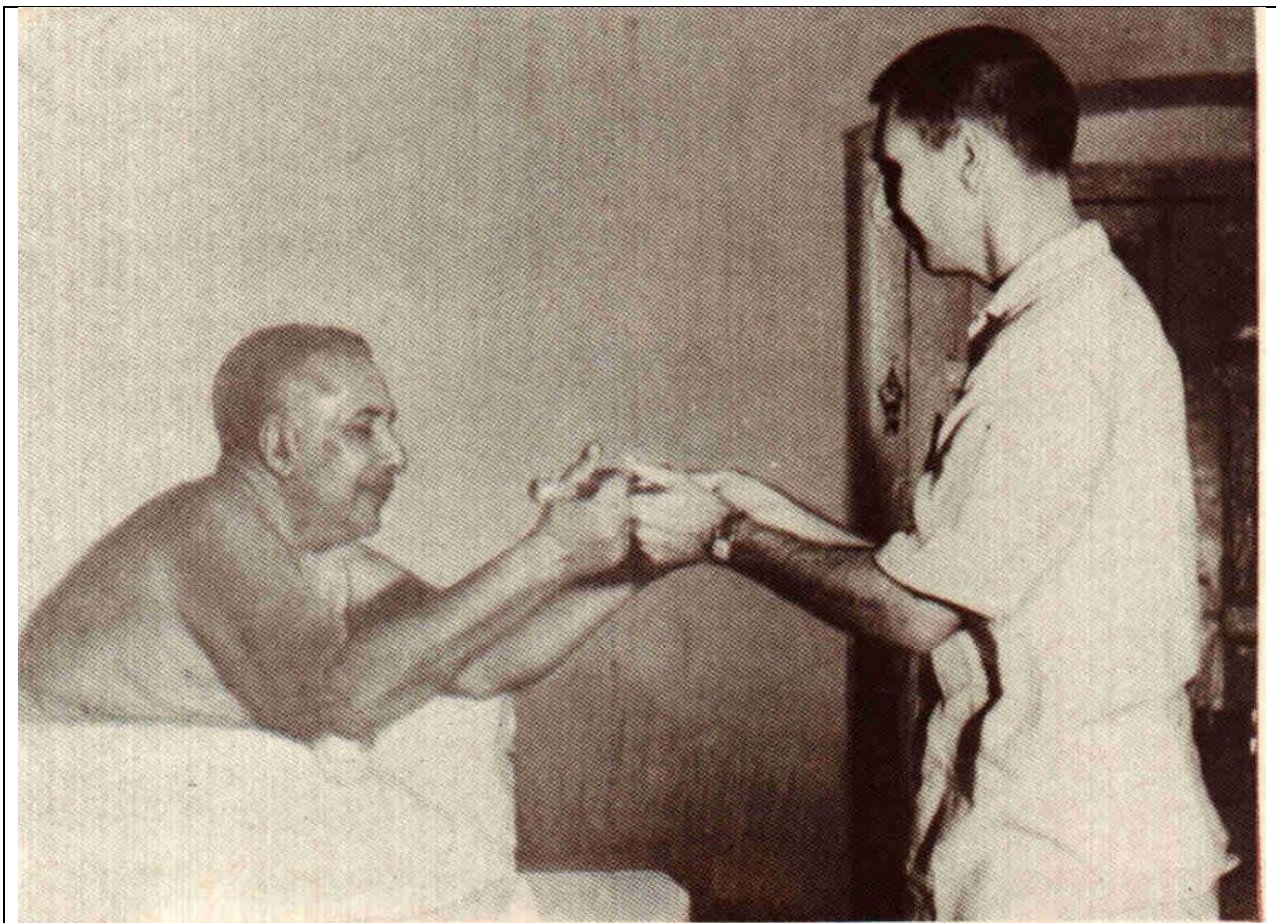
When we think about the meaning of no expectations, it brings us no disappointments. No expectation doesn't mean lowering our standards or accepting a life that is less than what we deserve. It doesn't mean giving up on our goals for a happy, healthy relationship or a meaningful career. It doesn't mean that we stop growing and learning new things. It is essential in another way - No expectation means no worry or distress.

In a nutshell, many of us are fortunate to get the 'Holy Name' of Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra. HE is the love center for millions of people around the globe. Many of us surrendered to HIM and enjoyed a happy life journey. Many of us are greatly fulfilled by making HIS wish a command for us. What is the best thing other than fulfilling the command of a True Master? A

life serving a True Master is a life that is filled with joy. But joy does not simply mean happiness and external smiles and laughter. Joy is the contentment and confidence to know if we are obeying our Love Lord, then everything that happens to us is HIS will.

So, HIS wish should always be our command. Let's love the Lord, Connect with HIM through the 'Holy Name,' seek HIS wish in our life and walk on the path of bliss and happiness by shaking off all doubts and disbeliefs.

Bande Purusbottamam!



Mr. J. P. Brown, Consul, Consul, U.S.A. Calcutta, Receiving Holy'Danda'. 15.4.1960

2022 – Satsang America Regional Utsav Gallery

California Annual Utsav



Texas Annual Utsav



THE CONSTANT EVOLUTION

Atreyee Maiti, Pune, India

In the world of Sree Sree Thakur, there is a constant evolution per the times' needs. First, Thakur, Himself came with a message for modern times. He gifted us with a way to worship that is seamless to imbibe in our daily lives. In today's world, where each of us is juggling a myriad of responsibilities and leading stressful lives, we don't have the time to go and meditate in a secluded forest or mountain. We could give up our worldly lives and denounce everything, but how would that help our loved ones and this society? In today's world, we need to be part of society to help it evolve, improve and grow. At the same time, in the absence of devotion, meditation, and the shelter of a hand above our head, we feel helpless and frustrated and can go into vicious cycles of depression. We have all observed this amongst ourselves, our near and dear ones, in these times of pandemic. We need a place of solace that gives us strength and energy. Similar to how food lights up the engines of our bodies, the engines of our minds also need their diet.

Thakur came with the message that suits these times. Devotion in Thakur's world is so simple, practical, and intermingled with our day-to-day lives that the act of worship can keep happening by itself once we imbibe it in ourselves. We don't need to don clothes of any color or perform elaborate rituals. We continue our normal lives - our jobs, meeting friends, enjoying ourselves, and making sure Thakur is always with us. Sree Sree Acharyadev says - the day has 86400 seconds, can we just take 300 seconds out of that for Thakur? Five minutes of meditation, that's all He is asking for. And then there is the meditation which we can perform while doing all our chores and activities. And there is *Istavriti* (holy oblation) which helps us become capable and active in this world of "*karmakshetra*" (workplace). The act of giving to the Lord, something that one has earned by one's

own hard work, is a great enabler of potential in a person!

Scriptures from earlier ages - though vast and rich, are very hard to grasp in current times owing to the difficulty in language and being very philosophy-heavy. As a result, it becomes tough to put them into practice. Thakur brought simplicity to this too. A vast amount of Thakur's literature is conversational - where somebody asks a question, and Thakur replies. And another portion of His literature has verses - which are either easy to memorize or, at minimum easy to understand. Due to the conversational nature of Thakur's teachings, it is easier to connect things with genuine problems everyone faces in day-to-day life. In short, it is very easy to make Thakur a seamless part of our lives; that is what He wishes. Also, with the blessings of Rev. Acharyadev and Rev. Abin da, a lot of efforts are on translating all the scriptures into English to make them more accessible to everyone in the world. Thakur doesn't want us to make Him the Lord of the heavens who we think of once in a blue moon. He wants us to make Him a part of our families. Because when somebody is a part of our family, that is when we remember him, do something for him, love him, learn from him, and more.

Thakur also brought in the attitude to reason out. All of us know that Thakur said - "Miracle is the mirage of ignorance." We term it a miracle just because we don't understand something. But everything happens with a proper causal-effect relation. Acharyadev also echoes the same. He says, "*karonmukhi howai bhokti*" (*The orientation towards finding the cause/reason is devotion*). In the absence of that, one is following just for the sake of it without understanding in depth. For the same reason, He also says one should encourage today's youngsters instead of trying to shut their questions down or deeming them arrogant. Once

we can reason with them, our concepts become clear and vivid.

In addition to the method of worship and literature, Thakur brought us one more thing, which helps in this age. Acharya Parampara - the lineage of acharyas (*one who demonstrates by example*). Along with being equipped for the age, each Acharya has brought in evolution as per the need of the hour. Times are fast changing, and one needs to adapt to stay relevant.

Take the simple example of music. Rev. Abin da has transformed the kind of music that is composed for Thakur. Keeping the light of devotion brightly lit, He has brought in instruments of the age - like the bass guitar, cajon, distortion guitar, and more.

These are times of data. Every country and organization is getting digitized, placing all their data online and using technology for managing and building on top of it. And Rev. Acharyadev and Rev. Abin da have embraced this too. A massive program is ongoing to place all data of devotees in a database with their updated contact details so that as and when needed in these challenging times, Rev. Acharyadev can reach out to us. Along with this, a strong movement that Rev. Abin da is running to build high-quality apps to make Thakur's literature available to us. He runs this like a startup CEO - adept at driving for features, quality, delivery, and more, with the vision of a top-class techie. During a recent visit to Deoghar, I had the fortune to witness data of Anandabazaar from the last 40 years being shown to Rev. Acharyadev at the Natmondop. He said this data could be used by Ph.D. students in statistics for analyzing various trends in inflation, food consumption patterns, wastage, and extrapolating how much material is needed for feeding a certain number of people. Such unique perspectives! One can only be amazed at how their beautiful minds work!

While there is evolution, there are constants. The constant undying love for Thakur through the generations. It can only be love for Thakur that gives so much energy to a human being that He sits for hours together, listening patiently to the problems of lakhs of devotees and giving unique solutions to each of them. It can only be love for Thakur that can make Rev. Acharyadev love us so much. And the same goes with Rev. Abin da.

Another constant is simplicity. They can go for luxuries as needed, but they have mastered so much control that they don't desire it. An individual had given Acharyadev a memory foam mattress and back support. The devotee found it hard to see Acharyadev sitting for long hours on the ground. Acharyadev smiled and said - "I have a habit of using a hard bed and a soft pillow since my childhood. I don't need anything more. There is no need to increase necessities". One observes the same trend of simplicity that used to be seen in Sree Sree Borda, Sree Sree Dada.

This constant evolution will continue and nurture us for ages to come. We are blessed to be experiencing this. Rev. Acharyadev narrated the following story - Somebody had once asked Thakur - "if all of us become Jesus, will there be any need for you to come?". Thakur had said - "I would still come then to improve all of them."

We are blessed to have gotten Thakur in our lives. And through Acharya parampara, we continue to feel His love to this day - as though somebody has embalmed our hurting souls with soothing sandalwood. May we keep experiencing these showers of blessings for eternity. My heartfelt regards at the holy feet of Sree Sree Thakur and Rev. Acharyadev.

Bande Purushottamam!

MY TRIP TO DEOGHAR - A LIFE-CHANGING INCIDENT

Tusar Swain(SPR), Mooresville, NC

In 1997 after my Swastayani brata(*avowed ritual*), my Ritwik(*Sree Sree Thakurs Holy worker*) said let's go to Thakurbari, Deoghar, during October Utsav. Usually, during October Utsav, more than a hundred thousand devotees come from different parts of the world. We five guru brothers, including my Ritwik, started by train from Cuttack (Odisha, India).

There were a lot of brothers going to Deoghar on the same train. During prayer time, we prayed together, and after that, kirtan started with various musical instruments. It's a twelve hours journey from Cuttack to Jasidih (*nearest station to Deoghar*). Those twelve hours engrossed with Bhajans, Kirtans, and delicious food passed so quickly that we did not realize it. Though I traveled by train many times, this was the best journey ever, and I never felt bored for a moment. It was full of positive vibrations.

We reached Deoghar at 4.30 am and went straight to the common tent ground, where we had to make our sleeping beds on bamboo bed frames. I was uncomfortable with this kind of arrangement. My Ritwik saw the anxiety and said, this is a Holy place of Sree Sree Thakur, even if we sleep on bare ground, He will take care of us.

The next day, when I woke up listening to the morning prayer, I saw thousands of guru brothers, mothers, and children congregated and praying together. I felt bad at myself and decided to wake up early the following day to do prayer.

I spent that day having *darshan (holy glance)* of Pujapada Sree Sree Dada, Pujyapada Sree Sree Acharyadeva, and other Reverend Thakur family members.

The next day I woke up at 4.00 am and went straight to take a bath and saw thousands of people taking baths and getting ready to use water from *Choubaccha (brick and cement paver water reservoir)*. I took a big mug (*in India, in many places, people use a mug during bath*) and poured the water on my body. Oh my god, it's ice cold, I could not imagine how thousands of people taking bath without any hesitation. I also took a bath by seeing them in cold water, which later resulted in one of my old body problems being cured automatically and never happened again.

The next experience I wanted to share during my stay in the *asbram (spiritual hermitage)* is related to Meditation. I started meditating for more than one hour (morning and evening) by sitting in front of Sree Sree Thakur. You will not believe how that opened my heart for Sree Sree Thakur. Doing Meditation continuously for seven days developed such an attachment towards HIM that when I was leaving Deoghar, it felt like someone was taking away part of my heart, tears automatically rolled down from my eyes. It felt like I am going far away from my most beloved with an empty and heavy heart. That was His love showered upon me.

Meditate and chant the Holy Satnaam sitting in front of Sree Sree Thakur daily, preferably at the same time and location, starting with a duration of five minutes, and you will start seeing the difference. Believe me, things you used to see dimly will become crystal clear, and you will be soaked with positive thoughts and energy.

Bande Purushottamam!

EMPATHETIC LISTENING

Manoj Patra(SPR). Milpitas, California

Sree Sree Thakur's health was not good. He was audibly in pain and groaning from time to time, "O mother, O mother." Visitors had His darshan from a distance. Few workers were around, barricading access to go nearer to Him. Suddenly, a woman around 30+ in age, appearing from an upper middle class, went close to Thakur's bedstead and sat down. One worker went to her and appealed, "Mother, please do not sit here, Sree Sree Thakur is not feeling good." The woman looked at him with large glaring eyes and did not move. The worker scolded the woman, "I have asked you to move from here, do you not understand?". Before the lady said anything, Sree Sree Thakur asked in a painful voice, "*Why are you troubling her?*". The worker immediately, with folded hands, said, "Thakur, your health is not ok, the doctors have strictly advised complete rest to you." Thakur said, "*She is also not well and needs rest.*" The worker retreated to his place of the guard. After a while, Sree Thakur said in a very soft and affectionate voice, "*Tell mother, what do you have to say?*". The woman started blabbering about various things. She kept speaking on multiple issues and insignificant matters for more than an hour. Most of these were grouses and complaints. Sree Sree Thakur listened attentively without dismissing anything and then said, "*Where is your husband? Come with your husband tomorrow to meet me*".

The husband was in the crowd, and as the woman continued to pester Sree Sree Thakur, the man, in a tone of regret, confessed to the workers, "I am ashamed of my wife's behavior. It is evident that Sree Sree Thakur is not well, but what can I do? My wife has been treated in the Ranchi mental hospital for the last two months. She was discharged a few days ago. We had heard a lot

about Sree Sree Thakur but never had a chance to see or meet Him, so I brought her here. I did not know that she would create such a situation. Please forgive me". The workers did not say anything but were visibly not happy that someone was troubling Sree Sree Thakur for such a long time.

The next day the woman came again and blabbered non-stop for about an hour. It was clear to many from her incoherent words that she was mentally ill. However, Sree Sree Thakur listened carefully to everything she was saying. After a while, Sree Sree Thakur summoned Birendra Nath Bhattacharya, the chemist from Satsang Rasayana Center, and asked him to make a concoction using a few herbs and leaves of some plants.

In the evening, Birendra da came with two bottles of medicine. Sree Sree Thakur called the woman and, in a loving tone, said, "*This brother has made medicine for you. Take it regularly. By the grace of the Supreme Father, you will become fine*". Having received such unparalleled affection, that woman started crying and said, "Thakur, I do not want to leave you and go." Sree Sree Thakur said, "*You can go now and take care of your home. So many people and things depend on you. Whenever you get a chance, come again and meet me*".

It goes without saying that the woman was nurtured back to complete normalcy over time.

Incidents like this abound in Sree Sree Thakur's life. A key reason for strife between individuals close to each other, like in the same family, neighborhood, or office, is the lack of proper

communication. People feel distanced from each other. In a conversation, the duration of active listening by any party is getting lesser and lesser. Sree Sree Thakur would treat people with psychological issues by listening to them attentively and with immeasurable empathy. When people from deep within feel betrayed, bruised, scoffed at, or hurt, they tend to dislike others. They lose mental balance when the feeling of abhorrence or hatred intensifies further. Even trained professionals cannot spend that much time listening in the modern world, so they cut short communication, listen half-heartedly, or dismiss complaints nonchalantly. Sree Sree Thakur would listen attentively and with deep empathy. When He spoke, He would do so with high sympathy. Half the patient's disease would vanish after just outpouring their heart to Sree Sree Thakur. He would then make (*or give the formula to make*) a medicine specific to that individual. Once He said, doctors (*or anyone treating others*) have to perceive the individual distinctiveness of the patient and treat accordingly. A patient hearing is what is needed for most patients. Active and attentive listening to others' complaints acts as a fertilizer to nurture the tree of relationships.

Sree Sree Acharyadev has often emphasized that in modern families, people are getting increasingly distant as they do not communicate with each other heart to heart. Busy schedules and this growing obsession with individual digital devices have worsened the situation. People remain glued to social media channels withdrawing themselves from real people around them. He has advised every family to find time to have at least one meal a day together. And after the meal, sit at the table and share individual experiences with others. Everyone else is encouraged to listen attentively and actively. Parents are asked not to be dismissive but rather to be inclusive. Such a simple practice can ensure the family members bond stronger and can better fulfill each other's needs. The same principles can be extended to communities, offices, and societies.

A lot of focus is given to the art of speaking, even in professionally conducted communication workshops. The wise and realized know art of listening is more important. After all, we have one mouth but a pair of ears. Let us learn the art of listening well, that is, listen attentively with empathy and sympathy to ward away suffering.

Bande Purushottamam!

GOD AND DHARMA

God is one, Dharma is one,
Prophets are the same
Servers of the one.

- Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra

ANECDOTES OF ONTICAL ABODE

Biswajit and Alolika Paul, New Hill, NC

His Mercy, Benevolence, Benediction, and Adoration have no limits. Not sure how and where to start. HIS grace has been so rich and abundant; not sure how to put those into words. Let me begin with a real-life story. In 2016, quarterback Drew Brees became the only NFL (*National Football League*) quarterback to break the 5,000-passing-yards-in-a-season record for the fifth time. It would be nearly impossible to describe all the factors Brees had to consider when making those passes, yet he knew whom to throw the ball, where to put the ball, and why to make that throw—all in a matter of seconds. Bree's ability to pass the football incorporates so much of his experience and kinesthetic memory that it is impossible to separate that knowledge from the player himself. His bone structure, muscular development, and the nerves between his arm and brain contribute to his ability to throw the types of passes he does. This knowledge he has acquired over the years by virtue of experience on the playground is called **Tacit knowledge**, which is personal, context-specific, and hard to formalize and communicate. It consists of experiences, beliefs, and skills. Tacit knowledge is subjective and is often acquired through physically practicing a skill or activity. Philosopher Michael Polanyi describes in his book, *The Tacit Dimension*, “*We can Know more than we can tell.*”

I firmly believe every Satsangee, who truly and sincerely loved Sree Sree Thakur with all his underlying limitations, even with one cent, has acquired enough Tacit knowledge, which will be challenging to express in words. When Sree Sree Thakur asked a few devotees what is the definition of *Bhalobasha* (*Love*). Different people

answered differently based on their understanding. Sree Sree Thakur was not very satisfied with the answer. Finally, HE said it means “*Jar Bhalo Tei Basba Baandhee*” (*Build a Home for someone's well-being*). So simple and yet so powerful. When I sincerely say I love you, Thakur, I should think and act as per HIS wish with utmost happiness. Gracefully, HE has given us this simplified package of five principles of *Jajan, Jaajan, Istavriti, Swastayani, and Sadachar* to practice. The spirit and sincerity with which this is practiced will eventually raise our level of attachment and love for HIM, and one can experience true bliss. The intention and urge to fulfill HIS wish strengthens this providential connection. It is said that action speaks louder than words, but I wanted to add further that *intention speaks louder than action in the devotional world*. When the intent and actions are all aligned towards *Ista Pratistha* (*Ideal Establishment*), one can gradually see and feel the transformation within and how these realizations of benign blessings keep flourishing and thriving the Tacit knowledge of an individual.

Verse from the Holy Satyanusaran,

“Feel, but be not overwhelmed, lest you be unable to proceed.

If overwhelmed you must be, be so with love for God.”

We moved to our new home in 2021 with HIS divine blessing, and I will try my best to share a few incidents of HIS Divine Mercy. Like any other person, buying our first home in the US is always special. We all have some Must Haves and Good to Have features in our minds while searching for a home. Our dream was to buy a

Ranch style for a single-floor living(*Must Have*) because with two small kids, it will be challenging to climb up and down, and probably the etched memories of our upbringing in ancestral home are working in the background to go for this layout with an optional 2nd floor. With this in mind, we started our home search and finally got the desired layout. We did *Nibedan(holy prayer)* to Pujyapad Sree Sree Acharyadev to seek his ambrosial blessing for the blueprint of the plot and other details. HE blessed the home and named it “**Ontical Abode**”. After receiving HIS blessing and direction, all our doubts and hesitation about going for a Ranch design vanished. Even our realtor was surprised that we are selecting a Ranch style for reasons of resale, popularity, the 55+ active adult community, etc. But nothing could influence our decision as we had the divine blessing from Pujyapad Acharyadev. Typical to human nature, despite having HIS blessing and knowing that the best will happen, the decision used to bug us. Because the ranch layout is popular in kids-free neighborhoods, and there are very remote chances of finding Indian families. We might be the only Indian family with kids(Usually, Indians do not opt for Ranch).

But now, we can instantly connect to above holy verse from Satyanusaran. Contrary to our thoughts, most families in our lane have small kids, and our next-door neighbor is a lovely Indian couple following a vegetarian diet. There are many Indian families with kids in the community with a healthy diversity ratio. I couldn't have expected any more from HIM.

When we have Thakur at the center of our life, we don't have to think for ourselves. HE takes care of all our needs and wishes. Be it timing of booking our new home just before Apple Inc announced a new office in the triangle region, which overnight shot the already inflated real estate prices by another \$150-200K. Or, being

able to close the home and move in as planned on a date committed by builder five months ago despite all the dynamic market conditions and Covid-19.

Verse from the Holy Satyanusaran,

*“You are for the Lord and not for others;
You are for the Lord and so for others.”*

"Home upgrades" always tempt us. And make us want more and more, jeopardizing our home budget. While finalizing the layout of our home, we decided to opt for Sunroom (*Upgrade*) as we wanted to make that our *Thakur Ghar(Room of Lovelord)*. Opting for a Sliding glass door 16'x9' in the living room with a luxurious Screened Lanai was out of the question, as that would stretch our already shoestring budget by an additional 20K. We never thought about it, nor did we have any idea.

The real challenge for us was making Sunroom our Thakur room. Without any additional structural upgrade, the exit/entry door to the backyard will be through our Thakur room/sunroom. As we did not want that, the only option was to opt for the \$20K upgrade. We went for the upgrade only for this reason. Now we realize not having this upgrade would have been a major *drawback/lost opportunity* as we use the screened Lanai more than the living room kids love being there, and because of the wider glass sliding door, there is ample daylight inside. *HE always has the Best Plan for Us.*

With HIS blessings, we can host Satsang almost every month with around 45 - 50 people (*mostly non-initiated*) from our neighborhood. And they wholeheartedly extend their help in organizing the Satsangs. After knowing that we don't eat non-veg, they always make a special menu for us on every occasion/party. We never expected such a sweet gesture from them. To our surprise, they

even started appreciating the vegetarian diet.

Holy Verse Satyanusaran,

“Failure need not be weakness; to fail to try is weakness.”

As 1st time home buyers, we were very new and naïve in this house buying process with no knowledge of the safety standards. Few of the plots had steep inclinations near the outside patio, and our's was also one of them. We had no clue about this, nor did we do an inspection. After our closing and move-in, we saw our adjacent neighbors complain to the builder about the steep slope, as their parents had prior experience in home construction. The builder agreed to install a side rail on their patio because they refused to move in if that was not corrected.

We felt like fools as we moved in and never complained about it. With small kids at home, it was unsafe to have no guard rails. We contacted our construction manager, but he said it was as per the construction code so nothing could be done. Somehow I was not convinced; how could this be safe with such a steep slope? I took pictures and escalated them to the Site in charge and higher-ups. The site construction manager took some measurements and told my wife that this is within the code book requirement by a couple of inches; hence, the builder will not be able to provide side rails. I was not convinced, and I wanted to measure my own.

I researched the North Carolina home construction code book to get more details. Finally, after some research, I could find the relevant section in the code book where it states,

at a distance of 3' from the Patio edge, if the depth is more than 36", a guard rail should be provided. To my surprise when I started measuring the depth at a distance of 3' from the edge over a span of length, everywhere it measured just less than 36," but at one spot it measured just around 37" (*more than 36*"). I took pictures of the measurement with scales showing distance and depth and sent them to the builder with reference to the code requirement. Still, the builder did not pay heed, stating it was inspected and approved by the Town of Apex Municipality Inspector. Sree Sree Thakur's above verse gave me all the strength to keep trying. I called the Town of Apex municipality and explained the situation. They shared the contact of the inspector who inspected our home.

Without hesitation, I called the inspector and told him the situation, citing the code book reference. He acknowledged it was a mistake from their end and told me he would speak with the construction manager. Within two days, I received mail from the builder's warranty team that they would install a side rail on our Patio, and finally, they did.

Brother's & Mother's, the only intention of writing this article is to share our true feeling and realizations about how HE best fulfilled our wishes and cared for our needs. HE is Fulfiller the Best of the age. We just need to stay connected to HIM by sincerely practicing the five principles of *Jajan, Jaajan, Istavriti, Swastayani, and Sadachar*. Let us all come to HIS holy lotus feet and make this life more meaningful and purposeful.

Bande Purushottamam!

GIFT FOR LIFE

*Sonjanya Chintala,
Mooresville, NC*

In life, we do not choose our parents, siblings, or relatives consciously. Before we realize that, we depart from Earth, leaving behind all the bondages intact. With time, based on our compatibility, we choose friends who make our lives more beautiful.

We share our joys and sorrows with friends but still sometimes feel some loneliness in life. That is when I got my "gift for life": initiation to my love lord "Sree Sree Thakur."

Though at first, I was doing *Istavriti* (holy oblation), Meditation, and Prayer mechanically, my connection grew stronger and stronger with time. Getting initiated is like waking up your soul.

With more chanting, the soul vibrates with more joy. Thakurji becomes your sole friend. Anything and everything you can share with Him without any hindrance.

Relationships improve, skillfulness towards work improves, and most importantly, you will know your life's purpose. My journey over the past ten years with Shree Shree Thakur is so profound that I feel I have known HIM for many past lives.

Just like friends and family bring more color to your materialistic life, taking Thakur in your life brings more joy to the soul traveling from many births.

Many attend Satsang and feel good when participating in kirtans and songs. But unless your soul becomes pure, initiation is not possible. I feel grateful that in this life, I got the "Holy Satnaam" from Thakur to continue my soul journey.

Reading this or attending Satsang, if you get any impulse to connect and be blessed with the Holy Satnaam, don't delay. Please take initiation to progress in life as human life is not meant to be wasted but should be useful for the service of the Lord.

Out of 8.4 Million species on Earth, only human beings have a Vertical spine. This vertical spine is for the upliftment of our consciousness.

Prayer at the Lotus feet of Sree Sree Thakur for everyone's good health and prosperity throughout our lives.

Bande Purushottamam!

You are for the Lord,
not for others;
You are for the Lord
and so for others.

- Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra

FEAR OF LOVE

Priyanka Roy Barman,
Montreal, Canada

Growing up as a child, I have heard my mother call me out so many times, "Bubu, don't be mischievous, or else Boogeyman will come and take you away." It sounds like the famous dialogue from the cult movie Sholay, "*Soja warna Gabbar aa jayega!*". Although this correlation seems amusing, it's often the case that our mental conditioning is instilled in such a way that we are almost forced to believe that if we do bad, we get bad. This is also referred to as negative reinforcement. And that fear of something terrible happening to us impedes us from doing wrong. As obvious as this may seem, the crux of the matter is, what is precisely stopping us from taking a wrong step? - Is it just the fear of bearing negative consequences, or is it the conscious awareness of what's good and bad for us?

When we are most comfortable with the age-old idea of negative reinforcement, the thought-provoking words of Sree Sree Thakur emerge in front of my eyes, "It is better to fear His love than His scolding if I do any wrong, He will be pained in His heart." [Ref- *Satyanusaran- The Pursuit of Truth*]. It immediately feels like some ordinary words have been put together to convey the most invaluable and extraordinary message to mankind. I keep reading these lines and contemplate why hasn't anyone ever taught me in this way before. During those mischievous childhood years of my life, had my mother told me, "Bubu, don't do this. If you do this, I will be hurt, it will pain my heart!", I would have still not done it, but this time I would have refrained not because of any fear of punishment or the Boogeyman but because of the fear of hurting my mother, causing her grief, as I love her. In one of His discourses, Sree Sree Thakur beautifully explains how the mind is unrestful. But when our thoughts are centered around the Ideal to fulfill Him, the mind is finally at rest. He further says one might have the appetite to eat four Rasgullas (*Indian sweet*), but

having eight of them can make him sick. The divine presence that resides in him can feel the pain when he falls sick, and that's exactly why even if one can eat all the eight Rasgullas, he will refrain from doing so. Adherence to the Ideal and continuously evolving in accordance with Him connects us to Him. [Ref- *Dipraksi, Vol 1, Pg-105, 3rd Edition*].

We should consider Thakur as the most significant part of the family. When we are on the verge of taking a wrong turn or a misguided step, our parents' very glimpse holds us back from doing something undesirable. Imagining Sree Sree Thakur's face in such adversities should bind us in the same way, and we should be able to feel the same kind of restraint. I consider myself extremely fortunate to be born and raised in an Ideal-centric family where Thakur has always been the Chief of the home, the most valued, and the most revered. That's precisely the reason why on those chilly days in December when everyone was prepping to take out the warmest of clothes from the winter cupboards, the first of them were the ones for Thakur. He would be comforted first and then the rest of us. Even today, in the scorching heat of Kolkata summers, when the air conditioning is on 24*7 in our house, we keep the door adjacent to the Thakur altar open so that the cool air blows in and have the fan switched on all day and night. Recently when I was planning to purchase a new house, despite being a small family of two, I chose to take a 3BHK to dedicate one of the rooms for Thakur. I couldn't agree to the thought of having two lavish rooms just for us and placing Thakur in some corner.

I consistently exemplify the presence of Sree Sree Thakur in my life as an alarm clock that cautions me when I am about to get swayed or whenever I confront choices that can cause me harm. We often refer to this as the sixth sense, but I believe

it's my Guru speaking to me through my

conscience, guiding and anchoring me. When friends often plan parties and get-togethers on weekends, I prefer to attend any available Satsangs (*Sacred Congregations*). I see it this way, had it been a special occasion for any of my family members on the same day my friends were calling me out, would I have still prioritized the weekend party or my family? The answer is obvious here: Thakur being the most important family member, how can I ignore a Satsang then? The culture of offering "bhog prasad" (*etable offering*) to Thakur is known to many of us. I feel a strange sense of uneasiness when I have repeatedly offered the same kind of "prasad" to Thakur for some days. I immediately experience a knee-jerk reaction when I imagine how I would feel if I was offered the same food daily. Not great, right? I immediately change the Thakur "prasad" and try to offer something new every other day. My mother and I are countries apart, and sometimes there can be misunderstandings with distance. For some reason, if I have a heated conversation with her over the phone and we hang up on each other, it suddenly occurs to me Thakur loved His mother immensely, and He can get upset with me since I am being unreasonable to my mother, and I will immediately pick the phone up and call my mother back to apologize and sort things out. Due to the hectic nature of my work, if I am

unable to attend Satsangs and I haven't performed Bhajans (*devotional songs*) for a while, I feel anxious imagining Thakur hasn't heard me sing for some time now and it triggers me to attend the next available congregation to offer my devotion. All this and many more are experiences I feel and do out of my sheer love for Sree Sree Thakur because I consider Him as my own and not out of any pressure or fear. When we do things out of pressure, without feeling it to the core, no matter how much perfection we put in it, it's never heartfelt.

My father is not with us today, but I carry one of his advice like a motto in my life where he told me "*Don't worship Thakur with a list of expectations in your heart. Love Him unconditionally*". When I pray to the lotus feet of Sree Sree Thakur, my thoughts and words are always, "Mould me the way you want me to be." Owing to my life in a foreign land, there are many distractions around me. But just how lotus blooms in a muddy pond, making the right choices in a world spoilt with options, shows our love for the Supreme Beloved. And all of this is not because of the fear of His wrath, but the fear of His love!

Bande Purushottamam!

"It is better to fear His love than His scolding—
if I do any wrong, He will be pained in His heart."

- Holy Satyanusaran
- Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra

MY EXPERIENCE WITH SREE SREE THAKUR

Renu Samal, Miami, FL

Jaiguru to all the devotees who have taken time out and made arrangements to congregate in this celebration of Sree Sree Thakur. Every person needs a center in life to lead a balanced and righteous way. If we do not have the right ideal at the center, we will unknowingly have something else that will drive us in a manner we might not align with. An ideal is said to be the fulfiller of the best. We need to have an Ideal who we can look up to and trust to guide us in the right direction. Sree Sree Thakur has always said that a Living Ideal should have all the human qualities in its best form, and only then would they qualify as a living ideal. Thakur had said that a Living Ideal works as a living mirror to the society and helps individuals develop their character and become the best person they can become.

Every person goes through their unique experiences involving Sree Sree Thakur, and I have one to share with everyone. I was very blessed that since my childhood, I saw Sree Sree Thakur in my house's puja room. My mother used to keep Sree Sree Thakur's asan so beautifully that it felt as if Thakur was the head of our family. So, it was obvious from the start that my mind had accepted Sree Sree Thakur as my everything in life. After taking the initiation at the age of twelve, I became vegetarian, which was a difficult choice to make then, and the reason was to please my Supreme father. By taking the simple process of initiation, we are getting a center by which we can lead our life in a meaningful way. Every one of us must have their own unique individual experiences with Sree Sree Thakur.

I must admit that Thakur has given me everything in life. Wonderful parents, husband, and kids. My life has always been smooth sailing, but I have

experienced the Supreme father's blessings showered on me every now and then. In 2002, my father met with a road accident in a remote area of a district in Odisha. At the time of the incident, we were not with him, but the people around him took him and immediately admitted him to an ICU. After a couple of days, when I and some other family members reached the hospital, my father could not recognize any of us. I cannot express the pain and trauma we as a family went through. After getting discharged from the ICU, my father was supposed to be under observation for a couple of months because he had lost his memory. But in the time frame when he was not able to recognize any of us and he was not able to recollect anything, he used to shout out loud and tell us that, Thakurji, wearing a bright white dhoti, came and rescued him. And every morning, he would ask my mother for a coin and make his Istavriti and Swastayani offering. This is one of the blessings of Thakurji, which I was lucky to witness right in front of my eyes. After a couple of months, he slowly started recovering and got his memory back. Thakurji has always said that whoever serves him to the fullest and holds him in the center of his life is always bestowed upon with *apara karuna* (Unlimited blessings).

We have been attending virtual satsangs after the outbreak of the novel coronavirus. This pandemic, in a way, was blessing in disguise for all the satsangees and has brought us much closer to Sree Sree Thakur. Every moment His Love and presence could be felt, we just need to connect to Him. Leading an Ideal centric life gives meaningful purpose and direction to our lives. Sree Sree Thakur says - "*As in the Ideal in whom you place faith, so will your nature be formed, and your vision too will be like that*".

Bande Purushottamam!

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ADD VALUE TO MY LIFE?

Sandeepa Das, Ontario, Canada

This is a question I have always pondered upon ever since I was in middle school. In our generation, we tend to seek advice by observing the lives of those we see on social media such as Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, etc. I would watch videos of ordinary individuals like myself sharing how they make their mornings more productive or integrate certain habits to help them achieve their personal goals. Being a typical teenager today, I would reflect on these shared habits and implement them for a while to see whether they helped me be a more productive individual. Sometimes I would lose touch with some practices, and others didn't add much value to my daily routine. Even today, I am still experimenting with certain habits that may or may not add value to my everyday life. However, this made me realize something: what I find valuable in my life may not be what someone else finds value in their life. For example, I may value exercising and doing yoga in the morning; others may value journaling in their diary.

Our definition of value differs from person to person; therefore, it was unrealistic for me to look up to people with different goals than me. If I value my mental health, I will prioritize meditation and breathing exercises in my daily routine, but, If I value my physical well-being, I will prioritize a balanced diet and exercise routine. While experimenting with different habits, I realized the significance of prioritizing oneself. Being a student at university made me realize that I would often prioritize my academia over my well-being, which led to close to no room for valuable personal, mental, physical, and spiritual development. This realization encouraged me to find ways to integrate Sree Sree Thakur's

teachings into my life, which not only helped me achieve my personal and academic goals but also learn more about myself and my self-growth process.

So, I started by brainstorming what I value in my life, not just as a student but as a daughter, sister, friend, and devotee of Sree Sree Thakur. I realized that it wasn't so much so about the result but the journey. It wasn't about who I wanted to be in the future but how I would achieve those goals. We all dream of potentially being a good mother, founding a start-up, starting an organization, or simply graduating with high honors, but dreaming doesn't equate to doing. Moreover, comparing ourselves to other individuals who are in a similar boat as us doesn't do justice to our journey of self-growth and purpose. I am also grateful that becoming a devotee of Sree Sree Thakur has allowed me to speak with Pujyapada Sipai Da, who has given me a lot to reflect on throughout my academic journey.

I started to think more about what I wanted my "pillars of existence" to be and what their basis should be. Sree Sree Thakur's teachings were at the forefront of my values; however, I realized that Thakur's teachings are not just about one's devotion towards Sree Sree Thakur, but more so one's realization about oneself.

Who am I? How can I be a better version of myself? How can I instill more value into my daily life? How can I be of value to individuals in my life?

Although we are all devotees of Sree Sree Thakur, what has his teachings, values, words, and actions

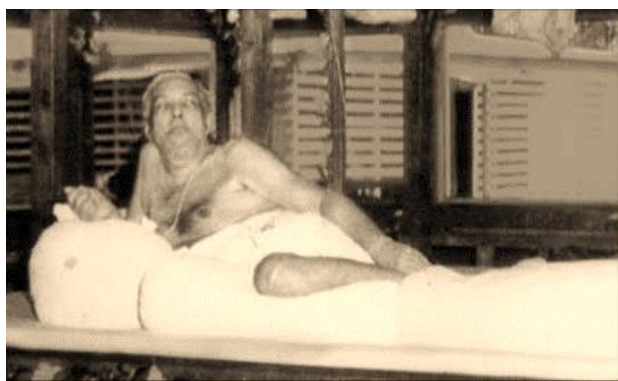
taught us? They have taught me to be more reflective about my present self. Thakur's teachings have taught me to reflect on how I can be a better individual and serve myself to serve others better. This leads me to the importance of self-awareness: understanding the value individuals and your community have on who you are today. Daily meditation is a straightforward habit we all have built into our lives due to Sree Sree Thakur's teachings to become more self-aware and present in the moment. This instills a calm state of mind and isolates us from our physical surroundings. We focus on our stillness, our inner soul, and essentially prioritize our mental and spiritual being for a while.

One may say that prioritizing oneself is selfish because we must serve others as much as we can; however, serving ourselves helps us become a better version of ourselves. Serving others shouldn't be quantified; instead, it should be selfless. However, Sree Sree Thakur's values have taught me that we can only serve others better if we serve ourselves too. Let's think about a role model we all have in our lives. My biggest role model is my father. He's the most selfless individual I've met in my life, someone who has been by my side through my highest and lowest times. He has always worked to provide me with the best opportunities and care for everyone.

However, Baba can be a selfless individual, directly and indirectly, because he's served himself too. He focused on gaining knowledge through not just his best experiences but also his worst experiences in life to become who he is today. Therefore, today, he can be a role model for others because he has focused on serving himself by grounding his values and principles in life.

Therefore, let's think back to the question I asked in the beginning: what does it mean to add value to one's life? We all have our own definitions of value, but we should all recognize that the teachings of Sree Sree Thakur are at the forefront of being and becoming a better individual in the present. Understanding the importance of self-awareness should help us realize how we can continue to better ourselves to serve others better. Hence, our values shouldn't just surround serving others but also serving ourselves. If you enjoy reading books, journaling, exercising, taking an evening walk, or singing, then don't be afraid to do these things. Prioritizing Sree Sree Thakur in our lives should not only make us better devotees and better servers in our community but also better leaders. To become better leaders, we must value habits that help us become a better version of ourselves.

Bande Purushottamam!



JAJAN-JAAJAN-ISTAVRITI

To exalt oneself
with pious worship
is 'Jajan',
to exalt others
with pious worship
is 'JaaJan',
the daily sacred oblation
to your Lord
before taking any food is 'Istavriti'.

The Message Vol.II

DIVINE MERCY OF SUPREME BELOVED SREE SREE THAKUR

Dilip Kumar Debnath, Nagpur, India

I was initiated in the year 1957 or 1958. The exact year is not remembered as being very old. But, this much I remember that in 1958 when I was studying in 9th grade, our Maths teacher late J. Chakraborty, used to tell us to meditate whenever we get free time. This will increase our memory and mental peace. As such, we used to meditate in the class whenever there was an off period. Late J. Chakraborty dada was SPR then, and my parents were initiated to Sree Sree Thakur's Holy name through him. As my parents were already initiated, our brothers and sisters were also initiated at a very young age. I was about 13 years old when I was initiated and came under the umbrella of Satsang.

After completing my education, I joined as an apprentice in a defense organization, followed by a regular appointment. As a defense employee, I had to undergo several transfers and face many ups and downs in life. But I always felt some inner strength and chanted His Holy Name. As a result, I overcame all the problems smoothly. I firmly believe that this all happened because of Thakar's blessings.

In 'Gita', Bhagwan Sri Krishna says,

**सर्वधर्मान्परित्यज्य मामेकं शरणं व्रज ।
अहं त्वां सर्वपापेभ्यो मोक्षयिष्यामि मा शुचः ॥**

Sree Sree Thakur said,

**"তোর সব পাপ তাপ আমার মাথাই দিয়ে আমার
শ্যারন আয়"**

(Give me all your sins and misdeeds and take shelter under me).

Sree Sree Thakur gave us the key to live life. We only have to follow His teachings with untottering

adherence.

Sree Sree Thakur in Holy Satyanusaran,

**"সদগুরুর শরণাপন্ন হও, সৎ-নাম মনন কর; আর
সৎসঙ্গের আশ্রয় গ্রহণ কর - আমি নিশ্চয় বলছি,
তোমাকে আর তোমার উন্নয়নের জন্য ভাবতে
হবেনা।"**

(Take to the feet of a true Master, go on taking the Holy Name, and remain in the company of the devout. Truly I say, you have no more to worry for your elevation.)

Sree Sree Thakur never believed in miracles. But all these happen automatically as a result of one's dedicated work. Thakur comes to bless and protect his disciples and children in every crisis, and we have experienced such happenings many times. And I believe, like me, many Satsangee's have experienced the same.

Our gurubhai Routhda narrated his experience during one of his visits to Nagpur. He is from Assam. He was serving in Assam's Administrative Service. Once, he and other gurubhais planned to visit Deoghar to attend a conference. Accordingly, they reserved tickets for the train well in advance. On the scheduled evening, he went to the railway station and checked the reservation chart. His name was not found on the chart. So he enquired with the TTE(Travel Ticket Examiner). Ticket Examiner also checked the chart available with him but could not find Routhda's name. By that time, the other gurubhais who were also coming to Deoghar had arrived.

But to their surprise, no gurubhai's name was found in the chart. All were disappointed thinking of the difficulty of such a long journey without reservation. They started arguing with the Railway TTE. In the meantime, the train had arrived.

Seeing no other way out, as they had to go to Deoghar, they all gave Dhvani and boarded the last unreserved compartment. In the morning, news came that the train met with an accident, all S4, S5, and S6 compartments were derailed, and more than a hundred were a casualty.

All the gurubhais (*brothers in faith*) were thus saved, as they were in the last compartment. How did this happen? This is Thakur's Leela (*Divine Play*), Thakur's Kripa (*Divine Mercy*).

Now my experience on Sree Sree Thakur's blessings. It was about our visit to the USA. My wife and I were scheduled to visit my son's place in Charlotte, North Carolina in June 2019.

Our scheduled flight was from Nagpur to Doha, then from Doha to Boston, and finally, from Boston to Charlotte. As per schedule, we started our journey from Nagpur at 2:00 am for Doha and from Doha to Boston. As scheduled, we reached Boston. From Boston, we had to collect our luggage onward for our journey to Charlotte. As there was rain, our luggage was delayed. As a result, we missed our flight to Charlotte. We hoped to get seats on the next flight, departing at 8:30 am.

After reaching the terminal for the Charlotte flight, we enquired the lady attending the desk for our next flight. She said that no seat was available for Charlotte on the flight, and no other flight was available for that day. The last flight is only 8.30 pm, and the attendant could confirm the availability of seats only couple of hours before departure. We were at a loss as to what to do and were also exhausted by that time.

Seeing our desperation, the desk lady told me that there was another flight of Alliance Airlines at

8.30 pm for Washington D.C., and from there, we could board a flight for Charlotte at 11:00 pm. She directed me to Alliance Airlines, which was some distance away. I requested her to accompany us as we were new there. She kindly agreed. But as luck would have it, the Alliance flight for that night was cancelled. Then we came back to the Charlotte terminal. By that time, we were totally exhausted.

Seeing our pitiful condition, the lady asked whether we needed water. I said yes. She then went to the nearby outlet and bought a water bottle and some snacks. I asked the lady whether they would arrange our hotel accommodation for the night. She said there is no such provision.

During this entire period, we were chanting the Holy Name. That was the only solace for us. Seeing our condition, the lady was continuously checking her computer.

Low and behold! After about five minutes, the lady said yes, there were two seats available on the same flight at 8:30 pm for Charlotte. She further confirmed that our luggage was also going on the same flight. We were immediately given the boarding pass and taken to the terminal to board the plane. Tears rolled out of my eyes. We need not believe in miracles, and it happens spontaneously.

Such is the Kripa (*Divine mercy*) of Sree Sree Thakur. Unsolicited showers of blessings of Parampita are continuously raining on us. We should keep faith and always follow Thakur's messages.

Bande Purushottamam!

SREE SREE THAKUR - A FRIEND, PHILOSOPHER & GUIDE

Som Prakash Mukherjee, Dallas, TX

Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra, the Almighty, the Kali Yug Avatar, who, as Purushottam, came on this earth to control the evil within us. Once, a disciple asked Sree Sree Thakur, like other Avatars in the past, if he was here to kill any demon in this era. Thakurji replied that in Kali Yug, He has come 'not to kill rather control' (*in Bengali - Vadh korte na, vash korte esechi*). Due to this thought process, Thakurji spearheaded the man-making movement through Satsang - a reformation center.

He started his formal education at **Himaitpur** village elementary school in 1893. In 1898, he was admitted to Pabna Institute and studied there until the eighth grade. He attended Raipur High School at Amirabad for a short period and then in Naihati High School in the 24 Parganas of West Bengal until 1905. He did not, however, graduate from high school. Biographies mention an incident where Thakurji gave away his matriculation exam registration fees to one of his classmates, who he found crying and in dire need, as he could not afford the registration fees. In 1910, Anukulchandra wrote some guiding instructions for one of his best friends, Atul Chandra Bhattacharya, which were later published in 1918 as a booklet called *Satyanusaran (The Pursuit of Truth)*. He has shown us how true friendship needs to be built on the foundation of intense love. Selfless service leads to a transfixing touch of pure love in the life of any human being.

He finished his medical school and started practicing medicine in Himaitpur in 1912. But He practiced as a physician for only three years when He realized that by treating the symptom, He is not doing justice; instead, He should cure the cause, the inner self of the human being. At the height of His success as a physician, Anukulchandra formed a kirtan group which attracted a host of people from all strata of the society. Some reports claim many of the outcasts in the society, like drug addicts, convicted killers, etc., came to his kirtan group and

transformed into a normal human being. **His** fame slowly turned from being just a 'wonderful physician to a philosopher, a divine shelter. Such was the power of his aura that even an enemy would try to become his friend. Guru Gita (verse 17) aptly describes the guru as a "dispeller of darkness" (*from gu, "darkness" and ru, "that which dispels"*). A true, God-illuminated guru is one who, in his attainment of self-mastery, has realized his identity with the omnipresent Spirit. Such a one is uniquely qualified to lead the seeker on their inward journey toward perfection.

"The blind cannot lead the blind. Only a master who knows God may rightly teach others about Him. To regain one's divinity, one must have such a master or guru. He who faithfully follows a true guru becomes like him, for the guru helps to elevate the disciple to his level of realization". The guru-disciple relationship is the highest expression of friendship, based on unconditional divine love and wisdom. In our conjugal life, multiple instances occurred where Thakurji has become visible to us through intelligence, spiritual perception, and being in constant communion with him. It is the loftiest and most sacred of all relationships. When we are moving blindly through the valley of life, stumbling in darkness, we need the help of someone with eyes. We need a Supreme Father who, through his divine love, which is unconditional and has no boundaries, touches the lives of every human being who takes shelter in His kingdom. To follow an enlightened one is the only way out of the great chaos created in the world.

As Purushottam, He has been the guide to define Dharma as that which upholds the life and growth of the individual and the environment surrounding the individual. *Jajan, Jaajan, Istavriti* - These three pillars build a fail-safe environment across the world where we as individuals develop and flourish, inclusive of society. And as Satsangees, when Thakurji is our guide, and He has established

Acharya parampara, it is our utmost duty to follow His commandment and completely surrender (*purna samarpan*) to His wishes. Until that stage is reached, I don't think we can enjoy His bliss; everything depends on your realization. Even in Satyanusaran, Thakur says that Dharma is based upon realization - to be real in nature.

As I conclude, the secret of achieving a life of bliss is hidden between these lines, which was the message given by Sree Sree Thakur -

*Do meditate Mantra on thy Lord dawn and night
Do repeat the Holy Name mentally and meaningfully in all
the movements of daily life,
Do materialize the directions of the Guru in due time
That is Tapas - the way to achievement.*

(Magna Dicta, 68)

EDUCATION



1. Education is not merely some insensate learning – rather, it is a vivacious experience that has significance – otherwise, what is the value of education, and where is its life force?
2. One knows but does not possess the character – to apply it, he is ignorant.
3. If your learning is merely stored in your brain, and you do not know how to apply it –your learning is meaningless.
4. If you cannot express in action what you have heard or read –other than being an enigmatic luxury such hearing and reading shall not be able to create anything in your life; think–what is their utility.
5. Seeing others as one's own –and behaving and acting accordingly–the practice of proper conduct begins from there.
6. Persons whose behavior, action, speech, and knowledge are not significant with God or the Ideal materially, harmoniously, and consistently, —Whatever knowledge they may have that is merely dilettante, education is far away from them.

*Saswati
(Translated from Begali)*

RISING WITH THE SUN

Preeti Marasini, Austin, Texas

“Guru Darshan bin chain na aaye, Mei kaun upay karoon” It's a popular song sung in Satsangs, which means, “Without the sight of my Guru, I am unable to get any relief. What should I do?”. This song resonated with my feelings during the pandemic. The wait ended when we could go back to Deoghar ashram after a gap of 2.5 years.

The day came when we landed in Durgapur and took a cab to Dakshin Durgapur Samadhi of Pujayapad Sree Sree Dada. My heart was hurting, and my eyes were overflowing, yet it was ready to heal as well, knowing Present Acharyadeva wants us to move on. On reaching Deoghar, Getting Darshan of Acharyadeva gave me much-needed relief.

Pujyapad Sree Sree Acharyadeva is the living embodiment of Sree Sree Thakur, and I could feel that every moment. Being in the Holy company of Acharyadeva, it felt like He is the rising sun that illuminates every being, His radiance so powerful that everyone is soaked in it. His love is more caring than that of a mother to her child. I was **mesmerized beyond words.**

As the days passed, Acharyadeva and Thakur Family members arranged meetings with workers from different districts. The focus was to reconnect with people that have taken initiation. Acharyadeva was addressing them in groups, and the beauty being He included the mothers as well in the meeting. I will try to share a few stories that taught me valuable lessons.

In one such meeting, he shared that once he traveled to a mandir and saw the shoes outside were kept so organized and neatly. He said that made Him happy. The beauty of keeping shoes shows discipline in the disciple.

Acharyadeva, while addressing a group, said that sometimes during jaajan, we speak things we don't know. Acharyadeva said that is Thakur speaking - He sighted an example- Once, Nani Da was getting ready to give Diksha to his uncle and aunty. Suddenly his uncle said, how can I take initiation through you? You are younger than me. At this, Nani Da started sharing a story, “After Mahabharat’s war, Yudhisṭhira became the king. Yet Arjun was pained due to separation from his son, Abhimanyu. Looking at this pain, Sri Krishna took Arjun to ‘Chandra Lok.’ There he made Arjun meet his deceased son, Abhimanyu. Arjun cried and begged for his son to come back to him. Abhimanyu said, “O Father, in the past seven lives, I was your father, and you were my son. I had to see your death and endure the pain in each previous life. Can you not endure the pain of losing me in one life?” Hearing this, Arjun was eased and returned back with Sri Krishna. When Nani Da shared this story with his uncle, he said, “Kaka, in this life, I am your nephew, but maybe in a past life, you were my nephew, and I was your uncle.” Hearing this, the uncle took Holy initiation from Nani da. After this story, Acharyadeva mentioned that there is no reference to this incident in the Mahabharat story or any holy scriptures. Still, it was spoken during the jaajan process, which helped complete the initiation process. This is what Sree Sree Thakur does.

Another time Acharyadeva mentioned - during covid times, many people were admitted to the hospitals. And after the patients were saved, they thanked the doctor for saving their life. What did the doctor do? Basically, he gave water (*Saline*) and air (*oxygen*) to the patient; thus patient felt so much gratitude. But all our life, we get free air and water (from nature), but we never thank God or show gratitude for giving us resources to survive. Acharyadeva, with a sweet tone, then said, “Thakur has given us a straightforward way to be Thankful

for everything.” He beautifully expressed how meaningful *Istavriti*(Holy Oblation) and Holy initiation are.

Once, Acharyadeva shared how He spent most of his life trying to please His father. And He used every aspect of Himself to serve Thakur and His father. He shared a story from His life before marriage. He said He had a friend who would easily get charmed by girls. Once Acharyadeva took this friend to Nepal with Him. During their trip, they saw a Western lady at a distance. Acharyadeva then told this friend, ‘*Wait and watch, that the westerner will come herself to Him and ask to be initiated.*’ Younger Him back then, smiled at that westerner a few times while working on something else. Soon, she came to Acharyadeva and asked if she could be initiated. Showcasing this example, Acharyadeva told His friend how to use his weakness to fulfill Thakur’s cause. All the devotees at Natmandap(Hall, where Acharyadeva presides)started laughing at how transparently and innocently He articulated this example of diverting our weakness to fulfill the Lord’s wishes. There were many more simple things he mentioned daily so that our **purpose of life** could be reignited.

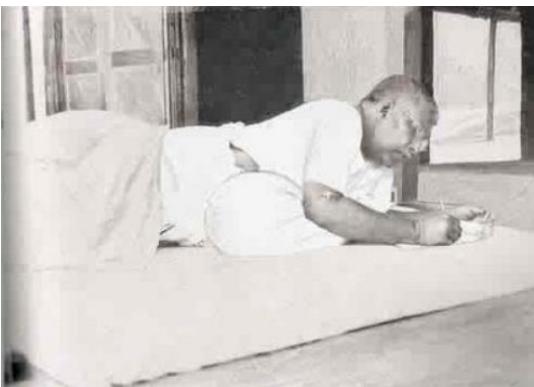
Another small event I wanted to share. It was a busy afternoon, and many visitors had come from far. My younger son was behind me as I tried to make my way through a wave of people to sit inside the Natmandap. I did offer pronaam(*bow down*) and

sat down. Then I realized my son did not make it inside the Natmandap, and all the sliding doors were locked. I started getting a bit concerned as it was very crowded. I asked a young gurubhai(*Brother in faith*) who was inside Natmandap to help bring my son inside. He then asked me, ‘Ma, do you want your son to go as much as you or much further on Thakur’s path.’ As a mother, I answered, of course, I want my son to go further. This young brother said, ‘*you kindly focus on Pujyapad Acharyadeva only. He is your son’s Guru as well. Let your son find His way to the Guru. Don’t worry!*’ Wow, I told myself what a priceless teaching he taught me in one sentence. I did exactly as he told me and focused completely on my Acharyadeva. Soon enough, I saw my younger son make way for himself and came to Natmandap and sat. I will never forget this valuable lesson. Our work as a parent is to give them the environment so that they can find their way to their Guru. Each Aatma(*soul*) has a journey to meet Paramatma (*Supreme Soul*).

As a satsangee, we are responsible for showing that path to all through *Jaajan*.

In the end, I want to say that the power of the rising sun takes humanity from darkness to light. Thus, to make the most of this lifespan, we must learn to rise with the sun.

Bande Purusbottamam!



BASIC FOUNDATION OF REALIZATION

Psycho-physical discernment
of facts,
which reflects
character and conduct
with the morale and intelligence,
is the basic foundation
of realization.

The Message Vol.II

2022 – Satsang America Regional Utsav Gallery

Arizona Annual Utsav



Connecticut Annual Utsav



NEED OF AN IDEAL OR GURU

Jayant Sahoo, Atlanta, Georgia

Sanatana dharma always places the Teacher or Guru at the forefront of everything for a successful, satiable, and ultimate upliftment of the human soul. But often, at times, our materialistic definition of Guru only stays confined to elementary education, barely enhancing our inner self with a progressive level of trust and love relationship with our Guru.

We often hear Pita (*Father*) and Maata (*Mother*) are our first Guru. Then comes the teacher, the trainer, the coach, whatever you call it, but they are all assigned to a specific objective of our lives. What about the daily huddles, the navigation to good vs. bad, the art of avoiding instant gratification, the science of disciplined daily routine, the inner urge of an indestructible soul to unite with God - who can guide us on those activities? Don't we need guidance every step of that journey? A Guru comes in to help solve all of these daily challenges we constantly face in our lives.

At one stage of life, I felt I was successful, had a wonderful family, was financially stable, and everything was all good. But something was missing for which I always felt alone, as if there was no one even though everyone was around me. I took initiation just with a thought process that my kids would get spiritual company without thinking much about myself. But that has transformed my life in many ways where I can focus more and always feel like a fatherly figure watching me, guiding me, and holding my hands during difficult times.

I started doing *Istavriti* (*Holy oblation*) without asking about the purpose and why should I try to know everything, if my Guru asked me to do something, I would do that with complete trust and love.

When I started learning to bicycle, I never asked my Dad why I needed to pedal forward, not backward, and I never asked my Mom when she held my hand to write the first letter. I started doing morning and evening prayer without any question and attended Satsang & Jajan activities.

Like everything in life is teachable, but you have to read the book first, everything is eatable, but you have to cook first, everything is doable, but you have to work first - same way getting Guru's blessing and finding a soulmate in the form of a Parampita (*Supreme Father*) you need to believe first. Rest all fall in place automatically, and life gets a lot easier and more blissful than we can imagine.

We may not be Ekalavyas here to sacrifice our thumbs, but we are the blessed children of Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra, who are full of joy, happiness, kindness, and brotherly/sisterly love to live and manifest Sree Sree Thakur's life principles captured in various holy books (*Satyanusaran*, *Narrer Neeti*, *Swastya Sadachar Sutra*) in our daily routine.

Believe - Love - Practice - and then uplift yourself from HOWs to WOWs. Be a disciple of Sree Sree Thakur for a lifetime and be Blessed with an abundance of love, mercy, and bliss.

"Take to the feet of a true Master Meditate on Holy Name, go on taking the Holy Name, and remain in the company of the devout. Truly I say, you have no more to worry for your elevation", Sree Sree Thakur, Holy Satyanusaran.

Bande Purushottamam!

THE UNSEEN SAVIOUR

Naveen Kalwa, San Diego, CA

I am Naveen Kalwa I am software engineer from San Diego, CA. I want to share my story in the united states. I came to the USA in the year 2016 from Hyderabad, India. I have worked as a contractor in multiple companies in the USA, but every time I was jobless, at least for a couple of months, from one company to another. But in 2020, I lost my contracting job due to COVID. Then I was unemployed for almost seven months and attended so many interviews. Everybody would say we would release an offer letter, but they did not respond in the end. It is challenging to stay in the USA as a family (wife and two kids) without a job. During the same seven months of the jobless period, I attended an interview for one permanent position in CA state. They took seven rounds of interviews and almost confirmed a job when I spoke to the HR team. Again the same ending, they said they want to go with USA citizens, not H1B visa holders. It's already seven months of no job it's tough for me to pay rent and expenses. I lost faith in myself and belief in all the gods. I was in total debt and challenging for me to ask everybody for money to survive here in the USA.

Despite having no job, the primary purpose of staying in the USA was my elder daughter's health condition. She had some developmental delays and needs treatment to cure them. Everybody asked me to go to India; my wife was not interested in moving to India without me. Life was more challenging than in India. I could not buy food for kids at that time when my second daughter was an 8-month baby. My sister used to bring some vegetables for me frequently because of my financial situation. My family's intention

was clear: we must stay in the USA so that my elder daughter could get better treatment for developmental delays. So many sleepless nights for my family and me. After a very challenging seven months, we decided to go to India because I could not survive here anymore.

We stopped praying to all the gods. I told my sister (Padma Vuppala) that we are moving to India for good. The challenging part was how to repay my brother-in-law and all my friends. I took their money to survive in the USA in my jobless months. Then my sister told me to pray to Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra. We have already decided to go to India; as I previously said, we have lost faith in god. But my sister repeatedly forced us to pray wholeheartedly to Sree Sree Thakur. That time I thought seriously, let's try for one last job trial and pray to Sree Sree Thakur. We have started praying to Sree Sree Thakur every minute. Things changed entirely in two weeks. I got a permanent position in San Diego as a Data Engineer, and my wife got a permanent job as a QA Engineer in the same San Diego city. It was my wife's dream to work in the software industry; she tried many times in India but failed to get a job. Now my wife trusts Sree Sree Thakur more than I do. Everything is Sree Sree Thakur's grace; the situation changed within two weeks. Currently, we both are working, and our families are also happy. We sincerely trust that everything happens with Sree Sree Thakur's Blessing if we wholeheartedly connect to HIM.

Bande Purushottamam!

SALVATION OF SOUL

Sandhya Kamble, Clemson, NC

I have many experiences with love lord Shri Thakurji. I want to share here one of the most beautiful experiences of my life.

I shifted from Indiana to North Carolina with my family due to my husband's job. Everything was going well in the beginning. After a few days, I started feeling strange in my house and having scary dreams at night. I woke up every night scared and couldn't get enough sleep. When I try to sleep during the day, I feel like someone is waking me up. I was feeling tired due to lack of sleep. I always felt like someone was beside me and watching me. I was feeling so insecure. I used to think it was better to die than live like this. I used to chant the Holy Name a lot and used to pray both times. Together I started reading the hymn of Hanumanji. But still, no change was visible. There used to be the sound of someone walking in the house and falling utensils. I am falling short of words to describe all the paranormal experiences I went through, it will run into pages. I had no idea what to do.

One day I talked to one of my Guruma about this on the phone. She told me that when an individual's spiritual level is high, the unsatisfied soul in the surrounding environment tries to

reach that human. She further continued that the soul wants to get salvation through such an individual, which is why such things happen. She told me that you should pray for the salvation of that soul. Then that day, I cried a lot sitting in front of Sree Sree Thakurji and started chanting the Holy Name. While chanting, I could see that soul even with my closed eyes. I cried and prayed, sitting in front of Sree Sree Thakur, for the salvation of that soul. I was praying so hard. I felt at that time as if that soul was crying too. After a while, that soul is absorbed in some light in the sky far away. I felt so much peace in my heart, never have I felt so much peace. My whole house seemed to me like a beautiful and quiet place. From that day onwards, I never felt scared and started sleeping well.

By the mercy of my Thakurji, I became free from fear and unrest. Since then, every day after prayer, I pray for every individual's well-being and the peace of the departed soul at Sree Sree Thakur's lotus feet. With this experience, my love and faith in Thakurji have increased and continue to grow. May Thakurji bless us all and keep us engaged in HIS divine work forever.

Bande Purushottamam!

Do never die,
nor cause death;
but resist
death to death

- Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra

AN EVENING SPENT WITH SREE SREE ACHARYADEVA

Paresh Samanta, Fremont, CA

“If you go with pride to examine a true Master, a loving sage or saint, you will only see yourself in Him and will come away deceived. The test is to feel blessed in the Grace of a True Master by approaching Him without prejudice or preconception, with a loving heart, humility, and as little pride as possible”(Sree Sree Thakur, *Holy Satyanusaran*).

It was in the month of December last year, 2021, when I visited Durgapur. I was travelling to India after seven long years. The only reason to visit Durgapur was if I could get a glimpse of Parama Pujyapada Sree Sree Dada.

My two days stay at Durgapur was completely taken care of by Sree Sree Mejho Ma (*wife of Pujyapad Sree Sree Sipai Da*).

I did not have the good fortune to meet or see her before. However, I felt blessed that when she came to know a guru brother was travelling from America to visit Sree Sree Dada and the Thakur family, she did not hesitate to make sure that my two-day visit went smoothly.

Despite the tough time that Sree Sree Thakur’s family was going through then, everyone with whom I met and interacted, including Pujyapad Sipai Da and Pujyapad Binki Da, displayed a tremendous amount of calmness, tranquility, and solidarity. Never by looking at their face could one imagine what a tough time each family member was going through. They still found time to meet with followers and devotees to give them the necessary advice, guidance, and solutions to

their problem.

We experience such an aura and liveliness when we have Acharyasang (*Holy company of Acharyadev*) and spend time with Thakur Paribar(*Family*), which is difficult to describe in a few words.

On day one, I was blessed to get the holy darshan of Pujyapad Sipai Da and Pujyapad Binki Da. I offered Pronami and some presents I brought for them from America. I observed that they accept our offerings with so much love, utter curiosity, and respect.

On day two, later in the evening, I was fortunate to get a chance to visit the hospital where Pujyapada Sree Sree Dada was being treated. Although I was not allowed to go near Pujyapada Sree Sree Dada because of His medical condition, I still could meet with Sree Sree Acharyadeva (*also popularly known as Sree Sree Babai Da*).

From the moment I entered the room until I left that room, I was in a different zone. His stern looks at me the moment I entered the room in the hospital was unforgettable.

He patiently listened to all my questions and gave His blessings in the form of appropriate responses.

Sree Sree Abin Da was also present there. One advice that Sree Abin Da gave to me that left me completely mesmerized – *Think of Sree Sree Acharyadeva as the main body, we are His limbs. Limbs are essential body parts that provide necessary services for*

the body to function effectively’.

All devotees should treat themselves as Sree Sree Acharyadeva’s limbs, which can provide relentless service to Him and to our Love Lord Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra.

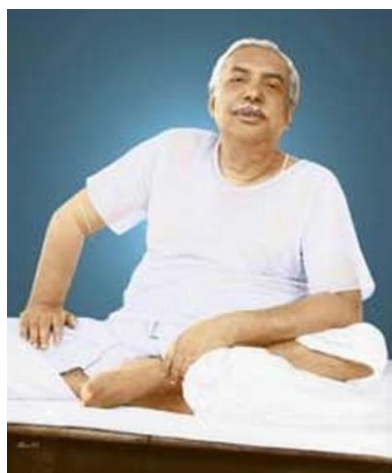
I humbly offered to Sree Sree Acharyadeva a small token of love I brought from the United States. He was curious to ask what was inside the bag.

The next day early morning, I left Durgapur. It was four hours of Bus drive to Kolkata from where I had to catch the flight to my hometown. During that commute, the time spent at Durgapur Sri Mandir with Sree Sree Thakurs family, and interaction with my Guru, spiritual Guide, flashed in front of me.

I felt that every visit to meet with my Guru becomes a lifetime opportunity. We brothers and mothers travelling from America to get a glimpse of Sree Sree Acharyadeva is a huge thing that we as individuals try to cherish lifelong.

Just like we need Sree Sree Acharyadeva in our life, He also looks forward to meeting with His devotees and followers. A true devotee feels complete and elated when he meets his Guru, with His family, and likewise, our Guru feels the same when He meets with his ardent devotees.

Bande Purushottamam!



BE CONCENTRIC

Be concentric
and serve thy Love accordingly
with every progressive go,
with every loving urge,
and have bliss-
the wine of life.

The Message Vol.II

তোমায় পেয়ে দয়াল আবার অতনু ঘোষ, মন্ট্রিয়াল, কানাডা

তোমায় পেয়ে দয়াল আবার
বাঁচতে ভালো লাগে
বাঁচা বাড়াই মূল ধর্ম
কেউ বলেনি আগে

তোমার রাতুল চরণ তলে
কাটুক সারা জীবন
তোমায় নিয়েই মাতাল আজি
সকল বিশ্ব ভুবন

সন্তান স্নেহে আগলে রাখো
বিপদ পারেনা ছুঁতে
কত বাড়ই তো এসে চলে গেলো
কী এসে জয় তাতে

তোমার কথাই বলি যেন
তোমার কাজই করি
যে যা বলে বলুক লোকে
এ পথ হতে না সরি

তোমার প্রেমের আভা দয়াল
ছড়াক জগৎময়
কাটুক সকল দুঃখ বেদনা
মিটুক সকল ভয়

COSMIC CONSCIOUSNESS AND OUR SREE SREE THAKUR

Manisha Mohanty, Columbus, IN

Cosmic consciousness consists of two words. They are "cosmic" and "consciousness." Cosmic is anything related to the universe or cosmos, especially things very distinct from the Earth. Consciousness is the awareness or perception of something by a person. In this field of consciousness lies memories of previous incarnations, previous lives, the future lives, and in special cases, it expands back to the beginning of time and creation. In extraordinary circumstances, people can explore the whole universe by just reaching out to their cosmic consciousness. After the soul departs from the body, it begins its' journey through the entire universe. Some people remember the memories they make while they are travelling through the universe to their next body. Due to this reason, certain people can tour the whole cosmos without even traveling! These memories that are engaged in your cosmic consciousness are called cosmic memories, but Sree Sree Thakur calls them eternal memories. Due to their cosmic consciousness, many Saints and Sages can access these memories.

In simple words, cosmic memory is the memory of a series of lives. But a sentence can't describe the vast meaning of cosmic memory. Cosmic memory can't occupy a physical brain because there is no physical connection between incarnations. Instead, these memories are imprisoned in the vast field of consciousness.

Cosmic Memories can be accessed by anyone who has deep insights about the Creator and the Created. Gifted individuals can access their cosmic memories due to their super consciousness. In *Alochana Prasange Volume 3, 28.3.1942*, Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra looked up to the sky and said that He has a home everywhere, even beyond the universe. Then, Late

Prafulla Da asked Sree Sree Thakur how He knew about these places, because it was impossible for someone to visualize things that were so far away. In response, Sree Sree Thakur said that it is not impossible. You have to make sure that you have a very sharp eyesight and thought process. To make it easier to understand Sree Sree Thakur shared an example. He said that when you see a body of water, you can't see the bacteria in it. However, when you use a microscope, you can discern all the bacteria that are present in the water. Our eyesight should be as sharp as the microscope to accomplish our goal of visualizing our eternal memory. In order to make our eyesight and thought process sharp, we have to enrich our being and becoming. But how do we enrich our being and becoming? When we have a living ideal in our life, and we follow him in every second and every aspect of our life, then generation by generation, somebody will be born with the power to visualize his eternal memories. But that is only possible when we do "Sadhana." What is Sadhana? In my understanding, Sadhana is our devotion to our living ideal. It is when we follow him in every nanosecond and in every aspect of our lives. In simple words, "Sadhana" is when we follow our living ideal to the full extent. When the "Sadhana" passes from one generation to another, then somebody will come who has the ability to visualize and feel his eternal memories. That is why Sree Sree Thakur advised us to build a university that will nourish the students' life-building qualities.

Here on our planet Earth, humans face many problems. Climate change, pollution, deforestation, epidemics, and futile diseases are examples of such problems. Reasons like these limit the amount of time humans have on this planet. So, space agencies worldwide are trying to

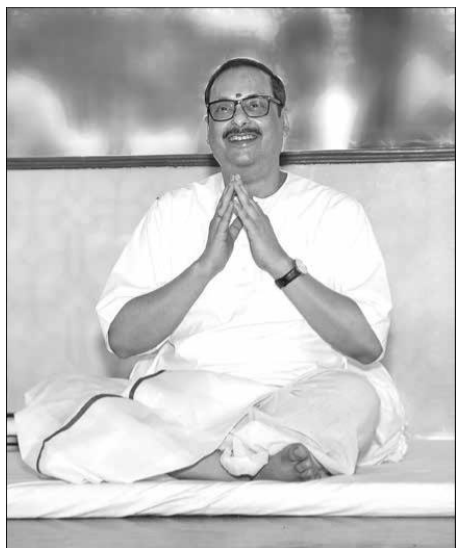
find suitable planets for human life to sustain in. But space research isn't the only way to relocate to another safe planet. The vision of philosophers and Saints can help us too. So to have the vision of Philosophers, we should have an ideal-centric life.

According to an anthology book called the "Cosmic Cradle" by Elizabeth M. Carman and Neil J. Carman " *Sree Sree Thakur, Anukulchandra recalls how a prime point let itself explode into millions of hyper atoms. Each hyper atom then bursts into millions of super-hyper atoms resulting in an uncut indivisible physically inconceivable point.*" In these two sentences, Sree Sree Thakur has described how he witnessed the Big Bang theory in great detail. Thakur Anukulchandra also witnessed, "*The ultimate point-the Cosmic Soul-create an infinity of beings out of itself like thousands of sparks coming from a fire. The souls were destined to live through a series of lives so long as they remained subject to the illusion of personal individuality.*" Here Sree Sree Thakur has described how HE witnessed the souls of every being formed from the Cosmic Soul, and how each soul will live through a series of lives. This is yet to be proved

by science, but it's already been confirmed by spiritual leaders such as Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra. But, how do spiritual leaders such as Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra know? There is only one answer, eternal memory. Sree Sree Thakur remembered everything he saw during his traverse through the universe. He had also remembered the multiple human forms he had taken before being bound to the body in which we see him in today. A prince and a cobbler are two of the bodies His soul has been accommodated in.

Cosmic consciousness is like an ocean, and my knowledge about it is like a drop in a teacup. Understanding it is like figuring out how to time travel. Not much is known about cosmic consciousness, which results in very little information being disclosed about it. But one thing is clear: our beloved Sree Sree Thakur has eternal memory which enables HIM to possess Cosmic Consciousness.

Bande Purushottamam!



SPIRITUALISM AS I MEAN

Spiritualism is investigation and
invention of the hows
and whys by which matter extends
and grows—
to the acceleration of
our Being and Becoming !

- Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra