

### 13. The inner temple

TWELVE years ago, I remember, we had a gathering of the people of Bukkapatnam here in this temple, in connection with the starting of a High School for this town. The school was started and, thereafter, I have come often but, every time, since the school is outside the town, I have been coming to the outskirts only! I am glad I have again come into the town today, to this very temple in order to light another lamp, for the benefit of this place.

The group of young men who collected the funds needed for the illumination of this ancient Temple of Lakshminarayan struggled hard indeed, as their Report indicates. After all, a single devoted donor could have finished the job. The temple is the repository of *Sanaathana Dharma* (eternal universal religion); it is the heart and soul of a village. In former days, a newcomer would ask, "Have you a temple in this village?" and, if the answer is "No," he will move on to some other village which has one. Today, however, the question has become, "Have you a cinema hall in this village?" The conservation and promotion of all the traditional institutions and customs and habits have become imperative and I am glad that in this place, the young men have taken the lead and are proving good examples to the elders.

#### Knowledge is growing, but wisdom lags

I shall switch on the electric lights, in a few moments but, remember, it is not the Lord within Temple that need illumination, it is the worshipper. This material temple of stone and mortar might be lit up by means of a few bulbs, but really speaking, every one is a moving temple with the Lord installed in the shrine of the heart. That shrine has to shine bright and clear; now it is plunged in the darkness of Falsehood, Injustice, Cruelty and Pride; it is infested by poisonous nocturnal birds of prey. The lighting up of this structure is but the symbol of the illumination of the heart, the destruction of the darkness of *ahamkara* and *ajnaana* (egoism and ignorance) so that the Lord might be revealed in all His Glory.

Latterly, there has been everywhere progress in the material field, schemes and plans to increase prosperity and comforts. Schools, hospitals and factories are multiplying everywhere. But, there is no peace in the heart of man or of society. This is because, there has been no corresponding increase in the moral conduct of man. ^ stick will help a man to walk up an incline, but of what use is it to a person whose legs have become defunct? Material prosperity is the stick and virtue the strength of the feet.

The trouble is that knowledge is growing but wisdom lags. There is an infection of envy, cynicism and conceit everywhere. Man has become the slave of passion and pride. He lets his mind drag him wherever it listeth, though the word Man means "He who has control over *manas*." The control of the mind can be achieved through spiritual discipline and training. To remove dirt from a white cloth, the dhobi soaks it in water, puts in soap flakes, warms the water and beats it on a stone. He does not *make* it white; it is white. He only removes the non-whiteness by a certain process. So too, the *jeeva* (individual soul) is pure; but, it has got soiled. It has to be soaked in Good Conduct and Pure Character; soaped with the Meditation on Godhead; warmed in discriminatory wisdom helped by reason; and beaten on the slab of renunciation. Use the temple and the worship of the Lord done here as per traditional rites for this end. Light is holy, sacred. Do not misuse it for lower ends, but, give it its proper value and engage yourselves in holy pursuit.

### **Take cheerfully all that comes to you**

I was away in Uttar Pradesh from the 5th of last month to the 28th and I found people there, full of devotion and faith. Thousands every day go on pilgrimage to the shrine of Badhri Naaraayana, in spite of the expense and the dangers and difficulties, animated by the *bhakthi* which gives them strength and courage. When you see them, you feel that the country is still green, that the path of God and *Dharma* is not given up and that India is alive and strong.

Moreover, the people there, though they are far away from Puttaparthi do feel the warmth, showing thereby that they are really near, while you here see only the light and are unaware of the warmth. Devotion and faith are the result of culture and not mere physical contiguity. But, I must tell you one thing. The names Puttaparthi and Bukkapatnam, surrounded by these little hills are resounding even in the Himaalayas, and it is up to you to justify that fame and that respect. A life lived in Love and Humility will gain the respect of all and will also be full of Peace. Do not ask of life only joy and happiness, but, take cheerfully all that comes to you. You cannot insist that the doctor gives you only sweet medicines. Have the hardihood to bear sorrow as resignedly as you bear joy. Remember that death is inescapable, that life is but an interlude, that the world is but a caravansarai and, you will get the strength to pass through the pilgrimage of this birth.

*Discourse at Bukkapatnam, 18-7-1961*

*Consider first things first. Then only can the true culture of India be restored to its old vitality.*

*Bhaarath has known how to exploit the mine of Divine Bliss which lies in the heart of man. The seers had said that if the Bhoomaatha, Gomaatha, Nijamaatha and Vedhamaatha---mother-land sacred cow, real mother and Vedhas---are revered and used as best as one can, then one would have happiness here and liberation from the cycle of birth and death.*

*It is because the people of the country followed this path that India has remained India.*

*Sathya Sai Baaba*