



Be Ye Peaceful

Volume XVII





Be Ye Peaceful

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Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra

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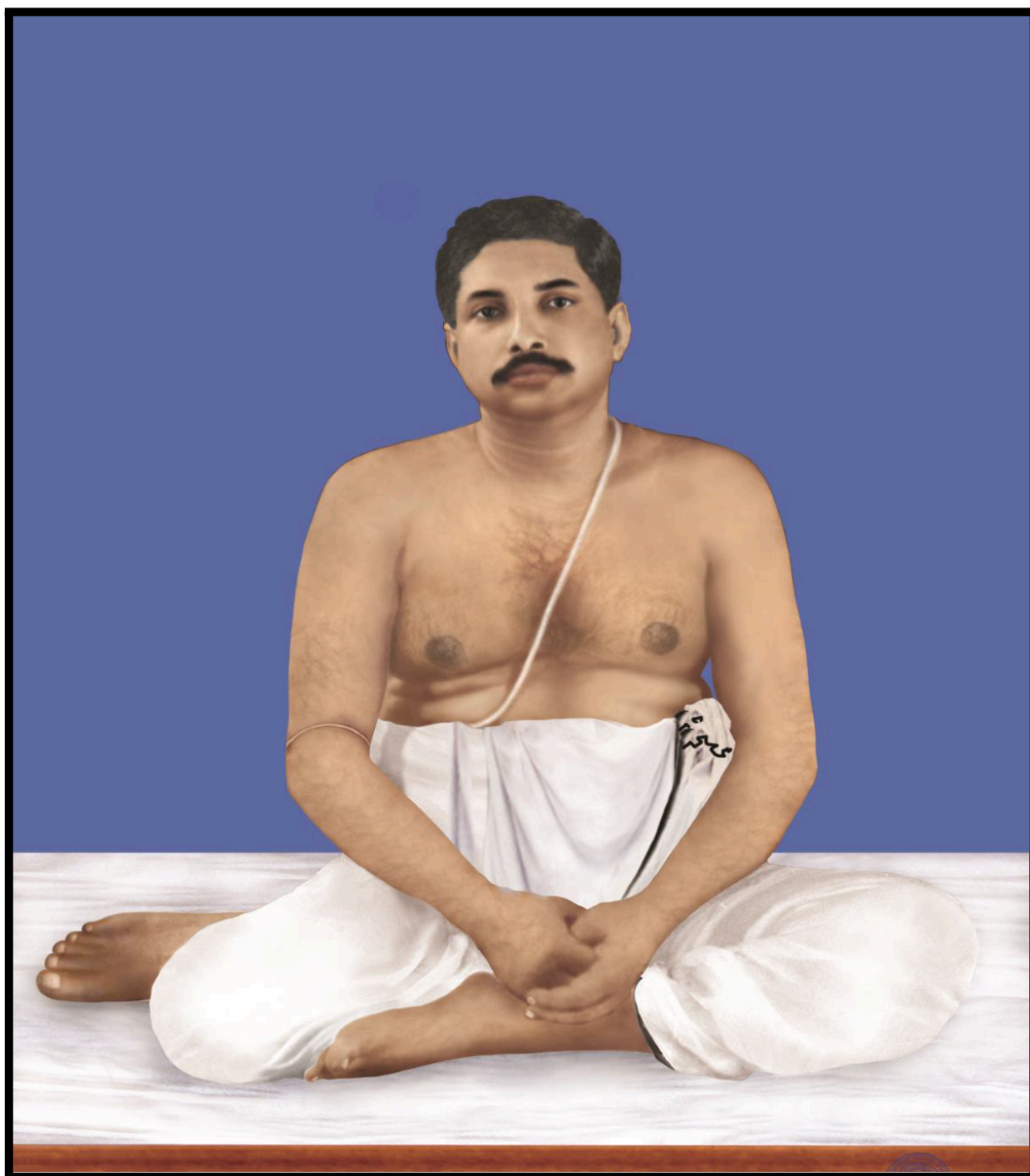
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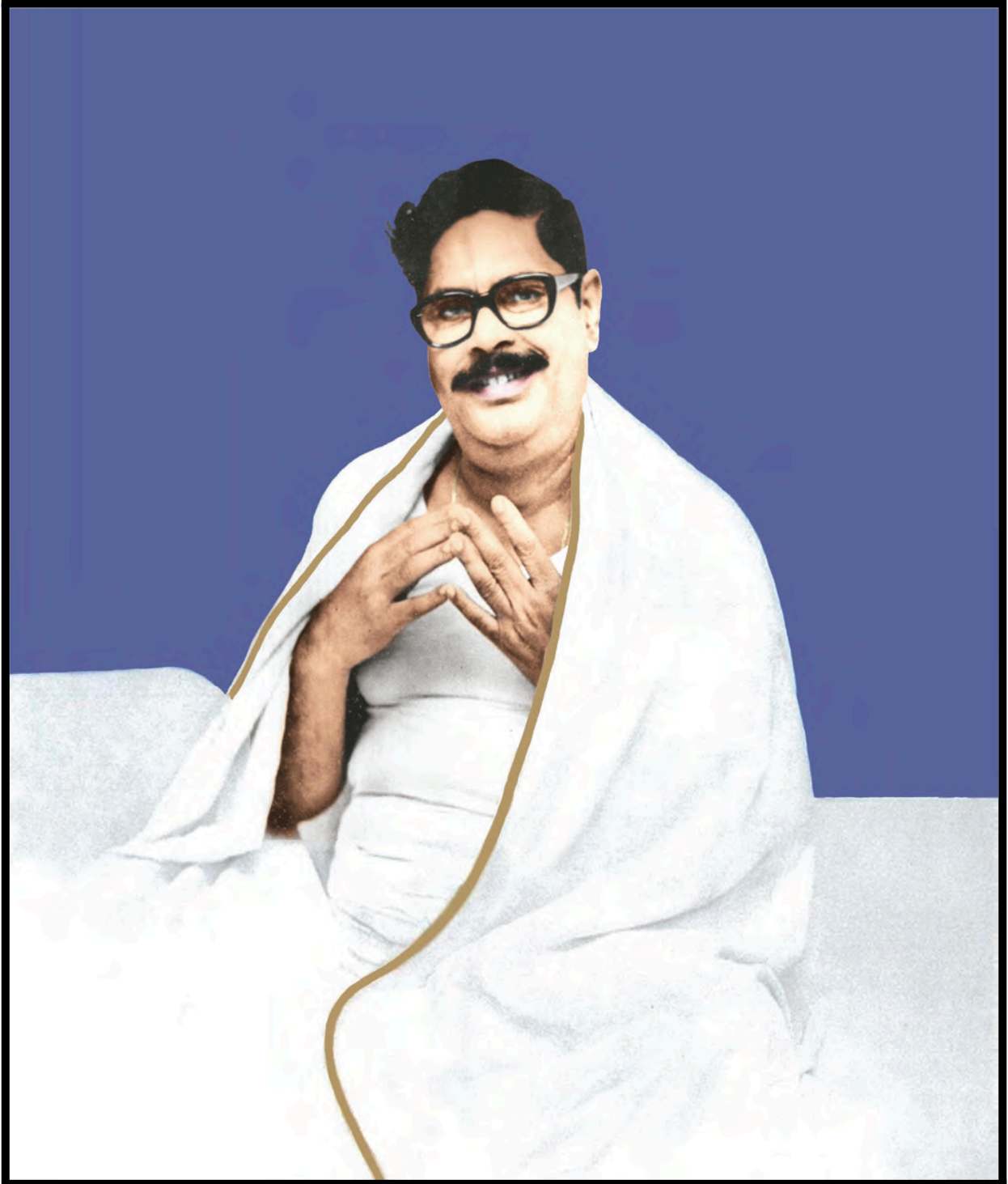
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Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra



Paramaradhya Sree Sree Boroma



Param Puyjapada Sree Sree Borda



Param Pujiyapada Pradhan Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada



Rev Pujoyapada Babai da

Aashirvaani (Blessings) from Acharyadeva

Sree Sree Thakur is our Ideal, — the very centre of existence of all of us. Only by remaining totally adhered to Him with every mighty urge and worshipful-endeavour, serving him piously with unquestioning allegiance, and doing everything for his sake with whole-hearted sincerity and vigour, 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 behaviour. 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 & R.S.

Dada

26.08.2010

Satsang, Deoghar

Editorial

Brothers & Mothers and fellow travellers on the path of immortality,

One more year has gone by and what a year it has been. People young and old and from all walks and paths of life have seen this unprecedented year in so many ways. The initial fear of the coronavirus created a sense of paranoia in phases. Countries after countries and communities after communities were affected and life for millions was all but normal. But we as a species persevered and vaccination against the virus was created in a record time. The impact is still not over and there are big challenges to get back to normal. The world seems to have agreed that the new normal does not have to be like the old normal before the pandemic started.

The rules of hygiene are mostly concentrated on sanitizing hands, wiping the carts or chairs and adorn a mask. While these practices are good they are not sufficient. The principles of hygiene have to be understood deeply and practiced in the physical, mental and spiritual plane. It is bemusing to see how people have adapted so fluidly to the new constraints and their productivity has increased. We have seen many such people attend Satsang on almost a daily basis. Satsangees world over are able to have the holy *darshan* of Param Pujyapad Acharyadev and other revered members of the Thakur family on almost every occasion on multiple virtual channels. This divine opportunity might not have come to the fore if it were not for the pandemic.

One thing has emerged strongly during the year is the pragmatism of Sree Sree Thakur's Ideologies on all aspects of life. His messages have come as a savior to millions in the world already. Sensing the need of the time to come, Pujyapad Sree Sree Dada has enjoined everyone to raise the number of initiations by 35 million more. Amidst all these challenges we see the family of Satsangees compose and sing the glory of the Lord, praising His universal bliss to everyone, fervently speak about His glory and strive to be in a state of *Ananda* (pure enlivening joy).

The world is sweetened at the touch of your divine feet
And illumined with the radiance of your Supreme Beauty

We are happy to bring this edition of the Souvenir in which many people have shared their personal experiences of following Sree Sree Thakur and with the Proadhan Acharyadev Sree Sree Dada. Hope this article will inspire you all to follow the Advent more sincerely and resolve to establish Him and Him alone in life more firmly.

Vande Purushottamam! Salutations to the Paramount Fulfiller!

~ The Editorial team

ভক্তির পথে

পরমপূজ্যপাদ শ্রীশ্রীবিড়দা

(Reprinted from the publication on Centenary celebrations of Sree Sree Thakur)

পরম প্রেমময় শ্রীশ্রীঠাকুর বলেন “যেনাম্বনস্তথান্যেমাং জীবনং বর্ধনাঞ্চাপি ধ্মিয়তে স ধর্ম: ।” আর সত্যই তাই দেখি-যেদিকে ফিরাই আঁখি। মানুষ, জীব, জন্তু, প্রাণী এমন কি চেতনার চিহ্নমাত্র যেখানে আছে সেইখানেই দেখি বেঁচে থাকার, বেড়ে উঠার কী আকৃতি, কোথাও এর ব্যত্যয় নেই। বরং সর্বত্রই একান্ত, সহজ ও স্বতঃস্ফূর্ত নিত্য, শাস্ত্র, সনাতন। আর এই হ'ল ধর্ম। ধর্ম তাই, দুই বা দশ রকম হয় না। রকমারি হয় শুধু আচরণে, অনুভূতিতে, পরিপালনে।

পরমহংসদেব বলতেন “কলিতে জীব অল্পগত প্রাণ। 'ব্রহ্ম সত্য'-'জগৎ মিথ্যা', কেমন ক'রে বোধ হবে? সে বোধ দেহবুদ্ধি না গেলে হয় না। তাই ভক্তিযোগ কলির পক্ষে ভাল-সহজ। আর দ্যাখ -গুণ্গারই ঢেউ, ঢেউ-এর গঙ্গা কেউ বলে না। 'আমিই সেই'-এ অভিমান ভাল নয়। দেহাত্মবুদ্ধি থাকতে যে এ অভিমান করে-তার বিশেষ হানি হয়; এগুতে পারে না- ক্রমে অধঃপতন হয়।”

এই 'আমি' না ম'লে জঞ্জাল কিছুতেই ঘোচে না। একান্তই যখন 'আমি', যায় না-তখন সে শালাকে 'দাস আমি' হ'য়ে থাকতে হয়। ঈশ্বরের দাস-প্রভুর দাস-ইষ্টির দাস হয়েই তার গর্ব-তার অহংকার। গুরুরূপী ভগবানে বা ইষ্টে সকল মনপ্রাণ ঢেলে দিয়ে ভক্ত 'আমি' কে চরিতার্থ করে। 'মূর্ত ইষ্ট মঙ্গলময়' -সে কথা তার অন্তরের গভীরে প্রবেশ করে। ইষ্টদেবের সেবায়, তাঁর আদেশ পালনে, মুখে হাসি ফোটানতে, তাঁর নাম কীর্তনে, মহিমা প্রচারে আর আনন্দের, পুলকের অবধি থাকে না।

ভক্ত তখন আকুল উদাম হয়ে ওঠে তার প্রিয়তমের প্রতিটি ইচ্ছা পূরণের জন্য। তিনি যদি মুখ ফুটে কারও কাছে কিছু চান-সে হয়ে ওঠে আনন্দে বিভোর, দেবার অদম্য আকৃতি তার শরীরের প্রতি অণু-পরমাণুকে কর্মচঞ্চল, উদাম করে তোলে-বেড়ে যায় তার কর্মশক্তি অটুট অব্যাহত গতিতে। ভক্ত বোঝে-তিনি চান তাঁর প্রয়োজন পূরণের জন্য নয়-ভক্তজীবন সার্থক সাফল্যে ভ'রে দেবার জন্যই। ভক্ত আকুল আকৃতি নিয়ে তাকিয়ে থাকে তার মুখের দিকে-কখন তাঁর কি প্রয়োজন হ'বে, আর কেমন ক'রে সে তাঁর সেই প্রয়োজন পূরণ ক'রে ধন্য, সার্থক, কৃতকৃতার্থ হবে। ভগবান যীশু বলেছেন-“And every one that hath forsaken houses, brethren or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, lands for my name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold and shall inherit everlasting life.”

তাই ব'লে কিছু পাওয়ার প্রত্যাশা রেখে তাঁকে কিছু দিতে যেতে নেই-সে দেওয়ায় তাঁকেও ব্যথা দেয়, নিজের পাওয়ার পথও অবরুদ্ধ হয়। কারণ, তার ভেতরে অনুরাগ থাকে না, থাকে স্বার্থবুদ্ধি। তাঁর প্রীতি, তাঁর তুষ্টি, তাঁর পুষ্টিই হবে ভক্তহৃদয়ের একমাত্র কাম্য আর তাতেই তার নিজেরও প্রীতি, তুষ্টি, তুষ্টি ও পুষ্টি-সে যে নিজেকে তাঁরই ভেতরে নিমজ্জিত ক'রে দিয়েছে।

প্রবল অনুরাগের টানে মানুষ উন্মাদ হয়ে ছুটে আসে তার প্রিয়পরমের কাছে - থাকে না অর্থের দুশ্চিন্তা, থাকে না অভাব, অভিযোগ, অসুবিধা, অসুস্থতার চিন্তায় কোন বাধাই তাকে ঠেকিয়ে রাখতে পারে না। বাংলার রাজনন্দন প্রেমপাগল রঘুনাথ তাই পিতার রক্তচক্ষু অবহেলা ক'রে সহস্র প্রহরীর সতর্ক দৃষ্টি এড়িয়েও ছুটে গিয়েছিল নীলাচলে মহাপ্রভুর সন্দর্শনে - ১৮ দিনের দীর্ঘ পথ ১২ দিনে অতিক্রম ক'রে। এর মধ্যে আবার ৯ দিন তার ভাগ্যে জলম্পর্শ করার সুযোগও ঘটে নাই, সে চিন্তাও তার মনে আসে নাই একবারও। এইতো প্রেম - পাথেয়ের চিন্তা নাই, খাদ্যের চিন্তা নাই, ইস্টনেশায় মাতোয়ারা! এই প্রেমই ভক্তকে রাজরাজেশ্বরের সান্নিধ্যে উপনীত করে-তার অন্তরে তিনি জাগ্রত হ'য়ে ওঠেন - সে সর্ব ঐশ্বর্যের অধিকারী হয়। ইষ্টের কাজ করে সে শুধু তাঁর কাজ করার আনন্দেই-অন্য কোন চাহিদাই তার থাকে না।

কাজ যা কিছু করি - সে তাঁরই কাজ। ভক্ত আমি-আমার ইষ্টের কাজ-বিন্দুমাত্র ফাঁকি দেওয়া বা হেলা করার অবকাশ নেই। কারণ 'ভক্ত আমি' ক্ষুণ্ণ হবে-ভাবগরাহী জনার্দন ব্যথা পাবেন। ফলাকাঙ্ক্ষা ক'রে যে কর্ম - চাওয়া নিয়ে যে দেওয়া-সে তো স্বার্থ-বুদ্ধির বা তথাকথিত ব্যবসা-বুদ্ধির অভিব্যক্তি। তাতে নিজের বৃত্তিরই পুষ্টি হয়-আত্মার পুষ্টি হয় না। প্রেমাস্পদ তাই চান, ভক্তকে কামনা-বর্জিত দানের আনন্দ উপভোগ করবার সুযোগ দেবার জন্য। সত্যানুসরণে শ্রীশ্রীঠাকুর ব'লেছেন-“যিনি কাতরভাবে তোমার দান গ্রহণ করেন, গুরুরূপে তিনি তোমার হৃদয়ে দয়াভাবের উদ্বোধন করেন; অতএব কৃতজ্ঞ হও!” এই কৃতজ্ঞতাই মানুষের হৃদয় প্রশস্ত করে-রুদ্ধ দ্বার উন্মুক্ত ক'রে দেয়। দেবার পেছনেই যদি পাওয়ার আশা থাকে - তা হ'লে তা হয় না। প্রকৃত ভক্ত

যে-ব্যথা তাকে বিচলিত তো করেই না - বরং আনন্দিতই ক'রে তোলে । ব্যথার মধ্যেও সে অনুভব করে তার প্রিয়তমের মঙ্গলেচ্ছা।
তখন সে আনন্দে প্রার্থনা জানায়-

“তুমি যদি বোঝ ভাল
যত পার দুঃখ ঢাল
ব্যথার পরশে ভরে' দিয়ে হিয়া
আমারেই ভালবাসিও।”

অনুরাগী ভক্তই বলতে পারে-

“দুঃখ ব্যথা সবই প্রভু তোমারই যে দান
তাইতে বুদ্ধি তাদের চুমোয় অবশ করে প্রাণ ।”

অমনই সহজভাবে জীবনটাকে গ্রহণ করতে না পারলে-জীবনের প্রতিটি মুহূর্ত তাঁর রঙে রাঙ্গিয়ে তুলতে না পারলে, সার্থকতা আসে না । সকামকর্মে কামনার নিবৃত্তি হয় না। কামনার নিবৃত্তি হয় নিষ্কাম কর্মে । দুঃখ ব্যথাকে অগ্রাহ্য ক'রে তাঁরই স্বার্থপ্রতিষ্ঠার আকৃতিতে কাজ করলে পাওয়াও তার নিঃসন্দেহে অব্যাহত হ'য়ে ওঠে-পাওয়ার প্রাচুর্য্যে সপারিপার্শ্বিক সে উচ্ছল হয়ে ওঠে । তখনই দেখা যায়-“ভগবান যব দেতা, তব ছপ্পর ফোড়কে দেতা ”। তাই শ্রীশ্রীঠাকুর বলেছেন-“দিয়ে দাও, নিজের জন্য কিছু চেও না, দেখবে, সব তোমার হ'য়ে যাচ্ছে ।” এই না চেয়ে তাঁকে দেওয়ার মধ্য দিয়েই-আশা না রেখে তাঁর উদ্দেশ্যে করার মধ্য দিয়েই নিষ্কাম কর্ম অভ্যস্ত হয় । ফলে কর্মশক্তি ও দক্ষতা বাড়ে-ফললাভও হয়, ইষ্টানুরাগ বাড়ে-আরোতর রকমে ।

মানুষ সান্ত, সসীম । তাই অনন্ত, অসীম, অব্যক্ত, নির্বিশেষ, নির্বিকার ভগবান ব্যক্ত, সবিশেষ, সাকার হ'য়ে মানুষের মাঝে নেমে আসেন জীবন্ত আদর্শরূপে, গুরুরূপে, চালকরূপে ।

এ-দুনিয়ায় কেউই খেয়ালী বিধাতার অনর্থক সৃষ্টি নয়। কেউই অবাঞ্ছিত নয়, অতিরিক্ত নয়। প্রত্যেকেরই কিছু না কিছু বিশিষ্টতা আছে, আর সেই জনাই এই বিশাল বিপুল বিশ্বে একত্বের মধ্য বহুত্বের এমন বিচিত্র সমাবেশ । মানুষের এই বিশিষ্টতা, এই ব্যক্তিবৈশিষ্ট্য নির্ভুলভাবে তাঁরই কাছে ধরা পড়ে - তিনি সব জানেন । আর জানেন ব'লেই তাতে সতত নিযুক্ত যে ভক্ত তা'কে সেই পথে চালনা করেন । আর এমনি ক'রে নিষ্কাম ইষ্টপ্রাণ ভক্ত ইচ্ছা কর্মের দ্বারা তার সকল বৃত্তির সর্বসীনস্ফূর্তি ও পরিণতি, সামঞ্জস্য ও চরিতার্থতা লাভ করে । একেই বলে সত্যিকারের সমৃদ্ধি ।

আর এমনতরো রকমে চলতে চলতে সেই অফুরন্ত উচ্ছল প্রেমসিন্ধুর এক বিন্দু অমৃতবারি আশ্রাদনের সৌভাগ্য যার হয়েছে - তার 'তুমি' অস্তিত্বেরও বিলুপ্তি নেই। 'কানু হেন গুণবিধি কারে দিয়ে যাব' - এই তার শ্রদ্ধা । কাকুতি করে বলে - “আমেরাচান জানতে আমার পরান তুমি”

আবার কখনো কখনো আনন্দ বিরহে বিবশতনু হয়ে - 'নাভিনন্দামি মরণম নাভিনন্দামি জীবিতম' । আনন্দের সাগরে যেমন ভাসছে । মরমের পুলকিত হর্ষে ভক্ত প্রাণ গাইছে -

“বসো মৌরৈ নৈনন মঁ নন্দলাল।
মৌহনী মূরতি সাংবরি সূরতি, নৈণা বনে বিসাল।
অধর সুধারস মুরলী রাজত, ৩২ বৈজন্তী-মাল।।”

প্রেমের রঙে রাঙ্গা, নামের মদে মাতাল । ভক্ত চিত্ত নিঃশঙ্ক নির্ভয়তায় শুধু বলে -

“বন্ধু হে আর কি ছাড়িয়া দিব
এ বুক চিরিয়া যেখানে পরান
সেখানে তোমারে খোব ।”

হৃদয়ের মধ্যে রাখতে পারলেই আর হারাবার ভয় নেই - আনন্দেরও শেষ নেই, মৃত্যুর ও অর্থ নেই । অস্তিত্বের সমুচ্ছল ছবি ।

শেষের সেদিন ভয়ঙ্কর

পরম পূজ্যপাদ আচার্যদেব শ্রী শ্রী দাদা
Param Pujiyapad Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada

(Reprinted from Satwati <TODO>)

ফাঁকি দিয়েই ঘুরিস ভবে প্রবঞ্চনায় ভুলিয়ে লোকে
কথার তোড়ে মাতিয়ে সবে আত্মপ্রতিষ্ঠারই ঝোঁকে,
এমনি করেই বেলা গেল সন্ধ্যা-ছায়ায় ভরল ঘর ;
এখনও তুই চেতনহারা ? শেষের সেদিন ভয়ঙ্কর ।

নিত্য অহংমত্ত যারা গেছে চলে এমন কত -
কেরদানিতে কাঁপিয়ে ধরা চলত যারা অবিরত,
গুরুগিরির মোহে ছুটিস গরুর মতন নিরস্তর,
তোর খেয়াতে মাঝিই যে নেই ; শেষের সেদিন ভয়ঙ্কর ।

পিছু পিছু চলছে যারা নিত্য নিয়ে মাথায় তোরে
মিষ্টি কথায় ভুলিয়ে ভাবিস অনন্তকাল রাখবি ধরে ?
ডুববি যখন শুনবি ওদের অভিশাপের কলস্বর
হাতটি ধরার থাকবে না কেউ : শেষের সেদিন ভয়ঙ্কর ।

ইষ্ট ছেড়ে ইষ্ট সেজে ছড়িয়ে বাহার ভাবিস নাকি
বাহার দেখেই ভুলবে বিধি, পারবে নাকো ধরতে ফাঁকি ?
সত্তা জুড়ে জাগছে ভাঙ্গন, জাগছে যে এ প্রলয় ঝড়
পারিস যদি ফের এখনও : শেষের সেদিন ভয়ঙ্কর ।

ঈশের বিষাগ উঠল বেজে, কাল ফণী তোর মাথার পরে,
মরণ তরে করছে তাড়া বাচবি এবার কেমন করে ?
দ্রোহ-লোভের বাঁধন ছিড়ে ইষ্টতপে ঝোঁপিয়ে পড়
নইলে গতি কুন্তীপাকে : শেষের সেদিন ভয়ঙ্কর ।

Balance through Achievements and Accomplishments

Manoj Patra (SPR)
California, USA

The Summer Olympics of 2020 happened this year, that is in 2021 the postponement of the mightiest sports event of the world due to the pandemic caused by the coronavirus. An event where the best of best in every known field of sport compete was also not spared by a microscopic virus. These athletes are the best mankind knows about and yet the virus seemed to have an upper edge.

Olympics 2020-21 was different from those in the yesteryears in many ways. The number of players outnumbered the spectators by a big margin. Even the inaugural ceremony that normally draws a huge crowd had a scanty audience. Very advanced technology was used and the performance of the Artificial Intelligence driven drones that created many patterns including the world map with shimmering light without any controlling signal by anyone from ground was a spectacle to watch. It was both impressive and unnerving at the same time. Many wonder what havoc could play if this technology were to fall into the wrong hands ever. How do we enhance the ability to judge and differentiate the right from the wrong? As the threat from a virus to wipeout mankind is being addressed the menace of extermination of mankind by ingenious stupidity looms large.

The victory ceremonies this time were with less fanfare. With all the restrictions of social distancing the winners had to put the medal on themselves. A player could not felicitate another and perhaps the idea to use robots for this honor did not strike the officials. We made a browser carousel to show the video snippets of these awards ceremonies. As I did some sentiment analysis (video processing) of the winners, an interesting pattern was noticeable. In the individual events (athletics, swimming etc) all gold

medalists appeared very happy. So did the bronze medalists. However, a majority of the silver medalists, that is more than $\frac{2}{3}$, appeared grim and gloomy. Some actually were crestfallen and broke down right on the victory stand. Well a silver medal is a higher reward than a bronze. Why would a silver medal winner be less happy than a bronze medal winner? Some psychologists call this phenomenon contrafactual conditioning. Completitos world over are conditioned to feel happy following a victory and sad following a defeat. A bronze is still won after a victory however a silver is won after a defeat in the finals. But then not everyone feels like this, some are happy and jubilant about winning a silver medal too.

At the turn of the century the latest prophet for mankind incarnated and the Advent wrote by His own hands, "Nature reproaches those who would approach the Unsensed – with neglect and rejection of what is Sensed". That is, one who disregards or ignores what is present right at the moment and favors what is imaginary cannot expect benevolence from the forces of nature. The ability to spring back to normalcy after a stretch or strain is called elasticity. Thus those who display emotional elasticity become normal after any upheaval quickly. Some players display this and are thus happy with a silver. Some others are happy to yield to another they consider as worthy of losing to. They do not see themselves only as competitors but as players.

In Dec 2012 in a cross country race in Spain, runner Ivan Anaya was in second position. He saw the inexperienced runner from Kenya Abel Mutai had stopped 10 m short of the finish line in a state of confusion hearing the cheering from the spectators. Rather than rushing to the finish line

and claiming gold he pushed the young player to the finish line and made him win the deserving gold. He became a hero for millions and his face beamed on the victory stand. Honesty is a great quality of sportsmanship.

One has to therefore condition oneself to live in the present moment. It is said that the past is history, the future a mystery and the present a gift. Those who learn the art to live in the moment and make the best of current time lay the foundation for a happy future. Accepting what is right in front of us, that is Seen and perceptible rather than cloaking it with something Unseen is the way to overcome one's ignorance. When the current Prophet arrives associating with Him alone can illuminate the path and drive away the darkness.

Normal people feel that those who win gold are happy then and perhaps later. And those who win multiple golds say across olympic events are happy forever afterwards. Well nothing is farther from the truth than this. In a recent documentary titled the Weight of Gold about 12 athletes from US all of who have won multiple gold across 3-4 Olympics have admitted to feeling lonely afterwards, a sense of emptiness in life that devours them from within. Swamped by the single point focus to be crowned with the medal the players have either burned relationships or lost the art to be acceptable in their own circles. Some of them feel dejected and depressed. They admit that the weight of Gold is heavy to carry and wonder if it was worth the effort, time to just be a competitor throughout life. These athletes reach the peak of zenith at a young age and more than half the lifetime is left beyond that peak.

Not every Gold medalist has to feel so lonely. Some are able to relish the Gold long after it is won. In the event of high jump (Summer Olympics 2021) the player from Qatar, Mutaz Essa Barshim was given the option for a play off after the competitor from Italy Tamberi withdrew

following a recurrence of his injury. Both had cleared 2.37 m and both failed to clear 2.39 m in 3 attempts. Rather than accepting the gold following a withdrawal by his worthy competitor he chose to share the Gold without any qualms. He shared the gold becoming a real hero. To be willing to make others greater and higher even if they are competitors makes one great. Sree Sree Thakur would say,

সবাই কে বড় করবি যত
ততই বড় হবি রে তুই
বড় হবার একটি পথ
একটি ছাড়া নাইটি দুই

*To the extent you make others grow,
Proportional to that grows one,
This is the only way for sustained growth,
Leaving this path there's none*

The same attributes of dedication, discipline, perseverance that make a sports person an Olympic winner can be applied to a higher goal in life such that the pursuit to reach the peak continues through life. It is observed that players that participate in team sports like soccer or hockey normally display a much better well being even after peaking in their sporting career as they realize that they are best only due to the performance of others. Since man is a social being it is but logical that one inculcates the cooperative spirit right in one's bones.

Not just Sportsmen, people from all walks of life when they focus only on achieving success in a field may often find themselves at a loss in other fields. Very successful professionals may have their personal or family life in tatters. Very successful in business and rich in capital may score very poorly in ethics and fail to be a role model for their own children. Such imbalance achievement is no different from eccentricity in one's life. So how does one find the balance? How can people carry the burden of success with ease?

There is no easier path than following the Advent of the age as one's Ideal in life. When a disciple starts following Him, striving to understand Him and carrying out His instructions becomes primary, the entire life becomes a worthy mission. Every moment of life becomes precious. Every

milestone accomplished makes one more humble to look at the next milestone with more aspiration and stronger faith. As long as the illumined understands the light is merely being reflected and the source of radiance is the Master, the burden of achievements remains light to carry.



Gold Medal

*Painting by Miska Ghosh,
Student of Grade 2, California, USA*

The walk of life ...

Manoj Nanda (SPR)
New Jersey, USA

Life is to enjoy it to its full potential. We all want to wake up with excitement, complete our job to the best of our knowledge, stay excited, happy and healthy, share good relationships with others, and want to be a good citizen and after all we all want to be a good human being. We want to be appreciated by others. When all these happen in life progressively with greater degree we get a sense that we are successful. We want more and more such things from life. And in this race of becoming we have different standards to measure. Why am I saying so? We must have experienced that a few people will agree that a person is successful while another group of people may see there is still scope to grow in that person. Isn't it? Even in a family it takes so many arguments and discussions to agree on certain points. Our perspective is limited to knowledge, experience and association. We all have come across a lot of information through people, books, association and social media, still we sometimes think there is an emptiness in life irrespective of how well our achievements are. Do we have knowledge about how to fill that space? Believe me we all need a guide in life to make us realize His potential and enjoy this to the fullest. People who believe in God still stay hopeful but we still need someone to hold our hand and help us. Whose love should conquer all others' love, a whole smile should cheer our heart, whose inspiration should make us feel like we do not need any other's inspiration, whose opinion should be blindly believed. Going to whom a person becomes free from ego. And when we see the success in His perspective all are in the process of becoming and no one has achieved perfection. Because perfection is limitless and can not be achieved, All that we can do is progressively experience it and keep growing.

Our intelligence, emotion and wisdom builds our potential to live a great life however when we are attached to a living ideal or true guide, the scope of our own potential expands and we become better human beings.

An ideal or guide is that person who has taken a special place in our heart. whom we should respect, believe, trust and follow, A true ideal or guide possesses three primary characteristics.

Follow, without hesitation, Him who is possessor of love. You shall surely achieve your good!

Follow only Him who tries by strength, skill or tact for the welfare of all created beings. You shall surely achieve your good!

Follow Him alone who does not cause grief to anyone in any way, yet doesn't indulge evil. You Shall achieve your good!

(Sree Sree Thakur - Satyanusaran)

When a person starts adhering to an ideal, he/she becomes unstoppable on the path of being and becoming. I do not know how to worship God who lives somewhere in the sky. I want to keep him inside me and want to share all the good and bad that happens to me in life. I want to feel him. I believe he is present in His own creation. All that resources available to me for free makes me believe in His constant presence around me. When I get rewarded for something good, I am grateful to Him. When I learn from my mistakes and try to avoid making a new one I feel he is holding my hand. When we get happiness, care and love from others I feel His mercy.

I feel blessed to be part of a family who follows a guide. Do you also feel the same way?

Experiencing Heaven On Earth

Gouri Shankar Dev (SPR)

Chandler, Arizona, USA

My soul is filled with immense joy and fear of love prevails as I write a small paragraph about the ONE, who is not only the reason for my existence, but the whole of mankind, every species, matter of Universe or the Universe itself. SREE SREE THAKUR ANUKULCHANDRA, the love incarnate, the Prophet of the age, in whom all the past prophets assemble has descended from the unknown plane (the highest) which a human mind cannot perceive, in flesh and blood, and in HIS interest to save mankind from the clutches of complexes, and to channelize those complexes for our concentric urge to fulfill HIS wishes, for our being and becoming. HE never believed and said that there is nothing called miracles but they happen when humans cannot find reason for the miracles. Miracles happened in the life of innumerable devotees of HIS, and people were blessed.

HE says 1+1 is not 2, but each 1 is different as each individual is different and is born with a specific set of instincts and characteristics. HE has nurtured everyone who has come in HIS divine touch in the path of everlasting peace and joy and pushed in the existential path of being and becoming so that every creation of HIS comes to the culminating point i.e. attainment of God and have godly attributes irrespective of caste, creed, religion etc. SATSANG which by HIS unending mercy has evolved around HIM, whose literary meaning is "Lovers of Existence", has started its journey as a man making industry as LORD wanted. HE said each man has to be reformed and each house has to be rebuilt, then only we think of bigger goals of nation building and universal brotherhood.

Time and again lord has come to uplift mankind from the grip of passions and complexes, but in the present age Love Lord has come to this material plane and after HE left this mortal world, by HIS mercy left the mankind the Acharya Parampara, inside whom the LORD himself resides and mankind has got the eternal bliss to serve HIM by fulfilling HIS wishes. Nature is seeing HIS divine play through the present Acharyadev Sree Sree Dada, whose every action is to fulfill HIS wish, thereby inspiring each and every one in every way.

Sree Sree Thakur said dharma and karma (action) are no different, without one the other is not possible. And by materialization of Living Ideal's wishes in our mind and in our actions we experience Ananda (eternal delight) which just cannot be expressed in words.

One of my elixir experience was the being involved in the constructing of Bangalore Satsang Vihar (Temple/Church) which is the holy abode of Love Lord HIMSELF, where HIS presence is felt in all grandeur and to see a beautiful grand architectural masterpiece, simple yet gorgeous, bathed in marvelous and unadulterated white, firing to Him in grandeur, splendor and simplicity, standing erect and proud in the horizon as an emblem of His colossal and inexplicable vastness. A Temple/Church is the center of good fortune, wherein the being finds love, peace and solace in the presence of the Love Lord which is exclusively HIS. Even though the Temple/Church is constructed with bricks, rod, cement and sand, the most important factor is through the process in which the Temple/Church comes up, thereby innumerable people of the region are also transformed into a better human being in all

might. When the love for the Lord is materialized in a physical form as an example in the construction for Temple/Church, automatically the love, harmony, and brotherhood increases many folds among people.

There are about 5000 Mandir and center of Satsang all over the world. In the southern part of India, Mandirs are being built in Chennai, Hyderabad, Vizag etc.

The land of Bangalore was blessed as the LORD's Temple/Church construction was started on May 29th 2011 and was inaugurated on Dec 14th 2014 and nature is privileged to have witnessed the holy Temple / Church coming up.

Similarly in the United States, the first Temple/Church was constructed in New York.

After coming to United States (Arizona state) in 2016, myself and my family have experienced the same Ananda (eternal delight) by trying fulfil the Love Lord's divine wish through HIS Holiness Living Ideal Acharyadeva SREE SREE DADA of 33 million initiation world-wide and saving man-kind.

Supreme Beloved Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra in one of HIS elixir and eternal GOSPEL said "Onne bachaye, nije thake; dharma bole, janish take" (English translation – The existence of my own being depends on, how I nurture, love, care and service my environment) about 100 years earlier. And we saw that this current Pandemic (COVID) testifies to this. In HIS another GOSPEL where Supreme Beloved Sree Sree Thakur says "Manush Apon Taka Por, Joto Parish Manush Dar" (English translation – Human is mine, Money is stranger; how much ever you can, love and service Human)

We (me and my family) tried to take down the above 2 ambrosial GOSPEL of Love Lord in our very bones, and by the divine blessings of Acharyadeva **Sree Sree Dada**, 9 new initiations of Americans (son of soil) happened in Jan 2021 itself and continued and there by pushing them in the Eternal Path of Being and Becoming as prescribed by our Supreme Beloved **Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra**.

Bande Purushottamam

(Adorations to Fulfiller The Best)

Be Positive

*See an affair positively,
think it with all positive essence,
discern and adjust it
with its connoting meaning
and keep the negative
adjusted with its negative spirit;
serve analytically
and synthetically
and raise from it
the positive essence
of existential go*

*by which it is maintained
and becomes propitious to you
and others too;
so, see with every positiveness,
think with every positiveness,
speak with every positiveness,
do with every positive uphill go
and keep the negative
as the negation of positiveness,
thus be wise positively.
- Sree Sree Thakur
(The Message, Vol 3)*

HIS Benign Mercy

Biswajit Paul

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As our love lord Sree Sree Thakur says in holy Satyanusaran (The pursuit of Truth), "Failure need not be weakness; to fail to try is weakness." So this is my humble attempt to overcome this weakness of writing skills and share my thoughts and experience of His Divine Intervention in our family. When one serves and loves HIM with utmost sincerity and dedication, the flow of providential bliss is ever active, and one need not worry about his elevation.

With his blessing, my father was initiated with Holy Satnaam in 1976, just after his graduation. He was the 1st member in our family to take the Holy Initiation. At that time, Satsang did not have a wide presence in the small town of Margherita, Assam and there were very few brothers and mothers in faith. HIS grace my father came in contact with a few sincere and very dedicated Ideal centric brothers, and from them, he learned about Sree Sree Thakur's Ideologies and Satsang. Sree Sree Thakur's simple (yet powerful), practical, contemporary, and scientific-based ideologies inspired him deeply. It didn't take too long to realize and connect to Sree Sree Thakur. He actively contributed to the construction of Satsang Kendra in Margherita. I was amazed to know his level of involvement at that time. He did Jaajan to my grandparents and after a lot of persuasion, they took holy Initiation. Subsequently all family members took the holy Satnaam. Convincing my grandfather was his most significant challenge to take the sacred Initiation.

He inspired many local boys who were poor and less privileged to take the holy Initiation. Recently, when he visited his native town after many years, he was surprised to see their level of transformation and dedication towards Sree Sree Thakur and their elevation in every aspect

of life. Those who otherwise might not have realized their true potential. Hence, we call HIM, Fulfiller the Best (*baishistyapali apurayaman*), who nurtures each one of us as per our distinctive qualities.

Now let me tell you about my father. Before his marriage, he had comorbid medical conditions like obesity, hypertension, frequent blood vomiting etc. In those days, these were life-threatening conditions. Ritwik Devata's and other local brothers suggested that my father and grandmother visit Deoghar Ashram and offer Nibedan about this problem to Pujyapad Borda. After reaching the ashram and offering their obeisance (*Pronaam*) at the lotus feet of Sree Sree Thakur, they went for the holy darshan and pronaam of Pujyapad Borda. My father made two *Nibedan*, one for his Health issue and the other for his future career. With benign mercy, Pujyapad Borda prescribed an ayurvedic medicine and said to go for the teaching profession.

My father, after taking those medicines, within no time the blood vomiting problem disappeared. Then he got a dream job from an excellent company (erstwhile East India company) as a lab chemist. The workplace was within walking distance from home, and the compensation was also decent. He thought this would give him a better prospect as everything was positive about it. That was his entry into corporate culture.

My father had been in different positions within the organization, but he never had peace and inner satisfaction. A few years before his retirement, he held a job position that was more of training, mentoring, and developing new technical staff. He enjoyed doing that thoroughly and got recognition as well. Now he

reminisces the word of Pujyapad Borda, and life would have been more blissful if he had followed the holy instructions without any second thought. This reminds me of the verse from Holy Satyanusaran (The Pursuit of Truth)

*"Thy will is good.
I don't know what
will make me good.
Let Thy will be
Fulfilled in me."*

While in corporate life, he could not manage time out of his work schedule to be as active in Satsang as he would want to be. But one thing which I saw him doing every morning since I was a kid was offering the holy Istabhrity with utmost love and sincerity. Though he was not very vocal nor a good articulator of his thoughts and feelings about Sree Sree Thakur, he was an active lover of our supreme beloved from inside. We are so grateful that he gave us this eternal gift by connecting our entire family tree to Sree Sree Thakur.

In retrospect, when I connect the dots, I can vividly see how the providential bliss kept the life urge alive in my father. It would run into pages to narrate all the incidents, but I would share one I felt was HIS divine Intervention.

The year 2020 will be etched in everyone's for centuries to come for Covid-19. My parents were with us in the USA during the peak of the Pandemic. They came here in the 3rd week of December 2019 and were scheduled to leave the USA on 14th June 2020 (maximum permitted stay of Six-month as per visa). Summer of June 2020 was the peak of Pandemic in the entire USA and Wake county, North Carolina, was no exception with the highest daily cases and fatality in the state. The comorbid condition of my father made him highly vulnerable and in a high-risk category. The risk was further aggravated as I had to physically go to my workplace and deal with operators and other

employees amidst positive cases around. On top of it, my son also goes to day school and is also exposed to the outside world. The circumstance was rife with enough reasons to be stressed and panicked than to be calm and composed. But honestly speaking, there was no negative but only a positive vibe all around the home. We all enjoyed the daily virtual Satsang with Bhajan, kirtan, and *Ista-alochona*. We felt like Thakur was with us and protecting us like a shield.

Because of the Pandemic, we rescheduled their ticket from 14th June 2020 to November 2020. It was the early morning of 30th June 2020, like any other day. I completed prayer and Istabhrity with my father and was ready to leave for the office. I asked him if he had a good sleep at night and was feeling all ok, he said all ok. He made some breakfast for me, which I had and left for the office at 6:50 am. Within a couple of minutes, after I left, my wife called me saying father was in discomfort with chest pain and sweating. She felt something was wrong. I immediately took a U-turn and reached home within 5minutes. On reaching home, I found my father sleeping on the bed with the discomfort mentioned above. I was puzzled for a moment, not sure what to do. I asked him to repeat the holy Naam. My mother and I also kept our hand on his forehead and started repeating the Naam. Somehow I found inner strength not to beg for his life in front of Sree Sree Thakur. I prayed to Thakur, he is your Santaan, do whatever is best for him. I contacted one known Doctor through the help of our beloved Tusar Da (SPR, NC), and she told me the symptoms appeared to be of an attack and advised me to take him to the emergency room without delay.

I did not have any clue how to handle this situation, especially in a foreign land. And as it was the 30th day of the month, I thought I would transfer Istabhrity and then take him to an emergency room. I did that. My mother and I slowly took him downstairs from the 3rd floor, I still don't how we managed. After 30Mts we

reached the emergency dept. As we rushed inside with my father in the wheelchair, still gasping for breath with chest pain, I wondered whether he would get a bed as the hospital was overwhelmed with covid cases, forgetting about immediate emergency room attention. After only a few questions at the help desk, the nurse took him to the adjacent emergency room to my utter disbelief. Within no time, paramedical staff and Doctor started checking his vitals and performed Covid test and ECG. The attending Doctor immediately told me that my father was going through a major heart attack. He directly administered some heavy dosage injection and authorized the team to shift him to the Heart Center (35-40mts drive) in a special ambulance along with the nurse. Covid negative was a big relief. By the time we reached the heart center, he was already in the procedure room. After two hours, the chief surgeon came to brief us. She said my father had a massive heart attack with 100% blockage in two arteries and 80% blockage in 3rd artery. Till today this statement

of hers reverberates “You are at the right place and at the right time”. They did angioplasty, put stents on all three blocked arteries, and finally discharged him after five days.

This entire episode of rescheduling their tickets, my father having a heart attack barely two weeks later from the original return travel date, getting immediate attention from the paramedic team despite the overwhelming situation in hospital due to covid, swift treatment of all the blockages is still surreal to my family and me. My wife still cannot believe I had the temperament to open the laptop and transfer the holy Istabriti Arghya on the 30th day while my father was going through this heart attack. And with all these conditions, he had Covid after their return to India in February '21, but he recovered at home only without major issues. This is Divine Intervention.

Bande Purusbottamam !

(Salutations to Fulfiller The Best)

Twam asi mama jeevanam (You are my life)

Late Bikash Bhowmik (SPR)

[Translation into English by Suhasini Patra, California, USA]

On October 27, 1955, for the auspicious Vijaya Dashami festival, a utsav and karmi sammelinil of the supreme beloved Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra was being organized in the holy pilgrimage of Satsang Nagar, Deoghar. A large number of devotees from various cities and villages across India travelled to Deoghar to take part in the Utsav. More than 60 gurubhais, mothers, and children, including Bikash Bhowmik da from Cuttack set out on a journey from Odisha to contribute to the festival. The following is his experience.

We took the Puri-Howrah Passenger train from Cuttack and got down at the Howrah station. We were startled to see the huge crowd near the Toofan Express train. Travelling this far by train was a first time experience for many of us. As a result, some of the new Gurubhais and mothers travelling with us were terrified to see such a large crowd even before boarding the train. We later found out that the huge crowd was on account of people travelling from Kolkata to their respective villages in Bihar for the holy Chhat Puja. On some thought, we realized that if all of us tried to board the same coach, we would be unsuccessful in getting on the train safely and might not be able to go to Deoghar. Hence, I suggested that instead of trying to get into the same coach, we should divide ourselves into smaller groups of five-six people and get into whichever coach possible, be it first class or second. We were aware that the Ticket Collector might charge a penalty ticket, but decided that we would pay the price and travel till Jasidih and not get down the train before that. In the journey, accompanying us were Sree Dayanidhi Sahu a Jajak Karmi of Sree Sree Thakur ji, who also happened to be an Advocate of the Odisha High Court and his wife, Avanti ma. Travellers on the platform were chanting the

slogan Jai Baidyanath and we loudly recited "Bande Purushottamam" as the approaching train halted on the platform. All of us entered the coach closest to us in a hurry and there was no time to keep track of who got into which coach or who got left behind on the platform. I was just praying to Thakur ji that everyone was able to board the train and have His darshan.

Dayanidhi da and his wife, by the grace of Thakur ji, were able to get onto a coach and get a seat near the window. Dayanidhi da was old and suffered from hypertension (high blood pressure). He started feeling a little uneasy in the train, affected by the huge crowd. Due to his poor health and increasing thirst, his throat dried up and eyes became red. There was absolutely no water on the train and in the crowded coach with everyone busy looking for their friends and family, it was next to impossible to get some water. Avanti ma grew increasingly worried as she realized that her husband was unable to talk. His health was deteriorating; he started excessive hiccups and since he was sweating profusely his body temperature dropped. Despite Avanti ma's desperate appeals, no one was able to provide a single drop of water. At last, in a state of anguish, like Draupadi, Avanti ma threw both her hands in the air and prayed to Thakur ji, "O Thakur, O Merciful, O Supreme Father! I beg you for the life of my husband. We both are coming to have your darshan and be at your feet with a lot of hope. Please let us not be deprived of your darshan. O Lord have mercy!" As she was praying, the train stopped at Byndal station. All of a sudden, a coconut seller appeared near the window and offered a tender coconut to Avanti ma. Avanti Ma was quick to buy all the coconuts. The seller also managed to give his sickle (knife to cut open the raw coconut) to Avanti ma just before the train

departed from the station. Avanti ma was unable to pay for the coconut and assumed that the vendor would come later to collect the dues. Avanti ma quickly soaked the end of her saree, dipping it in the coconut water, and gave it to Dayanidhi da. She used up all the coconuts in this manner. Coconut water acted like ambrosia (sanjivani) for Dayanidhi da and he slowly opened his eyes, eventually gaining back his health. The train finally reached Jasidih via Byandal, Bardhaman, Asansol at 5 o'clock but no one came to collect the money for the coconuts.

By the mercy of Sree Sree Thakur, all the gurubhais and mothers who accompanied us got down in Jasidih. We waited for the crowd to clear, before boarding the next train for Baidyanath Dham. On the train Dayanidhi da softly said to me, "Bikash bhai, Thakur is truly the Supreme Lord, " and Avanti ma proceeded to narrate the entire incident to me. She then regretfully added, "I have committed a crime. I could not even pay the coconut vendor. I was in a hurry to cut a coconut for my husband and the train started. The vendor just seemed to disappear after giving the coconuts and the knife. We are indebted to him for that." Dayanidhi da said, "If he had not given the coconuts today, you would have taken my dead body to the ashram." Upon hearing this, I suggested that they pay a full rupee (many times the cost of the coconuts) to Thakur ji as oblation to clear the debt. Dayanidhi da was a little relieved at my suggestion and said, "Brother Bikash, you have helped clear the debt of coconut but what will we do with this knife?" As the train started for Baidyanath Dham, I dismissed his concern saying, "You give it to Thakur ji. Otherwise give it to me and if Thakur ji gives it to you, keep it for yourself". Despite all the obstacles, we were all feeling content by the infinite grace of the Supreme Father as we continued our journey to Deoghar.

After some time we got down at Baidyanath Dham station and reached Satsang Ashram in a horse cart. We all took a bath and went to see Thakur ji wearing clean clothes before the evening prayer. Everyone was standing in line in Thakur Bangla. The Ritwik-devatas were taking two to four devotees at a time for Thakur ji's darshan. After some time our turn came. Dayanidhi da and Avanti ma were also with me. We bowed down to Thakur ji. As soon as we raised our heads halfway after prostrating, Sree Sree Thakur looked at Avanti ma and said, "Listen mother, when you have come so far with senior people, you have to travel with some preparedness and caution. You didn't carry even a little water to drink on the way. Due to this condition of your husband, I had to take the coconut to Byndal station myself." Sri Sri Thakur further said, "Look at my shoulder, how red it has become after carrying all that load." Upon hearing Sree Sree Thakur's words, I was rendered speechless. I was overwhelmed with joy and excitement. Dayanidhi da and Avanti ma's eyes were streaming with tears as I thought, "Oh Lord! You have so much compassion for us, You love us so much, we did not know !!"

Since the Ritwik-devata had getsured once or twice for us to retreat, Dayanidhi da wiped his tears and asked Sree Sree Thakur, "What will I do with this knife?" Sri Sri Thakur smiled sweetly and said, "Boro bou ke diye debi, " directing him to return it to Sree Sree Boroma. After we came out, Dayanidhi da said to me, "Brother Bikash, let's give this knife to Boroma". Dayanidhi da had kept that knife wrapped in a piece of newspaper. As soon as I unwrapped it, I saw that carved on one side of the knife were the words, Sri Sri Thakur and on the other side were Vishwanath Karmakar, the name of the Ritwik who was serving Thakur and had taken us for His darshan. I was stunned. I could not even begin to imagine what would have been my reaction had I seen the knife on our way here. A trembling sensation flew through my

whole body and my limbs shivered. I hugged Dayanidhi da with joy and told him, "You have been a devotee since many births. By merely touching you, I am feeling the compassion of the Lord. Avanti Ma's fervent call made me realize His mercy. You are a blessed person. I bow to you. You are the living witness of thy divine grace."

After that we went to Sri Sri Boroma. As we approached we heard Boroma was loudly calling out to the revered Dhiren da, a devoted servant of Sri Sri Thakur and Sri Sri Boroma. Dhiren da was saying, "The knife is not in its usual place. I searched everywhere but couldn't find it anywhere." It was time to serve coconut water to Thakur ji so all the workers were looking for his knife to cut open a tender coconut. Boroma paused, seeing us. We bowed down to her and said, "Thakur ji has asked to give this knife to

you." Sri Sri Boroma looked at the knife and enquired how we found Thakur ji's knife. We briefly narrated the whole incident to Boroma. Hearing the whole incident, Sri Sri Boroma said in a very affectionate tone, "Avanti you have very strong devotion towards Thakur ji. The power of your conch shell and vermilion dragged Thakur ji to Byandal station". Saying this, she hugged Avanti ma. Blessing Dayanidhi Da and Avanti ma, the mother said, "You are very fortunate. Your call for mercy made Thakur ji do this divine act." Then she said, "Wait, let me hand this knife to Dhiren". Then Boroma blessed Avanti ma by giving her a box of vermilion and gave us Thakurji's Prasad. We were blessed and grateful for having the nectar-like prasad from the hands of Purushottam's divine consort Sree Sree Boroma.

*Extreme the attachment,
tremendous the move.*

-Sree Sree Thakur
(Magna Dicta, page-63)

*Blessed is the sentiment
that enjoys self-complaisance
in serving the superior
even though hindrance
and persecution.*

-Sree Sree Thakur
(Magna Dicta, page-25)

My journey with my Beloved Lord - Sree Sree Thakur

Soumajit Pal
Visakhapatnam, India

I have found Thakur in my life since the very beginning. I have seen my parents and everyone else in our joint family following Thakur and in His service from the earliest of my memories. I was fortunate to have imbibed in me His teachings by the medium of my parents and took initiation when I turned 12. I remember my grandmother waking up early by the dawn and cleaning up the entire puja room and humming songs for Thakur as her day began. For me, the process after initiation seemed mechanical in the beginning, but slowly I could feel my love for Thakur grew in me. By Thakur's grace I fared well in my studies and joined an engineering college. While in college in July 2010, I visited *Deogarh* with my parents and accepted *Swastayani*. I always had faith in Thakur that whatever happens is by His wish and all these years of having followed Thakur's path gave me the strength to abstain from the wrong and I tried to follow my duties righteously.

In the year 2015, by His grace I had an opportunity to go abroad for 1 year and complete my Master's degree. As the excitement grew within me, so did the tension of my parents. We went to Deoghar, to seek the blessings of Pujyapad Sree Sree Dada and inform Pujaniyo Babai Dada about this opportunity and seek his blessings. With the grace of Sree Sree Thakur and His blessings Pujoniyo Babai Dada was happy to hear this news and informed me to stay in touch with the *gurubbhais* of Europe (particularly London). Seeking blessings from Deoghar, I proceeded towards Amsterdam, Netherlands, thousands of miles away from home. Having my utmost faith in my Thakur, I found my journey

and stay to be beautiful in a foreign land. It wasn't the beauty of the many cities I visited but the beauty of the people I met and became acquainted with. My people, my own *gurubbhais*. I never felt alone that year as we held many Satsangs across Europe and I am so happy that by the medium of these Satsangs I also travelled across several countries. When I missed home at times, I would visit home of my elder brother Radhakrishna Sharma da and his family who had moved to Amsterdam that same year to feel at home. We would speak about our love Lord Sree Sree Thakur, sing bhajans, eat together and we bonded over the sole thought of Thakur in us.

I don't need a miracle in my life to feel Thakur. I feel His grace showered upon me in the simplest walks of my life and wish that we all have our utmost faith in our love lord as He never leaves anyone. It is upon us to seek Him in our downs and ups equally, entrust upon Him our faith. Today, I consider myself blessed by His grace that I am about to enter into a new phase in my life, having found my life partner, a firm devout of Thakur, with Thy blessings. It is my belief in Him that is carrying me forward in my life, and I believe it's the same for all of us who have accepted Thakur in their life.

Let me end by quoting a couple of lines from *Satyansaran* (translated in English as *The Pursuit of Truth*), "*The conception that cannot be affected or overwhelmed by contradictory conception is faith. If there be no faith, how can there be vision? Work follows faith. As the faith, so the work. Deep faith can do anything. Believe!*". (Page-47)



A Trip to Remember

Biswajit Paul

North Carolina, USA

This year, our visit to India was special, not only because we attended my brother-in-law's marriage, but more so because this will be my son, Bideesh's, first visit to Thakurbari.

As I reminisce, memories are still fresh and flashing with so many experiences, wherein we felt HIS divine blessings. Mere words will fall short to illustrate the blissful shower of HIS grace.

This time our port of entry to India was Mumbai, where we had lived for more than 10 years before moving to the US. Therefore, we decided to begin our trip by visiting Badlapur Satsang Vihar, as we had fond memories attached to that place.

While planning for our India trip, we were wondering whether to stay in a hotel or a friend's home during our time in Mumbai. We wanted to stay close to the airport so that we could finish our official work. We never thought it would work out so perfectly. By HIS grace, my bachelor-life roommate and bosom friend in Mumbai took the holy initiation along with his spouse the year prior after I introduced them to Satsang. When I told him that we will be visiting Mumbai, he insisted repeatedly that we come straight to their home, regardless of what time we land, and spend the following day (Sunday 17th Feb) with them to discuss about Sree Sree Thakur's ideologies. What could have been more reassuring and pleasing than this? Also, his home was conveniently close to our official work. It seemed surreal as if Sree Sree Thakur had already made arrangements for our stay there. Later on, when I told my friend that during our India trip, we were planning to

visit Thakurbari, Deoghar, he also expressed interest to join us, however, due to his hectic end of the year work schedule, he would likely be unable to.

We reached the Mumbai airport around 01:00 AM (Sunday 17th Feb) and our biggest setback was that one of our check-in bags did not arrive from Paris. That particular luggage contained all the gifts and dresses meant for my brother in law's marriage. The airline staff said it should reach us in time for our flight the next day and asked us for our delivery address. We were uncertain which address to provide as we would be mostly in transit during the trip. Finally, I gave my friend's home address. When I spoke to a few other co-passengers who had undergone similar situations in the past, they said I will get my luggage back, however, it might take a few days. We left everything at HIS will and left for the airport after completing our paperwork. We reached my friend's home at 2:00 AM on Sunday. As planned, after a few hours' sleep, we all left for Badlapur Satsang Vihar, a two hours' drive from my friend's home. We arrived at the temple premise at 11:56 AM, just four minutes before closure (midnight) of the main shrine. We bowed and offered our sincere obeisance at HIS lotus feet. It was by HIS grace that we reached just in time and had Darshan, Bhog Prosaad and Bhandara. We never thought we would be able to make it so neatly, especially while traveling with a one and half-year-old toddler after a 24-hr flight. To my surprise, that same day my friend confirmed that he and his spouse booked air and

rail tickets for Kolkata and Jasidih to join us on our Deoghar visit.

The rest of Sunday went by meeting friends, socializing, shopping, etc, etc. In the evening, I received a call from the airline staff to confirm my delivery address, assuring me that my luggage would be delivered early the following morning (Monday). I just could not think of anything other than the endless grace of Father, the Supreme. As promised by the airline staff, my luggage arrived early Monday morning, and that afternoon we left for Jabalpur to attend my brother-in-law's marriage. Such is HIS divine blessing.

We all went together to Thakurbari on 28th Feb 2019. We had a very good stay together and for the first time, we could be part of a Holy Satsang at Thakurbari on the occasion of Pujoniyo Boro Baurani ma's birthday celebration. That was a divine experience. My friend and his wife were very happy and exalted after their visit.

An anecdote from Deoghar visit: Before leaving for India, I had a plan to take a gift for Sree Sree Dada but could not figure out what to offer. In one of Sree Sree Thakur's books (Deeprakshee), I found a mention of the Chinese philosopher Confucius, whose philosophies and ideologies Sree Sree Thakur admires a lot. Reflecting on one of Sree Sree Thakur's verses:

*"Tsbta Guru Purushottam,
Pratik Guru Bongshadbar;
Reto Shorire Supto Theke
Jyanto Tini Nirantor"*

I was further compelled to purchase the book Analect of Confucius and present it to Sree Sree Dada. After I purchased the book, I came to know that Acharyadev Sree Sree Dada nowadays avoids reading books because of His collarbone

fracture last year and eyesight problems. I grew skeptical, wondering whether if He would accept and read it, but still I took the book with me.

On the morning of 1st March 2019, we were at the Satsang ashram in Deoghar, waiting for Acharyadev Sree Sree Dada's Darshan. On asking a few local gurubhais about Acharyadev's darshan time, they were uncertain as He had not been keeping well for the past few days. We were anxious, as that was our only day for Darshan as we were returning to Kolkata via train in the afternoon. Our prayers were answered as someone informed us that Acharyadev Sree Sree Dada had just come to the natmandap. We bowed and sought His holy blessing. A senior ritwik devata helped us convey our nibedan and present our small token of love to our beloved Acharyadev. He opened the book and flipped through the pages as if He knew it was coming and kept it beside Him on the bed. The sight cannot be scripted in a few words, it was such a moment of joy and satisfaction to behold.

It did not end there, as we were still waiting to see what happens next. As Acharyadev Sree Sree Dada was about to leave, once again we grew anxious to know the fate of the book. All the devotees stood up, making it difficult for us to see from far away. With restless eyes, we could get a view of something in Acharyadev's hand. By the time we could confirm it to be the book, Sree Sree Dada was gone. When we reached near the natmandap, we could not see the book on the bed and that made us even more anxious. We asked about it to the ritwik devata who had presented it to Sree Sree Dada on our behalf. He said that Pujyapad Sree Sree Dada had taken it along with Him. We all stared at each other with sheer disbelief. So fortunate we are.



My Belief in Sree Sree Thakur

Chitra Paul
New Delhi, India

Who is Thakur? What does HE look like? I had no clue about all these questions. Two years ago, when my marriage got fixed, my father-in-law told me about Sree Sree Thakur, and that's when I came to know about HIM. My father-in-law said HE is our Savior, HE is our Guide, HE is Supreme Beloved, HE is the Supreme Protector, HE is ever-watchful and HE is with us every moment. At that time, I just listened without understanding much nor did I have any inner feeling/realization about Thakur.

When my marriage got fixed in Kolkata at my maternal uncle's home, my father-in-law gifted me the holy book Satyanusaran and told me to always remember HIM in every walk of life and take the Holy Name, then nothing can cause you any harm or distress. I listened to my father-in-law that day as well, but that did not awaken within me any feeling for a divine experience. After all the formal pre-marriage discussions were over, I came back to my hometown Tinsukia, Assam. I had kept the holy book Satyanusaran with me.

After a few days, my father-in-law asked me if I had read the book, to which I replied I hadn't, as I could not find any time. Then he asked me to read one page from Satyanusaran daily over the phone with him, and he wanted me to do *Alochana* (discussion) on the message. In this way, gradually I started understanding Thakur's ideology and came to know more about Sree Sree Thakur.

After a few days, I got married and then we went to Thakurbari, Deoghar to seek the blessings of Pujyapad Acharyadev Sree Sree Dada and Revered Babai Da. I received the holy initiation and started feeling more positive and vibrant.

After marriage, I moved to Delhi, as my husband worked there. I wanted to complete my master's program before marriage, but because of some reason or another, I could not. By Thakur's grace, I got the chance to pursue my MA program at Delhi University with the support of my in-laws and my husband. I thought of pursuing an MA in Education, but that stream was not available, so I had to opt for an MA in Economics. I was tensed as I had no background in Economics and hoped I would be able to clear the subject. My husband encouraged me to keep trying and said Thakur will take care of the rest. My parents started asking if I would be able to take the load and clear the exam. I used to tell them that I don't know, but I can only try and give my best, and the rest is HIS wish, and HIS wish is always our Good.

As my exam dates were approaching, I was getting nervous. My husband motivated me saying be positive and appear for the exam and then face whatever is the outcome. Leave everything at HIS will. I gave the exam, but I was not confident if I would pass or not. After a few days when my result was declared, I was surprised to see that I passed the MA 1st year with 68%. I was not able to believe in myself.

I can connect the dots and slowly I understood that whatever happened was by Sree Sree Thakur's grace and blessing. I never thought in my wildest dreams that I would come from Assam and take admission in Delhi University to pursue my higher studies, then clear MA, Economics in the 1st division. Everything is HIS wish and it would not have been possible without HIS blessing

Adore You Thy Absolute Supreme Personality!

Asis Paul
Assam, India

“I have found you in my life because of my many virtues” - a song my wife sings very often. I believe I received Him in my life only because of His mercy. A very ordinary person I am, like a droplet in the ocean trying to pen down Thy glory. Inability to write, lack of knowledge and experience, the dearth of language all these are opposing me in my first attempt to write. Still, I believe I will scribble something about Sree Sree Thakur by His grace.

The writing is more about my life, rather than His. Readers are requested to bear with this attempt. Sree Sree Thakur came to our house in Margherita, Assam through my eldest brother Sri Dilip Kumar Paul when he got initiated with the Holy Name in the year 1975. Thereafter all our family members and relatives took initiation one after the other. I took initiation in 1976 and Swastayani in 1996. By the grace of Sree Sree Thakur, I got married in a satsangee family. From her childhood, she used to attend Satsang with her grandmother and sing to His glory. I will write one of the incidents from her school days which she often remembers, about how she was saved by Param Karunik Sree Sree Thakur. One day she was going to school with books in her hands along the pavement by the side of the railway track in our hometown. She was uttering His Holy name as usual. All of a sudden, she moved out of the pavement and started to walk through the middle of the road, unknowingly. And before she could understand she heard lots of shouting around, “Gone, Gone.” A military jeep rammed on the railway track fencing along the pavement and just missed hitting her by a whisker. All the passer-by and army men rushed to her enquiring

if anything had happened to her and if she was ok. She was horrified and started uttering His Holy name loudly. By the grace of Thakur, nothing happened to her and she was saved that day. We often hear such miraculous incidents experienced by many of our Gurubhais. But I believe that our existence and survival is a miracle in itself. His grace, His divine play.

The whole family shifted to a new unknown place for my work in 1999. Different people, different languages but with full faith in the heart of having Thakur with us. In the early days after moving to Visakhapatnam, I wandered vainly to look for Gurubhais in the city. By His grace, during one of our train journeys, we found a satsangee family on the train who gave us the whereabouts of the then Satsang congregation in the city and Sri Subrata Chakraborty da (SPR). By His grace, we devoted our life to His service whenever we got an opportunity. Sri Chakraborty da was a great help and pulled us constantly towards Thakur at every phase of our life. I have felt His mercy in every walk of my life, be it family or work.

I believe we need to establish Sree Sree Thakur in the throne of our hearts. Worship Him with love and devotion, with untottering, unconditional adherence. If we love Him this way automatically our lives will be adjusted as per His likings. “Thakur first” should be the only mantra in all phases, walks of our lives. Let’s move in the path directed by Sree Sree Thakur, to the best possible way, love others to the most and become Thakur’s men.



Sree Sree Thakur and Satsang in my Life

Dilip Kumar Paul
Kolkata, India

My quest to find my spiritual guide started in the year 1974 just after completion of my graduation, while searching for a suitable job. During that transition phase from student hood to a serious job seeker, I met Sri Bibhuti Bhushan Palit (SPR) at my hometown Margherita, Assam. He used to like me very much and treated me like his younger brother. As I was free at that time, I spent most of my time at his Pharmacy where other senior satsangees also used to come and discuss about Satsang world and Sree Sree Thakur's ideologies. I did not know much about Sree Sree Thakur and Satsang world before that. Palit da gave me a few books like Alochana Prasange, monthly Alochana Patrika and Satyanusaran (The pursuit of Truth) to read when I get leisure time. After going through these books my thirst for spiritualism got stimulated and I had a much deeper conviction that the basic objective of Sree Sree Thakur's Philosophy is to "Uphold Existence".

Satsang teaches us to attach oneself to one's own being and lives. One has to develop an attachment to the source of all Beings, The Supreme Being, whose manifestation is the Living ideal "Sadguru". To get attached to the Ideal, Initiation is required, and I made up my mind to take initiation. Finally, the day arrived and I took the holy initiation through my Ritwik Devata, Dr. Harimohan Dey from Tinsukia, Assam. I feel blessed that I have got Sree Sree Thakur as my love Lord. I was the 1st member to have taken the holy initiation in our entire family tree. Though my parents were followers of Kulguru (Ancestral Guru) they were happy with my decision. Later on, even they took the holy Satnaam. By lords grace today all family members from my generation onwards have taken the Holy Satnaam.

During my early days after initiation, there was no Satsang Centre at my hometown (Margherita,

Assam) and we used to organize Satsang at gurubhai's home. I recollect the 1st Satsang we had, around 20 persons were initiated with the holy name and that was a big achievement by Sree Sree Thakurs grace and that had a huge positive impact on the environment and in the following days near about 100persons were initiated. In the meantime, by Lord's grace, I also got my first job as a Chemist in an East India company affiliate which was a walking distance from my home.

I recall some incidents that took place in my life after taking the holy initiation. I had the good fortune to visit the holy place of Sree Sree Thakur at Deoghar along with my Ritwik and another guru bhai family. After attending morning prayer and offering Thakur pranam, my Ritwik took me to Sree Sree Borda's residence where he briefly introduced me to Sree Sree Borda narrating about my initiation, my educational qualification, and my job, etc. After listening, Sree Sree Borda pointed at me and suggested me the following in chronological order:

1. To leave the job
2. To go for further study
3. To go for the teaching profession

In reply, I told Sree Sree Borda that I am happy with my current job as it is related to my subject of education, and my company is satisfied with my performance as well. Moreover, I am the eldest son of the family and I have four younger brothers and as my father is getting old, I have to continue my service to look after my family. Also, my company is very near to my home.

In response to suggestion# 2, I said I tried to pursue a Master's degree in Organic chemistry but was not fulfilling the University Academic criteria as I had my Bachelor's degree in Pass course only. And in response to suggestion#3, I said I will try for the same. Finally, Sree Sree Borda suggested if

the earning is so necessary then try for the teaching profession. I noticed my Ritwik da was getting furious and annoyed with my response. Just after coming out of Sree Sree Borda's residence he rebuked me like anything. Later on, he told me that Sree Sree Borda is 'Drasta Purush' i.e.; He can foresee everything and we should try to follow His command with utmost sincerity. Then I did not have many realizations about the gravity of the fact but today at the age of 68 I can connect the dots why Sree Sree Borda said so and what difference it would have made in my life if I obeyed His commands. In spite of all my lacunae and fallacies, Sree Sree Thakur has saved and rescued me innumerable times from every hurdle of my life.

Lastly, I would like to narrate another incident of HIS Divine blessings.

In the year 1977, I was badly suffering from acute haemorrhage, bleeding profusely from my mouth and nose repeatedly. Consulted various Doctors from a nearby hospital and after taking prescribed

medicines still, it did not help the cause. My family members lost all hopes and they were very much depressed. Survival was in question. During that time all the devotees of Satsang Margherita, Assam made a plan of attending Annual Utsav at Deoghar by Bus. After hearing this my mother too made up her mind for Deoghar visit and accompanied them. After reaching there she offered her Pranam (Bowed) and did Nibedan (convey the matter) for me to Pujoyapad Sree Sree Borda and asked for a remedy. Sree Sree Borda then called Satish Joardar da and prescribed some herbal ayurvedic medicine and told not to take any nonvegetarian diet while taking this medicine. Surprisingly after taking those medicines for three days, my bleeding stopped and I got completely cured. Through Sree Sree Thakur no more in flesh and blood but has left the Acharya Parampara to guide us through this journey called life. And He is the ever alive in our Pradhan Acharya as a Living Ideal, waiting for us to seep the Holy grail.

Everything I am, Everything I be

Jagannath Sahoo
Milpitas, California, USA

Everything I am, Everything I be
It's all your wish, for a perfect bliss

I do feel you, I do see you
Wherever & Whenever, I think of you

You have given me, The best gift ever
The holy satnam, brings us even more closer

I want to follow, the path you have shown
I feel guilty, When I fail often

You always save me, You always forgive me
I can feel it, You are with me

You have given me, The strength to move forward
For any obstacles, You plan beforehand

You have hold my hand, How can i forget
I'll never get lost, It's always set

All your wish, Be fulfilled in me
Keep me at your feet, Never leave me

Oh My love lord, Oh my Thakur
I'll never leave you, be it whatever

Everything I am, Everything I be
It's all your wish, For a perfect bliss



আত্মসমর্পন

Subinoy Das (SPR), New York, USA

বৈশিষ্ট্যপালী আপূরয়মান যুগ পুরুষোত্তম পরম এতা
পরমপিতার অপার দয়ার কথা লিখতে গিয়ে প্রথমেই
একটি গানের কয়েকটি ছত্র মনে পড়ে -

থাকিয়া গোপনে বল কিবা গুণে
এত ভালবাস তুমি আমারে
বারেক ও ভাবিনা তোমার ও ভাবনা
তিলেক ও চাহিনা তোমারে

পরমদয়ালের অপার দয়ার কথা লিখার সাধ জাগে
প্রাণে। কিন্তু ভাব, ভাষা না থাকায় সাহস পাই না। আমার
ব্যক্তি জীবনে সাধন ভজন যেমন, জ্ঞানের পাল্লা ও
তথৈবচ। পরম দয়াল দয়া করে নিজ গুণে তাঁর অহেতুক
করণার কথা তাঁর দীন সন্তানকে দিয়ে লিখিয়ে নেবেন
এই ভরসা মাথায় নিয়ে শুরু করছি।

বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় জীবনে দীক্ষা গ্রহণ, অনুশাসনবাদ মেনে
চলার তাগিদ কখনও অনুভব করিনি। কারণ
গৃহদেবতার নিত্য পূজা পার্বন এর মাঝেই রেড়ে
উঠা। দৈনন্দিন জীবনে ঠাকুর ঘরে তুলসী পাতাতে চন্দন
মাখিয়ে রাখার কাজটুকু করার সুযোগ হতো মাঝে
মাঝে। কারণ লক্ষ্য করেছি পিতৃদেব ২১টি তুলসী পাতা
নিত্য পূজায় ব্যবহার করতেন। অর্থাৎ আসনে যারা
ছিলেন প্রত্যেকেই কারও পায়ে কারও বুকে সেই তুলসী
পাতা দেওয়া হতো। বাবা মা দুজনেই কুলগুরু দীক্ষিত
ছিলেন। তাই বৈষ্ণবমত ছিল মাধ্যম। পরবর্তীতে
পিতৃদেব শ্রীশ্রীজগতবন্ধু সুন্দর দীক্ষা গ্রহণ করেন। মাঝে
মাঝে গুরু ভাইরা মিলে আমাদের বাসায় শ্রীমদভাগবত
পাঠ, কীর্তন, আলোচনা ইত্যাদির আয়োজন করা হতো।
হয়ত নিত্যচর্চাই পরবর্তীতে আমাদের দীক্ষা গ্রহণের
সূত্রপাত ঘটিয়ে ছিল। পরিবারে শ্রীশ্রীঠাকুরের সং নাম
গ্রহণ করেন আমার অগ্রজ শ্রীসুকুমার দাস (বর্তমানে
তিনি সহ প্রতি ঋষিক)। যার হাতে শ্রীশ্রীবড়দা
বাংলাদেশে শ্রীহট্ট সংসঙ্গ বিহারের আশীর্বাদ করে ৩টি
ফুল তুলে দেন, যা পরবর্তীতে বিহারের ভিও প্রস্তুত মূল
কাঠামোর নিচে নিবেদন করা হয়। তিনি দীক্ষা পরবর্তী
কিছু নিয়ম কঠোর ভাবে পালন শুরু করেন। পরবর্তীতে
আমার মাতৃদেবী অগ্রজের সময়মত নামধ্যান, প্রার্থনা,
নিয়মশৃংখলা পালন, বাইরে না খাওয়া ইত্যাদি লক্ষ্যকরে
অগ্রজের অনুগামী হয়ে সংনাম গ্রহণ করেন এবং

পরমানন্দে দয়ালের অনুশাসন পালন করে পরম তৃপ্তি
লাভ করেন। সময়ে অসময়ে বলতে শুনেছি "বড়
অসময়ে ঠাকুরকে পেলাম"। মাতৃদেবীর একান্ত ইচ্ছায়
দীক্ষার সূত্রপাত হলেও আমার দীক্ষা গ্রহণে ছিল
অনীহা। অগ্রজ এবং মাতৃদেবীর দীক্ষা গ্রহণের পর
আমাদের বাড়ীতে নিত্য নতুন মানুষের আগমন শুরু
হলো। তারা ছিলেন গুরু ভাইবোন এবং বাংলাদেশ ও
ভারতবর্ষ হতে ঋষিক দেবতা। মাতৃদেবীর সহজবোধ্য
যাজনে অনেকেই সংনাম গ্রহণ করেন। যে অব্যক্ত কথা
বলার জন্য এই লেখনীর সূত্রপাত, সে অধ্যায় শুরু
হলো। কোন এক শুভক্ষণে সংসঙ্গ বাংলাদেশ এর সুযোগ্য
সম্পাদক স্বর্গীয় শ্রীরাসবিহারী আদিত্য সহ প্রতি ঋষিক
মহোদয় আমাদের বাড়ীতে আসেন। মাতৃদেবী উনার
সাথে কথা বলতে বললেন। তাঁর ইচ্ছা যেন দীক্ষা
হয়। কথা শুরু হলো পরবর্তীতে বুঝলাম 'যাজন'। আমি
কোন ভনিতা না করেই বললাম আমার ৩টি বিষয়
বলার আছে। তিনি অনুমতি দিলেন। ১. যা খুশী করব
২. যা খুশী খাব ৩. যেমন খুশী চলব। তিনি নির্দিষ্ট
বললেন, "কোন অসুবিধা নাই করা, খাওয়া এবং চলা
নিয়ে।" আমি দেখলাম এত সহজ, বললাম দীক্ষা
নেব। দীক্ষা হলো। এবার বললেন, "তোমার সব কথা
শুনলাম, আমার একটা কথা তুমি রাখবে?" বললাম
অবশ্যই। বললেন, "শুধু প্রার্থনা এবং ইস্তিভতি নিয়মিত
করো।" কথা তো দিলাম, কিন্তু করা যখন শুরু হলো,
নিজের সাথে নিজের যুদ্ধ, বুঝলাম কথা দিয়েছি করতে
হবেই। শুরু হলো নতুন অধ্যায়। করতে করতে আজকের
আমি।

দিন যায়, নতুন মানুষ, কর্ম যন্ত্র, প্রভুর ভাবধারার
বিস্মৃতি, যুবক বৃদ্ধের সঞ্জিলিত আকৃতি সব মিলে
আমার সামনে এক নতুন দিগন্ত। যার কোন সীমা
পরিসীমা নেই। আরো থেকে আরোতর হওয়ার আকাংখা,
সবই ভাল লাগার এক আনন্দ। ব্যাচেলর জীবনে গন্ডির
বাইরের জীবন এক সীমা পরিসীমার মাঝে আবর্তিত
হতে লাগল।

দীক্ষা পরবর্তী জীবনের শুরুতে বাংলাদেশের চট্টগ্রামে
সহানীয় সংনামে দীক্ষিত পরিবার যারা শ্রীশ্রীঠাকুরকে
ভালবাসতে নিয়ত সচেষ্টিত তাদের সাহচর্য্য প্রভুকে
ভালবাসার পাঠ শেখালো।

তখন সৎসঙ্গ কেন্দ্র, হাজারী লেইন চট্টগ্রাম শাখার জায়গা কেনা হয়েছে। সেখানে কেন্দ্র তৈরীর কর্মযজ্ঞ শুরু হয়েছে স্বর্গীয় দীপ্তি কুমার কারন সহ প্রতি ঋষিক দাদার তত্বাবধানে। এরই মাঝে এক সময় দেওঘর থেকে এসেছেন শ্রদ্ধেয় গোপালবিশ্বাস মহোদয়, (সভাপতি, সৎসঙ্গ দেওঘর)। অর্পূর্ব এক দিব্য পুরুষকে দেখলাম। সৎসঙ্গ চলাকালীন তাঁর বক্তব্যের মাঝে শুনলাম শ্রীশ্রীঠাকুরের অর্পূর্ব লীলার কথা, শ্রীশ্রীবড়দার কথা, বৈষ্ণব কবির পদাবলীর ঐশ্বর্যের কথা:

জনম অবধি হাম এ রূপ নেহারেণু
নয়ন না তিরপিত ভেল।
লাখ লাখ যুগ হিয়ে হিয়ে রাখনু
তবু হিয়া জুরন না গেল ॥

দিব্য পুরুষের কি অর্পূর্ব বাচন ভঙ্গি। অপলক নয়নে তাঁকে তাকিয়ে দেখছি ও তাঁর সংগ সুধা পান করছি। তাঁর সুধা মাথা কথা শুনলাম। জীবনের সব দেখা, সব শোনাই ভাষার মাধ্যমে ব্যক্ত করা যায় না। বিশেষ করে প্রিয়পরমের কথা।

এরই মাঝে একক সিদ্ধান্তে স্বস্ত্যয়নী ব্রত গ্রহণ করি। প্রভুকে সবকিছু নিয়েই উপভোগ করার তীব্র আখাংকা অনুভব করলাম। ধ্বনিত হতে লাগল শ্রীশ্রীঠাকুরের সেই বাণী:

মানুষকে আপন করে তুলতে যত্নবান হও
বাক্য, ব্যবহার ও অনুষ্ঠার ভিতর দিয়ে-
দানে, গ্রহণে, পরিচর্যায়,
ত্রুটি - বিচ্যুতিকে সংশোধন করে
শুভ-সৌজন্যে;-
ব্যক্তিস্ব এমনি করেই প্রসাদশীল হয়ে ওঠে ।

শ্রীশ্রীঠাকুর অনুকূলচন্দ্র তাঁর প্রতিষ্ঠিত প্রতিষ্ঠান সৎসঙ্গ কে মানুষ গড়ার কারখানা বলে উল্লেখ করেছেন। তিনি ধর্মের ভেদাভেদ ভুলে সত্যিকার মানুষ হবার কথা বলেছেন:

সৎসঙ্গ চায় মানুষ
ঐশ্বর বল, খোদাই বল,
ভগবান বা God ই বল, অস্তিত্বই বল
সে হিন্দু হোক, মুসলমানই হোক

সে বুঝে প্রতি প্রত্যেকেই তাঁরই সন্তান ।

আজ আমরা সবকিছু কে এড়িয়ে বিদেশী কৃষ্টি বিহীনো শিক্ষার চশমা লাগিয়ে জীবনের অতি আবশ্যিক বিধানকে অবজ্ঞা করছি। আর এ বিষয়গুলিকে স্বীকৃতি দেওয়ার জন্য বিভিন্ন কূট যুক্তির এতবতারণা করছি। তাই শ্রীশ্রীঠাকুর বলেছেন-

তুমি বিধিকে অবজ্ঞা করিতে পার,
প্রকৃতিকে তাম্বিল্য করিতে পার,
সে স্বাধীনতা তোমার আছে ।
প্রকৃতিও তাঁর দুর্দান্ত আঘাত হানতে
নিবৃত্ত হবে না,
সে স্বাধীনতা প্রকৃতিরও আছে ।
কাজেই বোঝ,
যা শ্রেয় বলে মনে বিবেচনা কর, তাই
করে চল ।

তিনি জগতজীবকে লক্ষ্য করে বললেন, “তোমরা ভুলে যেও না তোমরা অমৃতের সন্তান । তোমাদের অন্তর হবে সুমহান এবং অতি বিস্তৃত । কোন প্রকার ক্ষুদ্রতা স্থান পাবে না স্বভাব চরিত্রে। তোমরা যদিও তাকাতে সর্বত্রই দেখবে ভগবানকে। কাজেই সকলের প্রতি থাকবে শ্রদ্ধা ও সন্মান। এই সংকল্প নিয়ে জগতের মংগলই হবে তোমার সম্পাদিত কর্মের উদ্দেশ্য । তোমার কর্ম হবে সেবা আদর্শে ভরপুর। তোমাদের প্রতিটি কাজ হবে ইস্টচরণে নিবেদিত এক একটি শ্রদ্ধার অর্ঘ্য । অমৃতপথযাত্রী মানুষের মন কখনো সংকীর্ণ হতে পারে না।”

এই সংকল্প কে মাথায় নিয়ে আজ পরম দয়ালের অপার করুণায় আমাদের পরিবারের সকলেই তাঁরই চরণাশ্রিত এবং জীবন চলার পথে পরম দয়ালের অজচলল অহৈতুকী করুণা ধারায় সিক্ত হয়ে নিজেদের ধন্য মনে করছি। তাঁরই অপার করুণায় আমরা যেন পরম দয়ালকে মাথায় নিয়ে তাঁরই হয়ে ইস্টচরণে চলতে পারি শ্রীশ্রীঠাকুরের রাতুল চরণে আকুল প্রার্থনা জানাই। তোমার দয়ায় সারাটি জীবন, সারাটি জীবন কেন, জন্ম জন্মানতর তোমার চরণ সেবা করতে পারি।

বন্দে পুরুষোত্তম।



পরম দয়াল শ্রী শ্রী ঠাকুর

Santilal Biswas (SPR), Michigan, USA

আমার ইষ্ট দেবতা সকল কারণের কারণ শ্রী শ্রী ঠাকুর অনুকূল চন্দ্র। তাঁর শ্রী চরণে কোটি কোটি প্রণাম নিবেদন করে তাঁর কিছু দয়ার কথা, কিছু উপলক্ষের কথা বর্ণনা করব। বাল্যকাল থেকেই আমার মনে প্রাণে ঈশ্বর চিন্তা সাড়া দিত। ভগবানকে পেতে হলে শ্রী গুরু শরনাপন্ন হতে হয়। গুরু রূপে ভগবান পৃথিবীতে আসেন মানুষকে সঠিক পথে চালিত করার জন্য। তাই মনে প্রাণে প্রার্থনা করতাম, হে ভগবান! আমাকে দয়া কর, আমাকে কৃপা কর, যেন সঙ্কর সন্ধান পেতে পারি। ভগবান তো অন্তরযামী, মানুষের অন্তরের আকৃতি শুনতে পান। তাঁর দয়ার অন্ত নাই। তিনি ভক্তের মনোবাঞ্ছা পূরণ করেন। আমি সঙ্কর সন্ধান পেলাম। শ্রদ্ধের দাদা কুমুদরঞ্জন দাস (বর্তমান সহপ্রতি ঋষিক) দা আমাকে যাজন করে সংনাম নিতে প্রেরণা দিয়েছিল। তিনি আমাকে নিয়ে একটি সংসঙ্গ অনুষ্ঠানে নিয়ে গেলেন। শ্রদ্ধেয় শ্রী কুমুদ রঞ্জন শীল (সহপ্রতি ঋষিক) দা ঐ অনুষ্ঠানে উপস্থিত ছিলেন। অনুষ্ঠানের শেষে শ্রদ্ধেয় কুমুদ দা সাথে আমার অনেক আলাপ আলোচনা হয়েছিল শ্রী শ্রী ঠাকুর সম্পর্কে এবং দীক্ষা সম্পর্কে। তাহার যাজনে আমি সন্তুষ্ট হয়ে আমি সংনাম গ্রহণ করার মনস্থির করি এবং পরের দিন সকালে ২২শে ভাদ্র ১৩৯৭ বাংলা তারিখে সংনাম গ্রহণ করে ঠাকুরের চরনাপ্রীত হই। দীক্ষা গ্রহণের দুমাসের মাথায় ঠাকুরে অশেষ দয়ায় আমেরিকা থেকে একটি চিঠি আসে। তা ছিল OPI VISA এর চিঠি। তারা আমাকে select করেছে অন্যান্য Document সংগ্রহ করার জন্য এইটা প্রথম চিঠি। এভাবে আরো দুইটি চিঠি আসে। আমি সবকিছু প্রসেসিং করে ১৯৯১ ইং ৫ই সেপ্টেম্বরে আমেরিকায় এসে পৌছি। প্রসঙ্গত আমার পরম পূজনীয় বাবা আমেরিকায় পাঠানোর জন্য চেষ্টা করেছিলেন কিন্তু সম্ভব হয় নি। তবে বাবা মৃত্যুর পূর্বে বলেছিলেন তাহার মৃত্যুর পর আমি অবশ্যই আমেরিকা যাব। বাবার আশীর্বাদ ও ঠাকুরের দয়া তাহা সার্থক হয়েছে। আমি সকল সময় ঠাকুরকে মাথায় নিয়ে চলি। তাঁর আদেশ, নির্দেশ সর্বদা মেনে চলতে চেষ্টা করি। ঠাকুর আমাদের বাঁচা বাড়ার পথ দেখিয়েছেন, সকল সময় আমাদেরকে রক্ষা করে চলেছেন। সকল সময় মনে হয় তিনি সর্বদা সাথেই আছেন। নিজেকে একা মনে হয় না। তাঁর কি দয়া মর্মে মর্মে অনুভব করি, যখন আমেরিকায় আসলাম। আমি শ্রী শ্রী ঠাকুরের ফটো, শ্রী শ্রী বড়মার ফটো, আচার্যদেব শ্রী শ্রী বড়দার ফটো, সত্যানুসরণ গ্রন্থ ও চলার সাথী গ্রন্থ সাথে করেই নিয়ে এসেছিলাম এবং সাথে ছিল একটি ছোট ব্যাগ ও

১০০ডলার। কিন্তু একটি কথা মনে ছিল ঠাকুর আমার সাথেই আছেন। এই দুট বিশ্বাসের জন্য আমি কখনো বিচলিত হই নি বা দুর্বল হইনি। আমি সকল অবস্থায় ইষ্টভূতি, সকালের প্রার্থনা ও সন্ধ্যাকালীন প্রার্থনা ও নাম ধ্যান, সত্যানুসরণ পাঠ করতে থাকি। যার ফলে আমার মনে অগাধ শক্তি ও সাহস পাই। অতি সহজেই একটি দোকানে কাজের ব্যবস্থা হয়ে যায়। কিন্তু সে সময় ১৯৯১ এ আমেরিকায় কাজের খুব অভাব ছিল। এ সবগুলো হয়েছে ঠাকুরের অশেষ কৃপায়। ঠাকুরের দয়া ছাড়া কোন কিছু সম্ভব ছিল না। শ্রী শ্রী ঠাকুর প্রেমের অবতার। মানুষকে ভালোবাসা দিয়ে তিনি মানুষকে সঠিক পথের সন্ধান দিয়েছেন, সুন্দর জীবনের সন্ধান দিয়েছেন। তাঁর অপের নামময় স্পর্শে শঙ্ক তরু মঞ্জুরিত হয়েছে, বহু মানুষ জীবন ফিরে পেয়েছে, সঠিক মানুষ হয়ে উঠেছে। তিনি সবার জন্য প্রেম নিয়ে এসেছেন, সংনাম নিয়ে এসেছেন এবং সবাইকে নাম বিতরণ করেছেন। যারা ভাগ্যবান, তারা তাঁর সংনাম গ্রহণ করে, তাঁর আদেশ নির্দেশ পালন করে জীবন ধন্য করেছে, পরম শান্তি লাভ করেছে। তাঁর নির্দেশিত পথে চলে যজন, যাজন, ইষ্টভূতি, স্বস্তয়নী ও সদাচার পালন করে মানুষ পরম শান্তির অনুভব করেছে জীবনের স্বাদ অনুভব করেছে। তিনি সর্বসময় তাঁর সংনাম জপ করতে বলছেন। নাম আর নামি পুরুষ অভেদ, নামের মধ্যে তিনি বিরাজিত। প্রত্যহ নাম ধ্যান করতে হয়। আমরা নিষ্ঠার সহিত তাঁর দেওয়া নিয়মগুলো পালন করে, বাস্তবে রূপ দিয়ে জীবন সার্থক করব। ঠাকুর তাঁর অমিয় গ্রন্থ সত্যানুসরণে বাণী দিলেন, "সঙ্কর শরণাপন্ন হও সং নাম মনন কর, আর, সংসঙ্গের আশ্রয় গ্রহণ কর _ আমি নিশ্চয় বলছি, তোমাকে আর তোমার উন্নয়নের জন্য ভাবতে হবে না।" তাই আমাদেরকে সম্পূর্ণ ভাবে তাঁর নিকট আত্মসমর্পণ করতে হবে। তাঁর ইচ্ছাকে আমার জীবনে প্রতিফলিত করতে হবে।

পরম পূজ্যপাদ শ্রী শ্রী দাদা ঠাকুরের মত সবাইকে প্রেম বিতরণ করেছেন। তাঁর ভালোবাসা সবার প্রাণ চুষে যায়। তিনি নিজে আচরণ করে সবাইকে জীবনের চলার পথের সন্ধান দিচ্ছেন। তিনি আমাদেরকে বললেন, "তিনকোটি লোক দীক্ষিত হয়েছে, আরো সাড়ে তিন কোটি দীক্ষা দিতে হবে।" পূজ্যপাদ শ্রী শ্রী দাদার এই ইচ্ছা পূরণ করার জন্য আমাদের যা যা করতে হয় তা সর্বান্তকরনে চেষ্টা করে বাস্তবায়িত করে মানব জীবন ধন্য করব।



Abstract Following - Blurred Path
Painting by Miska Ghosh,
Student of Grade 2, California, USA

Acharya Prasang

(Experiences with the Prodhan Acharyadev Sree Sree Dada)

These articles were collected last year on the occasion of Param Pujyapad Sree Sree Dada's 88th Birth Anniversary

Divine Love and Wisdom

of Param Pujyapada Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada

Dr Kerry Brace, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

Respected Asis Basu informed me to write something on the occasion of Satsang America's 2021 eUtsav.

Although it has been many years since I have been there, I do have wonderful memories of being with Him. Most of the time that I was fortunate enough to be in His company was when Sree Sree Borda was still with us; and His devout attendance to His father was exemplary. The most memorable thing about Him, for me, is the joy, happiness, and love for people that would radiate from Him in His manner of interacting with others. It was like the atmosphere of a nice sunny day with refreshing air. So naturally people would gather around Him to enjoy His company as much as they could, Imagine the divine atmosphere in His room in the Hospice with as many people as could fit in gathered around Him.

Something he said to me on one occasion has come to mind, although I do not remember the exact words. I think that it was in regard to severe ascetic practices that some would engage in as a means of pursuing realization. He said something to the effect that, in doing so, they would be inflicting pain or suffering on the cells of their own bodies. To me, this gives a hint of the depth

of His compassion, extending even to the millions of microscopic beings that together form the human body.

One other thing that has come to mind illustrates His depth of knowledge. At Sree Sree Borda's request, Ajitava Gupta Choudhury and I had made an English translation of Sree Sree Thakur's book, "Pather Kori." However, the Bengali title had been kept, and an English title was lacking. I had thought of a couple of possible translations, but they did not actually convey the Bengali meaning. So by writing a letter, I requested Acharya-dev to suggest an English title. He replied giving the title, "Viatica." It was a word I had never come across before. On looking it up in a large dictionary, I found that it is the exact translation of "Pather Kori" -- "an allowance for traveling expenses" or "provisions for a journey." It was originally a Latin word derived from the word "via, " which means "way." So even an uncommon word, not in His mother language, was readily accessible to Him.

How fortunate we are to have such a guide for our ways of life as he.

Pujyapad Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada's message to the workers in the 242nd All India Ritwik Conference on 01 Jan, 2000 -

“One thing you all should keep in mind, as long as there is a tendency to make oneself great, one has not become Thakur's man. One who is Thakur's man does not want to make himself great. He wants to make others great. Everyone will grow up, everyone will be beautiful and will have a successful life - this is my achievement, my realization. This is austerity.”

Born Leader

Satyajyoti Bose (SPR), Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

[Translated by Manoj Patra (SPR), California, USA]

Param Pujyapada Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada was a leader right from his youth. We all children would follow him and do whatever he asked us to do. Everyone liked to work with him and would look up to him as not only like an elder brother but as a leader.

He was a good player and would play many outdoor games. In particular he liked to play football (soccer) and was very good at it. He used to play in school and inter school in Pabna but at that time I was small. After we came to Deoghar the interest grew and many children started playing football. A club was made which Sree Sree Thakur named as Amar Football Club. It was called AFC in short. There were two teams team A and team B. Sree Sree Dada was the captain of the team A and Sree Sree Mejh da (Dr. Alope Chakravarty) was captain of Team B. Sree Sree was a very good player and mostly played as striker though he was equally good in defence or as a goalkeeper. He used to run very fast and cover the whole field in a short time. He would play and coach others the importance of passes and team spirit in the game. I think this was his way of teaching us children many important lessons of planning, strategy, character formation and ability to work together.

One afternoon the Anandabazar building caught fire. Those days Anandbazar used to run from near the current Manmohini Dham. One room was used as a storehouse for rice, pulses, other grains, vegetables etc. The fire surrounded the building. Sree Sree Thakur was resting at that time. Sree Sree Borda and Sree Sree Dada both rushed to the spot. Sree Sree Borda said, “Devotees have gathered and contributed the

material with so much effort, I cannot let that get burnt”. Saying this he rushed though the flames into the storehouse and retrieved sack after sack of the grains on his back. The temperature was so high that some rice became like *muri* (puffed rice). But he bore the weight and the heat with only a towel on his back. In the meantime Sree Sree Dada asked us to make a human chain. He himself started withdrawing water bucket after bucket from the well and passed on to the boy near the well. He then passed to the one next and that way we passed hundreds of buckets of water to douse the fire. Sree Sree Boroma also came out and transferred the retrieved food material to safety with help of other mothers.

Thus led by Sree Sree Borda and Sree Dada we were able to quench the fire. Initially some people were shocked to see the fire and alarmed the Fire Station. They waited for the fire truck to arrive. Later they were awestruck at the speed with which we worked. That day the Fire Truck got late. As the driver tried to rush to the area, he met with an accident and ran over a woman. Due to that accident the Fire Truck could not come for a long time. By the time some officials of the fire department arrived we had already overcome the fire.

I have seen from close quarter time to time the inborn leadership in Sree Sree Dada. He would assess the gravity of a situation or the oncoming danger and spring into action immediately. Very tactfully and deftly he would employ or use every resource available and thwart any mishap. My deep salutations and obeisance to the personality with such unparalleled caliber and a man of hearts



My memoirs with Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada

Jeffrey Renert (SPR), Florida, USA

It is a privilege and honour to be requested to write a few words about our Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada.

My history began with Sree Sree Dada in the mid 1970's. When I was fortunate to join Sree Sree Borda and Rev. Asoke Da (at that time) and more than 40 Satsangees for a tour of Assam and Bhutan. It was an eye opening tour with thousands greeting Sree Sree Borda and our group at many locations.

The main purpose of the trip was for Sree Sree Borda to bless the laying of a stone representing the foundation of many new Satsang Centres. During this tour Rev. Sree Sree Dada was involved with many aspects to protect His father and to be sure events proceeded smoothly. His style was mixed with firmness, humour and love. It became clear to me Rev. Sree Sree Dada was not only very intelligent but had an endearing quality that motivated others.

Another aspect of our beloved Acharyadeva came to light in our presence. He enjoyed conversations, humour and singing. One occasion on our trip was a singing contest with a well known singer at a picnic along the side of a river bank. To me the joyous picnic and singing demonstrated how Rev. Sree Sree Dada was a man of the people. A strong leader who could relate to others through love from the heart along with intelligence.

The other experience that will be shared occurred in March 2007. This was a special visit to Satsang Deoghar because it included my 17 yr old daughter Leah. We landed at Dumdum (at that time) in Calcutta (at that time). Instead of taking the train we took a private taxi to Deoghar. Unfortunately our driver got lost and the trip made Rev. Sree Sree Dada very anxious (no cell phones!). Eventually we arrived at the Philanthropy gate in the middle of the night. The next day we greeted Acharyadeva on his chowki (A rectangular cot) in Natmandap. He was very excited to see us but also gave me a long look and stern warning, not to repeat this type of transportation again.

What Rev. Sree Sree Dada did next was extremely delightful. He wanted to make sure my daughter Leah was well cared for. He focused on setting her up with others her age and to be sure she was comfortable. For me, it was emotional to see and appreciate his concern.

Our stay at Satsang lasted about 8-10 days. I sat with Him as much as possible. Conversation did occur but mostly, for me, it was about "repeating the Holy Name". This was extremely beneficial for my personal growth & devotion.

My life has been greatly enhanced being a devotee of Sree Sree Thakur. Additionally my spiritual growth and my "Being and Becoming" has evolved with the guidance from both Sree Sree Borda and Sree Sree Dada.



The Best Companion Of My Life

Asis Basu (SPR), Cumming, Georgia, USA

It makes my mind dance with sheer joy when I think of Acharyadev Sree Sree Dada. That overpowering joy that can connect me with Him is so enchanting and so available right now.

He truly is the Vanguard of Prosperity for all of us. Even for those who have not had a chance to be connected with Sree Sree Thakur, I think if one is true to his or her self and actively seeking Paramatma's (Supreme Soul) love - one will get an opportunity to embrace the Eternal Love and be embraced by Him. Someday He ought to arrive in that soul and play in the residence of that life. If something is certain to happen, it is this assimilation. The passport to an eternal life was awarded to me by Sree Sree Dada when I first saw Him on the terrace of the New Guest House in Thakur Bari in late 70's on a moonlit night. He was accompanied by a handful of devotees enjoying His divine presence. He briefly looked at me in semi darkness but I had this feeling that He created a passage of convincing love that emanated.

Is that called virtual? Perhaps. But it felt so real. He convincingly asserted to me that if I try to cleanse my heart and be sincere about it, Thakur would give me a permanent place of enlightened abode. Ever since, despite being an imprecise person myself, Sree Sree Dada resonates in my heart everyday, day in and day out.

Acharyadeva loves me. The big question is "Do I?" And if I do, "Do I do it with full steam"?

Receiving this overpowering gift of incessant flow of love, we all are being drenched with His awesome embrace. Many years ago, we accompanied Sree Sree Dada to Chennai. During the train ride (Coromandal) from Bhubaneswar, I was experiencing growing hunger since the night

before. After Ishtavrity that morning, we approached Visakhapatnam, where vendors were selling all types of foods, including enticing piping hot puri with aloo dum. While my brothers and I were inquiring about the food (safety, sanitation etc.), we were reminded of the quote "Water, water everywhere; not a drop to drink." Dismayed, we returned without buying anything.

The train started again towards our destination. As I had company of many good men, knowledgeable and full of life, my hunger was suppressed momentarily by the effects of their brotherhood. But even that was not sustainable after a while. I literally cried, "Oh God please provide me with some food." Within a few minutes, Gour Nayak da magically came to us with dozens of yellow ripe bananas. He stopped once he reached our compartment, "Bapi Da, these are for you from Dada. Enjoy, but remember to share with others." He giggled. We all scavenged on the gift of lifesaving food. He is the Savior!

This is just a small example of the grace of connectivity that I feel blessed to be endowed with. Ever since then or actually ever since whenever, His downpouring of unconditional love has been flowing. Flowing on me and flowing on each member of our family. Now the onus is on my shoulder. I got to deliver the promise I made on the first day I was introduced to Thakur. To become like Him.

কবে আমি এমন হব?

আমায় দেখে বুঝবে লোকে
তুমি আছো জীবন বল্লভ!

When shall I become like you?

People will come to reckon
You remain here my Life Master

Epitome of Love and Charmness

Manoj Patra (SPR), California, USA

I visited Deoghar Ashram in Jul 2002 to participate in the Karmi Sammelini and the Utsav. As we were seated in the *naatmandap*, He suddenly asked me and this is how the conversation followed:

Sree Sree Dada: How many keys are there in a computer keyboard?.

Me: Typically 104-105 and some smaller ones have 87-88.

Sree Sree Dada: Do all the keys have the same purpose and behavior?.

Me: No. Every key has a specific function. Some special keys help other keys behave differently.

Sree Sree Dada: Like?

Me: Like Shift key, Control Key, Alt Key etc. They can be used in combination with others to create special signals for the computer.

Sree Sree Dada: Exactly.

Then he continued, “Every individual is different from another. By engaging in the activity as per their *vaishishtya* a lot can be achieved through them. If teams of 2-3 are formed based on their compatibility powerful teams can be created”.

After a while he continued, “I hear that many boys who stay in Bangalore are without a job. How can they do *Istakarma* if they remain without a job/work for long. You should try to get them a job, as many as possible”.

By His grace soon after my return to Bangalore, I got a call from a friend, a US Citizen who had set up a new company and was looking for some technical guidance for a telecom project. As I discussed that with him, I got to know that he was looking for expansion. Over the next few months several gurubhais were engaged in his company

and got a professional break in life. Many of those gurubhais are well placed now working in MNCs or overseas. Some of them have been blessed with holy panjas and doing *Istakarma* very effectively.

In another event, perhaps in Oct 2006, I was visiting Deoghar to participate in the Vijaya Utsav and Karmi Sammelini. There was quite a crowd in the *naatmandap* as happens during such times. Pujyapad Sree Sree Dada asked suddenly, “How is the Apple computer?” I had been working in the industry for a long time to have some idea about Apple computers but had never used one myself. Laptops were available for several years but tablets were very new. I was using Windows based laptops. I replied that “Apple computers are generally very good”, and being the software developer that I was, I added, “But writing one’s own applications for Apple is challenging”. He asked, “So you mean, that one cannot write a program the way I want and run on Apple”. I said, “Yes it is more difficult as the application has to go through a lot of approval process”. He then asked which laptop was good in my opinion. I said Microsoft laptops are good and he asked about the manufacturers. I replied that HP, IBM, Dell made good laptops. In the crowd there was a gurubhai who worked in Dell. He said Dell machines are not good. In their company the cliche was “Dell is Hell”. Everyone laughed. Acharyadev said, “Employee of Microsoft says to buy Dell and one who works for Dell says not to buy Dell, so I am going to get an Apple”. Everyone laughed heartily. I got my first Apple Macbook in 2014 and in hindsight I wonder at the great sense Acharyadeva has to make the best choice.

This happened in April 2014, I was in Deoghar and seated in the Naatmandap. I bowed down and mentioned an upcoming trip to Dubai. He asked, “*Ki bolchees?*” (What is he saying)? Pujaniyo Binki da clarified, “He is going to Dubai for some official work. It happens to coincide with the Annual Utsav in Dubai”. Sree Sree Dada nodded in consent and I received the blessings I was yearning for. (Later Pujaniyo Binki da gave me contact information of some eminent workers in Dubai like Ananda da, Bhilai da, Anjan da, Tarun da etc and Pujaniyo Sipai da separately instructed them to ask me to do Ista-Alochana in the Utsav. That was quite an experience in itself which I will narrate some other day). I was seated with others when after about 10-15 minutes the discussions ensued about places outside India. Pujyapad Acharyadeva suddenly asked me, “Have you been to Paris?”. I replied in affirmation.

Sree Sree Dada: London?

Me: Yes

Sree Sree Dada: Which other places?

Me: Vienna, Venice, Brussels, Frankfurt and some more places in Europe.

Sree Sree Dada: Which other countries?

Me: Singapore, Malaysia, USA

Sree Sree Dada: Sydney?

Me: No. I haven't been to Australia or Africa

Sree Sree Dada: Which places in the USA?

Me: San Francisco, Seattle, New York, New Jersey, Boston, Los Angeles, Kansas City, Dallas, Cleveland, Akron and some more.

I thought I covered many cities from West to East, but he continued, “And?”. I murmured, “Las Vegas”. He smiled and asked, “Miami?”. I nodded in negation saying “No”. And then he asked “HonoLulu” in such a tone that everyone laughed and I also burst out laughing. A few thought perhaps that it was either a non-existent place or an inaccessible place. I was not foreseeing any visit to the USA in the near future. However, within about 3 months after that I got a new job offer from Google and visited the US in Nov-Dec 2014. I am yet to visit some of the places asked for by Sree Sree Dada and I firmly believe that his inquiry is a blessing and all I have to do is try a little to visit all the remaining places.

Every time I have been in his presence, I have been inexpressibly influenced by his charm and his pure selfless love. I treasure those interactions with pride as they bring happiness to me over and over again. I wish and pray for a long and healthy life of Sree Sree Dada so that he continues to guide us all and in his divine endeavor.

Bande Purushottamam !

Pujyapad Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada's message to the workers in the 304th All India Ritwik Conference in Jul 2016

“...Try to move on together. Here there is no competition, only cooperation. Never forget that we are His servants. We are all one. Never forget this oneness, this unity.

However difficult the situation may be, never denigrate others. If you do and if you can't eradicate the fault for which you are criticising him from his character then know it for certain that that fault will seep into you.

You too will become like that. So never ever utter anything negative about anyone, let alone speaking it out. We should never speak ill of others. One needs to be an admirer of others. One needs to speak good of others. We should help others stand on their positive qualities and become men of Sree Sree Thakur, so that they can become Ideal-centric

Sree Sree Dada

Gisela Lichtgarn, Unionville, Connecticut, USA

We first came to the ashram in May 1970. We met with Sri Sri Borda and were so impressed by his loving presence that we stayed for 15 months.

He had wanted us to have a child. So when Gabriel was born in 1974, we went back to see Borda in 1976 when Gabriel was 2 years old. His birthday was Nov. 21, the same day of birth as that of Sri Sri Borda!

We went again in 1986. During that time Gabriel became initiated and Borda chose Sri Sri Dada as his Ritwik. Dada took over an hour to initiate him. It was a very good experience for Gabriel about which he talks often. After Borda's demise Sri Sri Dada became the Acharya. We were about to meet Sri Sri Dada, as we had not had much of that opportunity previously.

We found out that Dada had a very different personality. But in essence he had the loving qualities of Sri Sri Borda, and we had to assume, of Sri Sri Thakur, since that love was the special characteristic of the Lord, enabling Him to tune in on every man and woman, any creature in His creation.

Sri Sri Thakur had a very broad and expansive nature. He had the capacity to tune in on ANY other human nature who was blessed to be able to come in contact with Him. So whoever came to him felt understood and cared about by Him. Well, we felt that from Sri Sri Borda, and in time we were able to feel that from Sri Sri Dada as well!

Dada tuned in on Gabriel's health issues right from the start. He was deeply concerned about him and did his utmost to provide solutions for a

serious inherited illness passed down to Gabriel from his great grandfather Leo.

Dada wanted Gabriel to have as much contact with him as possible. In 2004 he invited him to stay with him as long as Gabriel wanted. It turned out that he stayed with Dada for 7 months! At that time my husband had become ill with leukemia and Gabriel became worried about it and wanted to go back to be with his dad!

In 1999 Dada wanted us to visit Puri and sent Rushibhai Senapati from Odisha to be our guide. It was during the time of the super cyclone which started as soon as we arrived in Puri. As a result of that horrendous storm we were stuck in Puri for three days, as the knocked down trees on the highway to Bhubaneswar were blocking any possible traffic! During that stormy weather my son's poor health became worse. Finally we were able to get through to Bhubaneswar. During that storm Sri Sri Dada had tried to reach an office of the temple to make sure we were safe. With Dada's incredible intuition he managed to call to the only phone that was still in operation and with someone there to answer it! During that visit we were supposed to stay in the ashram for only 3 weeks. But Dada wanted us to stay longer. The Post Office where my husband worked allowed family members to stay with any other members who were sick, like Gabriel. Dada knew that and asked David how long he wanted to stay. David answered, "One month". But Dada did not like it. "How about 2 months?" Again Dada was not enthusiastic. It turned out we stayed 5 months and it made Dada very happy!!

And I would like to add, it made all of us very happy!!

My husband passed away in 2005. Since then Gabriel and I have gone to the ashram about every 4 years to be with Dada! Gradually over the years the health of my son has improved, though it is the kind of illness that one does not recover from easily, if at all. Here Dada has done his utmost to bring about his recovery, using homeopathy, as well as traditional “regular” medicine, which usually has terrible side effects, but keeps Big Pharma in business.

Sri Sri Thakur always picked up on the talents and special interests of the devotees. Sri Sri Dada noticed Gabriel’s special musical gift, and encouraged it, having Gabriel sing at special performances in the ashram.

Dada also had his own ways of adjusting the devotees, like me, for example. I had written to him about having a constipation problem. His reply always came over a period of 9 years, “to eat more”. While it didn’t make much sense to me, I did as I was told. I ate more. It also resulted in weight gain, and my clothes no longer fit me. I was gaining a total of 29 lbs. One day we were in the ashram and it struck me that there was something “fishy here”! I realized, Dada was testing my self-control and my greed! David was coming back from sitting with Dada. The first thing he said to me was, “Dada wants you to eat more!” I replied, “I will NOT eat more. Dada is pulling my leg and testing me!” I stopped eating more and within a few months I was back to the normal weight for my size!! But it was a good lesson that I will never forget. Dada wanted me to use my own judgement and not just blindly do what the guru says!!

We were blessed to have Dada in our lives. Any question or confusion we had we communicated to him and received an answer. Sometimes handwritten and by snail mail, later by email. It was an incredible blessing that made up for the

fact that we could hardly speak Bengali and could rarely follow any of the conversations that went on with Dada and others in the ashram. So Dada understood our position and made up for that disadvantage in his own loving way!

Around the year 2000 we met a young woman who was born in the ashram by the name of Chumki Das. With a very outgoing nature and very good English she made friends with us. We were all on a similar wavelength and enjoyed each other's company! After my husband passed away, our friendship continued and Dada made sure that Chumki Das helped us in every way possible! He even gave her money to be spent on us! But of course Chumki did not need much encouragement and in her own way supported us whenever possible. Her help made it much easier for us to stay for long periods of time, which we usually did during the cooler months from October until February or so.

Gradually the health of my son improved, though it was a very SLOW and arduous process. We were making up very heavy duty karma! The illness had started when Gabriel was 11 ½ and continues to this day! From asthma to insomnia to digestion problems to allergies of many kinds as well as emotional challenges he has struggled with for many years. He has wanted to get married for a long time. But so far no prospective, suitable bride has been found. Everyone Dada, Boro Boudi Babaida, Sipaida, Binkida have been most encouraging, as well as Abinda!!

Living with chronic illness can be very challenging and stressful, especially if no end seems to be in sight! Luckily by His grace we were able to homeschool our son which we did even before the inherited illness became a problem. As a result Gabriel was able to grow up at his own unique pace and also in a supportive environment, not influenced by co-education, something that Sri Sri

Thakur did not approve of, and felt that most problems were the result of educating both boys and girls in the same classroom!

By the Lord's grace Gabriel has a natural ability to communicate with many varieties of people. His job in a CT hotel as a front desk supervisor is in many ways an ideal job, as he has to deal with many kinds of people with many different temperaments, backgrounds and needs. His supervisor appreciated that in Gabriel. Gabriel feels it is due to the frequent contact with Sri Sri Dada that he has been able to heal the right side

of his mind, which the medication he has had to take, had at one time almost eliminated. But Gabriel feels that Dada has healed that part of his brain that was not working well due to the heavy influence of the medication.

So we have been indebted to our loving Sri Sri Dada for many many years! We feel incredibly GRATEFUL and blessed to have known him as soon as he became Acharya! We missed Sri Sri Thakur by one year but have been able to spend a very long time with Dada! It is surely a blessing beyond comparison! Our lives have become truly meaningful having had him in our lives!



On 28th Dec, 1955 at 7:30 AM (the day before Full Moon) Sree Sree Thakur at Jamtala house himself imparted initiation to his grandsons Asoke Chakravarty (present Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada) and Aloke Chakraborty (Rev. Mejb da) and gave the Ritwik book to both. Sree Sree Thakur himself wrote their names on the Ritwik books. Both the brothers did pronam and received blessings. Sree Sree Thakur said soulfully "Jai Parampita, Jai Dayal". Both the brothers paid homage to their Lord.

Sree Prafulla da asked, "Will they too receive holy panja in writing"? Sree Sree Thakur replied "They do not need the panja, their body is their panja". Sree Sree Thakur said "Get engaged. Keep doing the same thing that I have done all my life. Become a carer of people". Sree Sree

Thakur said to Asoke da and Aloke da that you should pass B.Sc. in one shot and then M.Sc in another shot. Go get it as soon as possible, while I am here".

After a while Sree Sree Thakur said, "Jesus's father Joseph was an apostle. You are also the same". Then He asked to check the meaning of apostle in the dictionary. Pujya Asoke da referred and said, "One who is sent". Speaking on Dharma Sree Sree said, "Keep your body healthy. Many prophets come here, all are but One. We Hindus believe that 'sarva deva mayo Guru'. One has to see everyone in the Acharya. The unrepelling adherence to the Acharya is religion. The Acharya is one who is known by conduct. Dharma is never two. Dharma upholds being and leads in the direction of becoming".

(extracted from 'Deeparakshi, Vol 2')

His Divine Guidance

Priyam Baidya (SPR), Connecticut, USA

Imagine a stormy night and a dark road in front of you which you are not familiar with. How pleasant would it be if there was a person who knew the road, was showing you the way and led you safely to the destination. In my life Param Pujyapada Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada has been my guiding light through many such problems.

As a child my elder sister was afraid of exams and this phobia resulted in her getting sick on the morning of the exams. My father did nivedan to Rev. Acharyadeva and He gave a sweet solution. He advised my sister to have rasagolla before every exam. That became a rule for our household and every exam was preceded by consuming a rasagolla. In Bengali language “*golla*” refers to zero. So, there is a tendency of people to avoid rasagolla on exam days. By this blessing Sree Sree Dada broke down a wall of ignorance that was within our understanding. The phobia of exams disappeared in thin air for my sister by His grace.

After I started my first job in Cognizant in 2009, I bought a watch for Sree Sree Dada. I wanted to give it to him with my own hands as this was the first time I got something for Him after getting the job. On that evening many devotees had gathered for His darshan and pranam. Standing in the queue I prayed for Him to see the watch, the box had to be twisted in a spiral action for the watch to come up. I was not sure if someone would open and show Him the watch as there were many devotees to do nivedan. As my turn for Darshan and Pranam arrived I handed the watch over to the gentleman doing the nivedan on behalf of devotees. As he took the watch and walked towards the table where everything was being kept, to my amazement Rev. Acharyadeva asked for the watch to be unboxed and to be shown to Him. I still remember my heart filled with gratitude and my eyes flooded with tears as He took the watch in his hand and looked at it. A proof that none of our prayers are unheard under His holy guidance.

In the year 2011, my parents and I were staying at a rented apartment in Kasba, Kolkata. We organized Satsang at home on the first Saturday every month and many guru brothers and mothers used to attend the Satsang. In one such Satsang after joyous bhajan and kirtan another resident of the same building called me and my father and started to complain about organizing Satsang at home as we were mere tenants.

Natmandap, we offered our pranam to Sree Sree Dada and asked His permission to proceed with buying the apartment. He looked at me and asked if I had seen the apartment. I said that I have only seen the land and the plan. He said “*Bari kenar agey dekho newa lage*” (one must actually see the house before buying it). It was evident to me that I could not proceed with buying this apartment as I did not see it with my own eyes. Almost 6 months later I saw an apartment and with His blessing I was able to purchase it.

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When Parampujyapad Sree Sree Dada blessed the people of the United States to create the Satsang Center in New York, I witnessed how our lives evolved. From a scattered group of guru brothers in every state belonging to different nations like India, Bangladesh and Nepal emerged a closely-knit family of Satsangees who dedicated their heart and soul to fulfil His wish. The Satsang America family became a reality. And all this was only possible because He blessed us to do it.

We are blessed to have Parampujyapad Acharyadev Sree Sree Dada as a Father and as a Divine Guiding Light holding whose hands, we will be able to become as Sree Sree Thakur wanted us to be. On this holy day I pray to the Lotus feet of Sree Sree Thakur for Param Pujyapada Sree Sree Dada's good health and for His Holy Guidance to bless us for many more years to come.

তোমায় ভালোবেসে

প্রিয়ম বৈদ্য, কানেক্টিকাট, আমেরিকা

জীবন যখন অন্ধকারে দাঁড়িয়ে খোঁজে মানে
তুমি তখন মনের মানুষ, বাঁচি তোমার টানে
বৃত্তিঝরে কাহিল জীবন যখন গেছে থেমে
বাঁচা বাড়ার মন্ত্রে তুমি জড়ালে আকুল প্রেমে

দুচোখ বোজা দুহাত পাতা স্বার্থের ধর্মকে
বাঁধনখুলে করলে স্বাধীন ইষ্টকর্ম ঝোঁকে
বুকে টেনে তুমি ধরালে মানুষ হৃদয় ছিল ফাঁকা
আজ সেখানে রাজাধিরাজ তোমার ছবি আঁকা

প্রার্থনা আজ জানাই প্রভু পুন্যদিনে এসে
তোমার হয়ে উঠি যেন তোমায় ভালোবেসে
এভাবে তুমি আগলে রেখো সকল দীনহীনে
জানাই প্রণাম তোমার শ্রীচরণে আজ শুভ জন্মদিনে

Savior of me, Savior of all !!

Gourishankar Dev (SPR), Phoenix, Arizona, USA

Time and time again the Lord has come to uplift mankind from the grip of passions and complexes, but in the present age Love Lord has come to this material plane and after His Holy departure from the mortal world gifted mankind the *Acharya parampara*, inside who the Lord himself resides and the human race has got the eternal bliss to serve the Love Lord by fulfilling Param Pujyapada Acharyadeva's wishes. Nature is seeing His divine play through the present Param Pujyapada Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada, whose every action is to fulfill Lord's wish, thereby inspiring each and every one in every way.

When I think of my beloved Param Pujyapada Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada, writing on His Holy 88th Birthday, words just cannot justify His love, magnanimity, divine blessings and redemption, having saved so many lives from dreaded bodily illness as well as liberating sinful souls.

My memories go back to the days I lived in Guwahati, Assam in the 1990s and 2000's. Sree Sree Dada had so much affection for the state of Assam, especially the city of Guwahati, having involved Himself in the construction of the temple. Any time the news of the holy arrival of Sree Sree Dada reached the devotees, a sheer joy used to rush through everyone's existence. Countless lives that sought refuge at His holy feet have been transformed by coming in His divine proximity. I know of many individuals with a record of doing anti-social activities in Assam who have transformed themselves into a lovable, serviceable to mankind, individual. Such is His divine personality.

We know Sree Sree Dada, is Bhavagrahi Narayan (One who knows other's feelings very normally and accepts and responds to them as per their

feeling, one who is the most supreme amongst Man).

During one such visit, I was sitting in the Natmandap, and Sree Sree Dada resting in His bed was having a light conversation with the devotees. Many big personalities were coming and offering Pranam and the gift they brought to Sree Sree Dada. Suddenly one person, seemingly from a remote tribal village, wearing just a gamucha (a traditional towel in Assam) and holding a big pumpkin, came and offered Pranam to Sree Sree Dada. Seeing him with much enthusiasm, Sree Sree Dada rose to be in a sitting position and accepted the pumpkin from that person with so much love and a divine smile.

While being in Bangalore from 2010 till 2016, I got an opportunity probably of multiple lifetimes to work, from the starting (29-May-2011) till the inauguration (14-Dec-2014) of Satsang Vihar Bangalore. I remember in the initial days Sree Sree Dada, told all of us to go near the temple land and stay there. Within days of His divine blessings many of us moved near the temple vicinity, where getting a good house was difficult. During the coming months such a unique loving bond was created amongst all brethren, and this love was even more than our individual blood relations. I clearly remember during one such period of temple construction, there was a shortage of manpower, and we were unable to proceed at the pace in which Sree Sree Dada wanted us to. Immediately, many of us went to Deoghar and we bowed down at His feet and appealed to Him, Sree Sree Dada heard us, and lovingly said, "The work of Lord's temple has to be done with one's own hand". We experienced a divine thrill at this, and after we came back from Deoghar, there was no looking back. All of us worked in our day jobs for living, and from evening till late night we

worked with the limited construction personnel we had. We never felt a lack of energy, and I remember very clearly on one such occasion for casting a roof we all worked continuously for more than 24 hours and I still wonder how and from where the software engineers with a desk job got so much energy. Of course it was possible only by the heavenly blessings of our beloved Sree Sree Dada.

I would like to share a couple of my personal experiences with Sree Sree Dada. During the inauguration of Satsang Vihar Hyderabad, I was privileged to attend and witness the same. One afternoon Sree Sree Dada was present in the pavilion adjacent to Acharya bhawan and by His wish, songs were being sung in different Indian languages. During the course many devotees were offering Pranam and experiencing divine bliss of having His darshan. I got a Cashew packet wrapped in multiple layers for Sree Sree Dada, and package was so covered no one could tell what it is, my heart pounding with joy, I went near him and offered my Pranam and gave the package to Him, Before I telling what is inside that package, Sree Sree Dada told one of the devotee to collect the Cashew packet from me and keep it safely. I was awestruck experiencing the bliss, offered Pranam at His lotus feet and went back.

In another incident, I go back to my school days, when I used to stammer a lot, the situation was so bad that in the class I couldn't even say "Present Sir" during the roll call. Seeing this my mother took me to Deoghar and did a nibedan (an appeal) to Sree Sree Dada. After looking at me for a while, He told through one of the brethren near Him, to tell me to consume a syrup made of Lukewarm milk, mixing it with crushed raw Turmeric and rocky sugar (In Bengali called - Misri) and have it daily before going to bed. We were delighted to get this medicine from Param Pujyapada Acharyadeva, and after coming back from Deoghar, I started to have this regularly, and miraculously within a few months my stammering problem slowly receded and in a few years it was completely gone. I did research but couldn't find any for stammering. I believe I was cured by Him by His immense mercy.

At the end I would conclude, with the prayers at the Lotus feet of my Love Lord Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra for bestowing good health and a very long life to our most beloved Param Pujyapada Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada. And I also pray that I can go soon to Deoghar and have His Holy Darshan. Heartfelt obeisance at the lotus feet of Param Pujyapada Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada.

Pujyapad Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada's message to the workers in the 304th All India Ritwik Conference in Jul 2016

"...When someone behaves or talks in accordance with my liking, then I like him. But if someone talks or behaves in a way contrary to my likings or interests, even then he is my fellow devotee-brother so very much my own. Thakur says, Even if a fellow devotee goes astray, keep an eye on him, take care that no one can

manhandle or manipulate him in crooked wicked audacity'.

The avowed goal of life is to live together with everyone else. If someone is against my interest, I must not do away with him. I may maintain distance with him, but should never abandon him."

My Reflection of Sree Sree Dada

Santilal Biswas (SPR), Michigan, USA

On Sree Sree Dada's 88th birthday, I would like to honor him by paying endless obeisance and salute at his lotus feet. In the divine tradition of Sree Sree Thakur, Acharyadev Sree Sree Dada's sensitive mind attracts people's hearts. Sree Sree Thakur's kindness was observed towards people, animals, trees. Sree Sree Dada, the genius of Dayal's tradition, is distributing grace and love just like Sree Sree Thakur.

After a long time of wishing and longing to go to Thakur bari, I finally got an opportunity in October of 2019. Upon arrival at Thakur bari, I went to Sree Sree Dada's Naatmadap where he sits in front of the philanthropy office. I did not know anyone there, so dear Asis da had told me to seek help from respected Santipada Da; he was the one who helped me greatly in my travel and introduced me to Sree Sree Dada. Here, I gave my pranam to Sree Sree Dada and my pranam to his three sons, Pujaniyo Babai da, Pujaniyo Shipai da and Pujaniyo Binki da.

At one moment, Sree Sree Dada looked towards me and I automatically started chanting the Holy name and I felt a great amount of overwhelming

happiness. Sree Sree Dada sits upon his seat while all the devotees surround him; they feel a lot of happiness to be in his presence. He would sometimes write in his notes or look towards the devotees and ask questions. On behalf of Sree Sree Dada, his son Pujaniyo Binki da served as a mediator and translator to the devotees. To the questions asked by some devotees to Sree Sree Dada he would answer through the communication of Pujaniyo Binki da.

Pujaniyo Binki da turned towards me and asked me a question directly from Sree Sree Dada. I was asked to do Thakur's work, in which I responded with great positivity and sought his blessings. The next morning, I went to visit Pujaniyo Shipai da and I received the holy SPR panja from him.

Being surrounded by his kindness and love brought me to feel such elation and joy. I am very grateful to have experienced his presence. Again, I give the greatest obeisance and pranam to Sree Sree Dada. I pray for Sree Sree Dada to Param Dayal Sree Sree Thakur infinitely.

Vande Purushottamam !!

Pujyapad Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada's message to the workers in the 268th All India Ritwik Conference in Jul 2007

"...Every lifeform on earth starts with the recognition of 'I'. 'I' exist and define the world around me. When one realizes that 'I' cannot exist without others realization sets in. Some keep pursuing the little 'I' in everything. They are constantly busy thinking about 'my house', 'my car', 'my life' etc and remain

self-centered. But when we realize that the world is an aggregation of millions of such 'I' the importance to oneself melts. Each one should try to fulfill the other. Everyone around 'me' has to exist and grow and only then 'my' existence would be unblemished. 'I' exist because of others ..."

Anecdotes of Blissful Moments with Acharyadeva Sree Dada

Biswajit Paul, North Carolina, USA

Honestly, I do not have much association with Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada in spite of having visited Deoghar a few times with my parents during my school and college days. However I realized his divine bliss after coming to the US and then visiting Thakurbari in the last two years.

Here is one incident from my school days. During one of our visits to Deoghar, my mother and I were sitting in the *Natmandap* having *darshan* of Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada from a distance just like other devotees. As I was sitting with my mother another ashramite gurubhai who was trying to maintain discipline, told me to leave that spot as that area was for mothers. When that gurubhai told me again and I was about to move, Sree Sree Dada impromptu told that gurubhai "*chele ke maa'r theke aladaa keno korchees*" (why are you separating the son from his mother). After that both me and my mother sat together.

This is our loving Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada whose vision can fathom all relations, read all minds and see the unseen.

Here is another incident from our visit to Thakurbari in Feb-March 2019. Before leaving for India, I had a plan to take a gift for Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada but could not figure out what to take. In the holy book *Deepprakshi*, I found references of Chinese philosopher Confucius who Sree Sree Thakur admired a lot for his wisdom. I remembered one of Sree Sree Thakur's verses:

*Ista-guru Purushottam,
pratik guru bongsoodhar
Reto shareerai supto theke
jyanto tinee nirantor*

which compelled me to purchase the book '*Analect of Confucius*' and present it to Sree Sree Dada thinking Sree Sree Thakur is alive in Him. After having purchased the book, I came to know that

Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada was avoiding reading books because of issues with eyesight and a collarbone fracture. I became skeptical whether to take the book or something else. After a long thought my heart said to take the book.

Early morning on 1st March 2019, we were waiting near *Natmandap* for Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada's *darshan*. The attendees were uncertain if he would come to *Natmandap* that morning as He was not well for the past few days. We were anxious as we had only a few hours to return by train in the afternoon. Within a few minutes we heard Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada would be coming to *Natmandap*. Our prayers were granted. We bowed down and sought his holy blessing. Senior Ritwik devata helped us convey our Nibedan and present the small token of love to our beloved Acharyadeva. He opened the book and flipped through the pages as if he knew it was coming and kept it beside him on the bed. That sight cannot be scripted in a few words, it was a moment of joy and fulfillment for all of us. As Acharyadev Sree Sree Dada was about to leave, I was anxious to know the fate of the book. All devotees stood up making it difficult for us to see from far off. With restless eyes we could get a blurred view of something in His hand and went upstairs to his room. When we reached near the *mandap* we could not see the book on the bedstead and that made us more anxious. Without delay we enquired about the book with the Ritwik devata who presented it to Sree Sree Dada on our behalf and he said Pujyapad Sree Sree Dada had taken it along with Him. We were staring at each other with sheer disbelief. That very moment I felt Sree Sree Thakur listened to our heartfelt wish through our living ideal Parampujyapad Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada.

Blessings of motherhood

Madhusmita Swain, North Carolina, USA

I got initiated in March 2007. A new Satsangee, I had no experience and realization of Sree Sree Thakur and Pujyapad Dada. However due to His blessing I realized Him in the course of my life which is so precious and unforgettable.

I got married in Jan 2007. After that I visited Deoghar with my husband and my in-laws in Feb to offer pronam to Pujyapad Dada and other members of Thakur family before coming to the States. That was my first visit to Ashram though my husband had visited several times earlier. He has a very strong faith in Sree Sree Thakur and Pujyapad Dada that whatever good happens in life is completely due to Parampita's blessings. But I had not developed that kind of strong faith in Thakur. After coming to the States I was doing prayer, meditation and attending Satsangs as usual with my husband. Life was going smoothly and in the month of July 2007 I came to know I conceived with twin boys. I was super excited and conveyed this message with my family and friends. Everyone was very happy and excited. I thought it was Sree Sree Thakur's blessing. I was enjoying my pregnancy and gathering new experiences day by day. Everything was going good but suddenly in the month of Nov during Thanksgiving I went through preterm labor and was rushed to the nearest hospital in Framingham, Massachusetts. My condition was critical, so they transferred me to Boston's Children's hospital. I went through a lot of pain and medication and delivered the babies. As both the babies were extremely premature, they could not survive.

This incident made me completely disturbed mentally and physically. I went through a lot of pain and was completely distracted from Thakur. I blamed Thakur for whatever happened to me as my devotion was weak. I stopped doing prayer

and even Istabhrity. I was completely broken in my heart. That was a tough time in my life but my husband stood by me strongly and convinced me to at least continue Istabhrity for his sake. I was mentally very disturbed and would wake up at night and start crying. He asked me to do naam to distract from recalling the tragic incident again and again. Gisela Ma also convinced me to do meditation to stabilize my mind. Respecting that and to divert my mind, I started doing naam and meditation not out of love or devotion. I started doing it for 2mins, then 5mins, then 10 mins and slowly I could do meditation for 45 mins to 1 hour without any distraction. Unknowingly I started realizing many things and I started forgetting that bad phase of my life. With time I understood that I should not worry about what I didn't have rather I should be happy with what I have. Whatever good happened in my life was due to Parampita's blessing and whatever bad was due to my bad karma (known or unknown) from my previous life or this life. During this long year of Sadhana, I realized Sree Sree Thakur and His blessings and accepted things as they were. During this time I went through lot of medical treatment and conceived a second time but had a miscarriage. But this time I was not disturbed and accepted it calmly.

I lost hope to become a mother but continued to do Jajan, Jaajan, Istavrity regularly and followed Swastayani and Sadachar sincerely and dedicatedly. I had realized that Sree Sree Thakur was always with me and guiding me. During the month of Aug 2009 once I saw Pujyapada Dada in my dream. I can still recall the dream vividly. I saw Sree Sree Dada dressed as usual sitting on a cot. I went to do pronam. After my pronam, Pujyapad Dada asked me why I was sad and crying. I replied, "You don't know why I am sad and

crying?”. Then Pujiyapada Dada put His hand on my head and said “Don’t worry, everything will be fine. You will be a mother of a son soon”. With curiosity I asked when it would be possible. Pujiyapad Dada replied “You will be a mother in the month of December”. Suddenly I woke up and could not realize it was a dream or reality. I told my husband about the dream the next moment. He replied it was good but as I have been thinking about this topic that’s probably why I saw this dream. Then the month of Dec came, life was as usual nothing happened, I also felt it was a dream and not real. I tried to forget about the dream. Around the month of May 2010 I realized that I conceived again, but this time I could not be happy nor sad and kept everything on Parampita. We went to the doctor and she confirmed the pregnancy and said the expected due date on 4th January, 2011. It was a tough pregnancy and I was in complete bed rest and could not do my daily activities properly. The whole pregnancy I spent doing naam, listening to Jaajans, Thakur’s bhajans/kirtans, reading almost all books on Thakur that we had in our home. Finally the month of Dec came as we planned our

parents to come for my delivery, they boarded on 19th Dec from Delhi to Charlotte via Munich. The same morning I went through labor and during the evening was rushed to hospital. After a few hours I delivered a son at midnight of 20th Dec. My son was a healthy baby without any complications though he was born 2 weeks before the due date. That moment I recalled Pujiyapada Dada’s dream and realized His blessing. During my pregnancy I saw Pujaniya Babai Da in my dream and He said it will be a boy which also came true. He named my son Tuhinendra which is another name of Lord Shiva. My son was born on Monday and as Hindus we believe it is the day of Lord Shiva.

There are a lot of things happening in our life which seem like miracles but behind that everything is completely Pujiyapad Dada’s blessings. I realized that when we surrender ourselves completely to HIM. He is always with us. Staying a thousand miles away from us and even if we cannot visit Him personally He can feel our pain and listen to our prayers.

Jethu

Maya Basu, Cumming, Georgia, USA

What can I say about Jethu¹? He is the start and the end of everything for me. The very best thing that my parents ever did for me was to take me to Thakurbari from a young age where I could get to know this most influential person in my life. Through these experiences I gained new life, and He revealed to me slowly the beauty and sweetness that was within me all along. When I was younger, I felt verily lost, and though even today obstacles may come in my life, I have now gained a sense of confidence and security in Him, and therefore in myself, that is with me every moment of every day, and this only grows as time goes on. This is essential to my life and growth.

I don't even know what to call Him. A friend? A guide? A loving companion, perhaps? All I know is that whatever name I try to put to our relationship could never fully encompass what He means to me, because He completely fulfills me and brings beauty to all aspects of my life. Describing Him as a light might come close, for in my darkest moments when no one else is there, I still feel His presence. He is therefore my most beloved. This is an asset in my life that I wouldn't replace with anything else, nor could I.

I can't remember just how long I have known Him but one thing for certain is that He has always known me -- from the very beginning of my life, and even before then. His knowledge is unfathomable. There hasn't been a moment of my existence He is not aware of. For a person like me, this means a lot. I, like many people, have had experiences in my life in which I was disappointed in my relationships with other people. Searching for perfection from those who aren't qualified to

give it is a futile endeavor. In Him, I found what I had been longing for, the love which my aching heart had not even been self aware that it was craving. All of that and more He gives to me. No matter the need of the human heart and mind, it can always find rest in my beloved Acharya. Then it seems nothing else matters, when one realizes that all along there has been an invisible string connecting you to the One who loves you more than anyone else in the entire world. An undercurrent of strength and beauty thus has commenced in my own life, and I owe it all to that friend, that guide, that loving companion, that light, my Jethu.

I only wish I could know Him better. How did He get to be the way that He is? How was He able to make His life so beautiful and sweet? I want my life to be like that. I want a life of joy, a life of light, a life of bliss. The more I think of Him and His normal dedication to Sree Sree Thakur, the more I feel compelled to lead a life dedicated to Thakur, to learn more about Thakur so that I too may make my life more beautiful. There's no other way for me to understand Thakur I feel. For me, Jethu is the start and the end of my growth. He is the one who told me the immortal secret, "*Thakur chhara kichhu ne?*" (There is nothing other than Thakur). Just how beautiful a person can be if they walk on Thakur's path, if they become according to Thakur's wishes— Jethu is the example of this.

Jethu is my life, and I feel for this reason to be the luckiest person in the world. Because no one could ever know Him the way that I do, and this is my joy. I could try and explain to the world just how beautiful it is to have Him, and perhaps someone could try and imagine what it is like for me, but the magic of it is that it is a very personal

¹ Maya Basu addresses Param Pujiyapada Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada as Jethu from her very early childhood

thing. To have this person, who at my deepest core knows me, whether I acknowledge it every moment or not, someone who is alongside me through seemingly monotonous humdrum days and also there with me during exciting days of surprise, who thinks of me deeply and of what can make my life better, who asks for me when I'm not there and misses me, who loves me most and calls me His own — remains the single most special and prized possession of my life. This is the defining foundation of my entire life and the reason I find joy in my every day.

One day in the course of conversation, He asked me how I would feel if there was someone who knew each and every thing about me, even each and every thought that crosses my mind. Would that cause me anxiety or relief? When He asked me, I thought about it for a moment or two, before replying that usually it would cause me anxiety, but if it were such a person who I knew would never harm me, then I would feel great relief. And this relief is what I experience every day since the time I came to realize even a little who He is. Though my own experiences are mere glimpses into His extraordinary life, the time He has spent with me and continues to spend with

me shape me from that shell of a person into a human being in the truest sense, the way the Almighty wishes me to be. I have someone who sees me for all that I am, and all that I can be. I can think of no better method for self improvement. How wonderful it is to know that my attempts to reach Him are known to Him. Anything I offer— my thoughts, words, and actions— with a pure heart shall surely be received.

Ours is the most epic of love stories. And this story will go on and on, long after other people have left my life, long after my health and wealth may fail, still I'll always have this one thing in my life to hold on to. This is no small thing, and in my imperfection and ignorance I cannot begin to know what I ever did to be so lucky. But here I suppose lies the greatest blessing that The Almighty has ever graced me with. By His touch it was all possible. He pulled me close and made me realize I'm part of His family. He revealed to me that He is my Father. I am His daughter. I know my place in this great circle of life. No matter where I go, He is with me. And for this I am deeply and eternally grateful.



Pujyapad Acharyadeva Sree Sree Dada's message to the workers in the 307th All India Ritwik Conference on 15th April, 2017 -

..Before starting any work, we think of difficulties that we might have to face. How can I do the work? How can I start the work? We are faced with questions like these in our own mind. This is our very nature. We tend to think of the problems even before we have set to work. We become callous and apprehensive thinking about the load of Problems.

One who has the Purushottam in his life has nothing to fear. The impediments must be reined in to have the work done. The way the devotees in Tripura had done it, you too should remain engaged in the same way. As much one adheres to Ideal-centric activity, so much realization one attains.



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