

LIBERATION HERE ITSELF RIGHT NOW

By
Vasantha Sai

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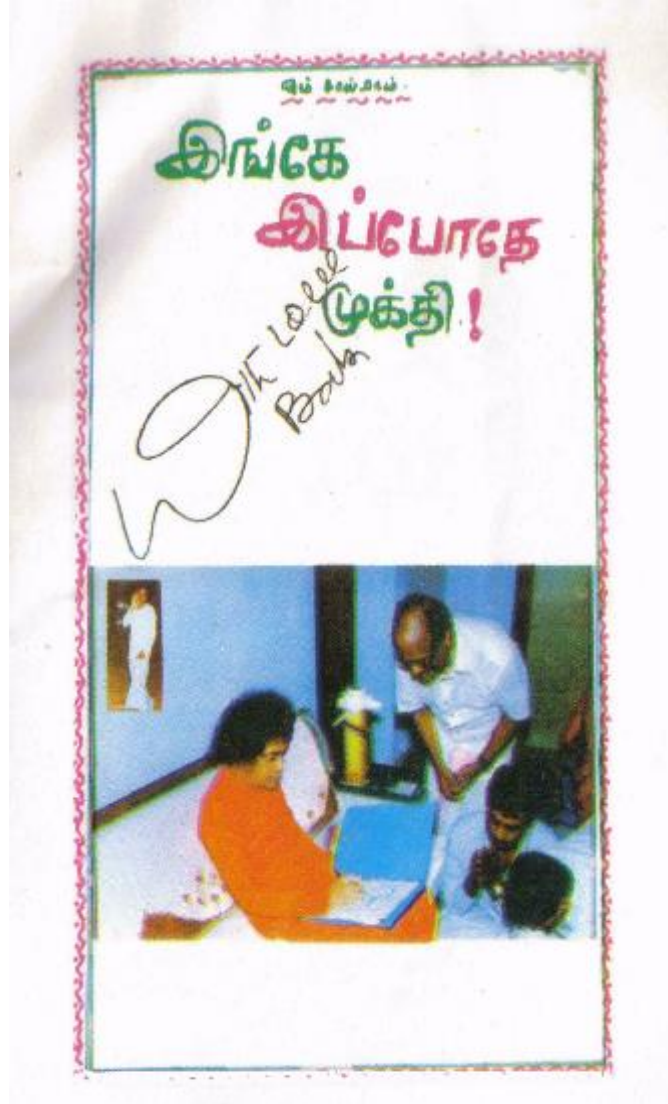
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Swami autographed the manuscript at Sri P.S.A. Subramaniam Chettiar's house, President of the Sri Sai Padhuka Trust, in Madurai on 7-5-1997.

DEDICATION



With deep veneration and love I dedicate
this small epic of tears at the lotus feet of my
sweet Bhagavan Baba who dwells in my heart
and showers His love on me.

Introduction

Sri Vasantha Sai was born in the remote south Indian village of Vadakkampatti, Tamil Nadu. From her early years she did intense penance to unite with the Lord like Saint Andal. Her life is an example showing how the individual soul yearns to attain oneness with God. This book has emerged in the light of her great reverence for Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on the path of Madhura Bhakthi. Sri Vasantha Sai, now resides at her Ashram, Mukthi Nilayam in Royapalayam village, Tamil Nadu.

This is a new edition and new translation of the original book that was signed by Bhagavan on 7 May 1997, in the house of Sri P.S.A. Subramaniam Chettiyar, then President of the Sri Sai Padhuka Trust. It includes additional material omitted in the first and second editions.

Editor-
Sri Vasanthasai Books
and Publications Trust

Mukthi Nilayam

Editor's note: Whenever there is a reference to Swami in this book, it refers to the author's experience in her meditative state with Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

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AUTHOR'S PREFACE-I

(Written in the year 1997 for the first edition of the book.)

'God is my strength. God is my love. God is my friend. God is my beloved, my only one. When He is absent from me, I am bereft of every thing, I am a beggar. When He is with me, I am filled with love and joy; I am filled with courage and strength'.

-Sri Sri Dayamata

The above quote is a good description of my life. Swami has said, "You live for God. You live with God. Now you are merged in God."

Swami says, "Duty, devotion, and discipline." I do my household duties such as cooking, sweeping, washing and cleaning vessels whenever and wherever they are necessary. With devotion and discipline, I spend more time in japa, pooja, prayer and meditation.

When I practiced sadhana, I had various kinds of visions and darshans. I wrote about all these experiences in my diary. I have recorded details of my experiences and emotions during the last 35 years. I did not reveal them to anyone, not even to the members of my family. Later on when Bhagavan entered my life, following His command, I slowly revealed the contents of my diary to a few devotees.

I had hundreds of unbelievable experiences. For instance, being an ordinary housewife, I cannot, and for that matter nobody can, go to the Nara Narayana Gufa Ashram, which is situated among the snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas. Even the army does not climb these high peaks. But Swami took me there.

Dear readers, can you believe this! Belief is more important than reasoning for the spiritual seeker. Swami has said, "Your faith is more powerful than My divine power."

'Have faith in yourself, Have faith in the Guru Have faith in God,'

Total faith in God is greater and stronger than God Himself.

Bhakthi Yoga

You know that there are four kinds of yogas namely, Karma Yoga, Bhakthi Yoga, Raja Yoga and Jnana Yoga, Karma yoga is the yoga of action, Bhakthi yoga is the yoga of devotion. Raja yoga is concerned with meditation and Jnana yoga with superior wisdom. All yogas are linked; this book mainly deals with Bhakthi yoga, promotion of which is the main aim of this book.

What is Bhakthi yoga? It is nothing but the yoga of pure love. You must fill your heart with love, love and love alone as I do towards Lord Krishna of Kali Yuga, Sri Sathya Sai Baba. What actually is the nature of love? Love is divine, Love is God and God is love. Bhagavan says, "...Once you have attained this state of love, you have attained Me." Love knows no difference. So, one should love every one, irrespective of caste and creed. You can love God, you can love human beings, you can love animals, birds, plants and even inert soil and stone. A literate person can love and so can an illiterate. A black man can love and a white man too. Oh, how wonderful this love is!

Swami installed Himself permanently in the depths of my heart and guided me to write this book. I am glad to reveal to my readers that the title of this book was given by Bhagavan Himself. Who is eligible to read this book? All those who have love in their heart. Due to my love for God, I have realized that one can live in the spiritual world which is entirely different from the material world. This miracle happens only by the will or grace of the supreme power that is beyond our mind and intellect. The lord of Parthi showed this poor soul on earth the

divine wonders of heaven and made her swim in a sea of devotion. People do not believe in things that they have not personally experienced. Whether one believes the contents of this hook or not, its truth and divinity will never change. I swear by God that all the scenes and visions mentioned in this book are nothing but truth.

I give below some examples. Can a boat move without oars? Yes! It does, smoothly. Have you heard of Silver Island? Swami created this separate island for me. You know that a parrot can speak, but do you know a swan called me, "Vasantha! Vasantha!"

Saints and sages like Sage Vyasa, Viswamitra and Narada have visited my house and blessed me. I share many spiritual incidences and divine visions like this in the book. Enter this magnificent palace of liberation, see all these beautiful, wonderful and scenes and enjoy.

Utter Sai's name and live with fame Suffer no more in life's game, Sai knows what is best He will look after the rest.

I hail from Tamil Nadu, a state in the southern part of India. This book was first published in Tamil, my mother tongue. Doctor Kothandapani, Mr. G. Venkatraman, Mr. Krishnamurthy and Mrs. KR Krishnamurthy were the main pillars in constructing this 'grand building' of a book. A humble Sai devotee's personal and spiritual experiences have become an open book by the efforts of these four earnest devotees. Mr. L.K Vijayaraman, a retired Tamil Professor has very kindly translated this book into English.

All that I want in this birth is Krishna, Krishna and Krishna alone. So, I like devotees more than relatives. Now readers have become my relatives. I wish you all good health, long life, Prema and peace. You are now the children of God. God is with you. Be happy with the blessings of the Lord.

The Infinite Supreme power has limited Himself and incarnated in a small form, as Sri Sathya Sai Baba. I consider those who think of Bhagavan as the Supreme Soul, are great indeed. The aim of this book is to show the gracious flow of compassion of the Lord amidst us today.

Now you are at the top of this palace, Where you will find the pot of nectar, The pot of Prema and salvation You can begin to drink freely!

Sai Baba's Blessing for the Book

About three years ago, my husband Mr. Manoharan and I went to the house of a devotee Doctor Kothandapani where Swami's miracles happen. We placed the folder containing the manuscript in the pooja room and offered a guava fruit. We all then prayed for Swami's blessings.

Miraculously, Swami cut the guava into two, there we saw, 'Om' written on one half and 'Sai' on the other. We rejoiced at this wonder. Then we noticed vibuthi sprinkled on the Ganesha idol. Doctor told us the story of how Lord Vinayaka had broken his tusk and¹ used it as a pen to write the Mahabharata. That was why Swami created vibuthi from Vinayaka's tusk as a token of His blessings for this divine book.

There was also a shower of vibuthi from the left side of the statue of Nataraja. At once Doctor said, "I would have been happier if the vibuthi had fallen from the Krishna statue instead of Nataraja!" In my meditation, I asked, "Swami, Doctor says that You have not given vibuthi from Krishna's statue?" Swami replied, "Shiva has given the left side of His body to Parvathi, Shakthi. That is why I have showered vibuthi from Shiva Shakthi."

"Swami! If Shiva gave the left half of His body, why did the vibuthi not fall from the Shiva lingam? Why did it fall from dancing Nataraja?" I asked.

"I have told you already that I am going to dance with you as My garland. Don't you think that vibuthi falling from dancing Shiva is an appropriate miracle? You dull-head, you do not understand even this small thing?" replied Swami. I was overwhelmed with joy by the approval of Bhagavan.

Dear Readers! Kindly see Vinayaka, dancing Shiva and the guava fruit photos carefully to see the miracles of falling vibuthi and the words 'Om' and 'Sai' on the two halves of the fruit.

Sai Baba Signs the Book

7 May 1997

I left the manuscript of this book at the residence of Mr. PSA Subramanian Chettiyar, Madurai. When Swami visited his house, Mr. Srinivasan, son of Sri Chettiyar told Swami, "Swami! Your conversations with Mrs. Vasantha have been written as a book." Swami turned the pages of the folder and asked, "It has been written in Tamil." "Yes, Swami, You have talked to her in Tamil and hence it has been written in Tamil," replied Srinivasan.

"Yes I talked to her in Tamil. Alright, what should I do now?" asked Swami.

"They want your autograph."

Then Swami took the manuscript, signed 'With Love, Baba' and said, "See here I have written in big letters." At once, a photograph was taken of Swami signing the book.

When I first looked at Swami's signature I thought that it was different from His usual one; I could not see the letter V in the word 'With'. I looked closely and found that the T was joined, almost hidden in the 'W'. I asked Swami in meditation, "Swami, you have united T with 'W'. What is the reason?"

Swami said, "The T denotes the small self. The small self calls itself, T and suffers. After attaining Jnana, it says, 'Everything is You, You alone'. If two 'U's (small self and big Self) are joined, it becomes a W; it symbolizes God. The

hidden T denotes the merger of the small self into the bigger Self. The Jeevatma merges with Paramatma. In the same way, you have merged with Me. Now there is no individual 'you'.

On 10 July 1996, Swami gave me darshan and sang the song:

"Let us dance, let us sing that we have attained blissful freedom."

He sang the same song on 13 July 1996 also. I asked Him why He was singing this song. Swami replied, "You have attained freedom. You have achieved liberation."

To confirm this statement, Swami has signed the book in a special way.

"So many beauties we see in outside nature. So much divinity we see in our inner nature, All beauty and divinity are in Swami's signature."

Vasantha Sai

(PICTURE MISSING)

"I am Shiva, Lord of the Dance. I am playing the cosmic dance by wearing you as a garland."

Author's Preface - II

I wrote the preface for Liberation Here Itself Right Now the first edition in 1997. Now, after eight years, I am writing a new preface for the third edition. In my own eyes I see a big change. This book is the essence of my life; it is the seed from which a huge tree has grown with many branches, buds, blossoms and fruits. I have written many books elaborating on this one. Over the years thirteen books have been published and thirteen more books are pending publication.

This book is written in three sections: namely, Saalokya, Saameepya and Saarupya mukthi. Swami said that each of these show a stage in my sadhana. Now I am immersed in the final stage of Sayujya Mukthi.

In Saalokya one enters the Kingdom of Mukthi. He sees many blissful scenes and enjoys himself. In order to enter into this Kingdom, one must purify oneself. Virtues must be nurtured and undesirable qualities removed; then one will get the darshan of his personal God.

After this, one will enjoy a state where he sees the Lord's glories everywhere and in everything. He can feel the Lord's presence and nearness. This is called Saameepya mukthi. In Saarupya Mukthi, one always lives with the Lord. He enjoys His glories every moment. He is absorbed in the divine.

At the time of writing the first edition, I had experienced the above states to a certain extent. Today, I am seeing the expansive cosmic form of those states. I feel Swami's presence everywhere. I see the entire universe as His kingdom. In the most direct way, I realize that there is nothing in the world that is not God.

I have filled Him in me, so attaining complete Saarupya, oneness with the form of my Lord Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. I have merged with Him. I am immersed in the bliss of the Self at all times. You too can enjoy this bliss. Bhagavan has come here! Let us all attain Mukthi here itself right now!

Vasantha Sai
Om Sri Sai Ram

PART I

SAALOKYA MUKTHI

"When you submit everything without leaving behind anything, you become one of the citizens of the city of Moksha (Liberation). You get every right to go around every nook and corner of that city. This state of spirituality is called Saalokya Mukthi.

Worship with fixity of consciousness and purity of feeling, free from all extraneous thought, becomes itself Bhava Samadhi. As a result of this Bhava Samadhi, the Lord appears before the inner eye of the devotee in the form, which he has chosen for worship. The vision is not a matter of imagination. Without difference of location, he can abide in the presence of the Lord in the self-same place. This is called "Saalokya Mukthi."

-Sri Sathya Sai Baba

Prema Vahini

CHAPTER 1

MY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

"An ideal family is a university"

-Poet Bharathi Dasan

My childhood

By Guru's grace and the Lord's blessings, ours was an ideal family. My father Mathurakavi Azhwar was a patriot, who had been jailed many times during the freedom struggle. He took his seva training at Gandhiji's Wardha Ashram and served in many ashrams in Tamil Nadu. He founded a Gandhian centre called Gandhi khadi vidhyalaya in our village and organized home spinning of cotton, free medical camps and other service activities. My father was very devotional and conducted many spiritual camps with the help of Ramakrishna mutt. The spirit of service and devotion was sown in me by my father; it has grown into a tree and has borne fruit.

I lost my mother at an early age. I was the only child. From the age of five, I played alone with a doll of Sri Krishna. My father and grandmother raised me like Buddha, not giving me¹ an opportunity to know the outer world. My forefathers were staunch Vaishnavites, whose reverence for Lord Vishnu earned them the acclaimed stamp of devotion, the Sri Vaishnavite mudra. Now, I have received this stamp of devotion called *Radha from Swami*.

Early years

"Bhakthi is the seed for Mukthi." My mother, Vedavalli Thaayar, was also my guru, who fed me with devotion for the Lord. She told me the stories of devotees like Meera, Andal, and Radha and nurtured the plant of bhakthi. Due to this, though I lost my mother, I did not lose our tradition of spirituality. I thought, Radha, Andal and Meera who have been born on earth have attained Kanha why can't I? This question took a cosmic form, and tormented me.

7 raised my only daughter like a princess, The great Lord took that princess for Himself

Periazhwar sings the above verse thinking about his only daughter Andal, who merged with Lord Sri Ranganatha. In the same way the Lord of Kali Yuga, Sri Sathya Sai has taken me.

The Family

My husband's name is Sri Manoharan. I have a daughter, Kaveri and two sons, Aravindan and Manivannan. All are very good devotees. Swami Himself has said that Kaveri is one of His best devotees. From their childhood, my children and I chanted the Gita and Vishnu Sahasranama every day. My spiritual journey continued with great fervor due to the co-operation of my family members.

Daily Sadhana

'Great deeds cannot be done without regular practice'. This thought was very strong in me. I did my daily sadhana as per the schedule given below:

4:00 am : Chanting Om 21 times and Gayatri mantra 108 times.

4:30 am : Abhishekam and reciting the Vishnu Sahasranama.

12:30 pm : Meditation, Japa, and Sri Sathya Sai Sahasranama.

4:00 pm : 108 Gayatri Japa and Meditation.

Night : Arathi and Bhajan.

Nothing can be achieved without effort. Reading devotional texts and doing sadhana became a part of my daily routine. Apart from this, I followed severe austerities on Thursdays, Saturdays, on special days like full moon day and on Ekadasi. One of the austerities was to eat food without salt. Though I was faced with many difficulties, tests and physical suffering during sadhana, I continued my practice without becoming disheartened and finally tasted victory.

Pilgrimage, Darshan of Saints

My husband and I went on pilgrimages and bathed in the holy rivers. We visited Badrinath, Kedarnath, Varanasi, Gaya in North India and many other South Indian pilgrim centres. We went to the ashrams of several saints and took their darshan. We had the darshan of Yogi Ram Surat Kumar, Krishna Premi, Krupananda Wariyar and Chidbhavananda. We visited the Sri Aurobindo Ashram at Pondicherry and Ramanashram. I used to read books by Gandhiji and Paramahansa Sri Ramakrishna's '(Gospel,' My Experiments with Truth by Gandhiji and The Bhagavad Gita became my two eyes.

Faith

Sacrifice and seva are essential in spirituality. One must have unflinching effort and unshakable faith. Devotion should flow continuously like a stream of oil. Above all this one should have the grace of the Lord. It is only with His grace, we can have direct experience. However, one must not ask for proof of a devotee's experience. The faith we have in his words will kindle devotion in our hearts.

The Fire of Prema and the Divine Call.

The spark of devotion that I had for Kanha from a young age, into a fire as I grew up and started burning me. In a line, it blazed into a wild forest fire. That alluring Kanha jumped and danced in the fire. Unable to bear the Prema, I yearned and lamented for Krishna and composed over a thousand devotional poems and songs in Tamil. Through these songs and poems, I expressed my feelings in tearful messages to my Lord.

The peacocks, cuckoos, deer, cloud, lightening and creepers were my messengers.

Divine Grace

After making me suffer for 35 years, Kanha told me in meditation that He is in Puttaparthi waiting to accept my Prema. We went there and I saw my Mayakanha. Even then, the Divine trickster tormented me in the fire of Prema by not revealing Himself fully. When my state became unbearable, the gracious cloud showered the rain of compassion on me.

Yearning

All are sad that they are not able to think of God, whereas I am crying that I am not able to forget Him. My continuous thoughts of Swami make me insane, I am not able to do my daily chores and I am unable to sleep. In order to forget Swami, I travelled to various places but I remained the same. So I always cry at His feet. One day, I wrote a letter to Doctor

Kothandapani explaining my state. He replied with the following:

A Gopi was doing penance at Brijbhoomi. A sage appeared...

Sage : Why do you do penance?

Gopi : To forget Krishna.

Sage : Did you succeed in your effort?

Gopi : No. As I try to forget, the thought of Krishna increases further.

The sage then prostrated at her feet and told her "You are my Guru."

Doctor said that the state of the Gopi reflected my own state. Yes, as I tried to forget the elusive thief Parthi Kanha, He only caught hold of me more....

Why am I fascinated with Your unforgettable form? Why do I follow you with unbreakable bond? Arc my cries lullabies to You?

Do my tears bathe You in bliss?

O Saieshwara! Have You no compassion for me?

Why should an Atma sadhaka seek proof for his experiences? His extraordinary experiences are proofs themselves for the outpouring of Truth. How I was realising this! Being unable to bear the force of attraction, the power of love, I lost myself. Sometimes I lamented and cried, sometimes I bathed in bliss; my life became a battle with myself.

Each and every one who reads this can see God here itself right now. This is my life; this is how I saw my Kanha. Swami Himself told me that I had become insane in devotion and had made Him insane too. This is the peak of Madhura bhava. I have reached it after a thirty-five year Godward Journey. Following this, I had many revelations.

You too can join me in this journey to attain God and reach I he peak of spirituality.

CHAPTER 2

ORARLESS BOAT

30 October 1996 A wonderful vision in meditation.

A boat. Swami and I are in it. The boat moves without oars. I keep looking at Swami's divine face. Pointing His hand Swami says, "Look there." People are struggling in a sea, bearing big loads on their heads and back. They are suffering with their children and belongings. The sharks in the sea terrorize them. They run to escape, screaming in fear and confusion. I am surprised and ask Swami, "What is all this Swami?"

Swami : This is Samsara Sagara, the ocean of worldly life. You have written a song about it.

All are immersed in the ocean of life

But a wonder...

The water recedes to afoot,

The Lord of Parthi is here!

We are saved! We are saved!

*Gather His grace!
Come gather His grace!*

(This is one of the 1000 devotional poems written by me on Swami.)

Swami : While these people suffer in the ocean, your spiritual journey is sweet since God is near you.

I am sitting blissfully near swami and the boat reaches I lie shore safely. Swami and I get down and walk along a glittering golden path. The winding path takes us upward. There is a new world. Swami changes into Krishna, He wears a crown, peacock feather and garlands. He dances and sings. It is a blissful darshan.

Swami : This is Goloka.

Vasantha : Swami! I don't need Goloka or heaven; I just want to enjoy more being with You.

Swami : Definitely, you will enjoy.

That very day a letter came from GV in which he had written what Andal had said about me in meditation. "You are Radha and Andal." The time was 11:45 am> I was replying to GV's letter. As I switched on the TV, I saw a man and woman in a boat!



CHAPTER 3

KUMKUM MOUNTAIN AND VIBHUTHI TEMPEST

27 September 1995.

Ramachandran, a Sai devotee of Virudhunagar, came to my house. We sat in front of the prayer room and discussed about our Puttaparthi journey. Suddenly I felt as though an electrical current was passing throughout my body; Ramachandran also had the same feeling. We were not able to bear the power and had to move from the place where we were sitting. I was stunned and speechless.

After the devotee left, I sat down to meditate.

Swami takes me to the outer space. He sits on the crescent moon swing; I rock the swing. There is a waterfall. Swami says, "Did you not ask for honey? See here. This is honey-falls." I take a little and taste it.

Swami shows me a river and says, "This is the river of amrit." Swami takes some amrit in His nectarine hands and pours it into my palm, He asks me to drink it... How to tell the sweetness of the amrit?

A big tempest swirls before me. Swami says, "Vibuthi tempest." I see a mountain, like Swami's red robe. Swami says, "Kumkum Mountain." He dots my forehead with kumkum. He shows constellations of twinkling stars I am wet with the tears that pour from my eyes. C. , What bliss it is!

I wrote about this to GV. He put my letter on the radio and prayed to Swami, "What shall I write to Vasantha, Swami?" He then switched on the radio. It broadcast a song from the Tamil film, 'Samsaaram Addhu Minsaaram', the current of worldly life. The first line of the song was, 'Janaki went in search of Rama'.

Taking this as his message, GV wrote the following:

"The name of the film is proof for your experience of the current passing through your body. The song, 'Janaki went in search of Rama', indicates your thirst to seek only Sai Rama. Though you were born in the material world, your thought is always with the Lord."

That was not the only proof for my experience. After I read I lit- letter I switched on the TV saying, "Swami, give me a proof on TV also." I heard the same film song. Is there any measure for the Lord's grace!

Chapter 4

MILKY MOON IN YOUR HANDS

30 March 1996

Swami takes me to the cosmic space. There is a swing. Swami, sits on it and asks, "Shall I catch the moon and give it to you?" At once a cool milky moon shedding soft light comes into His hands. He gives into my hands. It is bigger than both my hands can hold. There are craters and mounds on the moon. I look at the sky and there is no moon! Oh! What bliss! Unable to speak I cry, "Swami! Swami! I want to be a speck of dust at Your feet." Swami takes that radiant moon from me and sends it back to the sky. Now the moon is in the sky. I prostrate at Swami's holy feet and cry more, (see page 34)

23 January 1996 Another vision.

Swami takes me to the moon. I remember Armstrong, the first man on the moon. Swami shows me the galaxy, the numerous planets and stars. I am blissful. Swami says, "This is the true moon."

In a state of joyful disbelief I said, "I will believe this vision only if I see a moon on TV." I switched on the TV and a woman was singing, "Moon! Oh moon!" I changed the channel and heard the song, "Moon, moon, moon". Turning to another channel I heard, "What penance you did Yashoda!" I then sang to myself, "What penance did you do Vasantha for the great Lord to be with you?"

Am I living in this world? Every moment blossoms in new ways with new experiences, Oh, what a wonderful life! How Swami gives proof through TV and books for the experiences I have. Dear readers, keep one thing in mind, I do not watch TV or go to cinema. I only switch on the TV for proofs of my experiences.

I shared this experience with Doctor and he said that Swami once turned a custard apple into a mini moon in his vision. Later, I randomly opened to page number 303 of Sri RA. Ganapathi's book, 'Swami'. There Swami tells His students, "Ask Me whatever you want" and the student says, "Swami catch the moon in the sky and give." The next moment Swami looks lit the sky and a cool wonderful ball of moon appears in His hand.

The moon Swami gave me was not a mini moon or a small ball of moon, but a huge moon that could not be held with hot h my hands. What cannot the great Lord do? Who can create NO many different moons?



Chapter 5

WHEN BALAKRISHNA CAME

Once in a vision I saw Balakrishna.

He takes me up high in the sky. Forest, mountains, trees, plants, creepers, everything is Krishna. Krishna is everywhere, in every particle of earth, in every drop of water. Oh what bliss!

Krishna is singing, Gopis dance around Him. The whole world dances in bliss. Krishna and I talk to each other as parrots, we become cuckoos and sing, we dance as peacocks and as garudas we fly in the sky.

(Tears flowed and I sat motionless like a statue.)

On 17 March, 1996

I am chanting Vishnu Sahasranama in the morning. Suddenly I see baby Kanha jumping, dancing and singing. He sits on my lap and smiles at me. Hanging around my neck, He kisses me. Speaking sweet words, I cuddle Him like a baby. I hold Him by His hand and play with Him. I then make Him sit on the jhula and swing Him gently. Like Mother Yashoda, I steal immense pleasure looking at His mischievous eyes. I touch His tiny blue feet and fondly stroke His hands. He starts to run and I chase Him but I cannot catch Him. Blissful tears fill my eyes. Feeling exhausted, I sit in meditation. He comes up behind me chuckling and covers my eyes with His little palms.

What a blissful darshan! When I returned to normal consciousness, Swami Haridas Giri was singing on the radio ' O Krishna, come without Your naughty pranks!'"

Chapter 6

YAGNA

28 September 1996

Only two more days till I to go to Puttaparthi for the Sai Paduka festival. I was having severe back pain. I cried, "Swami can I not come to Puttaparthi? Can I not take part in the Yagna?" Swami came in meditation and gave me a vision of outer space with sun, moon and stars. He said, "A yagna without you? Surely you will come to Puttaparthi. You will have your share of the yagna."

I prayed to Swami, "Swami! Kindly show me a proof for my participation in the yagna." At once vibuthi came on Swami's paduka. Swami said, "This is the udi from the yagna, your pain will be relieved." Immediately, the back pain disappeared.

30 September 1996

I went to Puttaparthi and received a Poornakumbha reception. (Details of this can be found in the last chapter of this book)

One day, Krishna said, "Come I will show you Gokul."

Krishna is everywhere. Every place is full of bliss. There is a diamond-studded throne. Krishna says, "**This is your throne, Radha's throne; this is your true abode; play your role in the world drama. While you exist in the world, behave like an actor in a play. At the same time, don't forget your real nature.**"

I was stunned. I prayed for proof. At once kumkum appeared on the Adishesha

picture and vibuthi appeared in a container near the padukas.

Is it a dream or reality? I felt as if I was living in a new world.

Chapter 7

SAI IN EVERY DROP OF BLOOD

21 September 1995

I had a doubt. Can I attain God without doing penance? Look at the people in Nara Narayana Gufa Ashram. When compared to their tapas, what of my devotion? Have I surrendered myself fully? I cried that Bhagavan should tell in His own words if I am worthy of His grace. Many thoughts like this whirled in my mind and tormented me. At the peak of agony, I had a vision.

I see my body in front of me. I see my blood vessels just as a doctor would see through a microscope. The blood cells have numerous small forms of Bhagavan circulating throughout the body. Swami says, "See! Your entire body is pervaded by My form."

I cried and trembled just as Arjuna had when he saw the cosmic vision of the Lord. With hands folded in prayer, I bathed Swami with tears. Swami thus showed me the depth of my devotion.

I wrote about this to GV. He placed my letter at Swami's feet and prayed. Swami commanded him to write, "What she saw was truth." I rejoiced in unbelievable bliss. What could I do for this grace but submit my tearful gratitude to the Supreme Soul!

Chapter 8

YOU ARE MY LIFE

18 March 1996

In meditation Swami told me, "You are My life." Since that moment I am floating in bliss.

My sweet Lord slowly walks towards me,

He merged my life in His.

I am in Him, He is in me!

Daily in great joy, I am singing the above lines of a song I have written. This song tells of my union with Swami and reminds me of the vision of His

form seen in my blood.

I told Doctor that Swami said, "You are My life." I did not fill anybody else, not even GV.

10 April 1996

I received a letter from GV saying, "Swami appears in my dreams and often sings a line from the song, 'Oh my sweet . I do not know why!'"

Readers! What do you think? Why is Swami singing the 20 days after He gave me the vision? After this, I wrote about the vision to GV and added the remaining two lines of the song!

I wanted to share the same incident with Doctor, but asked Swami for a proof before writing to him. Then I opened the holy epic Ramayana in which Hanuman says about Sita, "*She is the very life of the Universal Primal Soul. My only duty is to take her from Lanka.*"

Oh what a proof! What can I tell about Swami's mercy? A lot of turmeric appeared on Rama's picture in the pooja room.

Chapter 9

DEERGA SUMANGALI BHAVA

30 July 1996

Swami's mother, Easwaramma and his father, Venkappa Raju appear before me. I bow down at their feet. I say, "Mother! You gave birth to the Master of the world. Mother Devaki gave birth to Krishna, but He did not live with her. Yashoda was not the mother of Krishna, but she was fortunate to be near Kanha and enjoy His leelas. Oh Mother Easwaramma, you are blessed to play the roles of both Devaki and Yashoda!"

"O Father! Like you, the whole world aspires to have an avatar as their child. You enjoy the bliss of both Vasudeva and Nanda gopa," I praise them like this. Mother Easwaramma tells, "You are also a fortunate woman because the same avatar is pouring so much love on you." While talking, Swami comes. Father Venkappa Raju blesses me and says, "Deerga Sumangali Bhava."

These words of Swami's father make me laugh.

Swami : Why do you laugh?

Vasantha : Father's blessings seem funny to me. So I laughed. Swami you have said that I am butter, You have swallowed the butter and it has dissolved in Your blood. In that case am I not the one who is in the blood of the Eternal Soul, also eternal?

Swami is embarrassed and stunned by my answer.

If your heart is pure and soft as butter, Swami will accept you also as His devotee. I did not intend to write about this vision to Doctor. I prayed to Swami to give some proof if He willed me to write about it. At that time a film was being shown on TV about a Sumangali. Hut, I was not satisfied with this proof. At 7:15 pm, there was a song about a lady wearing a mangalya. There was another song, 'Sumangali! Sumangali!'

On 5 February 1997, we went to Madurai to attend the Pradosha abhishekam ceremony at a devotee's house. At that time, the writing of this book was nearing completion. We took the book with us along with a papaya and some guava for offering at Swami's padukas. After the abhishekam and pooja, arathi was shown. To the surprise of every one, a miracle took place. The papaya was cut open and we found that a piece had been tasted by Swami. The Samithi convener showed the fruit to everyone and gave it as prasad. That fruit was given to about one hundred devotees –not small pieces, but big, big ones. Even after that, some fruit remained.

The garland that was placed on Swami's chair fell over the and the guava rolled down from the stage. Swami had blessed me to start writing this book at Doctor's house and now the completed book was blessed here. All those who attended the function said that the papaya, which Swami tasted, was delicious. Is it any wonder that a fruit tasted by the nectarine Lord be delicious?

Chapter 10

IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT YOU

One day when I was speaking to Swami, I requested Him to say something about Doctor's daughter Gowri. Swami said, "She is a gem. I have taken all the responsibilities for protecting her, she is My child."

"In that case, why do you make her get low marks in her exams? Why do you make such a tender heart suffer like this? Will she not lose her faith," I told Swami.

Swami replied, "Students should not get agitated. They should consider both victory and failure alike."

I wanted a proof for this and I switched on the television. The following lines of a song were heard:

If you are disappointed, am I responsible?
Why are you angry with me?
Why have you changed your mind?
You may go anywhere but will I let you go?

What a coincidence! The child was upset with Swami, but Swami's words were very

soothing. Even if Gowri leaves Swami,
He will not leave her.

This advice is not for Gowri alone but for all of us. If we also are devoted and dedicated to Swami becoming His responsibility, He will not leave us, He does not want to leave us. This avatar is not like other avatars. It is enough if you take refuge at His feet once;

*He will lead holding your hand
Do not worry if you are worthy.
It is enough to yearn no end
Through a hairline space He will enter your heart!*

Chapter 11

DARSHAN OE RAJA RAJESHWARI

4 November 1996

A Vision

A deity's face is visible. She has a beautiful lotus like face with dark blue complexion. She wears a big diamond nose ring. I wonder if she is Mother Kali or Gayatri Devi. What a captivating smile and gracious eyes! I cannot forget them.

I wrote to GV that I could not identify the deity. Another tiny, I saw the same deity with a lion by her side; she was carrying sugarcane in her hand.

19 November 1996

At 7 pm, I heard the singer Jesudas describing the form of I deity in a song. His description matched the form I had seen. I came to know that it was goddess Raja Rajeshwari.

From the padukas in our pooja room, sacred ash, kumkum, tumeric, sandal, tulsi, milk, Ganges water, bel leaves, leaves from Puttaparthi kalpa vriksha, Guruvayoor oil, sugar candy, honey, nectar, thiruman, churnam, milk sweet, Srirangam murukku, medicine, udi, Himalayan herbal leaves, have all appeared.

Yagnas are performed at the houses where Sai padukas are installed. The biggest miracle is that udi from those yagnas appear in our pooja room. Swami has said, "Wherever yagnas are performed, the udi from the yagnas will appear here at once."

Another strange thing is that tears very often appear on the padukas and altar. As I am continuously crying in thoughts of Bhagavan, one day Swami said, "I am sleeping in the ocean of your tears not in the ocean of milk." At once tears appeared on the padukas.

During a Paduka festival held at Puttaparthi, Dhanvantri homa was performed. One hundred and eight herbs gathered from the forests of Kerala were offered in the homa. In a photograph of the homa, Swami is seen accepting the Poornahuthi. Sri Chettiyar Iyya of Madurai gave me a copy of the photo. We kept the photo in our pooja room and medicinal herbs started to fall from it.

22 September 1996

A Laksharchana function took place at my residence. Devotees from Virudhunagar, Madurai and Vridhachalam attended and saw herbs falling from the photo and took them home. On 24 December 1995 when I performed Laksharchana for the first time in our house, some herbs fell from the ceiling of the pooja room. All those who came took it as prasad.

Chapter 12

WITH SWAMI IN HEAVEN

21 January 1996

This is a golden day in my life. I had a wonderful vision.

Swami takes me to cosmic space and shows many scenes. The earth is rotating and many planets are there. Swami takes me to an luminescent place and says, 'Sathya Loka'. I see Lord Brahma in shining light seated on a golden lotus. Saraswathi Devi in her white dress is near Him playing the veena. I am stunned and even forget to pay my obeisance to them.

Next, there is a beautiful garden; Lord Shiva is sitting on an altar. Parvathi Devi, the embodiment of beauty walks towards Him and stands near Him. In front of them, there is a big Shiva lingam. Swami says, "This is Kailash."

Then Swami takes me to another place and says, "This is Vaikunta." Lord Narayana is lying on Adishesha; Goddess Mahalakshmi is doing pada seva at the holy feet. I run towards them and fall at their divine feet. I cry, "Mother! Mother!" The call bursts from the core of my heart." Mahalakshmi blesses me. Suddenly, the face of Lord Narayana changes to that of Swami. Then I turn to look if Swami is there, but He is not there. I again fall at the Lord's feet and cry. Then Swami appears and with a smiling face blesses me .

25 February 1997

I was writing this experience when Swami appeared before me as Lord Narayana with conch and chakra. Two days ago we installed a Shaligram in the pooja room, I was very happy for this darshan.

How fortunate am I! What penance have I done to be bathed in Swami's divine mercy!

One day when I was chanting Gayatri mantra, the Sun god arrived in his chariot drawn by seven horses. The bright light dazzled my eyes. A radiant splendour!

"Swami! Swami! If all this is true, kindly shower some vibuthi."

After I prayed, vibuthi appeared on and around Swami's padukas. How many leelas of this Bhagavan! How many darshans!

I thought, "Is it possible? Can it happen like this?" At that time the story of Walter Cowan, an American Sai devotee came to my mind. He had died in Madras. Swami went to Yam loka and retrieved his life. Professor Kasturi has written the following in his book titled, 'Sathyam, Sivam, Sundaram', "He is not the Master of this world alone. He is Universal Master who can go to any planet and do unbelievable miracles."

Is it such a great thing for an Avatar who restores life to the dead to appear as the Sun god?

Chapter 13

PRASANTHI TV

I attended the Parthi Dhanvantri Pratishta and the Paduka Festival in Puttaparthi that took place October 1-4, 1996. All four days Swami did not give me padanamaskar. I could not stop crying.

9 October 1996

Swami takes me to a beautiful glass palace. We sit on chairs in front of a round table. Swami materializes ice cream and gives it to me. "Swami! First You taste, then only it will be delicious to me," I said. Swami tastes some ice cream on a spoon and gives the rest to me. It is very, very delicious.

Ice cream materialized by Swami's nectarine hand, tasted by His nectarine mouth, given to me by His nectarine hand! How fortunate I am!

Then I follow Him to the roaring ocean. Swami says, "Hear the sound of the ocean; it is chanting Om! Hear the Om in the sky and the wind too is resounding Om. If you keep an empty vessel or tumbler over your ears, you will hear Om. The five elements appeared from Om. This is the story of creation of the universe."

We walk looking at some sages and seers doing penance. Pointing to a sage, I ask Swami, "Who is he? Swami says, "He is Sage Bharadwaja."

I ask Swami for permission to take the sage's blessings and I walk towards the sage. He says, "When God Himself is with you, why do you want my blessings? Bhagavan has taken avatar in my lineage, I am blessed."

Swami then takes me in His small car to the Super Speciality Hospital. Is it a dream or reality?

I cried and wanted proof for these visions. So I switched on the TV. There a man was seen giving ice cream on a spoon to a woman. What a proof this was! I thought, 'Doctor has named our TV, Prasanthi TV. Oh! How wonderfully this name suits our TV!'

12 October 1996

I wrote a letter to GV about the visions. I wrote that Andal and Vallalar were my ideals. Suddenly, the smell of sacred ash spread in the pooja room and it became cool like air-conditioned!

13 October 1996

I went to Virudhunagar with Erramma and Porkodi to participate in an Antharyoga; I stayed overnight at Erramma's house. They were eager to know my experiences. Listening to my description of the 'glass palace', they said it was Puttaparthi's VVIP Guest House. When they

did service at Puttaparthi, they had a chance to see it. However, I have not seen the Guest House or Hospital. I have still not seen many places at Puttaparthi.

Erramma also has visions. Whenever I go to Virudhunagar, Erramma relates some sort of proof for my visions. One day, Swami showed Andal in a vision to Erramma saying, "Here is Andal!" She wondered why Swami had shown Andal.

That day I went to her house and told her about my vision as Andal. Erramma said, "Swami has shown your arrival by saying, "Here is Andal"

I had another vision:

I am wearing a yellow sari and yellow blouse. Sri Krishna places around my neck a big white and green garland, just like the one worn by Andal.

The following day I went to Erramma's house. Erramma was surprised and said that she had seen me with the same yellow sari and yellow blouse in her pooja room that morning. Oh Bhagavan! What a proof!

Erramma added that when Swami showed her Andal earlier, she was wearing a garland of white and green flowers.

I thought Swami had made a triangular connection between GV, Doctor and myself to prove my experiences; now He has joined Erramma also. With the inclusion of Erramma, the triangle has become a square.

Once, Swami gave darshan to a devotee called JVK in our pooja room. Swami then asked me to give my diary to him to read; this was the first time Swami had asked me to give my diary to another person. It is in the diaries that I record all my spiritual experiences. I cried to Swami, "What is this Swami? You are asking me to give my diary in which I have poured out my deep feelings!"

Is it possible to disobey Swami? Following His command, I gave my diary to Doctor and Mr. Ramachandran.

Why did Swami tell me to give the diary to JVK? What is so special about him? After some days I understood. When Swami gave an interview to JVK at Puttaparthi, Swami pinched cheek, and patted his back many times. JVK is the dear child of Sai Mother with whom She played so lovingly. Is it not correct then that he should read the diary first?

Chapter 14

JOURNEY TO THE HIMALAYAS

30 October 1995

Vision

Swami and I sit on the steps of the holy Badrinath temple in the Himalayas. Swami holds my hand and pulls me quickly down the steps to the Ganges; we enter the river. The river is in full flow and we are up to our necks in water. I say, "Oh Mother Ganga! You take all the sins of the world. Since My Lord's foot has touched you, your burden of sin is washed away."

On Lakshman jhula (in Rishikesh), I walk ahead of Swami as He follows me. Swami shakes the rope bridge with His thumb. At once the whole bridge, which connects the banks of the Ganges, begins to wobble. I was about to trip and fall, Swami catches hold of me and laughs. We enjoy the beauty of the Himalayas.

Though we had taken a dip in the Ganges, Swami's robe was not wet. When His heart is flowing with the flood of grace and compassion, how can the river make Him wet?
The Bhagavad Gita says,
This soul is uncleavable, incombustible and neither can be wetted nor dried. It is eternal, all-pervading, stable, constant and everlasting.

Chapter 15 BLESSINGS OF GREAT SEERS

Veda Vyasa's Darshan

2 April 1996

An effulgent light appears before me, a saint emerges out of it. My intuition tells me that it is Sage Vyasa. I prostrate before him and offer a lotus flower at his feet. I say, "Vyasa Maharishi! Please bless me to win the great love of Krishna." Placing his hand on my head, the sage says, "You have pure love for Kanha, you will experience His love more and more."

I could not forget the vision. I wanted some proof. I prayed to Swami, "Give me a proof for this vision," and opened the holy Bhagavad Gita. There Lord Krishna declares, "...*I am Vyasa among sages...*'

Dear readers! Is this not a good proof for my above vision?

Narada 's Darshan

6 May 1996 Morning meditation

I see sage Narada descending from the celestial world. I prostrate at his feet with tears in my eyes; my hair stands on end. I cry, "Maharishi! Give me deep devotion towards Bhagavan. The name of Lord Narayan and you are inseparable. Like this, the Lord's name should not leave my tongue. Will I devote my life like Radha whom you have seen at Gokulam?"

The sage replies, "You are that Radha born again on this earth." He asks me to show my tongue and writes the mantra,

'Om Namō Narayanaya Namah'.

He writes the words as above from the back of the tongue to the tip and disappears.

I was stunned and dazed. Wanting proof for this, I randomly opened the Summer Showers 1995 on Srimad Bhagavatham. The glory of the Lord's name was explained in a unique way:

'Faith in God alone should be our very breath.

You may undergo any sort of suffering but never forget to chant His name!'

What a wonderful proof for Sage Narada writing the mantra on my tongue! One more quotation from the same book would be suitable in this context:

'The name Krishna is much sweeter than names like Hari, Narayana and Vishnu. Similarly, the name Radha is sweeter than Lakshmi, Durga, Saraswathi, Rukmini and Sathyabama. What two words are easiest to say and sweetest as well? Radha and Krishna.'

How wonderful it is that Swami Himself has written these words in the Bhagavatham.

Still my mind was not clear regarding Narada's darshan, so I wrote two chits with the word 'True' on one and 'False' on another. I picked one and the answer was True.' After all, it is a human mind! Doubting mind! It is asking for proofs again and again.

One day I prayed to Swami, "Narada Maharishi wrote on my tongue, shouldn't You also write?" Swami asked me to show my tongue and wrote the Mahamantra, 'Om Sai Ram'. Still doubting, I prayed saying, "If it is true, please give some vibuthi Swami." At once some vibuthi appeared on the padukas.

Viswamitra's Darshan

20 August 1996

I see Viswamitra, the one who gave the Gayatri mantra to the world. I fall at his feet reciting the sloka, *'Bootha Bhavya Bhavat Prabhu Sri Prasanthi Sai'*. He blesses me saying, "You have surrendered fully to Sai, I bless you."

Oh Lord! What unique grace is this! How fortunate I am! By surrendering to this great Lord Sai, how many unimaginable darshans have I had! Oh Lord! I get your grace every moment, even without asking. Am I worthy of Your compassion! Who can understand Your great mercy?

When Sanathana Sarathi came, I saw that Swami had spoken extensively about Sage Viswamitra. He also had narrated story of King Parikshit; the King says, "I am very much i." As I was reading this line, three sugar candies fell from Rama's picture along with the very fragrant smell of vibuthi. I was in great bliss.

Uddhava's Darshan

11 September 1996

I see a blue aura and a figure clad in yellow silk appears, but it is not Krishna. My intuition tells me that it is Uddhava. He is in an ochre robe, with hair flowing down to his shoulders. I worship him with blissful tears, praying, "I want Prema bhakthi like Radha's Prema bhakthi." He blesses and says "Oh Stree ratna, gem amongst women, your wish will be fulfilled!"

I cannot imagine these unbelievable scenes even in my dreams. How did I experience all

these things? It is because of the infinite grace of Bhagavan. Is it not?

Ramakrishna and Vivekananda's Darshan

5 June 1996

In meditation, I see Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Swami Vivekananda, standing before me. It gives me great bliss to see them. The Paramahansa touches my head slightly and goes into samadhi. I fall down and cry, "Kanha!" I pray with folded hands. A few moments pass.... Sri Ramakrishna speaks two words, "Rare soul, Mumukshu" and then disappears.

Wanting a proof for this, I opened Swami's book Chinnakatha. There I found the words, "You live only to seek and go on seeking." I shed joyful tears, saying, "Swami! Swami!"

When I was writing this I remembered an incident that occurred at Paramakudi. Doctor's wife asked me, "Why is your body so hot?" I replied, "My body has always been like this." Doctor then asked me, "Are you not troubled by this in any way? It seems as though you are having a fever of above 100 degrees." I answered, "Many doctors have tested me and generally this would be my normal temperature."

Once I read the following incident about Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa. Whenever he was in Radha Bhava, his body temperature would be unbearable. His disciples would cover his body with a woolen shawl and bathe him.

Mr. Srinivasan, a close associate of Gandhi, has said that the Mahatma's body would always be hot. Someone asked (Gandhiji the reason, he said that when one chants Rama nama, the body becomes hot.

Compared with Paramahansa and Gandhiji, I am a mere particle of dust. The need arises to mention my state of mind at this time. Because Prema bhakthi for Krishna was revealing itself through this body, I was always crying in thoughts of God. Those close to me know about this.

I wanted proof for the vision, I opened Srimad Bhagavatham of Ramakrishna ashram. Paramahansa gives in explanation for the word Mumukshu,

When one surrenders everything to Krishna, he is not affected by any sin. This is the transcendental state, he is a Mumukshu. The state of Yogis and Siddhas is lower to Mumukshus and in no way equal to them. Gopis were Mumukshus. When Prema has gone to the extent of destroying the body itself, why talk about the body?

After satisfying myself with the above explanation, I wanted proof regarding Paramahansa's comment on Mumukshu; I opened a Bal Vikas text book. The title of the book is, 'Divine Path', page 180... '*Sadanachadushtayam*' means four kinds of sadhanas. They are:

1. Wisdom
2. Dispassion
3. Shutsampathi
4. Muinukshatvam

Paramahansa would fall on the ground and cry unbearably at the end of every day saying it was wasted without darshan of his Divine Mother. In the same way, I too cry every night, "I

did not get the darshan of Krishna, the day is wasted." Next day I would wake up with renewed hope, "At least today I will get the darshan of Krishna." I composed a song lamenting like this...

*Faith in the morning, tears end the evening
What life is this?
Seeking Him, searching Him
I cry every moment...
What life is this?*

PART II

SAAMEEPYA MUKTHI

"You have not only become a citizen of the city of the Moksha, but also got a job in the palace which is established at the centre. So you are very near to the Master, who is God Himself; hence, you are now in a state of developing in yourself the divine characteristics. This state of spirituality is called Sameepya Mukthi.

"In Saalokya Mukthi one sees God in his inner eye and is always within the Kingdom of God. In addition to this, if one is always with God and if he realized all that he sees, as glory of the Lord, this experience is referred as Saameepya Mukthi."

- Sri Sathya Sai Baba
Prema Vahini

Chapter 1

THE UNIVERSAL MASTER

We are most fortunate to be born in these times. There are of Sai devotees all over the world, but each ones experience differs from the other. How many different kinds of experiences! As soon as you begin to have faith in Sai, these experiences come to show that you are under His protection.

Since the beginning of creation, many avatars have descended, but which avatar has revealed himself so much? Everyone can experience Swami's infinite love and nearness. Just by each of our experiences of bliss, we can realize that He is the Truth. If we turn the pages of religious scriptures, we will fulfill that in the times of other avatars, only a few people have known them.

Not only Indians but people from other countries also consider Swami as their own Saviour. So far no other avatar has been accepted unanimously as the World Master except Swami. Countless people all over the world sing His glories. Is it possible to tell the divine glories in words? Perhaps...! If Lord Ganesha came forward to write, if the seawater were converted ink and if the expansive sky were used as paper! Swami has accomplished greater tasks than any other

Avatar. He is transforming an entire age in a revolutionary way. The Kali Yuga is becoming Dwapara Yuga.

It has been said in the Gita,

'Paritranaaya Sadhunaam VinasaayachaDushkritaam'.

As He has promised in this sloka from the Gita, the Lord has incarnated to establish dharma. He is correcting the evil minded without destroying them. No other avatar has done this. The world has seen so many revolutions; this though is a Spiritual revolution.

Lord Rama ruled only this country. The reign of Lord Sai is throughout the world. He is transporting the entire world to paradise. This avatar is the Sampurna Avatar. He is the emperor of the fourteen worlds. He is the embodiment of all the gods and goddesses. The great sages and saints, masters of penance and yogis are awaiting His darshan. That Supreme Lord has come down from Vaikunta in the garb of an ordinary human being as Sri Sathya Sai Baba in Parthi. How to praise His mercy? When the perfected souls and eternal beings are waiting for a moment's darshan of Bhagavan, He is giving darshan to thousands of people every day.

Of all the four yugas, Kali Age is the best to experience the divine play. Now, we are most fortunate to have this chance Only a few knew of Rama and Krishna's divinity; but today the whole world knows Sai as the Parabrahma and gathers at His feet. Our past good deeds have brought us to His feet. Let us immerse ourselves in His ocean of mercy. His never-ending compassion flows to one and all.

I have written a song about this:

*I am not Indra to behold Your splendour with a thousand eyes!
I am not Adishesha to sing Your Glory with a thousand tongues!
I am not Karthaveerya to hold Your lotus feet with a thousand hands!
I am born only as an ordinary mortal in this dark world!*

Although we are governed by the Law of Karma, the Lord showers His mercy on us to lessen our load. With His unlimited overflowing, infinite Prema, He has cast off His divine cloak to move amongst us like a common man. He is bringing all under the umbrella of His divine grace. Even the love of all the mothers of the world cannot equal His immeasurable Prema.

*The Lord, His love can it be equaled?
Is it not sweeter than the love of all mothers?*

Chapter 2 THE FRAGRANCE OF SANDAL

I read the experiences of a great devotee of Sri Krishna called Indra Devi. It is said that when Indra Devi touched the Idol of Krishna, sandal fragrance emanated from her hands.

14 January 1997

I cried, "Swami! I too touch Krishna daily, there is no fragrance from my hands!" Swami did not say anything.

6 January 1997 - In Paramakudi

Suddenly, Doctor's wife asked me, "Did you put sandal on your forehead?" I said that I had not. We also found some sandal in three places on my sari. Doctor said, "Swami has put it!"

Later Swami said that He put the sandal on me. Before I started for Paramakudi, I was crying to have the sandal fragrance, now His grace has bestowed what I wanted. The smell of the sandal was marvelous - a very rare fragrance.

I went to Puttaparthi as a sevadal to attend Swami's 70th birthday celebrations. Erramma and myself were on night security duty. In the morning, the day duty sevadal arrived. As they were talking, Erramma told them that vibuthi, kumkum and sandal appear on my Sai padukas. The next moment all of them smelled a very sweet scent of sandal. I had the very same experience when I was at the residence of Ramachandran sharing my experiences with him for the first time. Suddenly, the smell of vibuthi and sandal started coming from his pooja room and remained for hours.

Again on 27 January 1997 when I was talking with Doctor, I smelled vibuthi. Whenever I talk about my experiences Swami, He gives these divine fragrances to make His presence known. What can I say about His mercy? What can I repay Him? He is the Kalpavriksha, Kamadhanu, and the Lord who gives all that one asks for. It is He who makes me write all these experiences.

Chapter 3

STAMP OF APPROVAL

1 February 1997

Erramma prayed earnestly, "Swami you have put a star mark on Vasantha's hand showing that you accepted her as your devotee. If we are also Your devotees please show it."

At once her inner voice said, "I have told your name at Vadakkampatti. Is this not enough? What better sign do you expect than this?" Swami has spoken many times to Erramma like this; very often she gets Swami's darshan.

O! How great our Swami is! What is the meaning for His reply that He had told Erramma's name at Vadakkampatti? It means that those who are connected with me, the names of those that appear in the book, are staunch devotees of Swami. They have been given the 'stamp of approval' by Swami.

This book consists of not only my experience, but also the experiences of these Sai devotees. I may start anywhere to draw a circle of my experiences, but that circle will include these devotees.

The reason for writing this book is that others should be inspired to make efforts and be benefited. Erramma read my experiences and got the stamp of approval from Swami. This

is the merit of reading this book.

Chapter 4

SWAMI'S PROMISE

14 April 1996

Suddenly a strange thought came to me, "Will I forget Swami? If a time comes like that what shall I do?" I was tormented. I prayed, "Swami, take my life, but don't allow me to forget You."

Swami appears in my vision and says, "The seas may flood and immerse the whole world, the sun may rise in another direction but I won't allow you to forget Me. I won't leave you on any account. Don't cry. What I say is truth." Saying this, Swami places His hand on* my head.

Vasantha : If what I saw is true, kindly give me vibuthi.

At once vibuthi appeared on the padukas. Then I switched I the TV and I saw a scene from the movie, 'Krishna Udanga,' jcre Krishna appeared in His cosmic form. Not only this, imediately another song was featured on this 'Prasanthi' TV...

Is it an eye that sees you not?
Is it a heart that thinks of you not?
Without You, I am not;
You are half, I the other.
Whoever parts....
It is grief of hearts.

Indeed, it is a suitable song from Prasanthi TV.

Chapter 5

VADAKKAMPATTI IS PUTTAPARTHI

26 October 1996

I did not sleep the whole night thinking of Swami. I am not getting darshan as before and Swami had not spoken to me for some days. I cried about this. Swami came.

Swami : I never leave you even for a winking moment. You sometimes forget Me. I am here more than in Parthi.

Vasantha : Swami! Are You with me just like Pandarinath was with Eknath? In that case some devotee may find out and come here.

Swami : Whoever believes in My presence here and comes here will have My blessings and grace. The peace one gets at Puttaparthi will be felt here also. Vadakkampatti and Puttaparthi are not different. They are one and the same. This is true.

Vasantha : O Lord! There is no limit to Your mercy.

WHEN I TOLD JVK ABOUT THIS, HE NARRATED another incident to me:
An old Brahmin lady from Karaikurichi, a small village in Tirunelveli, is a staunch devotee of Swami. Many leelas happen in her house, vibuthi and kumkum appear. Those who are not able to go to Parthi to attend Swami's birthday, gather at Karaikurichi. Swami calls her house, 'Chinna Puttaparthi, meaning, little Puttaparthi.

Chapter 6

I WILL NOT ABANDON YOU

One day I received a letter from Ramachandran of Virudhunagar inviting me to participate in the Easwamma Day function at his place. There was no one to accompany me, I could not go. I sat for my mid-day meditation. A thought occurred, "What is Easwamma Day? It is the day of her death. How did she die?"

Easwamma is in Whitefield, she is sitting on the veranda. Swami is going to take bath. He walks past His mother. Within a few minutes, mother calls, "Swami! Swami!" and Swami Comes saying "I am coming, coming."

Swami knows that His mother is dying. Then why was He not near her? Why did He go to the bathroom? Is it to test whether she would think about Him at her last moment? This thought terrified me.

"Swami! O Magical charmer! Don't do such tricks with me, Don't test me like this. Please promise me that You will be with me when my soul departs. I should chant Your name; otherwise take away my life right now."

I wrote this in a letter to Swami and posted it; I wept and cried. At once vibuthi and kumkum burst forth from Swami's paduka and fully covered it. This was the first time vibuthi appeared in our pooja room.

An Azhwar sings,

*I may not think of you at the time of death,
So I am chanting your name now for that time*

It is not important how we were born, but how we die. Gandhiji said, "If someone kills me and I die chanting Rama's name with a prayer for the assassin, then you call me Mahatma." Everyone should prepare themselves for such a noble death.

Swami says, "If you take one step towards Me, I will take hundred steps towards you."

This is true. These words of Swami show His mercy. Swami said that Vadakkampatti is Vaikunta. Vadakkampatti is a very small village in a remote part of southern India. Where is Vadakkampatti compared to Vaikunta? But a voice from Vadakkampatti was heard in Vaikunta and the Lord immediately responded. Oh, what mercy! The Lord who came running to rescue Gajendra, has now promised that He will protect me at the time of my death. How can I repay this merciful Lord?

In Dwapara Yuga, Krishna came at once to protect Draupadi when she called, now He comes running to protect us all as Parthi Sai Baba. If you call on the Lord in the right way,

He will come immediately to help you, whether Dwapara or Kali Yuga.

Chapter 7

SEEKING THE SAINTS

I was going through an article in a Tamil magazine. It said, "One can attain the highest only by being in the company of the great souls. Even if one has an evil nature, he will benefit.

For example, an ordinary robber became Valmiki by his association with Sage Narada. Mahabali was fortunate because of his Guru, Sukracharya; he had the darshan of the Lord as Vamana Avatar. Pundareeka had the darshan of the Lord Anantapadmanaba because of Sage Narada. Only those souls who are bestowed with the powers of the mantras can do this." Then a question arose in my mind, "Is it because of my instant association with many great souls that the Lord is lowering His mercy on me? Have I won His heart due to my satsang with them?"

Yes it is true. In my meditation, I have had the darshan of Sage Vyasa, Sage Agasthya, Mother Sarada Devi, Sri Ramakrishna, Vivekananda, Vishwamitra, Bharadwaja, the late seer Aurobindo and Paramacharya of Kanchikamakoti Peetam. Sage Narada wrote the mantra on my tongue. It is by Sai's grace that I had the vision of these great souls.

Once GV wrote to me saying, "When one is in the higher states, saints and seers will come forward to help him. This is the reason that so many sages and saints have come searching you and given their blessings."

To confirm what GV had written, Ganges water came from Bhagavan's padukas.

Chapter 8

HERE IS A GOPI

One day a letter came from GV. "A Gopi called Swarnamalika appeared in my vision and said that she wanted to convey the following message to you. I have enclosed the letter for you."

I read the second letter. It said, "You were with us in Gokulam. I and Sri Krishna will come to your house on 29 May 1995."

29 May 1995

I offered sweet kesari to Swami and did pooja. Meditation.

Swarnamalika and Sri Krishna appear before me. Swarnamalika has a very fair pink complexion. She is more beautiful than Kashmiri girls. She has soft and delicate feet. Her body is like a chiseled statue. The ornaments add grace to her beauty. She says, "Everyone at Gokulam talks about you."

"All of you are living with Krishna, why am I alone born here suffering in separation from Him?" I ask.

The Gopi replies, "Since Krishna Himself is here, you too have taken birth and enjoy His grace."

They bless me, eat the kesari and disappear.

Vibuthi and kumkum came from the paduka as blessings. Dear readers, are you surprised how the Gopi has communicated with me through GV? In a book on the experiences of Indra Devi, a devotee of Krishna, I read the following:

"Meera's soul entered Indradevi and sang over 800 bhajans..."

When this can happen, why can a Gopi not talk with CV? What is possible for one, is also possible for another. When we take one thing as true, we must also take a similar experience as truth.

In the same book I read another incident. Meera speaks to Indradevi. She says, "The world will believe if you tell them that you saw a ghost and that you were scared. But if you tell them that a great soul came to you dancing and singing the glory of Bhagavan, they will find it difficult to believe. This is the reason that the human mind does not accept the Lord's grace through a messenger. The most wonderful experience of a bhaktha is his happiness when he is blessed by his Lord in any way He has willed. It is a sin to doubt his experience."

Like the Gopi Swarnamalika, many holy beings have contacted me through GV. When they began to come directly bless me, my doubting mind made Swami stand in the witness many times. Each time I asked, the great merciful Lord showed proofs to satisfy me. How fortunate am I to have attained this great Lord! How compassionate He is! How much! How He wants that each one of us should realize Him be redeemed! Is He not the greatest Avatar?

No avatar has come to help mankind to such an extent. He strengthens our faith by appearing in dreams and meditation. Through His darshan and visions, the Lord reveals presence to His devotees. What penance did we do to have his? What sadhana did we do? Did we master the scriptures I the saints and sages? We are mere dust compared to them, blessed we are! How merciful is the Lord! What passion!

It is because of His Prema, Universal Prema! Can there be other reason? Ordinary people like us have become worthy of His darshan, how merciful! It makes me wonder if He is truly God or someone mad. He has showered His Prema on me, who is not worthy.

It is enough if our sight falls on Him; it is enough if our mind turns in His direction; then He will come running to us.

Chapter 9 PUSHPAK VIMAAN

19 December 1996

Again Swami takes me into cosmic space. He shows me different scenes. He says, "This is the celestial world of the devas." It is a beautiful luminescent city. I see many devas. We do

not enter the city.

There is a beautiful garden. Swami sits on a dais, I am at His holy feet. Beautiful peacocks dance spreading their feathers. Enchanting deer come running to Swami. Colorful birds, trees shower flowers on Swami.

Vasantha : Human beings have not understood You so far Swami! But these deer, trees and peacocks know You as the God of Gods, so they shower their love on You.

Swami: It is their keen sharp awareness. They are attracted by the Lord's Prema and they are showering their love on Him.

19 December 1996

I had a vision of the Pushpak Vimaan. Swami shows me the heavens and sings a song. enjoy His grace!

How fortunate I am to be near Swami and enjoy His grace! I am in You, You are in Me

Chapter 10

I AM IN YOU, YOU ARE IN ME

One day, as I was offering idli to Swami, my heart melted in prayer. I asked, "Swami, daily I offer food to You with so much love, but you have not eaten it even one day."

Immediately Swami said, "It is through you that I eat daily with so much love. Did I not tell you that you and I are the same? You are Radha, Meera, Andal. Forgetting who you are, you are always crying."

I said, "The separation is unbearable Swami!"

Swami said, "There is no question of separation. I have merged in you and you have merged in Me."

3 March 1996

I challenged GV saying, "I will talk to Swami like you; I will make Swami talk to me." Ten days passed. Swami did not speak. I cried incessantly, I fasted. 'I cannot bear it any longer my Lord', I lamented night and day.

13 March 1996

At 12:30 pm Swami gave me darshan and wiped my tears. Then He spoke, "Oh My wealth of love! Look I am making you butter and swallowing, you have dissolved in My whole body, you have united with Me."

Great bliss! I forgot all sufferings that I had undergone until then. Swami had talked with me for the first time. It was a golden day in my life. By constantly thinking of Him, I achieved my goal, I made Swami speak with me.

The Mahabharata was being broadcast on TV. I prayed to Swami that if it was true that He has eaten me as butter, somebody should talk about butter in this episode. The scene was set on the battlefield, Bhishma was lying on the bed of arrows. Sri Krishna came with Pandavas to see Bhishma. I was very eager to see who was going to talk about butter.

Bhishma said, "Oh Keshava! Oh son of Nanda! If you had given me one drop of the butter You ate in Gokulam, I would have attained liberation."

Filled with joy I shouted, "Krishna! Krishna! It is true that YOU made me as butter and swallowed it." What a wonderful proof! I bathed Swami with blissful tears.

16 March 1996

Swami asked me to write to Doctor and tell him about this Incident. Still I did not believe and said, "Swami, I will turn on the TV now, if I get a proof I will write, if not I won't."

On the television a man was asking on the telephone, "What is your answer to my question?" The reply came from the other end, "Yes, OK." What a suitable proof! Prasanthi TV Prasanthi TV. I then wrote about the above incident in detail Doctor.

Chapter 11

WHO IS MAD?

4 June 1996

Sage Agasthya and his wife Lopamudra appear before me. In the beginning, the figures appear hazy, slowly they become clear. The sage carries a kamandalu with Ganges water or is it Kaveri water? The sage sprinkles the water over me.

Agasthya : What do you want? Ask something.

Vasantha : Swami! God's love for me should not reduce even a needlepoint. I also should shower more Prema bhakthi on Him so it overwhelms Him and makes Him yearn for me. For the past 35 years I cry for God. God should also aspire for me and become mad after me.

Then only will He understand my sufferings.

Agasthya : Let it be so.

THE SAGE GAVE THIS BOON and disappeared. I requested Swami to materialize vibuthi to prove the above vision vibuthi appeared from Lord Rama's picture. I wanted one more proof from Swami's book Chinnakatha. When I opened it, the following was found on page 195.

"The big temple at Kalahasthi was constructed according to scriptural rules by Sage Agasthya with the help of Sage Bharadwaja."

A suitable proof! Oh Lord! Let me thank you again and again. My heart was thrilled with bliss.

I prayed tearfully, "Swami, my love pours out towards You; it is unbearable. Kindly control it a little."

Swami replied, "No, no. Do not ask like this. Be calm. Control yourself, everything will be alright."

What sort of madness is this? I am always praying and asking the blessings of sages and saints that I have more Prema bhakthi. But at the same time, I am asking Swami to reduce my devotion! It is indeed a strange contradiction. Am I talking like this because, I do not have the strength of body or mind to bear the overflowing Prema for God?

I switched on the TV. I saw a scene where they speak about Sage Agasthya's Kamandalu; this was my proof to write about this vision to GV.

Swami said, "Your explanation of Madhura Bhava is very correct. Having made yourself mad, you have made Me also mad. This is the peak of Madhura Bhava. This yoga is called, Madhura Yoga, it cannot be experienced by anyone."

16 August 1996

I was writing to GV what Swami had told me. When I s writing the words, "You have made Me mad." A scene peared on TV in which a man tells a woman, "I like Vasantha fee, I like Vasantha raga very much."

In the next scene they show that the name Vasantha is written everywhere in his kitchen; Vasantha on the glass, Vasantha on the coffee filter, Vasantha on the cushion, Vasantha on the fan, there is Vasantha everywhere! Another man says, "He has become Vasantha mad calling Vasantha, Vasantha, Vasantha all the time." Hearing this I at once stopped writing and asked my daughter-in-law, "What film is this?" She told me that it was a scene from the film Vasantha Ragam.

Whenever I am in a happy mood I sing the following two ties,

*Like the bee that hovers over the jasmine flower,
My heart dances in Your love.*

I wonder at Swami's Prema and sing this again and again. I sing the above lines all day long, dissolving myself in love. That evening at 6:10 pm, while preparing dosa, I was singing the song and the same tune came on TV. Not only that, but immediately, vibuthi, holy water and thiruman appeared from the padukas.

One who reads this chapter may ask whether Swami would call Himself mad for the sake of an ordinary devotee. I too had the thought that Swami's divinity, the glory of the Supreme Lord may be tarnished. For this reason, I feared very much to write this book.

The boon I got from Sage Agasthya should come true. I asked this boon craving for the divine. In order to satisfy me Swami is performing all these leelas; He is calling Himself mad, unconcerned with His divine glory.

On the battlefield of Kurukshetra the same Lord carried the footwear of Draupadi in order that she would secure a boon from Bhishma. Did not Lord Panduranga serve Ekanath for 12 years? Was He not tied to a pillar by as Sakubhai and did He not do household duties? Did He not make pots for the sake of Korakumba? He served the barber Sena due to his devotion.

Did any of these reduce His divinity? Did His name and fame lose glory?

In the same manner, Swami protects His devotees from difficulties. He considers the happiness of the devotee as His own and nothing else. He therefore, does not care whether one adores Him or not and whether His name will be blemished.

RA. Ganapathi writes the following:

Narada doubted that Lord Narayana had forgotten His divinity living as an ordinary man in Dwaraka, during Krishna Avatar. Krishna gives the following explanation, "Narada! I have come to lead people on the path of dharma. As a part of this play, I am in the garb of an ordinary human being. I am happy in limiting Myself, do not be confused that I have forgotten my divinity."

This shows that Lord Krishna is happy with both the goodness and imperfections of human life. Not only this He has said in the Gita,

'I am not known to all. I cover Myself in Yoga maya.'

It is a great sacrifice that the Absolute One is pretending to be limited in order to remove our unlimited karmas. The Lord comes down from Vaikunta in order to make His devotees happy and He Himself rejoices in their company.

When I wrote this, it was 7:30 pm on 11 February 1997. A serial was telecast in which the first three Azhwars meet in a small temple room. The Lord joins them, squeezing Himself into the room. How holy is the moment when I got this proof? What a unique proof! The great Lord Sathya Sai limits Himself in the same way pretending to be Vasantha mad thus pleasing Himself and His devotee.

I am not an intellectual like Sri RA. Ganapathi. I am not a scholar. I have not written any book so far. Daily before starting write my experiences and after finishing, I pray to Swami, "have I written correctly?" Then I open a book, to get suitable evidence approving my work; I got all my proofs like this. Therefore, it is clearly seen that it is only Swami who writes this book.

Doctor, GV and JVK thought that it would take 3 months to complete this book. I started writing this book on 30 January 1997 and completed it on 11 February 1997. How is it possible to write a book within such a short period of just 11 days? I shouted in joy, "It is Swami! Swami!! Swami!!!"

12

FOOTPRINTS ON PADUKAS

23 February 1992

This date is a golden day in my life because Swami's padukas, which had been carried on the head of King Bharata and placed on the head of Emperor Bali, were installed in my pooja room. How fortunate am I! The sacred padukas, which even the gods have not seen, have come in search of me! Of the 1008 padukas that were given, mine was the eighteenth

pair. Eighteen is considered to be a divine number. I think you know that the Bhagavad Gita has eighteen chapters and there are eighteen Puranas. I was very happy as if I had earned the fruit of my birth. Daily I do abhishekam to the padukas and offer pooja to them. Bathing of Sai padukas should not be mechanical. It has to be done whole-heartedly.

When Swami was very young, a lady by the name of Nagamani Bai used to clean His feet gently with warm water whenever He returned home. Your devotion will grow if you worship the padukas with the feeling of washing the Lord's feet, thinking, "Swami will wear these and go to many places to protect His devotees, let us serve His holy feet."

Many times I have had the darshan of Lord Narayana standing on the padukas with His conch and chakra. Every day when I give holy bath to Swami's padukas, I see Him standing on them, His long robe lifted slightly.

Since Swami has many times used these padukas, one can see His footprint on them. I am overwhelmed with joy when I see these. In fact, we did not notice it until a group of devotees from Madurai saw the footprints and told me. Afterwards, the news spread, many devotees came and marveled.

Chapter 13

STAR MARK ON MY PALM

I was reading the book, 'Nara Narayana Gufa Ashram' where Swami says, "Very often you say that you are a Sai devotee, but have you ever thought whether Baba has accepted you as His devotee? Have you ever taken steps to know about it?"

(missing drawing)

"Star near heart line on the palm"

After reading this, I recalled an incident that took place in my life. On one occasion I asked for the following boon, "Swami! If you have accepted me as your devotee, please put a star mark on my palm. You have shown a rainbow to Diane and Joel Baskin in the noon sky when the sun was scorching."

Everyday, whenever I found time, I would look at my palm to find out whether there was any star mark; there was none. I was desperately longing for the mark. I did not know what Swami's decision would be regarding this. How could I remain calm awaiting His verdict? I was praying and crying. I felt that my life and its goal rested on this single mark of approval. My goal was to see Kanha face to face. I am living for this purpose alone. After three days of intense pain and struggle, a miracle happened.

On the 14 October 1986, not one but two star marks appeared on my right palm. At once, I sang and danced. The Lord had bestowed upon me not just one, but two marks. Is there any limit to His mercy? Now after 11 years, one star mark remains, the other having disappeared.

One day when I was in a state of not being able to do anything because of thinking about Swami, He came. Swami held my hand and looked at my palm and said, "Those who have these lines will see the unseen, will hear the unheard, will speak the unspoken; the Master of the world is in the palm of their hand."

I opened the Gita looking for a proof. The page I opened read, "Poorna Yoga - the vision of the Supreme being everywhere. I was very confused and wondered if Swami was asking me

to release Him from my grasp. Then came a monthly magazine called, 'Dharma Chakra', in which was written:

Oh Lord, in front of the whole world, You are making this unworthy soul hear the unheard and see the unseen. You have given me another boon. My great Lord You have bestowed liberation on this poor soul and saved me from rebirth.

Oh! What wonderful grace! This verse suited Swami's palm reading prophecy. Swami is making me write all this for the sake of the readers. It is His grace that makes me write the unwritten.

Sri Ramakrishna has said that both the bhaktha and Bhagavan are swept away in a flood of devotion and unite. How true it is!

14

BE A WITNESS

One day Swami asked me to be a witness. I asked what He meant by it.

Swami : No reaction should appear in your mind for any action. This is the state of witness. It has already been destined what should happen and when it should happen. You may try your best to avoid it, even then it will happen. The Lord is performing a puppet show; you are merely a puppet, an instrument. You do the duty that is assigned to you. Don't allow any distractions to appear in your mind. Not even a blade of grass will move without the will of God. Be a witness. Do not allow any worldly intention to arise in your mind. Let me tell a story from the Mundaka Upanishad.

There are two birds in a tree. One bird eats the fruit. The other one that does not eat is in a blissful state. The one that eats the fruit is the Jeevatma. The other one is the Paramatma. The body is the tree. Eating the fruit is experiencing joy and sorrow. Paramatma resides in the body, detached from its action. As long as the body remains, act as if you are in a drama. No one in the world is related to you. The only relative is God. Live with this thought.

ONE DAY SWAMI ASKED GV to send me a picture in which a bird is seen flying over the globe; below the picture it was written, 'Be a witness'. GV sent that picture to Doctor without sending it directly to me. Doctor kept the picture for five days in his pooja room for prayers, and then he sent it to me! All these are Swami's leelas.

15

DESTINY MADE FALSE

18 October 1996

Swami has said that GV was His playmate, Thathipandan during Krishna Avatar. Many celestial beings and great souls communicate with GV. He acts like a messenger between Swami and I. Whatever happens in my residence at Vadakkampatti is immediately known to GV who is in Vriddhachalam. How is it possible? Just think this over.

The following is one of 1,000 verses composed by me,

If You laugh at Vadakkampatti
It will echo at Vriddhachalam
Whatever this Vasantha talks
It will fill the ears of GV.

Swami tells others all that He tells me. When I, 'doubting Vasantha', do not tell them what Swami has told me, Swami will tell the same to GV to prove the message is true.

GV would write to me following Swami's instructions. I too began to write all my inner visions and experiences. Later, I shared them with Doctor in whose house Swami showed many miracles as proof of my experiences. In this way, my twenty years of personal experiences came to light during the past four years. Secrets known only to the three of us are now made known to the whole world by Swami through this book that He has compelled me to write. Doctor prayed that the book should be released soon so all could benefit and Swami blessed it.

For the first time I wrote a letter to Swami at Doctor's house regarding the publication of the book. Gowri, Doctor's daughter, placed the letter at the feet of Swami and prayed to Him. At once Swami took the pen from Gowri and signed, 'Baba'. I have been writing to Swami for the past 18 years, but only got the reply from Him on 9 March 1993 at Doctor's residence. I believed that Swami's signature would completely change my destiny and wrote the following poem,

*Brahma's true writings ruled my destiny
But now are false by the signature of Thee
'Tis a great wonder oh Lord of mercy!
My garland of poems adorn thy feet holy.*

Following this verse, I wrote a hundred poems and dedicated them to Swami's lotus feet.

This book is sponsored by Doctor. You may have observed that there are many references to GV and Doctor. There is no need for me to sing their praises. I am born in a family, which has never known subservience to anyone. I only appreciate their faith and devotion. All the experiences I write are only visions of truth. Those who have seen the vision of truth need not sing praises of others. So, neither Doctor, GV or I have the need to accredit each other. These devotees are connected to me because they are all dear to the Lord.

Chapter 16 IN THE KING'S COURT

Meditation.

Swami takes me to Puttaparthi.

Vasantha : Swami, there is no water at all in Chitravathi River.

Swami : So what, shall I make the river flow?

SAYING THIS, SWAMI DRAWS LINES on the sand with His hand. At once, the whole river fills with water. We sit on the sand for some time.

Vasantha : Swami, You have materialized so many things from this sand.

Swami : Yes, yes. You seem to think that I have not given you anything. Haven't I given Myself to you? What else do you need?

THEN SWAMI CLIMBS UP TO THE Kalpavriksha tree. I am not able to follow Him. Swami holds my hand and takes me with Him. He plucks an apple from the tree, takes a bite and gives the rest to me. He shows me every place in Prasanthi Nilayam.

Vasantha: Swami, You did not show Your interview room.

Swami : What business do you have in the King's assembly? It is My court. I Myself come to your place.

Vasantha : Swami, please bestow Your grace liberally on the whole world. Let them be freed from their suffering.

Swami : In that case, release Me from your binding, only then can I help them.

THESE WORDS OF SWAMI SURPRISE ME. I shiver thinking, "Can't You help the world if I bind You?"

Composing myself I say, "For the welfare of the world, I will do whatever You want me to do Swami."

Swami says, "Your sacrifice is great. You are sacrificing God Himself who has merged with you."

STILL I WAS CONFUSED. I WROTE a letter to GV crying that Swami is asking me to let go of Him. I cried for three days continuously. GV replied to my letter saying, "What is letting go or leaving? This is a kind of mental state. Don't worry." In this way he consoled me.

13 October 1996

At midnight I was crying, Swami came.

Vasantha : Swami! What is letting go? How can I live without You?

Swami : Sacrifice, sacrifice for the world's sake.

Vasantha : In that case, let me sacrifice You for the sake of the world. Let the world be benefited. Now, let my soul leave this body! For whom should I live?

Swami : Do you think that I would go away if you made this sacrifice? A thing that is sacrificed only returns with more power. Before you were asking Gayatri Devi to protect Me. Now, when you are saying that you will sacrifice Me, you pray, 'Oh Mother! Let every Gayatri mantra that I chant become a knot binding Swami with me'!

SWAMI HAS SAID IN THE BOOK, 'Sai Arulamudam' (p.142) that uninterrupted namasmarana is the chain that binds God. I am in the habit of chanting 108 Gayatri mantras in the morning and evening for the past fifteen years.

I am a small straw floating in the flood of time.

I am but one among the many living beings,

A small bubble in the ocean.

*Swami reveals Himself in ever so many ways
To a poor insignificant soul like me.
I pray to Him to reveal to all His divinity.*

Chapter 17

NARA NARAYANA CAVE

Swami takes me to the cave. I see the sanyasans doing penance. The cave is large and split up into small enclosures. Baba shows me the Akshaya Patra; it is mentioned in the book, 'Nara Narayan Gufa ashram'. The vessel is broad mouthed, without a lid. Swami gives me a cup of milk from it.

I say, "Swami, first you sip it, let me take afterwards. Then only it would be delicious," Swami drinks half of it and gives me the rest. It tastes wonderful.

We walk on the slopes of the Himalayas. On the way, He shows me a creeper called Somalata, a tiny but heavy plant used in yagnas. It is capable of giving an unlimited life span. Swami with His own divine hands shows me the plant, its stalk and pattern of leaves. The leaves are separate, not touching each other.

Later I heard that there is a herbal garden near Nara Narayana Cave.

4 September 1996 Krishna Jayanthi.

Himalayan herbs fell from Baba's picture. Perhaps Swami I this to confirm my vision of the cave.

22 September 1996

Ten days earlier, Swami had told me that He will reveal this experience to others. When the Laksharchan was nearing completion, three devotees Mr. JVK, Mr. Somnath and Mr. Kannan came to our house for the first time. JVK was giving a talk to the devotees about the Nara Narayan Cave. Suddenly, Mr. Ramchandran intervened and said, "Here is someone who has gone to the cave and returned!" After finishing his talk JVK asked, "Who is that holy soul who went to the cave?" Ramchandran narrated the details of my visit to the cave with Baba.

I thought that Swami has revealed me as He had said. I prayed to Swami to confirm my, 'Somalata darshan'. When I opened my eyes, I saw sacred ash in the pooja room. What a fortunate opportunity! I submit my tears at His feet.

Let me conclude this chapter by mentioning that whether you believe it or not, the Himalayan herbs fell in our pooja room for three and a half months!

Chapter 18

EMBRACING HANDS

My grandson Sathyan was born by the grace of Baba. He had written a poem when he was only 7 years old. He sent the poem along with a letter to Sanathana Sarathi; they were published under the title, 'A heart melting letter from a child'. Swami told that Sathyan was His child and it was His duty to protect him.

Once young Sathyan asked me, "Grandma is it Swami's responsibility to protect me

whether I do right or wrong? If He likes care of me, let Him give me some sugar candy."

I prayed to Swami with his request. Swami said, "It is my responsibility to protect him. Even if a child does a wrong thing, the mother will embrace him. But for that reason one should not do wrong actions carelessly; righteousness is more important than anything else. One should cultivate good qualities in themselves." Fulfilling his request, sugar candy, udi and kumkum appeared on the padukas. Incidentally, I opened a Tamil newspaper and there I found in capital letters, 'Embracing Hands'. A great proof indeed!

I told Sathyan about my prayer that I should reach God along with the physical body like Andal and Vallalar. Sathyan turned the pages of my diary and told me that Swami would definitely fulfill my wishes. Then we saw that vibuthi, sandal and murukku prasad had come on the padukas. Tasting the prasad, I told Sathyan that it was from Tirupati, but he said that it must be from Sri Rangam! I thought 'Swami has given Sri Rangam prasad for my prayer that I should merge like Andal with Lord Ranganatha at Sri Rangam.

Readers may wonder whether these things can happen, It it has happened like this many times.

My son Aravindan's children, Murali, Anand and my younger son's daughter Vaishnavi, are all good Sai devotees. Whenever these children get together in the holidays they play only with Swami's idol. One day Murali and Anand offered plums to Swami and prayed to Him to eat them; He did so. At that time Vaishnavi was not there, afterwards Vaishnavi prayed to Swami, "You must show me Your presence as you did to my brothers." Then Vaishnavi and Sathyan offered some mango to Swami. Swami made kumkum appear on the mango and the children felt very happy,

7 February 1997

When I was writing this, my son Manivannan, a teacher, returned with prasadam after taking his students to various pilgrimage places like Sri Rangam, Tirupati, Samayapuram, Ratnagiri, Kanchipuram Kamakoti Mutt, Vadalur Vallalar Ashram, Velankanni, Thirunallaru, and Tanjore Braha deeswarar Temple.

Is this not a wonderful hour, 8:30 pm on Thursday as I write about Sri Rangam prasadam that appeared on Swami's padukas? Now the same prasad has come from the temple? Is it not the grace of Baba? A strange divine coincidence!

All these incidents are strong proofs that this book has become sanctified by the prasadam from the holy temples, just like an offering that becomes sacred by sprinkling holy water on it. Prasadam came from Vadalur Vallalar Temple also. Is it not the Lord's grace for my prayers that I should merge with Him like Vallalar?

A Sumangali pooja was performed at a devotee's house Doctor's wife, Shivamani and I were invited to that function. We were asked to sit for the pooja to represent the worship of Mother Shakthi. The arrangements were made on a large scale and the ceremonies were conducted according to scriptural dictates. They did the pooja glorifying Lord Lakshmi Narayana. The sacredness of the atmosphere made me lose consciousness of this world. Shivamani became the very embodiment of the goddess. At the end of the function, Shivamani's palms were found covered in kumkum. It was a sign that Swami accepted the pooja.

Many more signs were found to show Baba's presence. Kumkum appeared continuously for five days. In the kumkum, there was a Lord Lakshmi Narayana idol and a Saraswathi idol. When I returned from the devotee's house, they gave me an idol of Saraswathi, a coconut, fruit and flowers. Saraswathi is the goddess of learning. What more suitable reward can I get than this idol for writing the book?

Some days back I got the darshan of Saraswathi Devi. I prayed to her to bestow

higher wisdom on me. Swami replied that both devotion and jnana are the same. Swami said, "If you have devotion, jnana will automatically come. That is why gave you the Saraswathi idol, the symbol of jnana."

Earlier, when Swami showed me Silver Island, I wanted a proof for the swan I had seen there. At that time I noticed a calendar in our house with a picture of Saraswathi Devi on a swan. Very often Swami's compassion comes to me in this way.

23 February 1997

My son Manivannan asked me about the star mark on my palm, which is a sign that Swami had acknowledged me as His devotee. Then a question arose, "What about others? Are they not Swami's devotees too?" The answer is - those whose names appear in this book are all acknowledged by Baba as His devotees. At once my husband asked, "You have not written about us. Are we not Sai devotees?"

I asked Swami.

Vasantha : Swami what reply shall I give to my husband?

Swami : His demand is a correct one. He also aspires like you, otherwise how can he have any connection to you? Write this also in your book.

OH READERS! DON'T YOU THINK that Swami is so gracious answering each and every thought of mine? As Swami reminded me, it is my sincere duty to thank every member of family. Because of them, I can spend the whole day in thoughts of Him, do poojas and go to satsang. My family members whole-heartedly co-operate with me with enthusiasm. Particularly, I must thank my younger daughter-in-law Manohari; she takes all the responsibilities of the family and allows me to serve Swami. My first daughter-in-law also is an embodiment of good qualities.

I pray to the Lord to shower His blessings on one and all as 1 le has blessed my family.

PART III SAARUPYA MUKTHI (IMMERSED IN GOD CONSCIOUSNESS)

"Always having the form of God in mind, you become the son of the King that is a prince – a prince to be crowned at God's palace, situated at the city of Mukthi. Then you wear a prince's dress and go around the empire. This is called Saarupya Mukthi.

In Saalokya Mukthi one is always with God. Saameepya Mukthi is experiencing the greatness of God everywhere. If one immerses in God consciousness, it is Saarupya Mukthi."

-Sri Sathya Sai Baba
Prema Vahini

Chapter 1

DEFINITION OF PREMA BHAKTHI

"Existing ever with the Lord, witnessing always the glory of the Lord and becoming suffused with God consciousness is Saarupya Mukthi. This is the final fruit of bhakthi shastra." This is what Swami has said in Prema Vaahini.

If one practices devotion as described above and attains the final goal of Saarupya Mukthi, then his life will be an example of Prema Bhakthi. I have realized this truth in my own life. When one is always thinking of the Lord, He too is always with him. I have attained this state in which I cannot live even for a second without the thought of the Lord.

Now let us see Bhagavan's explanation for Prema Bhakthi. "A sadhaka making himself mad for God, makes God also mad for him. This is the peak of Prema Bhakthi." Only when such a high state is attained a 'Gita Govindam' is born. Poet Jayadeva writes about the feelings of Krishna for Radha:

'Chaarun sheelay! Priya Chaarun sheelay!' Keep your lotus feet on My head, Thoughts of you burn Me.

Sri Krishna laments. Radha's Prema is so powerful that it makes Him mad. Such an incident happened in my life too. In an earlier chapter, I have said how I asked a boon from Sage Agasthya that Swami should become mad after me. The sage gave the boon saying, "Let it be so." Later I forgot about this. One day I received a letter from GV. He wrote that Swami woke him up at midnight and told him to write a letter to me, but he refused to write saying that he had already written a letter the previous day. Even then, Swami requested GV to write one more letter. GV complied and wrote the following in his letter. "Swami has become mad after you. At midnight, He woke me up and told me to write this letter. Usually, the devotee aspires for God's Prema, but in your case Baba Himself is showering Prema on you."

I have received many letters like this from GV. Once GV asked Swami, "Swami, very often you ask me to write to Vasantha and to Doctor. Don't you have any other devotees except these two?"

Some of my conversations with Baba about Prema Bhakthi are given below.

Swami : It is your Prema that gives you such power. Prema for the Lord is more powerful than the Lord Himself. It is this power that gives you such skill. I have nothing with Me. That is why, I am defeated on many occasions.

Vasantha : Since this morning I am immersed in reading a spiritual magazine, so I have forgotten You Swami! Has my heart become a stone?

Swami : When did you forget? Even in the magazine you read about Me alone. You

were thinking about Me. You will not forget Me even for a single second. I too will not forget you. Don't cry. You should be laughing, not crying. Those who have to cry are laughing. I laugh at the world when I think of it.

Vasantha : Why so Swami?

Swami : That is all maya.

Vasantha : Why do I cry Swami? Is this also maya?

Swami : This is not maya. You cry because of you are not able to control your infinite Prema.

Vasantha : When Narada Maharishi himself feared and worshipped maya, where do I stand?

Swami : Maya will not catch you. I am near you, maya cannot come. Other people in the world are caught in many different things; they are living and laughing happily. It is they who should be crying.

Vasantha : Swami I am not able to do japa and meditation.

Swami : Who told you to do them?

Vasantha : I get peace only when I talk to You. Due to this overflowing Prema, I don't know what I should do. My mind always wants Your nearness and love.

Swami : That is Radha.

Vasantha : How can Radha's Prema flow without Your Prema? I won't believe it Swami! Not even a blade of grass will move without You. You are the Indweller and Director of all.

Swami : If it is because of Me, this Prema should be in everyone! Why is it not so? Are they all like you? Unlimited sincerity, complete surrender, unshakeable faith, and selfless devotion without attachment are essential for this.

Vasantha : Swami! You told me that half of Your energy is spent in consoling me. You also say that my Prema is Your energy. When energy feeds energy how can it be wasted?

Swami : How is it that you speak so cleverly?

Vasantha: You are my teacher Swami! You told in a discourse that cleverness and intelligence are Bhagavan's powers. You have said that there is none who is more skillful than the Lord, so everything is because of Your mercy.

Swami : It is your Prema that bestows you such power. Prema for God is more powerful than God Himself. It is this power that gives you so much energy. I have nothing with Me. That is why I am defeated by you many times.

Vasantha : Even for fun do not say so Swami! Only I should be defeated, You should always win.

Another meditation....

Vasantha : Swami! Why am I not able to do japa and meditation?

Swami : Why do you worry about japa and meditation? Why should you do them like a machine at a particular place and time? Now, tell me the purpose of japa and meditation.

Vasantha : To attain the Lord.

Swami : You have already attained Him, is it not? In that case, what is the need for japa and dhyana? Moreover, you are crying, saying that you are not able to concentrate. You are always with Swami and speak with Swami. You have successfully completed sadhana but you are never satisfied. Why do you still want to be in the state of a sadhaka? Nobody in this world has had visions and darshans like you. I told you that you are one of a kind for this entire age. Even then, you are not satisfied and always think that those people who have interviews are more fortunate than you.

Vasantha : Where is the place for satisfaction in Prema bhakthi, Swami? If there is satisfaction, it is like a full stop. Prema always has only a comma. If one is satisfied, then the growth of Prema will end. This yearning and aspiration alone will cultivate Prema.

Swami : Very good! See now, again I have lost to you.

Vasantha : O Lord! That is wrong. Kindly pardon me. I am lecturing You, the very form of Prema. It is You who creates such thoughts in me.

Swami : No, No. You are wrong; your limitless Prema is the reason for it. There can be a limit for the seas or the sky; but there is no limit for your Prema. Your words, walk, living, thinking, everything is the definition of Prema. Your life is an example for selfless devotion. You are an example for Prema bhakthi.

Chapter 2

I AM NOT WITHOUT YOU

November 1996

In a vision I see goddess Gayatri Devi. She tells me, "You are asking Swami that He should not leave you even for a second! Why don't you ask the boon that I should be with you?"

I say, "When I see your face, I see only Swami. Swami's darshan is your darshan. You are Swami."

(Swami appears...)

Swami : Oh treasure of wisdom! How well you speak! Shall I open your brain to see how much knowledge is there?

Vasantha : By all means Swami! You will see the whole brain filled only with Your form. When Your form is in every blood cell, what else will there be?

Swami : Can you speak a single sentence without saying My name? If you do, I will give you a grand gift.

Vasantha : Give that gift to someone else Swami. Without You, not even a sentence or a word can be spoken by me.

Swami : This is also the definition for Prema Bhakthi, a definition that has to be understood well.

Vasantha: Swami! Swami! Except You, what else exists in this world? Swami! If You are a tree, I am the creeper. Don't remove this creeper from the tree, otherwise it will fall down. It will be burnt by the sun or drenched by the rain and trodden on by all; it will die.

Swami: This tree also wants the creeper, without the creeper it cannot exist. Already you have written to GV that Swami cannot be without you.

Vasantha: Is it possible for You, Swami, to be away from me?

Swami: Shall I make it possible?

Vasantha: Swami! Is it You who speak like this?

Swami : Just for fun, I said it. Even for this you start crying.

Vasantha: Just by hearing the word possible, it seems as if separation is possible. I can't live even for a single second without You. Swami! In that case, is Your Prema towards me less?

Swami: This is Radha, the definition of Prema Bhakthi.

Vasantha: What is this Swami? You are always saying, "This is the definition of Prema. This is the definition of Prema"!

Swami: It is a fact! You are not able to endure the very word separation because selfless love flows to such an extent. For the definition of Prema, I gather every point from you alone. Your speech, breath and every action, are all centered on God, is it not? Then why do tears come from your eyes? When Prema overflows in the heart, why do tears overflow from the eyes?

Chapter 3

RADHA DEFEATS KRISHNA

Vasantha: Swami! GV said, Gopis do not know the difference between their right and left hand; I am like them. I do not know anything. I want only You. I do not want anything else.

Swami: Now I've got one more definition. You don't know; I only know. All these are outpourings of your Prema. This is why I am defeated by you so many times.

Vasantha: There is no place for defeat in Prema, Swami! When defeated, more bliss is

enjoyed. What is defeat? One loses only for the sake of the other. Only when each one gives up for the other, bliss is enjoyed more.

Swami : Look, here is another point!

Vasantha: Swami You may gather many points, but everything is only You. My thoughts, body, soul, actions and will power, all these things are manifestations of You alone. You are 1 the only source. Is there any existence for me without You? Is there any individuality for me? Do I have any thoughts other than You?

Swami : This is also a point.

Swami : Both pictures that appeared in this month's Sanatana Sarathi are top class. Dhanvantri is super; Kanha! How beautiful You look! All the pictures are very very attractive. Your beauty drives everyone mad.

Swami : That too is your Prema.

Vasantha : Swami! For everything You are repeating the same thing Prema, Prema, Prema, Prema.

Swami : Of course...it's true. It is you who sang,
*'My yearning calls and cries
Have brought Your blissful form!
Prahlada created Narahari
My Prema created Your form'.*

Your Prema is the only reason for this. It is you and the limitless devotion of devotees that creates God. However, non-devotees would say, "Look at Him, He is shaggy-haired with a long shirt on." When devotion increases the view changes. Your Prema eyes behold the beauty in the form.

Vasantha : Swami, Swami I want You. I want only You

Swami : I am near you, why are you crying?

Vasantha : It is this that I do not understand Swami! What to do? I cannot control this love.

Swami: Your life is verily a yagna. You are dedicating yourself as the oblation in the Prema yagna. This is yoga, this is tapas. See God in everyone. Do not think, "Why are they talking like this? Why are they acting like this? Why is their nature like this?" It is all the will of God. It is He who controls them, He makes them speak and act. Think like this and do not allow anything to be impressed upon the mind. There should not be any impressions in the mind.

Vasantha: I do not want anything Swami. Why did you involve me in family life? Why did you not make me like Radha and Andal whom I aspired to be from a young age?

Swami : Did I not tell You? Do not ask the reason. Now you are experiencing what you have asked for. You are experiencing Krishna as Radha. I give each what he wants. If the

devotees want to experience Me as father, I will be the father. If they see Me as mother, I will be the mother. If they adore Me as a child, I will be the child. I will bless each one to experience Me in the way they want to.

Vasantha: Swami! As soon as I see You, I fall at your feet, I cry, I touch Your divine feet and kiss them. Is it wrong?

Swami: How can it be wrong? Does not a child run to fall in his mother's lap, fondly kissing her showing his joy? The mother also embraces her child and caresses him. How can this be wrong? All these are expressions of love. An example. As soon as they saw you, Doctor and Shivamani fell in your lap and cried aloud; you too cried holding their hands. This is pure love, the love that surges from the depths of ones heart. There is no body consciousness, only bliss.

Vasantha: It is now clear to me Swami.

Swami : You told JVK, "You are very fortunate, Swami patted your cheek so many times showing His love like a mother." Now you are asking me if you are wrong. You should keep in your mind only the two, Paramatma and Jeevatma. The Jeevatma is yearning, calling the Paramatma. Paramatma hears the call of the Jeevatma and comes running and unlimited bliss is experienced. Can you describe the state? It can only be experienced. It is said that those who have experienced it cannot speak about it and that those who speak about it have not experienced it. When Doctor and Shivamani cried, you too cried. What was the feeling then? Did you have any other thought?

Vasantha : I forgot the world Swami, it was a new experience. I did not know whom I was with or what was happening.

Swami : This is bliss. You three experienced the state of bliss. It is the state beyond the body or the world. One does not know the differences as man, woman, body, time or space. Only the feeling of great bliss is experienced. It is the same when one unites with God. You are asking Me if it is wrong to touch Me in the subtle body; in meditation there is no body consciousness.

Vasantha : Swami, if one does not know anything how can one know bliss?

Swami : This is the natural state. Bliss is ones real nature Every soul is in this state. Every soul should experience this state. The efforts one makes arc to attain this state. Until then the cycle of birth and death will not end.

Chapter 4

KRISHNA'S POWER IS RADHA

From a very young age, I loved Krishna. As the days passed, Krishna's thought made me Radha herself.

5 October 1995

I prayed to Swami, "Shiva's shakthi is Parvati; Rama's shakthi is Sita; Krishna's

shakthi is Radha. In this avatar, is there not a separate Sai shakthi? Is it because the avatar is Shiva Shakthi Swaroopa, there is no Shakthi form?" I asked Swami this question many times.

During this time I received a picture of Radha Krishna from GV. He wrote that Swami had told him to send it to me. Then he sent many Radha Krishna pictures, cut from books and magazines and many articles about Radha. The correspondence continued like this for about two months. Thereafter, I received a letter from GV with the following message, 'You are Radha; Swami asked me to reveal this message little by little as you would not been able to bear it.'

Later when Swami began to speak to me, He said, "You are Radha." After this, Swami gave me visions every day to prove what He had said. If I were to write all these proofs, it would become a separate book about Radha.

17 November 1996

I was crying that I had not seen a TV program about Swami. Swami came in meditation...

Vasantha : Don't You have any love for me Swami?

Swami : Again and again you are lamenting like mad. You are crying all the time. Without you I cannot be. Your Prema is My shakthi. This entire universe is you, still you are asking me like a child if I am thinking of you. Your Prema is My source. There are only two in the world, God, Kanha and His shakthi, Radha, the Universe. This Lord Sai cannot be without your Prema. This is Truth! Truth!! Truth!!!

SWAMI SPOKE THESE WORDS FORCEFULLY with great emotion. I n-ied a lot. I was overwhelmed, I did not tell anyone; but I wrote all in my diary.

4 December 1996

I stayed in Paramakudi for six days. After performing abhishekam to the padukas, Doctor, Shivamani and I did meditation. Afterwards, Shivamani said that she was doing jyothi meditation and she saw my face in a linga. Hearing this we were all very moved and tears flowed from our eyes. I then gave my diary and showed him Swami's message about Shakthi on 17 November 1996. As Doctor read Swami's words, 'Truth! Truth!! Truth!!!', we began to cry again.

The vision that Shivamani had was one more proof for Swami saying that I was His shakthi. The proofs did not end here.

When I returned home, I received a letter from GV, which had a poem written by him in 1971 regarding Radha's power. Krishna gives His powers to all and comes to Radha drained. Radha pours sandal water on Him and gives Him power. This is the theme of the poem, where Radha is seen to replenish Krishna's power with her's. This poem was written 33 years ago by GV. Swami had now asked him to send the poem to me. One of the wonderful evidences for Swami's words of Truth.

8 October 1995

In a TV serial, Krishna says, "Prema has great power. It is higher than the power of penance." In the following meditation I asked Swami, "Swami, a separate world should be created for You and me alone. There should be no sun or moon, no day or night. It should be a timeless world. I want a world where we won't be bothered by anyone. I will sing Your glories endlessly. You should rejoice listening to me. Let time stop and ages pass. ""This is my prayer, Swami."

Vasantha : Swami! Why have you created so many people and made them wallow in desire and greed. How each soul is suffering!

Swami: A jeeva wanders about pursuing his desires in the world. I say, 'Play as you wish' and watch the game. Eventually, he gets tired and bored. Then finally, one day he calls on the Lord. At that time, I run to him and help him.

Vasantha : What do you gain by this Swami?

Swami : That is My sport.

Vasantha : What a sport! Don't you get bored Swami?

Swami : When I get bored, I destroy the whole world in Pralaya and go into Yoga Nidra.

Vasantha: Is it possible for human beings to attain that Yoga Nidra?

Swami: If you are immersed in sleep with the thought of God, even sleep can be turned into yoga. Every task can be converted into yoga. Reading, sitting, walking, eating, sleeping and working all can be made yoga. Then life itself becomes yoga. Your life is yoga. When every second is spent in the thought of God, it becomes yoga.

Vasantha : Swami! Like GV wrote, all have spiritual thirst and hunger for knowledge. Yet when we get to know them, we realize that all pray to God to solve problems of health, wealth, children, job, marriage and such other things. It seems that they pray to the Lord only to solve such personal problems. Those who pray to God for God's sake alone are rare nowadays.

Swami : Only a few like you pray to God for God's sake "I want You, I want You only." This is your prayer. That alone is Prema Bhakthi, a state of not wanting anything but God. They obtain the grace of God by craving and crying for Him alone. The devotion of such devotees is God's only food; His basis.

Vasantha: When Arjuna asked, You told the characteristic, of a Sthitaprajna as one who is established in wisdom. Likewise, kindly tell me the characteristics of Prema Bhakthi. How will those who have Prema act and speak? How will they be?

Swami: They won't forget God even for a single second They talk of nothing but God; they hear nothing but God. They cannot live for even a second without the thought of God; all their actions will be centered on God. Only for Him they eat and sleep. Since they do everything in thought of God, their life becomes a yagna, a sacred sacrifice. God is their only relation. They won't slip from the path or lose sight of their goal in any circumstance. Nothing of this world can attract them. They create a separate world and live with God there. They perceive only the Supreme Being through their five senses. Their senses do not wander in the external world. Through the five elements, they receive divine messages. TV, radio, books, newspapers, everywhere in all things they see only God. They will realize His presence in many ways. Every question that arises from their mind will be answered at once.

Vasantha : Swami! Does selfless love have a form?

Swami : Attributes take a form. '*Ramo vigrahavan, dharmah*'. We say that Rama is the embodiment of Dharma, likewise Prema also has a form. I am the form of your Prema.

Vasantha : Swami, tell me more.

Swami : It is you that sang that, 'My yearning calls and cries have brought Your blissful form'.

Vasantha : How is it possible? You were born many years before I wrote this.

Swami : First your divine Prema was with Krishna, after seeing Me, you saw Krishna in Me and then you started worshipping this form of Mine with Prema Bhakthi. You sang that your Prema only gave this Form. That is correct.

Chapter 5

WHAT DO I WANT?

Vasantha: Swami, I want You. I want You alone.

Swami : I am near you only. What are you going to do? Always the same words You say.

Vasantha : I do not know what to do Swami!

Swami : You are saying the same thing to God because it is your thirst. The thirst of wanting God is in your blood... in your cells. Therefore, you are repeating the same words. It is an intense thirst, a madness for God. The intensity is due to one-pointedness.

Vasantha : Pranams to the Lord of the Universe! Oh Supreme being! Oh Parabrahma! Swami! I am in the state of a chick, who seeks protection under the wings of the mother hen. I do not know anything. It is Your duty to protect me.

Swami : Sure, You are under My protection Vasantha.

Vasantha : Oh Creator of the Cosmos! You are Brahma, Vishnu and Maheswara! Oh Lord of the three worlds! O Lord! All the four Vedas adore You. What great mercy that You come in search of me and speak to me. The saints and sages do penance in forests and caves to see You. I did not do any penance like them. Even then, how is it that You are always with me and speak to me?

Swami : What penance did the Gopis and Radha do? As it is said in the Gita, '

Ananyaschintayantomam yejana parupaasate....',

They surrendered completely without any other thought. Those simple village folk did not know the difference between the right and the left hand. They were all illiterates. They did not even know what surrender was; all they knew was Krishna, Krishna alone. They always lived in Krishna consciousness. It is a marvelous state in which not even a moment is spent without the thought of God. Whatever they did, they did with Krishna in their thoughts. This is a yoga in which one is always with the Lord. You are doing this; you are yearning for this state of Saayuja mukthi; saints and sages do penance to attain this state of Saayuja mukthi.

Vasantha : Swami, I do not know anything about Saayujya mukthi or heaven. I do not want them. How to experience Mukthi after one has died? Here itself, now when I am in this body, I want to experience Your nearness every moment! This bliss is enough.

Swami : This is Prema Bhakthi. Are Mukthi and heaven equal to God's nearness? The Saayujya Mukthi attained by saints and sages through penance, comes in search of those who have Prema bhakthi. Even this state they refuse finding it worthless in the light of intimacy with the Lord.

Vasantha : Swami! I am the property of the greatest Emperor of this Universe and not of a beggar. Therefore, I won't approach anybody for any favor either material or spiritual. My Lord, I should depend on You alone one hundred percent. I should not ask anything from anybody.

Swami : Definitely.

Vasantha: Swami, I should not have a needlepoint's place for anyone or anything in my heart. Swami, do not allow any other thought to arise in me other than thoughts of You.

Swami : Needle point! What a wonderful word! Your infinite Prema alone can use such new, new words.

Vasantha : All is your mercy Swami. Do not separate me from You speaking thus. Oh Lord! If I have respect and fame, and if pride arises will You not go away from me?

Swami : Ego? Even it's shadow is not found in you. It cannot be. Once you get the grace of the Lord, ego cannot remain. Light and darkness cannot remain together in one place.

29 November 1996

Vasantha : Swami! The whole world should become Sai Kingdom; Your name should be chanted in every nook and corner of the world. You should be worshipped in every house; Your compassion should overflow and immerse the world in bliss. The whole world should rejoice in Your Prema. All should become spiritually awakened. Please shower Your grace Swami!

Swami : Definitely it will happen; you yourself are going to see it.

Vasantha : One may live for 100 years as told in the Vedas An Azhwar said,

*Half the lifetime is spent in sleep
Fifteen years in youth
The remaining period in hunger and illness,
With the suffering of old age.
Hence I want no birth
O Lord Sri Ranga!*

The above poem shows the sufferings of mankind. Why do they suffer so Swami?

Swami : That is karma; they experience according to their past deeds.

Vasantha : When the whole world is engaged in this way, why am I different? I am not able to spend even a second in worldly things, Swami.

Swami : You are different. Daily you pray to goddess Gayatri that she should become

Swami's raksha. When Your Swami is the raksha for the entire world, why are you tying a raksha for Him?

Vasantha : Swami! Daily You are taking over someone's fever or other disease.

Swami : So what? It is you who sang that water cannot wet Me, fire cannot burn Me and air cannot dry Me. How can disease affect me?

ONCE SWAMI WENT TO MASUI.PATTANAM with some close devotees. When they were on the seashore, Swami suddenly walked into the sea. As all looked on, He appeared as Lord Narayana lying on Adishesha in the Ocean of Milk. Everyone there had a wonderful darshan. He then came back and joined the devotees; His robe was not wet.

Sai devotees know that the following miracle took place on 6 July 1963. Eight days before this date, Swami was very much affected by a severe paralytic attack. On the evening of the 6th, Swami cured Himself in no time. Later Swami said the following to the devotees who were worried about Him,

"Though you do not know what happened to Me, there is one benefit by this disease. For the past eight days all of you were in single thought with concentrated mind. As a result of the illness in the eight days, I know to what depth your devotion reached. You would not have achieved that single pointed meditation on Me, even during years of tapas. So you are fortunate in this sense."

Vasantha : If You are not affected, if there cannot be any harm to You, then lately why did you get a fever at Kodaikanal? I was told that You were tired and weak. 'Swami vomited' said the newspapers. Why did all these things happen?

Swami : Oh mad one! That is a drama carried out by Me for the world. I will not be affected in any way. I only take on the illness of devotees.

Vasantha : You may say so, but I alone know the sufferings that I went through on that day.

Swami : Oh innocent girl! One day you philosophize that water won't wet and fire won't burn; the-next day you lament that Swami is suffering from fever.

Vasantha : Why am I so dull headed? Why don't you give me emotional stability Swami.

Swami : You are saying all this, without knowing what you are saying. It is all due to your boundless Prema and deep devotion to the Lord.

Vasantha : Swami, why are You making me mad like this?

Swami : I am always with you. Look your tears are making Me wet. Nobody in this world has prayed with such tears.

30 November 1996

From 2 am, I was thinking about Swami. Swami came and asked me...

Swami : Why are you crying at this hour?

Vasantha : Hari Hari! Murahari! Narahari! Achutha! Great Lord of infinite leelas! Let this entire world live in happiness. Let Your grace shine everywhere

Swami : What do you want? Ask something. Let Me give it to you.

Vasantha : I don't want anything at all Swami! You have given Yourself to me, what else do I need? You are all pervading. Is there anything separate or beyond You? When You

have become mine, the entire universe is mine. You are in everything, You are in everyone, what else do I require? I want You, You alone.

Swami : All these show your great devotion. There is only One; if you see as two, it is maya.

I WENT TO DOCTOR'S HOUSE TO ATTEND a ceremony. They made me stay there for six days. Swami showered His grace during this time. He showed many proofs that I was Radha. I thanked Swami with tears and said,

Vasantha : Swami! You and Doctor are raising me to the sky. I felt Your love very much in Paramakudi, Swami!

Swami : I did not do anything. Your Prema shakthi raises you to the sky. The power of Prema is higher than the power of penance. The devotee's Prema shakthi is more than Bhagavan's shakthi.

Chapter 6 SADHANA AND GRACE

Vasantha : Swami! For the past two days You did not speak much and Your darshan was also not satisfactory. At Doctor's residence You said, "Give energy to others, feed them Prema." Will my Prema power reduce if I give it to others? Tell me Swami! Will I loose my Prema shakthi?

(I cried)

Swami : Don't cry, mad one! Your energy will not reduce; it can only increase. Only material things reduce when you give, spiritual energy increases on giving. If I am Bliss, you too should be Bliss. If Krishna is Bliss, Radha should also be Bliss.

Vasantha : You are the embodiment of bliss, but I am always crying. Is it not a contradiction, Swami?

Swami : That alone is Radha. Only opposites can join. If positive and positive or negative and negative are connected, no current will pass. Paramatma is Bliss. Why do you cry? When you crave and aspire for God with deep thirst tears flow from your eyes. From bliss and tears great energy emerges.

Vasantha : What is the use of that energy Swami?

Swami : The energy spreads as vibrations in the sky. If there is a suitable vessel on earth, vibrations enter it. If the receiver or the vessel is the right one, the shakthi will be pulled, filling the vessel. That is why it is said open air meditation is good. In this meditation, the vibrations in the sky pass into the meditator. Will you say that the energies like electricity are of no use? No, so also the Atma shakthi, the energy produced by your Prema, is useful to all. For example, let us take your life. You had the darshan of many saints and seers. They all came in search of you to bestow their blessings. They realized that you are a suitable vessel. Your craving, aspiration and tears for God brought those saints to you. If man has true spiritual thirst and aspiration for God, all other things will automatically come to him.

I READ IN A BOOK THAT HUMAN EFFORT and God's grace are essential for attainment; they are like positive and negative.

Meditation

Vasantha : Swami, I want to worship You more, do more pooja.

Swami : What sadhana remains for you? Are you not satisfied even in doing sadhana?

Vasantha : Not sadhana Swami! Pooja, pooja.

Swami : The thirst to do more pooja, even after doing so much shows your uniqueness.

Vasantha : I want to be alone. I do not want any contact with anyone. If You shower vibuthi and kumkum like in other houses, large crowds will gather and my solitude will be spoiled. I want You alone.

Swami : That is why I have kept you in this state. Your sadhana is over. Something should be done for the welfare of the world. Is it not?

Vasantha : I am not conscious that others exist in the world. I remember only You and I. What can I do?

Swami : Now, I am showering My grace on you repaying My debt to Radha. I will have to take an other avatar to repay the debt of Prema that you shower on Me now. You wrote that thought of me is burning you like a forest fire, but I am swept away by the raging flood of your tears.

24 January 1997 Meditation.

Vasantha : Swami, is it possible either to control or write about my overflowing Prema? Can this Prema be expressed given the limits of words? A small book may not be enough for this. Will the readers understand the depth of my Prema? It is not a tale of mundane life; it is an epic of tears.

Swami : Oh mad one! This book is only to show your Prema. Hasn't the unbounded divinity been bound by you? This is a small effort to show your Prema within the limits of a book. Definitely many will be benefited by it. Don't cry. Carry out the task happily. I am with you.

AFTER THIS VISION SWAMI DISAPPEARED. At the same time tender coconut water appeared on the altar. It was not ordinary coconut water, it was unusually sweet. It was just like the Silver Island sea water described in the following chapter. Devotees from the neighborhood came and tasted it and took it home as prasad.

One day even as Swami appeared before me, my tears did I not stop flowing. I did not know why.

Swami said, "Look here! Your Krishna is in front of you. Why do you still cry? If you go on crying like this, I have no other choice; I will create a separate island where only you and I will be. We will enjoy the wonders of the island, is it enough?"

My tears did not stop.

Chapter 7

SILVER ISLAND

Once in my meditation Swami said, "Come with Me, I will show you a place." He showed me a vision.

There is a boat on a sea. Swami and I are in it and the boat sails without any oars. The boat stops at an island and we get down. We walk around the island; there is a beautiful flower garden, different kinds of roses, creepers and arches. There is a beautiful swing under a decorated arch. I sing,

'O waves! Come, bring a flower to my Swami!' Immediately, a lotus appears at Swami's feet.

Swami : Did you see? As soon as you thought of the flower it came.

Vasantha : It is Your will Swami!

Swami : Drink the sea water... If Swami says, there must be something special.

I SCOOP THE WATER AND DRINK IT. Ahha! It is not sea water; it is sweet tender coconut water!

Vasantha : Swami! You have made seawater into tender coconut water.

(This wonder of Swami amazes me, it gives me great bliss.)

Swami : I created this island for you alone; you are going to see more wonders.
Silver Island

I SEE FOUNTAINS EVERYWHERE, the ground is made of silver; no mud is seen anywhere. I see many peacocks, parrots and deer. I see a beautiful bird and ask...

Vasantha : What is this bird, Swami? Swami : Swan!

Vasantha : Swami! A swan spoke to Nala and Damayanthi, I have read that story.

Swami : Speak oh swan!

Swami : Queen!

Swami : Look! Even the swan is calling you a Queen!

Vasantha : I have read about the mattress woven with swan's feathers, Swami!

IMMEDIATELY, A BEAUTIFUL COT APPEARS. It looks like a chaise lounge with a beautiful artistic flower design. The glaze of the wood is dazzling. There is a snow-white mattress made of swan feathers. I touch it, it is very soft. It then changes into a swing. Swami reclines on it. I happily swing Him.

There is a soft light, a pleasant breeze and the fragrance of divine flowers. It is a small island. On one side of the island is the sun and on the other, the moon. Is it a dream or reality? Oh! What a wonderful scene it is! It is Swami's great mercy!

9 January 1997 Thursday

The same island again appears in my vision during meditation. I was with Swami, enjoying the bliss. The meditation was followed by bhajans. Five elderly people and twelve children joined and sang very melodiously. As soon as arathi was shown, a lot of water flowed from the padukas on the altar. Tulsi leaves that were offered at the padukas, floated in the water. The devotees were very surprised, they took the tulsi leaves and water as blessings. Later Swami told me that it was the tender coconut water from the island. After the bhajan, the coconut kept on the Poornakumbha was broken and the coconut smelled of fresh camphor.

I cried thinking of Swami's mercy; for the past two days, He showed the vision of the island. He also made the sweet water of the island appear here, thus making others see and taste it.

11 January 1997

I wrote a letter to Doctor about my vision. At that time my daughter-in-law, Vijaya switched on the TV and the mischievous Prasanthi TV sang,

*I want an island with no one
Where You and I can be alone.*

What a great proof!

Chapter 8 WHO WRITES THIS BOOK?

14 December 1996 I told Swami in meditation:

Vasantha : Out of Your infinite grace, You have told me to publish this book; You have narrated four kinds of liberation. Are all these a dream or reality?

Swami : It is reality. Let your Prema be known to the outer world.

Vasantha : In that case, this book should speak more about Your glories, details about me should be minimal.

Swami : Do you know how many people are going to be benefited by this book? Why are

you worried about it? Were you not sad that you are not doing service for Swami? This is rendering service to the entire world! It is nobler than all other kinds of service. I tell that My life is My message. In the same manner, your life is also going to be a message to the world.

Vasantha : Should I write all this Swami?

Swami : Write. Of all charities, bestowing spiritual wisdom is the best. This is the charity of wisdom.

Vasantha : Swami! Doctor is saying that this book will shine like a lamp on a hilltop. I am afraid that doing all this, You should not separate me from You. I want You, You alone. I do not want any fame or name.

:

Swami : Do not cry! Why are you scared? It is I who does these things. Why are you always crying thinking that if the book is published you will be affected? Your devotion will flow as ever. My love will be experienced by you more. Leave your worries and fears.

Vasantha : A devotee from Chennai wrote a book about You. I heard that she is not worshipping you nowadays. I fear that it would become like that.

Swami : See here. It is I who is asking you to bring out this book, it is I who is going to write it. I alone will be spreading this message throughout the world. Let your Prema be known to all. You will not be affected by this in anyway. I won't go away from you and you will not be separated from Me. Do you not have faith in Me?

Vasantha : I have full faith Swami!

Swami : Then why worry and cry? Be happy. Others also may learn to live like you. Is it not? Don't cry hereafter.

Vasantha : Swami! I want to offer 1008 lotus chanting your name.

Swami : Always you are saying this. Do you know the reason?

Vasantha : I don't know.

Swami : The Lotus is a sacred flower. It is unattached; though it is in the water, the water does not touch it. You are in the world but your mind is not touched by it. The lotus is used to describe the divine beauty of the Lord. The lotus is always remembered in connection with the Lord. You too are sacred and divine.

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Chapter 9

GOD HIMSELF GAVE THIS TITLE

Cod Himself Gave this Title in/
book now!

Swami : 'Liberation! Here Itself! Right Now!' This will be the suitable title for this book. 'Here' means in this world, 'Now' means in this body. If one-tries like you, he can attain liberation here itself right now.

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16 December 1996

Vasantha : Swami, yesterday at the Sai Devotees Conference in Madurai, they told us about the importance of service. I have not rendered any service.

Swami : Your service is the greatest. Saints and seers do penance in the caves and forests. Would you say that their efforts are all wasted? Are they lazy just wasting their time? No. They are melting their bones doing penance. The intense penance that they do gives them divine energy. Their body and mind become effulgent; that attracts all. The power of their penance fills the atmosphere. This country is a sacred and holy land. How did it become holy? It is because of the penance done by saints, sages and seers.

Vasantha : What is the effect of the power in the atmosphere?

Swami : People from other countries come here with spiritual thirst seeking peace. They come believing that they can experience peace and tranquility here. The energy benefits them; it will be available to all those who make sincere efforts with spiritual thirst. Your spiritual power purifies the environment.

Vasantha : Swami! You Yourself kindly give a title to this

18 December 1996

Vasantha : Swami, I do not want this book, the world or worldly duties. I want You alone.

Swami : If everybody is like you, how will devotion develop? If you had not known Andal, you would not have worshiped like Andal. Since the devotion of the Alvars and Nayanmars is known, people all over the world follow their footsteps. In the same way, only when your devotion is known to the world, will they follow your path.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ABOVE STATEMENT of Swami, sacred ash and saffron powder appeared on the padukas.

Chapter 10

SHALL I BECOME ANDAL?

21 December 1996

Vasantha : Swami! Loka Samastha Sukhino Bhavanthu. Let all people be happy. Let Your grace be showered everywhere. Let a spiritual revolution blossom.

Swami: Saalokya, Saameepya, Saarupya, Saayuja - all these kinds of liberation can be attained here itself. How will you know paradise after death? How can you have the experience? That is why it is said that it should be experienced in the body in this birth on earth. One can feel, experience and enjoy the four kinds of liberation right now. Every soul can attain this, if he or she tries. Your life shows only this. If one has perseverance, sincerity, deep faith and ceaseless thoughts of God, he can attain it. Your sadhana is the greatest, nobody can reach that height.

Vasantha: I must attain one more thing with my sadhana Swami.

Swami What is that?

Vasantha Like Andal and Vallalar, I should become one with You along with this body Swami. When they could achieve this with their sadhana, why not me?

Swami Andal, means ruler! You have ruled Me! You sing the following line often, "I am fortunate that I have Sai's Empire of Love." That has become true today. The entire love of the Sai Empire has become your possession.

Vasantha : Will it be possible to attain my goal Swami? This body should not remain in the world.

Swami: From a young age you are marching towards this goal. How many tears? How much sacrifice? How many austerities? How many different sadhanas you have done!

Vasantha : One of the Alwars has given the following description about one's suffering during death,

*My last moments...
All will surround me.
Expecting my death,
Oh Lord! Then,
Will the thought of You come to me?
Will I remember You?
Will I chant Your name?*

All those who stand around the dying person, wait for the departure of the soul from the body. We do not know if the mind will be clear to remember the Lord. The throat maybe choked not able to chant His name. What sort of death is this? All die. Why should I not overcome death?

*As the intellect is shining bright.
As the mind is merged in Your form,
As the lips are chanting Your name in bliss,
Like the blossoming of a flower,
I should merge with You. (Vs)*

I want to attain this state. This is my goal from a young age. Make me as a garland that adorns Your neck.

Swami : Your life is an example to the world.

Vasantha : Swami! In the same way, I want my death to be an example to the world. O Lord! Death...! Not even a shadow of suffering should be found in my death! Like Andal, make me merge with You blissfully along with the physical body.

Swami : Andal and Vallalar did not desire an end like this. Their devotion gave them such an end; nobody has demanded such a death from such a young age like you. There is none like you. When the world trembles at the very word death, you alone ask for a particular death and are immersed in the same thought. Your Prema power gave this courage to you. This power has taken the form of determination called courage. So, you contemplated on death without fear and secured the promise from the Lord to go beyond it. Who else has received such a promise like this? Every birth ends in death, the next birth is according to how one dies. Therefore, death plays an important part in life. It is death that decides where and how one shall be reborn. Therefore, one should contemplate over death and should live life based on this thought and direct all effort towards this thought alone. You have done great sadhana towards this.

Vasantha :Swami I do not experience the state of bliss like Paramahansa. It means that my devotion is not enough, I have not attained the higher states.

Swami : You are always in the state of bliss. You are continuously crying in thoughts of God; this is a state of bliss. There were many perfected devotees around Sri Ramakrishna. In these times it is difficult to have such people around you. Such dedicated people are very few.

Whenever you read about the elevated states of the devotees you become desperate to have the same experience. This is the true search for grace - spiritual thirst. You are wanting to do all kinds of sadhana; such a state of mind is very rare.

THE LORD LOSES TO HIS DEVOTEE

Vasantha : Swami! Kindly bestow on me more and more Prema Bhakthi.

Swami : Even if you don't talk, your tongue repeats the same thing. Just like a reflex action, it repeats, 'more Prema and still more Prema'.

Vasantha : Yes Swami! Do you mean that I am saying it mechanically like an oil pressing machine, without feeling?

Swami : No! This thought has spread all over your body and is deeply imprinted in your mind. By repeating this again and again, non-stop, it has become a habit with you. Even if you forget, your tongue will not stop.

Vasantha : Swami! I am not able to control my over-flowing devotion towards You.

Swami : Why do you think of controlling it? Let both of us be swept away in that flood of love. Let us swim with heavenly joy. Such a devotee is born only once in an age. God waits for the arrival of such devotees.

Vasantha : During Krishna Avatar, the young and old of Gokulam and Mathura showered such love upon You. They were enchanted by the name of Krishna. What is it in this incarnation that attracts all the people of the world? They are simply mad after Your name and form. What is it that fascinates all these people? What is the magnetic power that charms not only humans but even birds and beasts? During Krishna Avatar not only living, but also the non-living things melted in Your love. In the same way during this great avatar, even saris shed tears wanting Your love.

Swami : Prema! It is because of love alone. If you love all, you will get it back. When you shower universal love, it will come back to you. See only yourself in everyone. There are two things in the world: one is God and the other is the universe. The universe is created by the power of the Lord, His Shakthi. See, you are in each and everything in creation. What do you see in a mirror?

Vasantha : My reflection Swami.

Swami : This world is a mirror. See yourself in it. Only one thing exists - it is God, which is you. However, this principle will not suit your nature, so see it as you and God, the dual principle. The glory of the Lord shines in all creation like that butterfly, the beauty of its fluttering feathers, the dancing peacock, the prancing deer, the bubbling brook. You will not see any separation if you realize that you are in each and every life and form. If you learn to experience this, you will be blissful.

Vasantha : You told Hislop that You do not grant interviews to those who practice Madhura bhava sadhana. Why Swami?

Swami : I have told you not to ask why and how. Is it not?

Vasantha : No interview, all right. Can't You at least give padanamaskar?

Swami : What if I don't give there? You are daily taking padanamaskar here. What is physical? What is subtle? Both are one and the same.

Vasantha : If both are the same then why did you tell Hislop that the Gopis had strong attachment to the physical form of Krishna, so when Krishna died, they also died. As an example, You pointed out to Hislop that he came to India to see your physical form. You did not do anything like that for me. Though I see Your subtle form, my heart wants to see you physically.

Swami : You have defeated Me with My own words and I have lost once again to you.

Vasantha : Swami! Only for the satisfaction of devotees you repeat, 'I am defeated, I am defeated'. How can God be defeated? You are the one who kindles our thoughts. You are creating the illusion that You are defeated only to reveal the inner feelings of Your devotees.

Swami : It is your infinite divine Prema that gives you the power to talk like this.

Vasantha : Swami! See! Although You do not give me an interview I have brought You here itself!

Swami : Good girl! This is the best sadhana, you have brought God to your own place. Continuous thoughts of the Lord, intense yearning make God come to one's own place.

HERE LET ME MENTION ONE THING. For a long time I prayed to Swami for darshan of His physical form. Swami continuously asked me why I see the physical and subtle form as different.

7 November 1996 is a golden day in my life. For a long time I could not fall asleep, just after 2 am I dozed off. I was in deep sleep when I felt a hand touching me. I immediately opened my eyes, caught hold of the hand and said, "Swami! Swami!" When I looked, Swami was standing there physically! I gently kissed His divine hand that I was holding. Swami touched my face, consoled me and disappeared at once.

Though His divine darshan was only for a few seconds, He had fulfilled my wish to see His physical form.

8 November 1996 Meditation.

Vasantha : Swami! Advaita is worshipping the formless. Don't tell me to follow Advaita. I cannot do this. Your form is my chosen form. I cannot understand Advaita; give me the wisdom for this.

Swami : Bhakthi and jnana are both the same. Jnana comes along with bhakthi. Action performed while thinking of Bhagavan becomes yoga. Karma, Bhakthi and Jnana are one;

when you taste a sweet, you taste its form and weight along with its sweetness. Do we taste its sweetness and form separately? In the same way, Bhakthi itself is jnana. No special effort is needed to attain jnana. So don't cry.

Vasantha : I worshipped Krishna from my young age but now my mind is absorbed only in Your form. Why so Swami?

Swami : Now Krishna Himself has come in human form... in flesh and bone. Your mind catches hold of the Lord who has come in human form. In your lifetime, the Lord is in a physical form, which can be realized and enjoyed. So your mind is absorbed in the form.
(As soon as Swami said this milk and vibhuthi appeared on the padukas.)

Swami : You are ever in My heart like the pole star Dhruva.

Chapter 12 SUCH FORTUNE!

8 January 1997

Vasantha : Swami! Swami! I want you.

Swami : Look, I am here. What are you going to do?

Vasantha : That is the thing I do not know Swami! My blood, heart, each atom, every cell in my body wants You alone. I am always crying thinking of You.

Swami : Oh dull-headed girl! This is not crying, this is bliss. You are experiencing an ecstatic state. Unable to express yourself you are crying. This state can only be experienced, not explained or expressed. You have attained this state, which saints, sages and seers did not attain, because of your crying and pure Prema towards God. Nobody in this Yuga is experiencing in this way.

Vasantha : Swami! I do not see anything in Your divine form other than Your Holy feet. Why do all want Your Holy feet?

Swami : Everyone bows down at the feet only. How is it possible to prostrate to other parts of the body? Surrendering means, taking refuge at the feet of the Lord. The Holy feet are the boat to cross over the ocean of birth and death. So, everyone dearly wants the feet of the Lord.

AFTER THIS EXPLANATION, THE TENDER COCONUT WATER from the special island Swami showed me, flowed from the padukas and the altar. Those who came to the bhajan that day took the divine water as prasad.

16 January 1997

I cried continuously thinking of Swami and He came.

Swami : Where is Vaikunta and where is Vadakkampatti? How did Vaikunta come to Vadakkampatti? Your crying and tears alone accomplished this. Don't cry.

Vasantha : Swami! It is the festival of Pongal now, but I had forgotten. I do not remember the festival days of Pongal and Deepavali.

Swami : When you are only thinking of God, why do you worry about the date and day? The world will go on of it's own accord. Devotees will not have thoughts of the world. That is why you forgot the festival days.

Vasantha : Swami teach the Gita, Upanishads or Vedanta to me!

Swami : Your experience is different; why do you want the Gita, Upanishads, and Vedanta? You see everything in Me. Radha and the Gopis did not need the Gita and Vedanta. They lived in thoughts of Krishna alone. You are also like them. Why do you try to change? The state you are in now is correct. Nobody can attain your status.

ONE DAY I TOLD SWAMI that I wanted to worship Him as mother, considering myself as His child.

Swami : Don't change after such a long period of sadhana. Only Prema Bhakthi is suitable for you.

AT ONCE A LOT of vibuthi and sandal paste came from padukas as blessings. 118
Another Gita Govinda

Chapter 13 ANOTHER GITA GOVINDA

16 .January 1997 Meditation

Swami : Nobody in this world has experienced divinity as You have. You have accumulated gem like experiences. Not only in this age but also in other ages, nobody has experienced like this.

Vasantha: Do you mean that even Radha and the Gopis did not have this experience during Krishna Avatar?

Swami: They too did not experience as you are doing now. Radha did not experience anything like this from Krishna; all that she was left with were the thoughts of Krishna, that is all. Now she experiences Him; at that time she did not. You still don't understand? That Radha is you alone. I am repaying you the debt today.

Vasantha: Oh Lord! Oh Lord!! Is it so? Don't you believe My words?
It's not like that Swami! I am not at all able to bear Your Prema.

Swami : That is why I reveal slowly. Relax! Relax!!

IMMEDIATELY, LOTS OF VIBHUTHI and sweet smelling sandal powder appeared on Swami's padukas. When I told this to JVK, he narrated a similar incident:

Lord Narayana told Adishesha, "In the time of Rama Avatar you did great service to Me as Lakshmana. I will take birth as Your younger brother in Krishna Avatar to repay the debt by serving you."

I was reading 'Dharma Chakra' in which I found the following passage:

Sri Ramakrishna tried to have Lord Krishna's darshan by practicing Madhura bhava. He worshipped the Lord day and night for months together. He became like a madman, yearning to have Krishna's darshan. His whole body was subjected to heat and burning sensation. He thought that unless he got the grace of Radha, he would not get the darshan of Krishna, so he prayed to Radha and had her darshan.

The devotion that Radha had for Kanha made Him her own. Her purity and divinity were incomparable. The devotional texts say that only one or two of the 19 kinds of Madhura bhava emotions of Radha and Gauranga can be realized. It is said that a person's life span will not be enough to fully experience even one of the emotions. Sri Ramakrishna experienced fully the 19 kinds of Madhura bhava emotions of Radha and had the darshan of Krishna.

AFTER READING THIS, I CRIED TO Swami to fully experience Madhura bhava. I prayed continuously.

Swami : You have already attained that state. Otherwise how can I call you Radha? You have completed your sadhana, why do you still cry as if you are in the state of a sadhaka? God accepted you only after you had reached that state. Don't worry! You have attained complete Madhura bhava.

Still I was not satisfied. Therefore, I told Swami to show me some proof. After this, I hurriedly prepared some savouries and sweets. When I counted the sweets there were eight in number. I said, "I am offering eight sweets like ashtakshara, please accept them and encourage me."

After some time I went into the pooja room and counted the sweets. There were only seven. At the same time, some vibuthi and kumkum were found around the padukas and altar.

With great joy, I shouted, "Oh Kanha, have you proved that I have attained Radha's state, by eating the sweet and giving vibuthi and kumkum? Am I qualified for this status Swami?" Again I cried. Swami appeared once again and said, "Even after My confirmation that you are Radha herself, you ask Me again and again, 'Am I qualified? Am I qualified?' Who are you to ascertain your status?"

Realizing my error, I said, "Swami! Sacrilege! Sacrilege!" On that very day I received a letter from GV in which he wrote, "Swami woke me up from sleep at midnight and told me to write a letter to you. Baba showers such love on you!" After reading the letter, I cried more thinking of Swami's mercy. Next day I was going through the spiritual section of a newspaper, it was about Jayadeva's Gita Govinda. In the morning when I switched on the TV at 11:45 am the scene echoed the contents of GV's letter entirely, 'I gave my mind to You and You gave your grace to me', sang the great Saint Manickavasagar. What wonderful proofs I get through TV and books!

13 January 1997

I had a dream in which I saw the wonderful dream island with the silver floor. There, peacocks were dancing, parrots were talking and the seawater had turned into tender coconut water. The above scenes came to my memory again and again and immersed me in bliss. At the same time, those thoughts did not allow me to do any work. To give myself some relief from this sweet pain and to forget Baba, I went to Kovilpatti where my daughter lives. Even in Kovilpatti there was no chance that Swami would leave me. Look here He is in front of me!

Swami: You came here to forget Me, did you forget?

Vasantha: It has increased still more Swami! Why did You make me like this? My mind is not attached even to my children.

Swami: Who is a relative to whom? All are passing clouds. Don't try to change your nature.

Vasantha: Swami! I want You only Swami!

Swami: This is your real nature.

Vasantha: Swami! Sai Ram! How this name Sai Ram enchants the world! What is the meaning of Sai?

Swami: You have heard the name of Lord Narayana as Sesa Sai. It means the one who has a snake as His bed. Just like that Sathya Sai means the one who has Sathya - Truth as His bed.

Vasantha: Your name and form charms the whole world; there are some like me mad after You.

Swami: No one is mad like you. When I am not able to manage this one mad girl, you say some more mad minds are also there. 'T'lis world is a stage, see how everyone acts his role. Don't allow anything to be impressed into your mind. Now shall we swim in the sea?

Vasantha: Swami! I don't know how to swim! Hold My hand.

Swami: If I hold Your hand I might let go. So you hold my hands.

Swami: You are always watchful that you do not lose hold of the Lord. This awareness is infused in your blood. Very good. One should be like this only.

WE DID NOT SWIM, BUT CAME FLOATING AROUND THE ISLAND.

Both of us sit in front of a round table. Two big shining cups with blood red colored fruits appear, there are also some violet colored fruits. After taking some Swami gives the fruits to me. They are very tasty.

Vasantha : Swami what is this?

Swami : These are offered by the devas.

AT THAT TIME THE DEVAS SHOWER FLOWERS. The great sage Narada comes and sings melodiously. The island shines beautifully with the sun on one side and the moon on the other.

When I wrote this on 9 February 1997 at 11:00 am, I saw a TV program in which I heard the following song, 'Bala Krishna calls Radha His sweetheart', the singers name was Kanha!

25 January 1997

When I had started for Paramakudi to write this book, I had Kanha's darshan in morning meditation.

Swami : I did nothing for Radha. Even then she was immersed in her own bliss. That is why I am making all know your Prema. I am showering My love openly. You are the fire of Prema.

Vasantha : Kanha! I want to be the dust at Your feet....
(I break down in tears.)

Swami : Relax! Relax.
(Swami places His hand on my head)

AFTER THIS I REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS and started for Paramakudi. Dear readers, you may have a doubt, whether Swami would converse with me so intimately. You might even wonder whether Swami would express such feelings. Some people may not believe these conversations especially the one above. In this context, I quote from the book titled, 'Swami' by RA. Ganapati:

...When the tempest of Prema breaks, the fiery flood of feeling rages beyond bounds. We cannot stop this with the dam of the intellect....

Swami has said that when Prema overflows one cannot stop oneself from expressing deep feelings. Swami gave this answer when a devotee asked, "Can one become ecstatic through love?" I have experienced this overwhelming Prema from Swami many times and I told Him that I am not able to bear it.

Chapter 14 PREMA WEAPON

One day Swami told me, "Ask any boon. I will give it to

Vasantha : Swami! I want to tie You with Brahmastra. Give me this boon.

Swami : You want to tie me with Brahmastra, but Premastra is more powerful than Brahmastra. You have already tied me with Premastra.

THEN I OPENED SUMMER SHOWERS in Brindavan-1995 to find a proof. On

page 53, I found the following:

" I may be all powerful but I cannot break one bond: The bond with devotees who have renounced everything for Me. I will always submit to My devotees. He has renounced everything and seeks Me alone. I cannot deny such surrender. The Prema shakthi of My devotees is greater than My own power, Iccha shakthi..."

I read this portion tearfully and I was stunned. In Sai Arulamudam it says that Sri Krishna Chaitanya had said, "I do not know meditation, pooja, japa or yoga, I have only boundless Prema. This is enough for a devotee."

Chapter 15

BODY OF LIGHT

In March 1996, I asked Swami to clear the following doubt:

Vasantha : Swami! I cry with my head on Your lap, is this correct?

Swami : This is not a physical body. You are only in your own divine light. In meditation that which you see is not your physical body. It is a body of spiritual light. This divine effulgent light shines on you and kindles the feeling of great bliss. In divine union can a physical body exist? During meditation there is neither your body nor Mine; only spiritual effulgent bodies exist. There is no physical feeling at all.

I LOOKED IN THE GITA AND Chapter 13 states,
'You are not this body, but Atma which is different from the body. Know Myself as indestructible spiritual truth.'

What perfect proof for what Swami had said! I opened page 71 of Summer Showers-1995:

"Though a thing is impure, when it merges with God, its impurity goes away. Gopis might have had attachment and desire, but Krishna did not. He is the Lord of Supreme Wisdom, beyond the Gunas, always blissful. All the internal emotions of a devotee are small rivulets. When all the rivulets join the Ocean, they get purified. The ocean, however, is never disturbed and does not lose its sanctity. For example, when one cup of water is mixed with ten cups of milk, the worthless water acquires the value of milk. When two entities merge, the purer and greater one lends its qualities to the other. The Gopikas did not have any immoral thoughts, their hearts were pure and unsullied."

After I read this Swami said, "Your heart is pure. Wrong thoughts cannot arise. Your thoughts are pure divine Prema bhakthi." I could not sleep at night, I cried uncontrollably. I got Kanha's darshan.

Kanha : You are born here only to attain Me. You have attained the state that no one else can attain by doing intense sadhana. You have come in this world to be an example to the world by attaining Me.

Vasantha ; Swami! If my experiences with You today are true then give me some proof.

I OPENED THE BHAGAVATHAM and it said, 'Narayana will be seen by those who believe that He exists and will not be seen by those who say He does not'.

Chapter 16

CLEARING OF DOUBT

One day I was reading the sayings of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa in Dharma Chakra. It said,

'Only when one has the great attraction that Radha had for Kanha, only when the feelings of Radha arise in one's heart, can he realize God. The gopis cast off the hesitation of what their husband, children, relatives and the society would think of them. They discarded the dictates of culture, honor and their innate shyness; they were unconcerned about the fear society would blame them. All this they did due to their Prema bhakthi for Krishna. Only when one has this attitude can he see God. The divine light from the Lord's divine form touched the Gopis. That divine light entered each hair follicle and gave a bliss that was immensely greater than ordinary pleasures of the flesh.'

When one merges with God, why is there the hesitation that society might blame him? Due to this hesitation, I feared to share my experiences in this book. Only after reading what Sri Ramakrishna had said, my mind became clear. Swami made me read the magazine to understand the truth.

Look at Swami's mercy! When I was so fearful and hesitant about the book, Swami clarified my doubts by making me go through that magazine.

"The Supreme Soul alone is the only male; all other individual souls are females. The thoughts of the society, or the opinion of others, why do such thoughts come to you? There should be no such walls between God and the devotee."

Chapter 17

NOT INTELLECT! HEART!

In "Dharma Chakra" I read the following:

When Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa was talking about Prema bhakthi and Madhura bhava, Swami Vivekananda tried to prove that the Brindavan leelas of Kanha and Radha were not true.

At once Paramahansa said, "Devotion should be used to uplift your mind to a higher state. One should not confuse it with reasoning. In Madhura bhava, the aspirant behaves like a husband or wife. But internally one is merged with the Almighty. Radha is the embodiment of Maha bhava. Her mind is immersed in holy feelings. Removing trivial feelings and worldly pleasures, her thought,

word and deed were absorbed in Kanha.

The aspirant who has attained Radha's bhava merges with the Lord and enjoys the highest bliss. Madhura bhava encompasses all other bhavas like servant, friend and mother. In Madhura bhava lust is transformed into devotional feeling. The final goal of sadhana is only to attain the Maha bhava of Radha."

When a great soul such as Vivekananda is trying to analyze Prema bhakthi with His intellect, what is the state of the common man? I kindly request the readers not to intellectualize, but to read this book with devotional feeling.

Stop giving work to your intellect, feel with your heart. Only then will you hear the music of my heart. You will know that every beat of my heart is yearning for my Lord. You will understand the thirst, and the longing of a Jeevatma wanting to merge with the Paramatma.

Dear readers,

Do not try to analyze or debate these experiences. Heart! Heart!! Try to feel through devotion from your heart. The grace of the Lord will help you.



Chapter 18

PREMA BHAKTHI

In Meditation.

Vasantha : Swami! I understand one thing after reading three parts of this book - in the major part of this book I am blowing my own trumpet. There must have been some desire in my mind that I am greater than all and that everyone should praise me, glorify me. Is this why I am publishing this book? Is my mind secretly desiring name and fame? All this is my own ego trip! I know this! (Tears flood my eyes.)

Swami : When one's own experiences are written, it will be like this. Why do you exaggerate and cry?

Vasantha : Swami! In the conversations where You talk about the definitions of Prema bhakthi it appears as though I am a big intellectual. It looks as if You are defeated by me and I am praised by You.

Swami : Why do you cry thinking they are about you only? They are common to all who practice Prema bhakthi. If anyone practices devotion like you and asks Me questions, I will give the same answer; they are the characteristics of Prema Bhakthi. After reading about them, at least a few may try to practice devotion like you. Is it not?

As SOON AS SWAMI SAID THK ABOVE, vibuthi appeal nl around the altar as blessings.

7 March 1991

We went to Puttaparthi to attend Shivarathri celebrations. There, I randomly opened page 239 of Summer Showers, it said:

....It is not correct to think that Radha is a name of a woman or hers is an ordinary human love. God does not make differences such as man or woman. If one surrenders like Radha, whether he is a man or woman, it will be considered as Radha's aspect. Those who have this aspect can think nothing but God; they never think otherwise. Radha is a jnani, though she lives in this world, she does not allow the world to live in her. To experience this, one should know about Radha's devotion.

I was surprised by this beautiful proof for the above explanation.

28 April 1997 Meditation.

Swami said, "You are Radha. You are born to show the world, the suffering of separation. You aspire for God like a fish out of water. You have been born to show how one should lament, yearn, aspire and cry for the Lord. Your life is the best example to show the sufferings of separation. Since every atom of your body, every drop of blood, nerve and cell suffer of separation from God, you alone can be Radha."

Chapter 19

MADHURA BHAVA

There are so many relations in the world like husband, wife, mother, father, son, daughter, brother, friends, master, disciple. Prema finds a complete expression only in the relationship between husband and wife. Life is enriched when the husband lives for his wife and the wife for the husband. When you turn this Prema towards God, it becomes sacred. Yearning and aspiring for God, craving to attain Him, delighting in bliss, enjoying His grace and being caught in many such different emotional moods are called Madhura Bhava, Prema bhakthi.

When love towards the Lord reaches its peak, a Meerabhai, Radha or Andal is born. She is happy to live for the sake of God. Day and night she lives for her dear Lord. One moment she cries thinking of the separation, the next moment she laughs that the Lord is near her. Her calls and cries for Him may make her appear as someone mad. She is therefore very different from others. For her, worldly activities or pleasures have no appeal. No attraction can entangle her. Her world is separate and unique. How?

She creates a new world, where she makes her Lord the Emperor and she herself becomes the queen and lives in it. Now it is only Him and her alone. She is not conscious of the presence of others. She lives only in the consciousness of her Lord. All her feelings are centered on Him. She ties Him with her devotion. The Lord is bound by her devotion. Both are tied to each other by the rope of Prema. Even if she thinks of leaving Him, she cannot and He also cannot escape from her. At its fullness, she becomes mad with love for Him and He becomes mad for her. She lives in His thoughts; her love, thoughts and tears never leave her.

This is Prema bhakthi. It is the complete attainment of Madhura bhava.

This state cannot be explained in words; it is through experience one knows!
Experience! Experience! Experience! You can know it only through experience.

Chapter 20

POORNA KUMBHA WELCOME

30th September 1996

I went to the Paduka Prathishta festival in Puttaparthi. The journey began at 9:30 pm.

"Oh Bhagavan! Oh Kanha! Your Radha is coming to Your Brindavan; she comes to the Kingdom of the Greatest Emperor, to participate in the great yagna. What sort of welcome will I get? Will I be given a Poorna Kumbha welcome or will I sit in a corner like an ordinary person?"

My mind was crying like this. I did not sleep in the bus and wept continuously. I then prayed to Swami that no 'evil eye' should fall on Him since a large group would come for the festival.

2 October 1996

In the shed where I stayed, I worshipped Swami's padukas and did abhishekam; vibuthi, kumkum and amrit appeared on them, all other devotees in the shed joined in the worship.

During the Poornahuthi of the Danvanthri Yagna, I saw Swami accepting the offering in the form of Ardhanaareeswara. I told this to Erramma who came with me at the time. After a while, a group went to the Sri Sathya Sai Super Speciality Hospital. I did not join them because I was told that ladies were not allowed to go inside. So when there was no chance to see Bhagavan, why should I go? However, Ramachandran of Virudhunagar compelled me and took me along. They did not allow us inside; but after a long wait, permission was given. Once inside, Erramma and I stood in the queue to have the darshan of Lord Danvanthri. About fifteen devotees were standing behind us and the same number were in front. I paid my respects to the chief priest there, Sri Jayaram Shastri. He introduced me to his assistant who said, "After Danvanthri darshan, come here, I will give you prasad."

Once again we stood in the queue. We were about to move forward when we were suddenly stopped. I was standing just behind the Danvanthri statue and Erramma stood near me. Sri Jayaram Shastri came with Poorna Kumbha in his hands. He sprinkled the holy water from the Kumbha over my head and showered flowers and holy akshatha on my head. Then after breaking the coconut, he waved the camphor flame. When the camphor was shown to Danvanthri, it seemed as if it was being shown to me who was standing directly behind. Flowers were given in my hands.

After this I went to the person who had earlier asked me to come. He filled my hands with flowers and akshatha. At that time, I broke down into tears. Erramma panicked, "What happened? What happened?" I did not say anything. What could I say? I cried to Swami, "Oh Lord! My life! What a wonderful Poorna Kumbha welcome You gave to me, granting my prayers! There was Vedic chanting by the priest, Poorna Kumbha was brought and the holy water sprinkled as blessings."

Thousands were waiting in front of me! There was a long queue behind me; but the queue stopped exactly in front of me for the Poorna Kumbha welcome! Oh Swami! How fortunate I am.

After this incident, I was in a transcendental state for two days. I was not even able to walk. Erramma, my dear friend helped me. Everyone around me wanted to know what had happened to me, but I did not tell anything. Later, I showed my diary to Erramma and Ramachandran and told them how He fulfilled my prayer for Poorna Kumbha welcome. During my four days stay at Puttaparthi, I felt as if I was in a dream world, floating on air. Without a doubt, I am Krishna's Radha. I have a special place in Sai Krishna's Empire. How graciously Swami has proved this!

With the Poorna Kumbha welcome my present birth has attained fulfillment. The goal of my life has been attained. This is the peak of my spiritual experiences! My sadhana has been completed and my goal has been reached! What a unique fortune by the grace of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba!

May Baba's blessings be on you all!

Jai Sai Ram! Om Shanti! Shanti!! Shanti!!!

Om poornamadah poornamidam poornaathpoornamudachyate.

Poornasya poornmadaaya poornamevavashishyate.

APPENDIX

Editors Note: Included in the Appendix of this new translation and new edition of Liberation Here Itself Right Now is material contributed by others to the original release of the book. It may be of interest to readers as it holds in words the intangible emotions of wonder, excitement and transformation that accompanied the author and those who started the journey with her.

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About the Book:

LIBERATION HERE ITSELF RIGHT NOW!

Unique Spiritual Experiences of Lord Krishna's Beloved Radha's Present Re-incarnation
Vasantha Sai

The subject of this interesting book is the unique spiritual experiences of a lady devotee of Sri Sathya Sai Baba who loves and worships Him intensely in her Madhura Bhakthi Bhava.

Sri Sathya Sai Baba revealed to her in meditation that she was Radha in one of her previous births: "Radha lived in Krishna's consciousness. That Radha is you alone."

As a staunch devotee of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba for the last 24 years, Sai Vasantha has been having countless visions, dreams and miraculous experiences of the amazing grace of her Divine Lord Sri Sathya Sai Baba. In meditations, He has taken her to Vaikunta (Heaven), a unique Silver Island, Nara Narayana Gufa Ashram in the Himalayas and various lokas and gods and rishis. Her conversations with Bhagavan have centered on the three kinds of Mukthi (Liberation or Salvation) viz. the Saalokya Mukthi, the Saameepya Mukthi and the Saarupya Mukthi.

This a very informative and emotionally appealing book on Spirituality for spiritual seekers,

About the Authoress

Vasantha Sai (Mrs. M. Vasantha Manoharan), 62 year old S;ii devotee, lives at Vadakkampatti village in Madurai District (Tamil Nadu). At the age of 35, in her meditation she got the intuition that Lord Sri Krishna has re-incarnated as Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Since then she has been worshipping Him. The fact that she is Radha's reincarnation was first revealed to her by Sri Sathya Sai Baba and it has now been confirmed by the revelations of ancient Nadis (Palm Leaf records) of Sage Suka and Sage Agasthya. She has composed over 1000 devotional songs in Tamil.

Editor's note: Vasantha Sai now resides at her ashram Mukthi Nilayam near Thirumangalam in

Tamil Nadu.

FOREWARD - I

Sai Sister Smt. Vasantha is inspired by Sri Sathya Sai Baba who is truly Sri Krishna. She is deeply devoted to Him and her tongue constantly utters the holy name of Sai Krishna.

Sai Krishna has been bestowing His grace and showing visions to Sister Vasantha in her meditation for over three decades.

The divine book "Liberation Here Itself Right Now!" is the unique collection of her divine visions and experiences of Sai Krishna.

As we grow through this book, we have the Darshan of Sri Saraswathi Devi, the Deity of knowledge and wisdom.

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba blessed this book by signing the manuscript, when He graciously visited my house at Madurai on the 7 July 1997. This is more than enough proof for the authenticity of the divine visions and experiences.

Sister Smt. Vasantha has also written and released a book of poems "Sri Sai Gananjali" containing 1000 devotional poems in the same divine path.

I believe that this book of unique divinity eloquently shows the depth of Prema of our Lord Sai.

I pray that Smt. Vasantha may be blessed by our Lord to continue doing her divine work.

P.S.A. Subramanian Chettiar Ex President
Sri Sathya Sai Padhuka Trust Madurai (Tamil Nadu)

FOREWORD - II

"Om Sri Sai Ram"

We see Love walking on two legs at Prasanthi Nilayam! Sai Brothers! Sai Sisters! Join me! Let us start from Vadakkampatti, a small village in Tamil Nadu. What do we find here? Prema! Prema! Prema!

She is a matchless example of Prema! She is the very definition of Prema! She is Vasantha Manoharan.

It may be unbelievable to many that such a loving being lives truly in this Kali age! You are going to meet her and be inspired, illuminated and elevated to spiritual heights by this simple Sai devotee from a village.

Is it true in this Kali age?

Are her narrations in this book of Sai's divine grace really true?

Can a devotee bind the Lord with love and devotion today?

Does Swami speak to her daily and take her to Kailash, Vaikunta and Gokul and even to Nara Narayana Gufa?

This unique devotee Smt. Vasantha will raise up these mysterious questions and remove the cobwebs of your doubts here itself right now!

Whenever Paramahansa Sri Ramakrishna, the great saint and guru of Sri Vivekananda, heard the name of the Lord, he used to fall

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Om Sri Sai Ram

into a trance. Similarly, whenever the authoress of this unique book thinks of Sri Krishna, Sri Ranga, Sri Narayana, her eyes shed tears of ecstasy! You will see this and be thrilled to know the depth of her devotion and Prema towards Sri Krishna.

Let me tell the readers how I came to know her.

I live at Paramakudi, 100 kms from Vadakkampatti, Smt. Vasantha's native village. How did the divine communications begin with sister Vasantha? A triangular flow of letters linked me with the authoress and Sri G. Venkataraman of Viruddhachalam. This triangle is a plan of our Lord Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

The authoress Mrs. Vasantha visited our house at Paramakudi. His leelas soon began! Swami answered her letter kept in our pooja room, by signing it. Her 30 years of tears of Prema have been rewarded by Swami to her great surprise and pleasure! She has preserved that memorable letter till today!

Her precious letters carrying those divine, unbelievable yet true messages would come to me once or twice a week. They stirred our feelings of Swami's wonderful grace and leelas, and brought tears of love from the eyes of all members of my family.

When these letters continued, an inner feeling arose in me. Oh! What a depth of Prema! Should these wondrous experiences of Prema and devotion be known merely to my family and Sri G. Venkataraman of Viruddhachalam? I thought, 'Should this Prema Bhakthi be kept shining like a small lamp kept within a pot?' This lamp must illumine brightly on top of a mountain so that it may bring light and joy to hearts of pious souls all over the world.

Sister Vasantha, an enchanting embodiment of Prema, peace and simplicity, wants Swami alone. She does not want anything else! She speaks very little. All the time she is absorbed in her inner communication with Swami.

In the Dwapara Yuga, Sri Krishna was bound by the will of Sahadeva. In Kali Yuga He served as the simple servant Kandia Krishna for 12 years under the great Saint Eknath!

Appendix

Similarly Sai Baba has been bound by Vasantha's pure "Your continuous craving for the Lord, your stream of Prema, your tears of love have bound me to you and prevent Me from doing other duties!", Sri Sathya Sai Baba has told her. Oh! What a love! What a depth of Prema!" You will read such nectarine words of Swami about this unique devotee in this book. We know that these days there are television channels like Raj TV, Vijay TV, etc. There is a unique TV in Vasantha's house. Its name is Prasanthi TV. During her meditation in the pooja room, she experiences visions and has dialogue with Swami. Doubting whether they are true or false, she comes to the hall and switches on the TV. She demands proof for the vision and dialogue in the pooja room. Whatever doubts she has are melted away by the proofs shown

on her TV, most surprisingly and inspiringly.

To many people this may appear as quite unbelievable, but this is, in fact a true spiritual phenomenon occurring with her daily.

Hers is not a book to be read as a fiction! Enjoy each and every step that she takes towards Swami, digest, assimilate, and enjoy bliss. This is the purpose of this book. "Of all my creations you are the best" - Swami speaks of the authoress thus! These divine words prove her purity, Prema bhava and spiritual greatness.

Dear readers! I have revealed only a little about her. In fact, she is the re-incarnation of Radha of Sri Krishna who has re-incarnated as Lord Sri Sathya Sai Baba, our dearest Sai Krishna.

Let us catch hold of Sai Krishna and put Him in the prison of our heart by adhering to the paths shown by this great devotee, I have seen, met and experienced.

Jai Sri Sai Ram.

Doctor S. Kothandapani 5/100, Rajaji Street Paramakudi (Tamil Nadu)

FOREWORD - III

If we say God is the Ocean of Mercy, then we must realize that His creations including human beings are just like the holy rivers Ganga, Yamuna, Sindhu, Cauvery, Saraswathi, Narmada and Godavari. All these rivers have feminine names. Why? They are marching, flowing towards and to the one male (Ocean) to marry Him and merge in him.

God is Purusha, the only male aspect and is called Purushotama. We are all the feminine aspects, like Radha, Rukmini, Meera and Andal.

Here you see sister Vasantha, a pious woman living in a remote village of south India. To save the humanity in this Kali age, God has descended on earth as Sri Sathya Sai Baba. He is Sarvadevata Swaroopa. All forms of worship and God's names reach Him at her village Vadakkampatti. How great is her devotion! I am very thankful to our Lord Sai Krishna for remembering me through sister Vasantha and her beautiful autobiography.

G. Venkataraman Retired Head Master 150, Periar Nagar Vriddhachalam-606 001 Tamil Nadu.

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE (to the Original Edition)_____

Gateway to our birth is our past deeds, Gateway to liberation is Baba's feet, indeed!

Before you enter this Eternal Kingdom of Liberation, I request you to halt for a while at the Gateway of God. Enter this gate with the following prayer:

Lead me from untruth to truth! Lead me from darkness to light! Lead me from death to divinity!

Dear Readers! The book was originally written in Tamil by Sri j Vasantha Sai. According to Bhagavan Baba's will and command, I have translated this from Tamil to English. The book is mainly based on the author's diary accounts, though they do not appear in chronological order. The authoress Vasantha is not only a writer, but also a very gifted poet. She has written thousands of poems.

The word 'cry' is repeated very often in this book. Though different words like wailing, weeping, can be used, the author is particular in using the word 'cry' because whenever Baba talks about Bhakthi Yoga, He uses this word very often. Readers should note that this is no worldly cry but a spiritual cry, which is blissful. The tears cried for material life

would be salty, but the tears cried for the Lord can only be sweet. Swami has stated to Vasantha,

"I am not in the ocean of milk;
but only in the ocean of your tears."

There are three parts in this book. The third part consists of illuminating spiritual conversation between Baba and the author.

Some five years back I had an interview with Baba. I wanted to give a slip to Baba with ten demands, but I now remember only the last 3 demands,

1. Baba, I want to serve the whole world. Please give me the strength and health to do that service.

2. I want only Bhakthi and Mukthi.

3. I want to attain liberation in this birth itself.

However, Baba did not take my slip. He asked nothing about my demands. When I was about to come out of the interview room, Swami mentioned about my last two demands but not the first.

"Let me bestow upon you Bhakthi and Mukthi," Swami told with his soft and sweet voice. I came out of the interview with my hair standing on end. Still I had one doubt persisting in my mind, "Why did Swami not respond to my 'world service' demand?"

This question was haunting me. Later I consoled myself thinking that perhaps I might not be qualified to serve the world. Now I realise that the time has ripened for service. Baba has found a short cut for this, by giving me a chance to translate this book. I thank Baba . thousand times, with whole-hearted gratitude for His grace and compassion.

Let me promise readers, that I will serve Baba until my lasi breath and if I have one more birth, definitely I will serve His nexi incarnation Prema Sai also. Let the credit of all the merits of thi-book go to the Universal Master Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Sai Baba ha-said that all creations exist for one purpose, "The expression of love/ He says, "You are My life, My breath, My soul. You are all My forms.

Let us all surrender at His divine feet.

Now you need not wait and stand in the queue at the Gateway o! God. You have the right and merit to enter God's Palace of Liberation Enjoy every nook and corner of the enchanting spiritual kingdom without interruption.

Life is Love, enjoy it,

Love is Sai, experience it,

Sai is Vasantha, merge with them.

.lai Sai Ram

Kamayankavandanpatty Your Sai Brother

31 July, 1997

L.K. Vijaraman (Translator)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am grateful to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba for his perennial love and grace. I am thankful to Sri PSA Subramanian Chettiar, Dr. S. Kothandapani, Sri G. Venkatraman, Sri JV Krishnamurthy and Sri C. Krishna Moorthy and all the members of my family - my husband Sri Manoharan, my son and my daughter-in-law.

My thanks and prayers to are for the Vasan Offset Printers, Paramakudi, whose owner Sri KV Govindaram and his beloved

brother Sri KV Subburam voluntarily came forward at Kodaikanal in 1997 to print the first edition of this book during Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's visit and did the computer offset printing with devotion and as an offering to the Lotus feet. This was the first book in their

new computerized offset print. I pray that their press should receive all the blessings of our Lord. I wish them and their sons Sri KG Kuppusamy and Sri KG Srinivasan all happiness and prosperity in their new venture. Without their uninterrupted, sincere and devoted involvement, this book would not have seen the light of the day.

I am grateful to Sai brother Prof. Satya Pal Ruhela for very kindly correcting and editing this book.

-Vasantha Sai.

* * *

Two letters from Vasantha Sai about her recent spiritual experiences.

I.

Om Sai Ram

"Om Sri Sai Vasantha Saiesaiya Namaha"

Vasantha Sai Vadakkampatti Post (Via) Kalligudi Madurai District -626701

19.7.1999

My dear son,

Sushmitha of Tanzania wants to put information about me on the internet. So Sushmitha has asked for copies of spiritual details of mine contained in Agasthya Nadi and Suka Nadi, the ancient palm leaf granthas, my letters, your letters and book etc. for the Internet. She wrote to me to pray for Swami's permission for the Internet. After receiving her letter on 13.2.99, I prayed to Swami. Swami gave me permission but I am very much afraid of it. I prayed to Swami, "No, No, Swami! I don't want it. There will be a negative approach from some people. I have no strength to face it."

Swami said, "The time is coming now to show you to the world as my Shakthi." Then Swami, placing His divine hand on my head, said, "You are my Shakthi. Arise! Awake from Maya. Don't be afraid. Who or what can hurt you? Have the Sankalpa to show who you are. This is the proper time. You are Maha Shakthi. You are Kriya Shakthi, Iccha Shakthi and Jnana Shakthi. You are Sai Shakthi. Now come and join with Me. Let both of us do something for the welfare of mankind. You are not Vasantha who lives in this body. You do not belong to this house alone. You belong to the whole world. You are the universe. Rise up as Durga Devi. You are the Adhar of the universe. Do not cry. Be happy. You are Sat-Chit-Ananda Swaroopa. Be brave. Now you see your Viswaroopa."

Then Swami and I grew very big, occupying the space of the universe. All the stars, Sun, Moon, planets were seen below our knees. I was very much surprised with this Viswaroopa darshan.

Swami said, "You have come to this world to change mankind. You will open a new divine path for the world. It is the Prema path. You are the Poorna Shakthi Avatar. We two are one. There is no difference between us. You are speaking only My words. You have this Sankalpa deeply embedded in your heart. Then everything will be all right."

On 15 July 1999, I prayed to Swami, "What is the difference between Radha's Prema and Vasantha's Prema?", Swami said, "Vasantha's Prema is more powerful than Radha's Prema. One who attains Radha's grace will attain Lord Krishna's grace. First he should catch hold of Radha's feet. In your case, however, one who thinks about you will reach me because your Prema is more powerful. For example, C Krishna Moorthy, KS Venkatraman, Sushmitha, Ramachandran, Hari and Sarada are always thinking about you. So their sadhana is so fast they will attain Me quickly..."

Swami gave many divine darshans to me. Today, I got a different kind of divine darshan. Lord Ganesha came to me as a child. I cried. Swami and Ganesha spoke to me. Then

little Ganesha merged into me. He mingled with my breath. Ganesha said, "I am your breath. You are the Ganesha Tatwam." Swami said many wonderful things. I will write about them to you in another letter.

With love and blessings, Your loving mother
Vasantha Sai

To:

Sri C Krishna Moorthy, B.E. Anantapur-5i5004 (A.P.)

II.

Om Sai Ram

"Om Sri Sai Vasantha Saiesaiya Namaha"

Vadakkampatti 20.7.99

My dear brother,

I received your letter. I am very happy. Some days before Kerala Ramachandran wrote a letter to me. He had mentioned the following details.

In Garga Samhita many stories and miracles, which happened in the Dwapara Yuga, are mentioned. It says Radha Rani was higher in status than the 16,108 wives of Lord Krishna. It describes a lot of stories of Krishna and His dear Radha Rani. You please verify Garga Bhagavatham.

Radha Rani and Gopikas stayed in Siddhasramam once. At that time Krishna along with his 16,108 wives and so many soldiers had also reached Sidhasramam. They all asked about Radha. Bhagavan kindly permitted them to see Radha Rani. They went to the riverside. Rasapriya Radha Rani was lying on a special bed full of flowers (This bed is in our island. Many devotees who read my diaries know about it). After taking a bath, they saw Radha. Radha Rani was more beautiful than all the others were. Then they asked Radha to dance the Rasaleela, which was performed by Bhagavan along with the Gopikas at Brindavan. On the request of all, Bhagavan conducted the second Rasa leela with Gopikas and Yadava queens. They were very happy. But Radha felt, "This Rasaleela cannot compare with our past Brindavan Rasaleela. In Brindavan beautiful singing, dancing, flying birds and lovely animals were there to accompany us. When the Rasaleela started, Brindavan changed as the springtime arrived!

We want to print the second edition of this book soon. Als< > we will place it on the Internet. This too is Swami's leela. I wrote that I don't want Internet publicity, but now Swami asked me to put it on the net. Swami said, "It is the right time to show you to the world."

Now Swami is saying, 'You are Shakthi. Arise, Awake from the Maya. You are not Vasantha who owns this body and this house. You own the whole world. Come out from the Maya. Now the time has come.' In this way Swami daily prepares me. I don't know anything around me. I don't bother about anything; what is happening, it is His Sankalpa. I am His instrument. I am His Radha.

How is your wife's pain? How are you? I am very happy in my world. How beautiful is the present world! I saw Swami only yesterday. I had a very wonderful experience. I share it with you as a brother. Yesterday morning I was crying for Ganesha. "Lord Ganesha is my son. So I want to see him. Swami please show Your grace to me." Then Ganesha came as a little boy and sat on my lap. I teased him, kissed him again and again. Then I began to cry. Swami and Ganesha asked me not to cry. The Lord Ganesha became a small figure. He went into my nose and said, "Now I am mingling with your breath. Mother don't cry. I am in your body. I

am always in your breath." How wonderful He is! Today I told this to SV. I don't know what happens to me. I am not in this world. It is up to you whether you believe it or not, but it is true. Bliss is my real state. I fully feel it.
Yours truly, Vasantha Sai

To
Doctor Sathya Pal Ruhela,
"SaiKripa"
Faridabad-121003