

Arunachala Giri and Major Chadwick

(Ramana Bhaskara February 2016)

In Arunachalam, the hill (Arunachala Giri) is the most important place to visit. Since many have assembled here today, my request is while sitting here look at the serene hill as much as you can. Devotees can circumambulate (*pradikshana*) the Arunachala Giri. Also, visit the Ramana Ashram and the temple. Meditate for some time at these places.



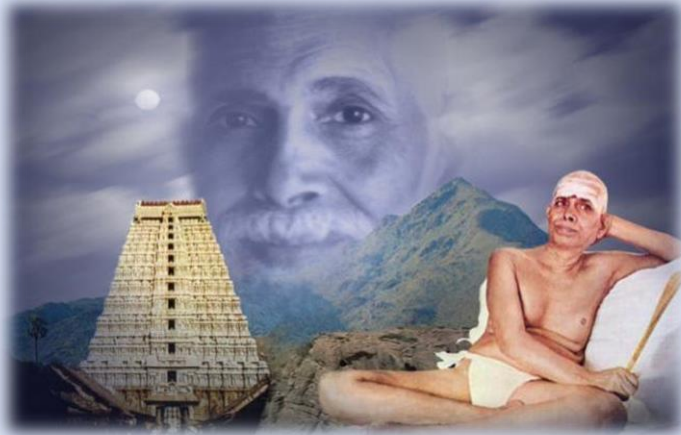
Circumambulation of the hill will satisfy your desires. Sri Krishna in Bhagavad Gita says, “even if you think about me to satisfy your desires you become my devotee.” The secret here of Bhagavan is not to go after desires. While circumambulating the Arunachala Giri, do not talk with others. Try to keep your thoughts fixed on the hill. Devotees must restrain from discussing domestic affairs or any

other issues while going around the hill. Those who are well versed with Aksharamanimala can sing the string of verses composed by Bhagavan for Lord Arunachala while going around the hill. Doing this will satisfy your desires and you may even be granted salvation. Even if you have just one desire that will also be granted and for those who have no desires then they may get salvation (*moksha*), said Bhagavan.

There is a huge amount of water in the ocean. Likewise, in this life you may face innumerable sufferings and happiness. Happiness and unhappiness are like waves in the ocean. You have to experience them because of your past deeds. The mind must remain balanced in any circumstance. To attain steadiness of the mind, God puts us through tests such as waves of happiness and unhappiness. God is aware of the highs and lows of your life. Then why are you so anxious or stressed?

Talking to you about Bhagavan is a spiritual exercise (*sadhana*). I cannot give you anything more than this exercise. However, the Lord can grant you much more than what I preach. He knows the work of the Guru is to make you go through the spiritual practise. The Lord, therefore, takes the initiative to satisfy your desires. You can make your spiritual progress by following your own methods of practise. In the process, do not question and speak ill of the practises of the Guru.

Major Chadwick: When Bhagavan was suffering from cancer, the doctors wanted to perform one more surgery. However, Major Chadwick was against the procedure. He pleaded with Bhagavan and the doctors. How many times you want to hurt the body by cutting it, he argued with the doctors. Let Him



go. Where will he go? There is no harm to his existence, Chadwick cried. Speaking about Bhagavan's state, Chadwick said Bhagavan will remain in the same state as he is always with a body and will be the same even without a body. So, do not trouble Him with such procedures, Chadwick implored. Many believe that Major Chadwick was the father of Bhagavan in his past birth.

Once Bhagavan left his mortal coil, Chadwick also decided to leave for London. He purchased his ticket and packed his suitcases. He left for the airport. There was about two to three hours time for boarding the flight. Chadwick came to Tiruvannamalai in 1934. He began pondering over why he was leaving the ashram so hurriedly. Why was he was planning to leave the place in which he stayed for 16 years near Bhagavan? Was he is leaving because Bhagavan was no longer physically present there? He wondered what work he would do in London and what happened to the bond created here at Tiruvannamalai for 16 years? The thought where are you going came from within his heart. He did not find an answer. At the last minute he cancelled the ticket and came back to Tiruvannamalai. After that he never went anywhere. After a few years of his stay at the ashram, he fell sick. He was taken to Vellore, where he passed away. His Samadhi is also there in Ramana ashram. Chadwick had no chance of leaving the earth at Arunachalam. Chadwick's samadhi is there in Ramana Ashram.

Bhagavan's love for Chadwick was unique. Chadwick was swinging in his cottage. Bhagavan did not comment. But others said Westerners get used to new things and in the process spend money. Bhagavan after passing Chadwick's cottage said in a low voice to others present there that Chadwick is our man, though you call him a Westerner due to the colour of his skin. He is not an outsider, but he is our man.

(Paul Brunton's book, *A Search In Secret India*, changed the life of Major A.W. Chadwick. Major Chadwick was serving in the British army. After reading the book, he resigned from the army and came to Sri Ramana Ashram in November 1935. For 16 years he was with Bhagavan. He gave up his British passport and took Indian citizenship and changed his name to Sadhu Arunachala. He wrote *A Sadhu's Reminiscences of Ramana Maharshi* in 1961.)

Courtesy: Ambica Udaynarayan