

Interview with Sri Nannagaru

By Sunderam Garu

OM NAMO BHAGAVATE SRI RAMANAYA

SUNDERAM GARU:

Since you have grown spiritually to glorious heights, you might have gained personally also. I think you do not have a 'Direct Guru'.

NANNA GARU:

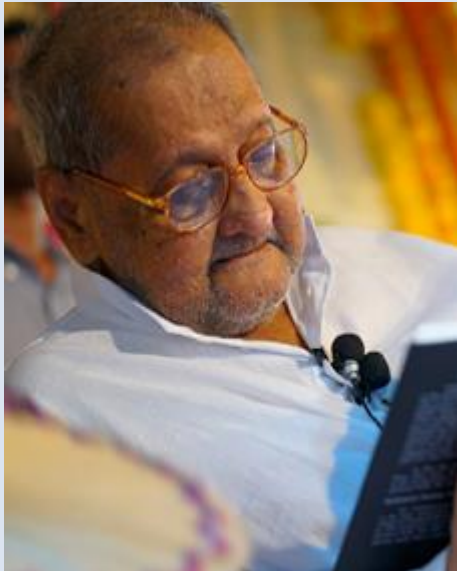
What do you mean by 'Direct Guru'? The question of 'Direct Guru' never occurred to me. We know much more about Bhagavan than those who served him for about 10 year & lived very close to him. We are closer to the heart of Bhagavan than those who lived close to him for 20 to 30 years. The question you asked never arose in our mind. We never felt any difference of him with or without body. The thought of searching another Guru didn't arise at all. I don't feel hurt even if somebody comments that Ramana Maharishi was not a "Jnani", nor our love towards him would reduce. Even the idea to look for another religion did not occur. I am not at all worried about other's comments. What is more important for me is the experience I am directly enjoying from Bhagavan. I feel personal touch of Bhagavan in my heart.

SUNDERAM GARU:

I think lots of people come to you.



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NANNA GARU:

Nearly 200 people come to my house daily. All of them do not come for Self -Realization alone. But they understand that we share their grief.

SUNDERAM GARU:

How do you Console them?

NANNA GARU:

That cannot be understood by mind. It cannot be explained in words.

SUNDERAM GARU:

I think it is in your looks!

NANNA GARU:

Recently one devotee came from Ganapavaram, Her husband died in an accident. Since she may not be able to explain her problem openly, we spoke to her privately. She asked the reason for the death of her husband. We told her whether her sorrow would be reduced if the reason is known. If she wanted to know the reason, we would have told her. But by that her sorrow would not be reduced.

The question you asked cannot be explained in words. A person desiring to grow spirituality should be free from cunningness. What I realized in my spiritual life is that one should not be cunning. One should come out from this; it is a major hurdle for spiritual progress. Whatever spiritual practices or virtuous deeds he does would go waste. As it was explained the other day, what is the use if one's income is Rs.16,000/- & he spends Rs.18,000/- for cigarettes. Similarly, if a person does not come out of cunningness, he will be always in minus, irrespective of whatever 'Sadhana' he does.

SUNDERAM GARU:

Lot of people come to you. Do you expect different types of individual?

NANNA GARU:

Different types of people come to us. Some people come for employment; some are political leaders and some with ill-health. We know who is coming for what purpose. We know how to deal with them. We don't take everything to heart. Some come for

donations; some for openings; some for popularity and some regarding industries. We don't consider all of them as spiritual seekers.

SUNDERAM GARU:

If you have taken them close to you heart does it mean they have spiritual urge?

NANNA GARU:

Their pure heart and spiritual urge only can bring them to me.



SUNDERAM GARU:

Do you also take care of their physical life in addition to their spiritual life?

NANNA GARU:

Most certainly. Not for the sake of it, But that aspect also is essentially seen,

SUNDERAM GARU:

Did you achieve any "SIDHIS"?

NANNA GARU:

We don't have any thoughts about such "SIDHIS". Some devotees respectfully bring books on Baba etc., However much regard we have towards them, we skip the pages explaining their "SIDHIS" & read the rest. Actually, in any book, we read only useful topics & leave the rest. Criticism is unnecessary. That is our policy. Recently some Muslims came to us; they are saying that after listening to our discourses, they are able to understand Quran better.

SUNDERAM GARU:

Bhagavan's teachings or your teachings are not based on any religion. Anybody can follow.

NANNA GARU:

What you say is 100% correct. We don't go into the complication of religion.

SUNDERAM GARU:

In the book "Mountain Path", one Czechoslovakian wrote that he accidentally came to know about Bhagavan. By following Bhagavan's teachings, several hundreds of people achieved Self-realization; We were surprised to read this.

NANNA GARU:

These are Bhagavan's teachings. If one can understand Bhagavan's path thoroughly



without any suffering one can realize the Truth. To explain one good point, several pages are written. But Bhagavan or RamaKrishna are not like that. It is our good fortune that they tried to convey the truth directly.

SUNDERAM GARU:

Bhagavan Si Rama Krishna knew very well that present generation would not have expertise in language nor the time to read Puranas or Upanishads. Hence Bhagavan gave us "Jnana Marg" A Rama Krishna gave us "Bhakti Marg". Bhagavan's may also have Bhakti.

NANNA GARU:

I think it is enough Sunderam garu to explain that even Vaishnavites come to our house. We respect them also. There is

no dearth of respect. But this Marg (/Method) is suitable for us. This is a simple & "ready to eat dish".

SUNDERAM GARU:

I think it is not so easy to get into this Marg (Method). In earlier births we had purchased dishes & provisions. That is why it is a 'Ready to eat dish'; after this, there is nothing.

NANNA GARU:

While dealing with the subject, we also quote Ramayana & Mahabharata. Not for the sake of it, but some diversion for them. As we take pickles along with curd rice, these narrations help in supporting the subject.



SUNDERAM GARU:

Ramana Maharishi's teachings are very subtle. The purpose of your incarnation is to explain these teachings to common people who are not expert enough to understand the language nor they can do any sadhanas. This is not an easy talk. But still you are doing it relentlessly. Simply giving lectures is totally different from delivering the discourses after experiencing the "Truth"

NANNA GARU:

Talking is different & taking with experience is different.

SUNDERAM GARU:

You are born for a purpose. Yours is a "Karana Janma". Bhagavan was born with a purpose which he fulfilled. Yours also will be the same.

NANNA GARU:

We have no wavering about it. Nor I have any wavering in my devotion to Bhagavan. There is no variation in devotion like something on Saturday & something else on Sunday. We never even had the feeling that we missed the opportunity of seeing him alive.

SUNDERAM GARU:

Kanakamma Garu said, "We have seen Bhagavan." Without seeing Bhagavan, without experiencing his love through his piercing eyes, you people are enjoying that ecstasy. You all are greater devotees.

NANNA GARU:

We are aware of his inner guidance. It is as clear as one gets the feeling of touching one hand with the other. Just imagine that somebody is talking for half an hour. If we carefully listen to him & observe, we can easily make out whether his talks contain some glimpses of truth or it is just blaw-blaw. In this world there are many types of people. But for us 'Satvaguna' is most important. If different types of people are not there, it cannot become world. With this we have an advantage of understanding the strength of our 'Satvaguna'. That is most important. They all are our Gurus, because they all increase the strength of our 'Satvaguna'.



SUNDERAM GARU:

When the disciples or devotees coming to your house seek your advice, do you give any suggestions?

NANNA GARU:

When they narrate their worldly problems, we listen to them patiently. To some extent their problems are solved just by our listening patiently. If we know the solutions we advise them. If we don't know, we keep quiet. After understanding the situation, we advise them in such a way that they don't lost patience. This approach helps thousands of people. At least they get some relief when we listen to them. Even when they narrate their worldly problems, we don't feel any inconvenience. If we know, we give suggestions. Or else we advise them to contact their relatives, if they know.

SUNDERAM GARU:

You are visiting several villages. You are listening to hundreds of people. Discourses are given for hours together. Don't you feel tired?

NANNA GARU:

If A When the body gets tired, an hour's rest is enough. Many people come to us to get peace, since this is not available to them in the market. Muslims attending our discourses expressed that they could understand their Quran better. They were enquired how they were doing. Once you are there, how can we be bad", was their answer. When we informed them about our visit to Hyderabad, affectionately they requested us not to stay for long there. They said, "We have Mosques. There are people to explain Quran in Mosques. But they themselves do not know about Quran. After listening to your speeches, we are able to understand Quran better".

We never leave ground realities of day to day life. Actually what we tell them is education. If anybody tells us any problems, we listen to them carefully. Even that is part of Sadhana. Sometimes they are in emotion. Then, without hurting their ego, we calmly advise them to soothen their emotion. Noticing their negative thinking, we carefully try to correct them. Sometimes if they are hurt, it is enough if they are consoled. When we are talking to them, we should be careful not to hurt their feelings. That is possible only in 'Satvaguna'. If we explain them without hurting their feelings, they will be in a position to listen to us. That is why 'Satvaguna' is very important. There are different types of people. Some people, neither they live happily, nor they allow others to be happy. If they are not happy, it is okay. They don't leave the situation there. They don't allow others to be happy. World is mixture of all these.

Cunningness is the main thing. A pot with hole can never get filled with water. Similar is the case with a cunning person doing Sadhana.



Archival Courtesy: Baby garu, Hyderabad