



Enriching Talks of Eloquent
devotees with
Sadguru Sri Nannagaru

Foreword

This book is a small attempt made to compile the talks of various devotees with Sri Nannagaru. Sri Nannagaru has his own unique way of unveiling the greatness hidden within the devotees. He questions them in a manner that brings out the gold hidden. Sri Nannagaru communicates with several kinds of devotees; ranging from uneducated and ill-literate women to highly educated professors, doctors and bureaucrats. When we go through these dialogues, we get a great opportunity to learn from the conversations they had with the Sadhguru and the inherent guidance given by the Sadhguru for their material and spiritual prosperity.

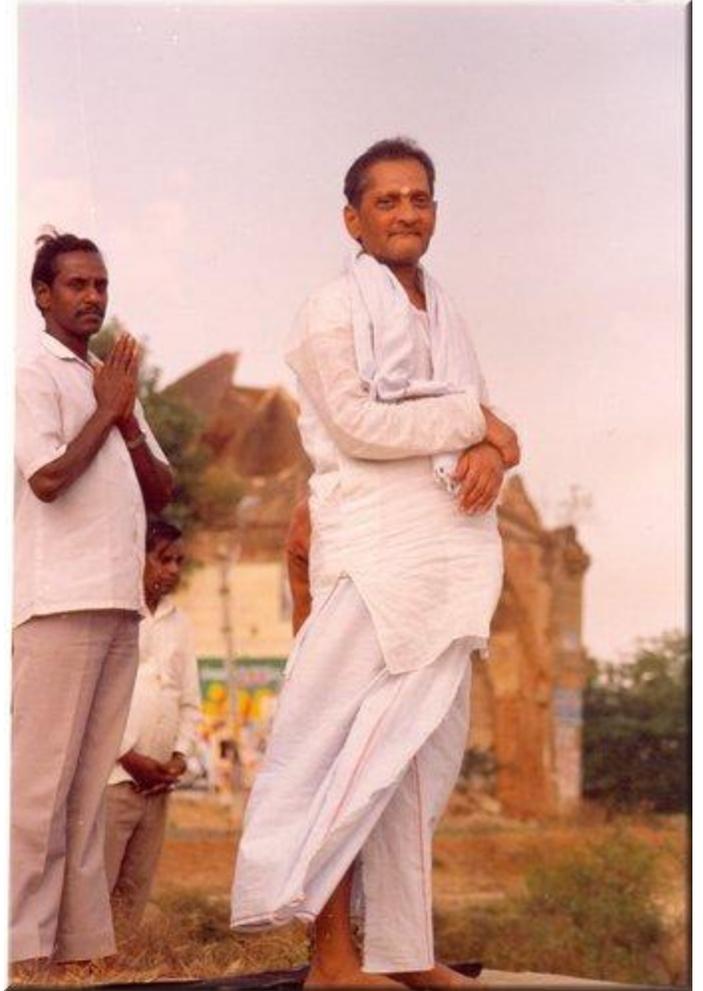
We don't gain any extra energy on advertising our good deeds.



Sri Nannagaru once asked a devotee: "You have done that particular good work. Isn't it?" In spite of being aware that it was he himself who had done that work, Sri Nannagaru asked him the above question. Sri Nannagaru wanted to see how the devotee would respond. The devotee replied: "Who has told you this? You

have been given wrong information."

Sri Nannagaru said: "What is wrong in accepting when you have indeed done that task?" The devotee said: "What is the necessity of telling you the same? Do I need to rule any villages or do any jobs? When the work is being



performed what is the necessity to speak? *On accepting that I have done a good deed, I will not gain any extra energy."*

Referring to the above devotee, Sri Nannagaru said: "This world is not devoid of at least some good people."

Whatever is needed should come from the
Guru



Once, a devotee called up Sri Nannagaru. Sri Nannagaru asked her: "What kind of sadhana (spiritual practices) are you doing?" She replied: "I seem to be doing something or the other but *whatever is needed should come from your end*. What can I do from my end? Grace should flow from your end. Isn't it?"

**It is enough if we remember them who desire
our welfare**



Once, Sri Nannagaru visited a devotee who had been hospitalized. Sri Nannagaru was asking her particularly if specific people had visited her. The devotee replied: "Oh! Nannagaru, many people have come to see me. Forgetting them who desire my welfare, *should I bother myself by thinking about the people who have not visited me and increase my hatred for them?*"

Sri Nannagaru is only our Arunachala and Kasi

Sri Nannagaru suggested a devotee to visit either Arunachala or Kasi. The devotee saluted Sri Nannagaru and indicated *that*



his Arunachala and Kasi is Sri Nannagaru only. He indicated through his gestures that Sri Nannagaru is enough for him. Then speaking about the devotee, Sri Nannagaru said: "He has built very good rooms in Kasi and Tirupathi on my suggestion. He has maintained his equipoise both in his poverty as well as in prosperity."

Earning wealth is equivalent to drinking of salt water ie the thirst keeps increasing

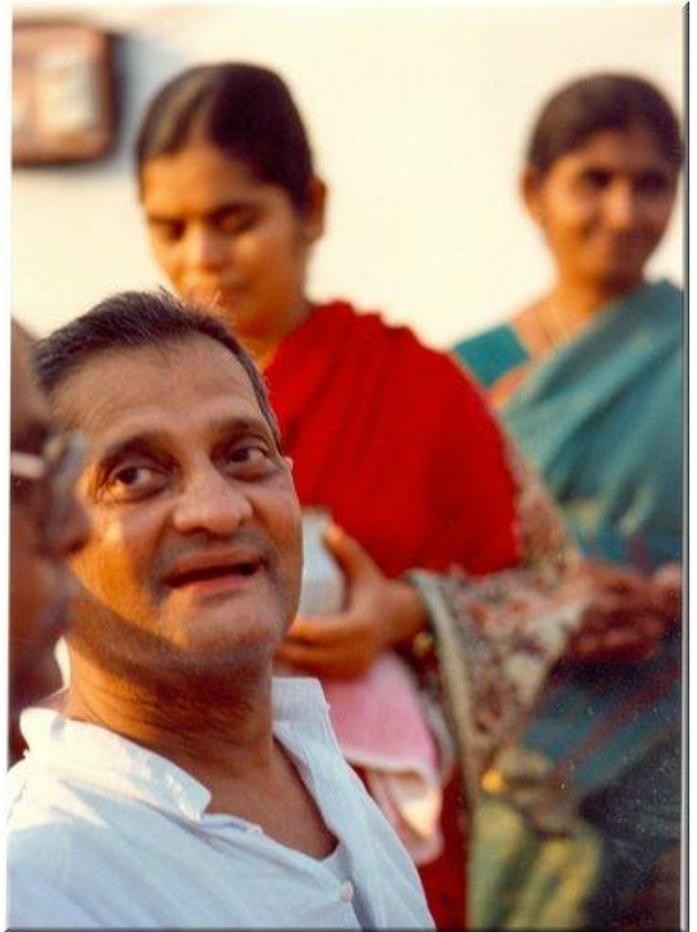


Sri Nannagaru asked a devotee: "Have you retired completely? Are you not looking after the factory affairs anymore?" The devotee replied: "I am satisfied with my earning. It is sufficient for my sustenance. Though I still have the capacity and the required health to look

after the factory affairs, I have handed over them to my son. I told my son that being young it is his turn to earn money now. I told I will not be asking him whether he made any gains or losses but will give him my advice only on being asked." The devotee further said: "Oh! Nannagaru, *earning wealth is equivalent to drinking of salt water*. As we drink more and more salt water, our thirst keeps increasing. Similarly as we earn more and more wealth, our thirst for wealth keeps on increasing. I want to spend the rest of my life in contemplation of God." Later speaking about the devotee, Sri Nannagaru said: "He doesn't seem to be a hypocrite; in the recent times, it was only he who has spoken thus."

How can one compromise with the outside people without compromising with the people at home?

Once, an old lady narrated to Sri Nannagaru all her troubles at home caused by her son and daughter-in-law. Sri Nannagaru then asked her: "Would you like to stay in an old age home?" The old lady

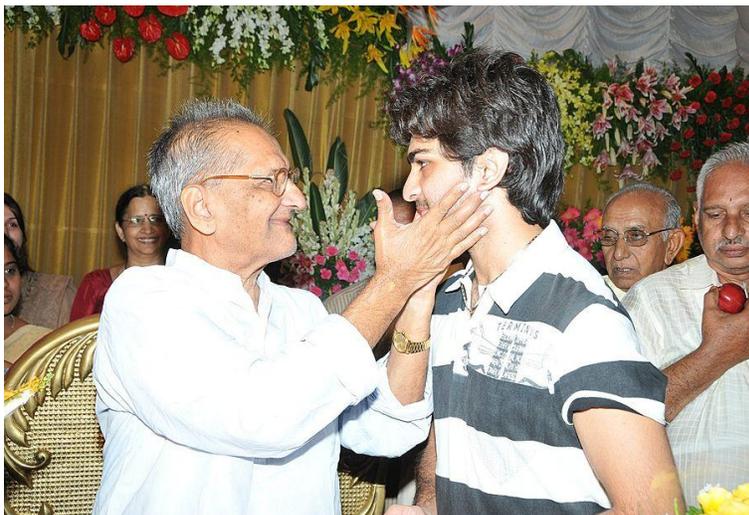


replied: "No, Nannagaru. *When I cannot compromise with the people at home, how can I compromise with the outside people?* I will try to face the challenges at home rather than running away from them."

Answer tactfully such that the snake dies but the stick doesn't break



Sri Nannagaru asked a devotee: "Both of your daughters are in U.S.A. Isn't it?" The devotee replied: "Yes, Nannagaru." Then Nannagaru asked: "Do they send you any money?" She replied: "Till date, I have not accepted any money. I did not get the necessity of taking



money from them. They are only my sons as well as daughters. Hence I told them that I will ask them for money when I really need it." Sri Nannagaru said: "You are very intelligent. You are not directly denying their request. You are not saying that you don't need their money. You are sticking to your point as well as keeping your future in mind. You resemble Swami Vivekananda's mother Bhuvaneshwari devi in this aspect. When Swamiji asked his mother if she required any money, she replied: "I don't need it now. I will certainly ask you, when required."

Self effort is also required to eradicate poverty



Once, a collector came to Sri Nannagaru. He said: "The nation has made a good progress." Sri Nannagaru said: "When the poverty still exists, how you can say that the nation has advanced a lot?" The Collector replied: "For eradicating poverty, at least some effort needs



to be made from our end. *Self effort is also required to eradicate poverty.* Self effort is required whether we need material prosperity or spiritual evolution. Though the nation may prosper, the lazy people cannot get their food." Then Sri Nannagaru said: "As per the Kathopanishad, the weak and the lazy cannot attain Self Realization. Leave aside Self Realization, they cannot even earn their livelihood."

Serving the elders is our bare minimum duty



A devotee narrated his following experience to Sri Nannagaru: "I got hospitalized due to some illness and was being looked after by my granddaughter. One day I said in a very sad tone: 'Oh! Dear, leaving aside all your tasks, you are toiling so hard for my sake!'" Then my granddaughter replied: "Oh! Grandpa, can we ever



describe your hard work that brought us to the current state? Haven't you worked hard throughout the day and night for several years only for our sake? *Isn't this our bare minimum duty to serve you in this juncture?* Please don't speak out such words again. Grandpa, this is a very minute task."

It is only due to our tendency that we keep on trying in spite of being aware that we will fail



Sri Nannagaru asked a devotee: "When I previously visited Hyderabad, you have said that someone owes you 75 lakhs. Have they repaid you back?" The devotee replied: "No, Nannagaru. When I go to his house in the early morning, I am told to go to his office. When I go



to his office, I am told that he has already left to his factory and the time of his return is unknown. I don't think he will ever repay me back." Sri Nannagaru asked: "When you are convinced that you will not get back the money, why are you going to him again and again?" The devotee replied: "Nannagaru! Do I need to teach you Vedanta? This is only called as tendency. Isn't it Nannagaru?"

When we become omnipresent why do we need a body?



Sri Nannagaru asked a devotee: "You are asking for liberation. But if you attain the same, you will not have a body to enjoy the pleasures. Isn't it so?" Then the devotee replied: "Nannagaru! *When I become omnipresent, why do I need a body?*"

Offering back to God that which He has gifted us is not a sacrifice

A devotee's son left his job and remained as a bachelor dedicating his life in the service of nation. Referring to him, Sri Nannagaru told the



devotee: "Your son has sacrificed a well served leaf plate filled with eatables. You have offered your son to God. You have sacrificed him in the service of nation." The devotee very innocently replied: " Nannagaru! *It is God only who has given me this son.*" The devotee implied that it cannot be termed as a sacrifice if she gives back to God which (her son) God has given her.

Holy Company helps us in understanding that we are merely instruments in the hands of God



Sri Nannagaru asked a devotee: "Are you regularly attending the satsang?" The devotee replied: "Only on listening to the satsang on a daily basis, I have understood that I am merely an instrument in the hands of God. Therefore I am untouched by sorrow. I have been a mediator in the conduct of a marriage. I merely informed

the bride's party the whereabouts of bridegroom. Both the parties mutually talked with each other and the marriage got settled. 2 years after marriage, they somehow got divorced due to some dispute. It is only due to the effect of satsang that I understood that they were destined to get separated. I consoled myself thinking that *I am merely an instrument in the hands of God*. However my daughter-in-law has become very anxious. She is blaming herself for informing the whereabouts of the bridegroom and for being the cause of their sorrow. She has stopped attending the satsangs." Sri Nannagaru said: "This is the benefit derived from listening to satsangs. Lord Krishna said: Oh! Arjuna (Savya sachin ie the one who can shoot arrows with both the hands), you are merely an instrument. Adi Shankara said: Your doer-ship is only the cause of your sorrow."

It is not sufficient if we merely understand Sri Nannagaru's words but we should be able to practice them



Once, a devotee being filled with great sorrow fell at the feet of Sri Nannagaru. Sri Nannagaru allowed her to cry and once her sorrow

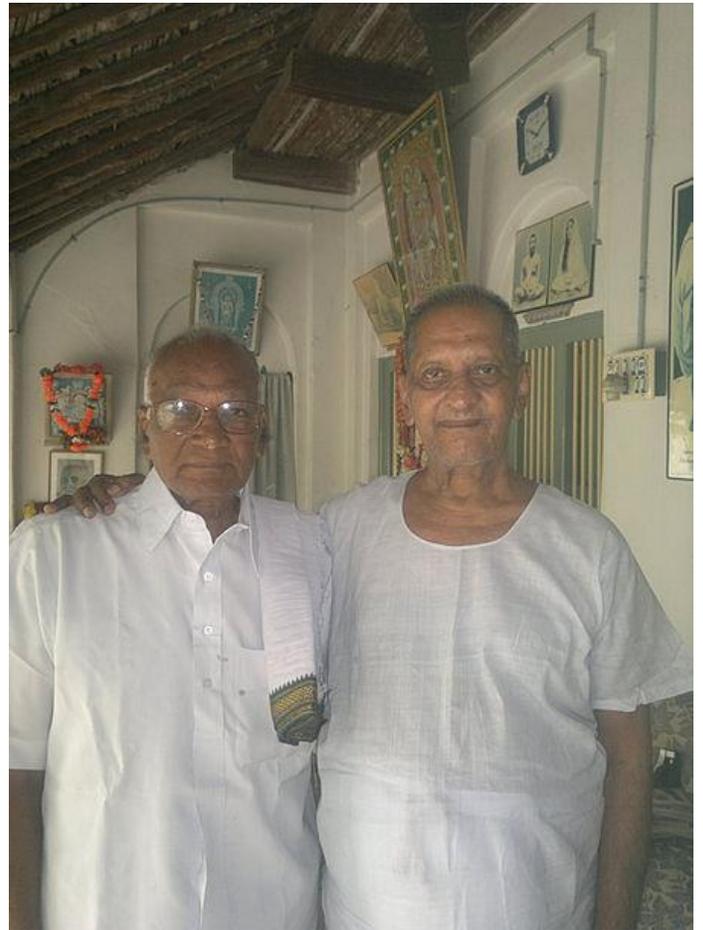
subsided, asked her the reason for her sorrow.

The devotee replied: "Nannagaru! I am

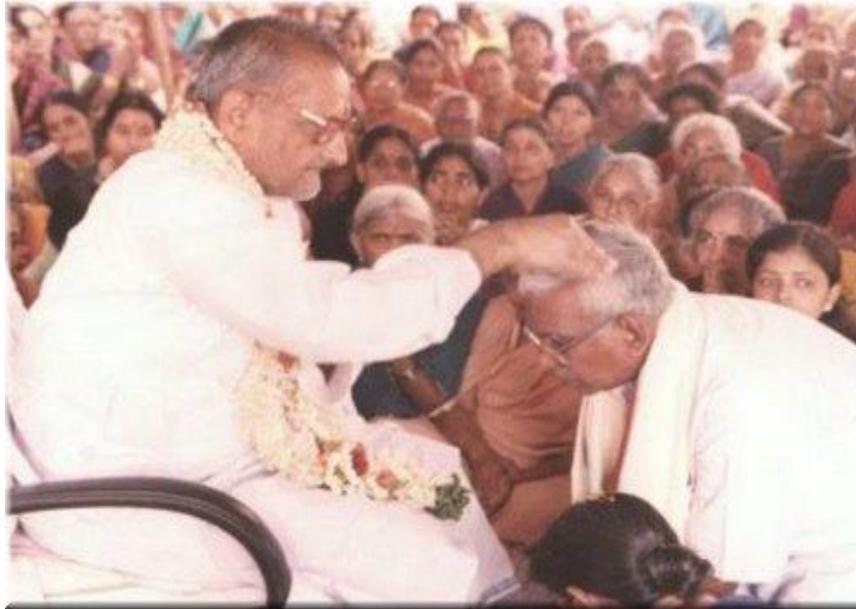
able to understand your words perfectly. It is different if I am not able to practice when I don't understand them. But the most unfortunate thing is *that I am able to*

understand them but not able to practice them.

I feel like dying." Sri Nannagaru said: "You need not fear Ma! It is not merely 90% true but it is 100% true that you will get liberated." Stating thus Sri Nannagaru blessed her by touching her head.



Charity done for the sake of fame will lead towards our ruin



Once, a husband and wife visited Sri Nannagar. The husband said: "I have done charity worth of 100s of crores. However the family is growing like a mountain and I am not able to save anything." The wife immediately said: "Nannagar! Whatever my husband is speaking is not at all true. We are getting money but he is spending all the money only for the sake of earning fame. He is digging a



well near the Ganges and not where it is required. *If he earns 10rs, he is spending all the 10rs for earning fame.*" Later she felt that the husband might rebuke her after going back home. Therefore she again said: "Nannagaru! Not that he is a bad person. His nature is thus. Our nature is developed based upon our habits in the previous births. Without changing our habits, our nature will not change. He is doing meritorious deeds but the entire merit will vanish once the fruit of it is experienced. He does not listen to the subject.



How can he understand without listening to the subject? My husband is a good person but his nature is thus." The wife was ensuring that her husband will not get hurt due to her judgment. Also she is aware that the husband will be ruined if he is falsely praised. Thus she spoke the truth very tactfully. Narrating this incident Sri Nannagaru said: "Even Lord Krishna said in the Gita that it is very difficult to change our nature. Without the Grace of Guru, we cannot even transcend a small weakness or change our nature."

When we start making effort, we will get the Grace of God by which we can transcend our weakness



A devotee said: "Nannagaru! I have the habit of scolding my husband from the very first day of our marriage. Though he does the job, I scold him unnecessarily. I was not even aware that it was wrong to scold him thus. I understood my



mistake after reading your magazine 'Ramana Bhaskara'. From then onwards, I stopped scolding my husband. My husband asked me the reason for such a sudden change. I then told my husband that I have stopped scolding him only after reading Ramana Bhaskara. Even he was habituated to those scoldings. I attained a transformed mind only after reading your Gracious sermon. Having realized my mistake I corrected my behaviour." Sri Nannagaru said: *"If you start making effort, you will get the Grace of God by which you can transcend your weakness."*

We must thank them who push us towards the feet of our Guru

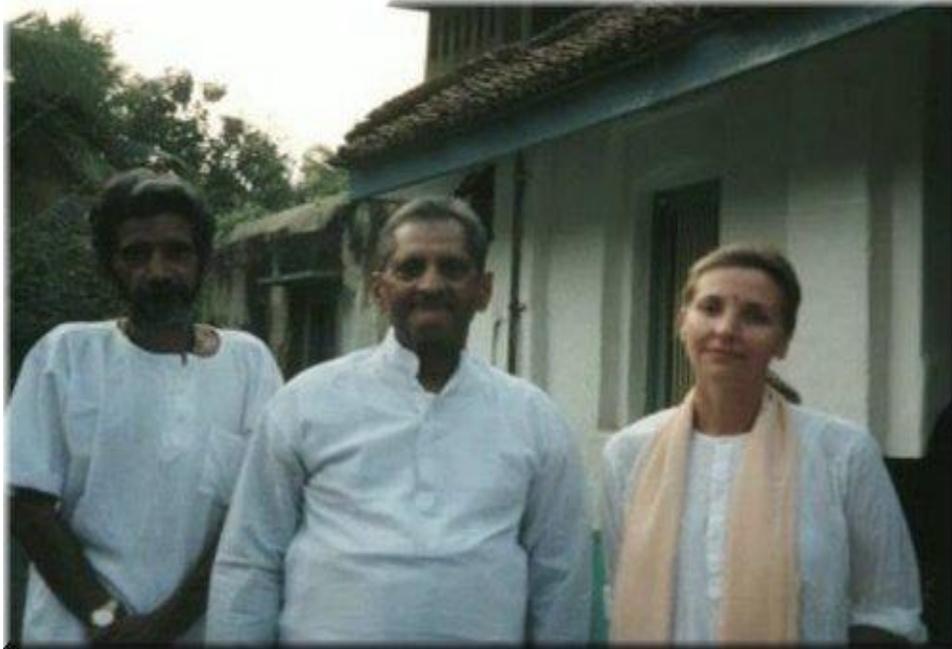


Once, Sri Nannagaru said: "Sometimes your sister-in-law visits your house, stays for 2 days and then leaves after creating a dispute between you and your husband. Most of you experience it." Listening to these words, one of



the devotees said in an informal talk: "We have to cleanse the feet of our sisters-in-law and sprinkle that water on our head. It is because they are cleansing us of our sins and pushing us towards the feet of our Guru." After listening to these words, another devotee said: "Till now I have been indifferent towards my sister-in-law. But now having listened to these words, my indifferent behaviour has now converted into Love."

When people criticize us out of jealousy and hatred, we should not get hurt



Once, Sri Nannagaru met Chalam garu, an ardent devotee of Bhagavan in Arunachala. In the midst of their talk someone came and told Chalam garu: "So and so people have criticized you thus." Chalam garu was not at all disturbed by those words. Sri Nannagaru observed this. After that person left, Sri Nannagaru asked Chalam garu: "Having listened to his words, how come you are not at all disturbed?"



Chalam garu replied: "All those who criticized me are no. one rogues. If I am criticized by good people, I need to think over. *When they have criticized me out of jealousy and hatred, why should I bother myself* and get inflicted with disease, Oh! Jinnuru Raju garu (Sri Nannagaru was called thus previously). Am I so innocent? Do I lack self confidence?"

Words of gratitude may seem to be beautiful externally but will distance us mentally

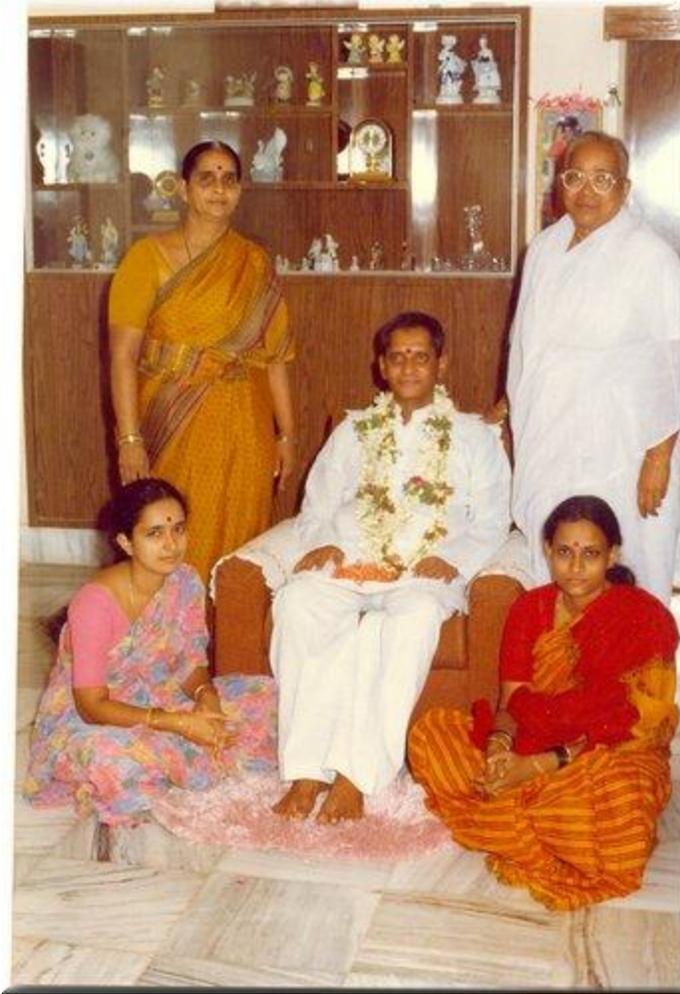


Once, in the midst of a discussion, Sri Nannagaru said with one of the devotees: "I am grateful to you for all the Love you possess for Me." Then the devotee said: "Please do not speak out such words. If you speak thus, *We will be mentally distanced from each other.* Such words may externally seem to be very beautiful but will distance us mentally."

We must perform our duty and forget the same



Sri Nannagaru said with one of the devotees: "Your son has prospered well. You have ensured that he is well educated." She then replied: "Currently he is hesitant to call me as 'Mother'. Still I don't care it. I have done my



duty and forgotten the same. In his childhood, when he was studying, I ensured that even I did not sleep in spite of feeling drowsy. I went to sleep only after he slept so that he will study well. But right now calling me 'Mother' itself has become disgraceful for him."

Why should we fear the disease when we have the medicine that cures it?



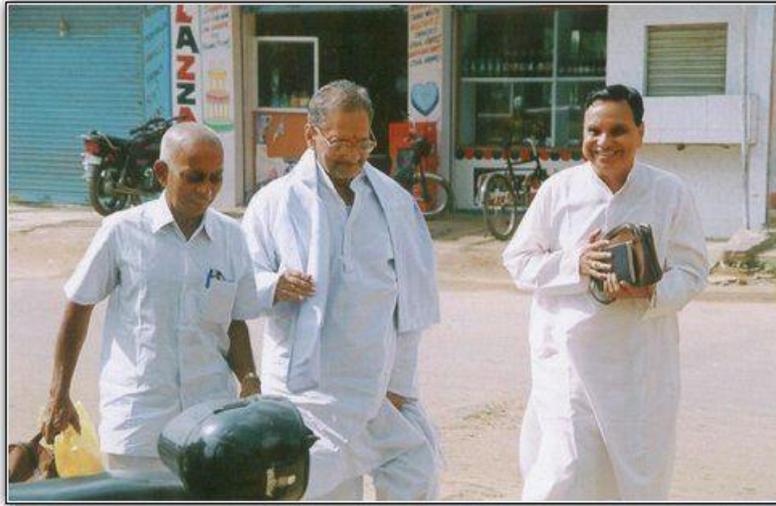
A devotee said: "Nannagaru! It doesn't matter even if there are hardships at home provided God grants us the power to forbear them. It doesn't matter even if we are inflicted with disease provided it does not cause us pain." Referring to the above quote, Sri Nannagaru said: "Why should we fear the disease when we have the medicine that cures it?"

We cannot predict what the destiny has stored for us. Hence we need to be careful till the end

Once Sri Nannagaru visited an old woman and asked her: "I hope your days have passed on happily." She then replied: "If there is anything left out to be experienced (as per my body's destiny), shouldn't I experience the same? Suppose I have a life span of 2 more years, my sons might feel 'how long should we look after this old lady?' They may also stop looking after me. Whatever I am destined to experience, I will have to experience the same. Isn't it? How can we predict now what the destiny has stored for us? Only after my death, you presume that I have lived happily. Do not think so right now."



Our mind itself is our biggest problem



Once, a devotee visited Sri Nannagaru's residence. While talking to him, Sri Nannagaru sensed that he was not happy. Hence Sri Nannagaru asked: "Do you have any problems at home?" The devotee replied: "I don't have any problems at home. My mind itself is my biggest problem. I am being troubled by my mind. I am not being troubled by anything else or anyone else. I have no other problems. My mind is my only problem. Please show me the path to resolve the same."

If we stop recognizing the mind, we will attain peace

Sri Nannagaru asked one of the devotees studying medicine in London: "What should be done to attain the peace of mind?" She replied: "If we stop recognizing the mind, we can remain peaceful." Sri Nannagaru said: "Elaborate on this". Then the devotee continued:

"Nannagaru! On recognizing the mind, we identify ourselves with the thoughts. On identifying with the thoughts we get expectation which in turn brings us sorrow."



It is God only who gives and it is God only who takes



A devotee possessed 5 crores worth of assets. However he incurred a loss of Rs.25 lakhs in some business. Sri Nannagaru said: "You have incurred a very great loss." The devotee replied: "Whoever has given me the 5 crores worth of assets, has given me this loss too. *It is God only who has given me assets and it is God*



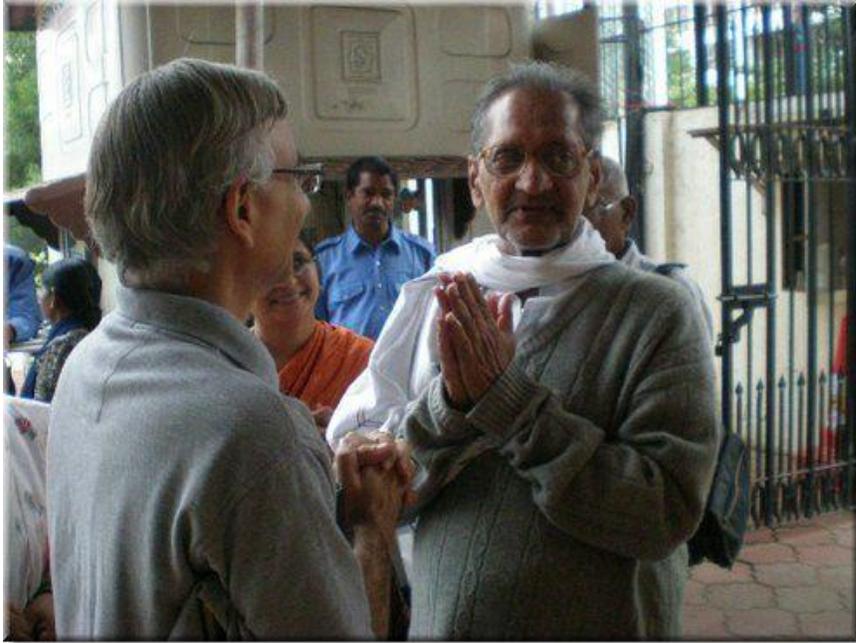
only who has given me these losses." Referring to this Sri Nannagaru said: " Inspite of possessing lot of assets, the daughter-in-law of Morarji Desai committed suicide on losing a suit in a court of law due to lack of spiritual strength."

Being cautious is the sign of introspection



Once, Sri Nannagaru visited a rich man. Sri Nannagaru said: "Now you seem to have stopped accepting bribes." The rich man replied: "Nannagaru! Now I don't have any deficiency of money but I may require it in future due to change in circumstances. If I don't succumb to bribes even in the times of need, you can praise me only then and not now." Sri Nannagaru said: "He is introspecting himself very well."

**We should expect only introversion of mind
from the Guru**



Sri Nannagaru received a letter from Hyderabad. It was mentioned in the letter: "Nannagaru! You have sent us a donation. But we don't desire any donation from you. As you have already sent it, we accept it very humbly. But what we expect from you is introverting of our mind. We pray you to bestow us with purification and Self Knowledge."

Only a Self realized soul is eligible to be called Guru

When Sri Nannagaru visited Sri Ramakrishna Math, a monk took him into the dining hall and said: "Nannagaru! Even a monkey can be dressed as a Guru. In spite of being dressed as a Guru, it would behave like a monkey only. Whoever brings into his experience the Truth, Knowledge and the Immortal state within the Heart, breathes in its Bliss again and again and preaches in that intoxication, only He is eligible to be called as Guru.



The devotee has more temples when compared to the Lord



A Swamiji from Delhi visited Sri Nannagaru. He said: " In the entire North India, (ie Delhi, U.P. Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh) Hanuman has more temples when compared to Lord Rama. For every 10 temples of Lord Rama, there are 25 temples of Hanuman. The devotee has more temples when compared to the Lord!"

Love is Wonderful



Once, an old lady was cooking 2-3 curries per day. Her husband said: "One curry is enough for me. How can I digest 2-3 curries in this age?" The old lady replied very lovingly: "You eat only if you want to eat; else you need not eat. The village is asking me to depart and the burial ground is inviting me to come. After my death, who will cook 2-3 curries for your sake? You will

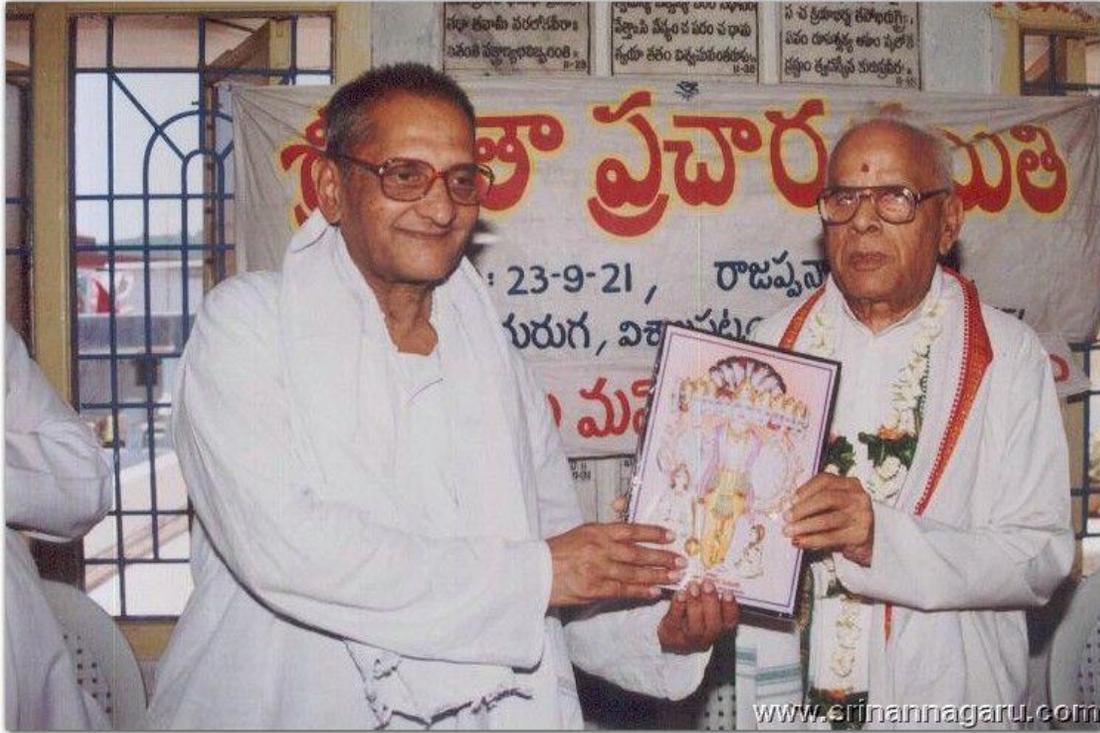


have to depend upon your daughters-in-law for the sake of your food. I feel like cooking 2-3 curries for you. Allow me to cook; donot stop me. If you dont feel like eating I will not force you to eat." Narrating this incident, Sri Nannagaru said: "*It is a wonderful Love.*"

We are children forever in front of the Guru



Once, a professor came to Sri Nannagaru on an early morning. None of Sri Nannagaru's attendants were present then. The professor said: "No one seems to have come today to massage your feet with coconut oil." Sri Nannagaru said: "You are right. No one has come today. Normally someone or the other comes to carry on this task." Then the professor



asked: "Can you permit me to massage your feet with the oil?" Sri Nannagaru said: "You are a big professor. It doesn't suit you to massage my feet." The professor replied: "Nannagaru! I am a professor to the children in college and not for you. You know me from the days I studied my first standard." Saying thus, the professor very humbly massaged the feet of Sri Nannagaru with oil.

We must not criticize the world but recognize it as the way of the world

Once, a devotee told Sri Nannagaru: "When I invited 100 people for the opening of my sugar factory in 1950, only 5 people turned up.

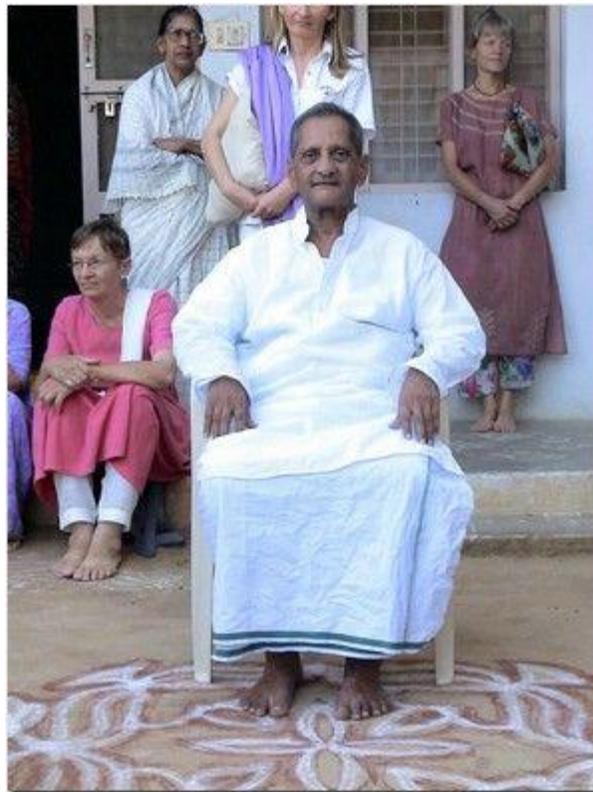


But today even without calling anyone, half of the village will be ready to come. This is the way of the world." Referring to this, Sri Nannagaru said: "He has never criticized anyone. We have to learn that quality from him. We must not hesitate to learn good attributes who ever may possess it."

We should be inspired by our intuition to serve our Mother

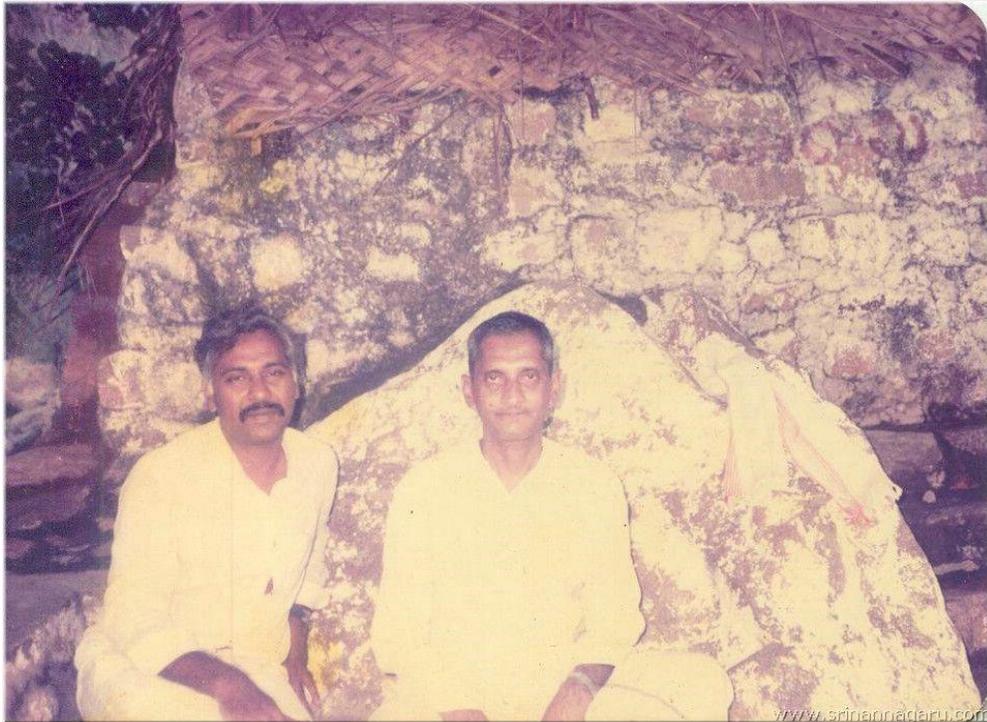


Once a devotee narrated the following to Sri Nannagaru: " My son asked my husband on his death bed: " Of all the 4 acres of land, you have written everything in my name. Why didn't you write anything in the name of Mother? How should I look after Mother? What is your



expectation regarding the same?" The old father replied:" How long will you serve your Mother even if I tell you to do the same? Your intuition should inspire you to serve her well. How does it serve the purpose even if I write at least an acre in the name of your Mother? You will only wait for the day when you can own even that acre. You serve your Mother as you wish."

We should not become proud of possessing wealth; Even that will pass away



Sri Nannagaru addressed one of the devotees: "You have become very rich. Now you have become a rich man." The devotee replied: "Did I get these riches on desiring them? Many people desire wealth. Are they all becoming rich? No. God has granted me these riches."



Hence I became rich. If the desire has strength, then everyone desiring wealth should become rich. Nannagaru! The way I have attained this wealth, I may lose it in the same manner. Whatever has been attained must be lost on someday or the other. Why should I become proud of possessing wealth? Even this will pass away."

All of our riches are untrue



Sri Nannagaru asked a rich man in Chennai: "In spite of not being highly educated, you have earned a lot." The rich man replied: " Yes, Nannagaru. I am not destined to study. But I am destined to become rich. Hence I became rich. But is this all true?" The devotee asked in a single sentence: "*Is this all true?*"

God will gift us for our good-heartedness



Once, one of the devotees had a paralytic stroke. She however recovered from the same after undergoing medical treatment but still it was very difficult for her to move from her bed. One day she felt very thirsty at 3 O'clock in the morning. So she called out her son and asked

for some water. By the time the son brought her some water, she went into a deep sleep. However she woke up at 5 O'clock in the morning, to see her son sitting beside her with a glass of water in his hands.

Looking at him, she said surprisingly: "What is this? After waking up, I would have called you again." The son replied: "You are not in a position to get up from your bed. Even if you call me again, if your call becomes inaudible to me, you will be suffering from thirst. Therefore I have been sitting thus all the while." Narrating the above incident Sri Nannagaru said: "The worldly people might presume the son to be a fool. However his inner strength of belief will not go in vain. God will gift him for his good-heartedness."

We become sorrow less when we have positive thinking

Once, a devotee remained happy in spite of losing everything. Sri Nannagaru asked him: "What is this? How are you



are able to remain happy in spite of losing everything?" The devotee replied: "In spite of losing everything, I still possess future. Instead of sitting at home and lamenting that everything has been lost, don't I have the chance of doing hard work and earn back the money again in future?" Referring to this Sri Nannagaru said: "*This is called as Positive thinking.*"

Sharing will increase our happiness and reduce our sorrow



Sri Nannagaru narrated the following incident: "Once a person brought some cheese to offer when the wife, husband and their two sons in a family were sitting together and discussing something. The wife accepted the cheese and offered the same to the husband. The husband in turn offered the same to his elder son. The



elder son in turn offered the cheese to his brother. Such courtesies still exist at some houses. In some houses people eat away whatever they get. They don't have the faculty of sharing the things. *In which ever family there is a faculty of sharing, people would share their hardships and overcome them very easily in spite of being inflicted with severe hardships."*

We should not speak out harshly in spite of being angry



Sri Nannagaru said: "Where ever there is goodness, we have to learn the same. I observed a devotee who never spoke out harshly in spite of being angry. Whenever he got angry, he would simply say: 'Please go back, go back. I have understood your intention. Please go back.' He would speak only in such a manner but would never reply back rudely or harshly.

Great thinking emerges from simple living



A devotee did not change his life style in spite of earning thousands of crores of Rupees. He maintained the same life style that he had when he used to earn 300 Rs. Once, Sri Nannagaru asked him: "Though you have the capacity to maintain an A/C (Air conditioner)



why are you not purchasing it?" The devotee replied: "Nannagaru! Was I born and brought up under an A/C? Nannagaru! Should I increase my habits with the increase in my earning?" Referring to him, Sri Nannagaru said: "He used to work 16 hours per day. He led a very simple life."

Time Management and being specific are two important lessons to be learnt in our life



Once a devotee narrated the following to Sri Nannagaru: " I have learnt two very important lessons in my life: 1) During the days of my study in U.S.A, a professor gave me an appointment to meet him at 5 O'Clock in the evening. However I went to him at 5.30 in the

evening. The professor said: 'Look Mr. Raju, this is not India. This is America. If you arrive at 5.30 what will happen to the student who has been given appointment at 5.30? Learn to be punctual.' From then onwards I understood the value of time and learnt time management. 2) Once I invited Jawaharlal Nehru and Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy for the inauguration ceremony of our pharmaceutical factory. I was seated in between both of them. Mr. Nehru asked me: "What do you manufacture in your company?" I gave him some vague answer. Mr. Nehru said: "Mr. Raju, you must be specific. Being the Managing Director of the company, you must very specifically mention whether you are manufacturing capsules or injections? You should not give me a vague answer. From then onwards I utilized those two lessons for making progress in my life."

We should eat moderately as excessive eating will make us drowsy



Once, Sri Nannagaru was eating along with a doctor. Sri Nannagaru observed that the doctor was eating very less. Hence He asked the doctor: "What is this? You seem to be eating very less!" The doctor replied: "Nannagaru! Do you want me to work or sleep? When we eat excessively, the blood supply to the brain gets



reduced as all the blood is directed towards stomach for the purpose of digesting the food." Referring to the above conversation, Sri Nannagaru said: "Even the spiritual aspirants should be very careful about their food habits. They should eat moderately. Spiritual practices cannot be performed in deep sleep. The strength of our spiritual practices reduces when we sleep excessively."

We must possess the experience of Self in order to speak about Self



Once, a Professor working in U.S.A came to meet Sri Nannagaru. Sri Nannagaru asked him: "You are a professor and have been dealing with many students from several countries since several years. There is a proverb that he is wise who listens more and speaks less. But I have become habituated to speaking and not to



listening. Please tell me something that can give me a good learning." The Professor replied: "There are many things in my head. Even if I tell them they will be of no use to you. It is being said that there is a Truth within my Heart. But I don't have the experience of it. Even if I want to tell you about it, I cannot do the same as I lack the experience of it. Hence there is no point in trying to teach you something."

The goal of education is attaining Self Knowledge

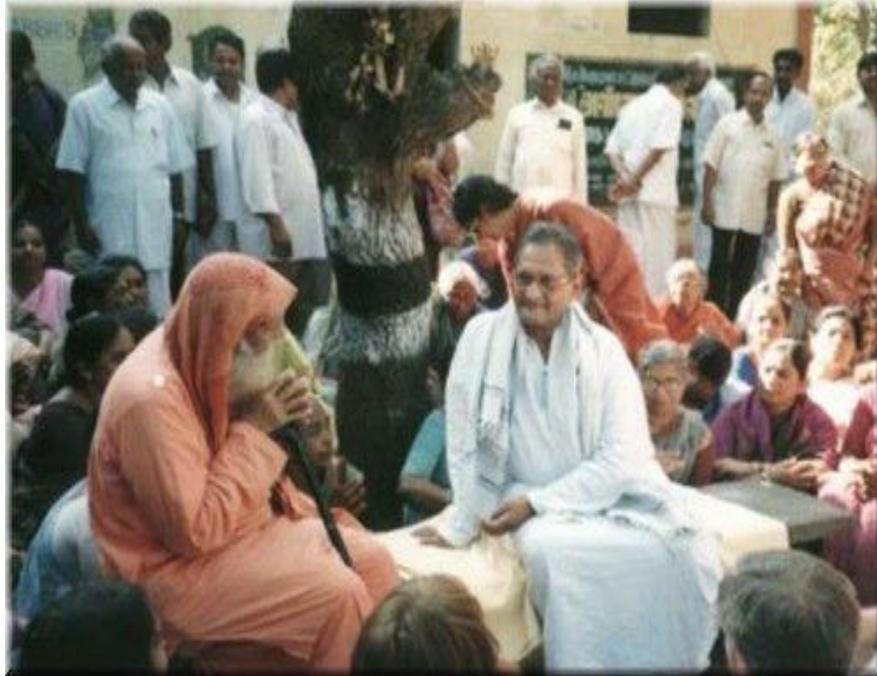


Once, an English Professor visited Sri Nannagar. Sri Nannagar asked her: "What is the goal of education?" The professor replied: *"The goal of education is attaining Self Knowledge."*

Holy Company will lead us towards liberation



Once, Sri Nannagaru said with a devotee: "Once upon a time you have experienced several hardships and only now you seem to be in good days." The devotee replied: "It is all due to your Grace only, Nannagaru. I met you for the first time in my mother-in-law's house and became your devotee. There wasn't any devotion



amongst the villagers here previously. But now there are several devotees here. Here the satsang takes place on a daily basis. My Mother-in-law has been conducting satsang on a daily basis for the past 35 years, Nannagaru." Then Sri Nannagaru said: "Your Mother-in-law will get liberated when she is very much alive."

Guru crushes down our name mindedness and form mindedness



Sri Nannagaru attended a marriage in a village. There He saw a lady sitting very quietly. Sri Nannagaru felt as if He has seen her somewhere. Sri Nannagaru said: " I feel as if I have seen you somewhere but I exactly dont remember where it is." The devotee replied:



"Nannagaru! Why are you bothered about my details like name and residential village? Your Bhagavan has asked us to get rid of name mindedness and form mindedness. While preparing a brinjal pickle, a brinjal is totally crushed and made nameless and formless. Similarly you crush down our name mindedness and form mindedness. Therefore don't bother about my details." Sri Nannagaru then said: "You seemed to be sitting very quietly without moving your hands and legs. Therefore

I asked you about your whereabouts." The devotee replied: "Nannagaru! Your name is Bliss; Your form is Bliss; You are the very embodiment of Bliss. I am unable to move my hands and legs being immersed in that Bliss. You must crush down my name mindedness and form mindedness. Why are you concerned about my details?" Referring to this incident, Sri Nannagaru said: "She has literally slapped me through her words. She is a very strong lady. I shut my mouth and did not speak further."



**We should not ask the Guru anything else
other than Self Knowledge**



Once, some devotees visited Sri Nannagaru. When Sri Nannagaru asked them about their financial condition, they replied: "Nannagaru! Why did we come to you? It is only to attain your Grace. Why should we talk about our financial condition now? We are self sufficient."

We don't have any deficiency of food and clothes. Not that we own crores of Rupees. Bestow us with good thinking faculty so that we will get reformed and our path towards liberation as well as the path to catch hold of God's feet becomes



visible to us. Though we may not be able to offer flowers and fruits at the feet of God or adore him with great grandeur, Bless us in a manner that we will attain faith and devotion towards God. Ensure that we will cling to His feet forever. We have to attain the birth less state ie Self Knowledge. We must never doubt the existence of God. Even if any stray



fellow states that God doesn't exist, our mind should not waver. Our belief in the existence of God should be firm. Therefore it is enough if you grant us a pure, steady and unwavering thinking faculty. You need not provide us with any other kind of external help." Referring to the above devotees, Sri Nannagaru said: "They did not ask for any riches but asked for good thinking faculty."

Self Knowledge can be attained only on annihilation of body mindedness and not by scholarship



Once, a Sanskrit scholar came to Sri Nannagaru. Sri Nannagaru said: "You are well versed in Sanskrit. You are a great scholar." The scholar replied: "Though I am well versed in Sanskrit, my ego continues to exist. It is true that I possess scholarship. But can anyone attain



Self-Knowledge through scholarship? No. This scholarship has become an additional food for my ego. My ego has found a good support. It is continuing as a scholar. Nannagaru! I don't understand where this scholarship will lead me to." Referring to the above scholar, Sri Nannagaru said: "Self Knowledge cannot be attained without the annihilation of body mindedness. The spiritual practices that do not reduce our body mindedness are equivalent to zeroes (ie worthless)."

If our social work does not benefit others, it is better to quit the same



Once, Sri Nannagaru asked a politician: "You have been associated with politics for a long period. Why did you quit from politics?" The politician replied: "I have been associated with politics since 20 long years. It has been 10 years since I have quit the same. When I sat in



solitude and thought about my political life, I understood one thing: The bad people have been more benefitted by my political life than the good people. Therefore I decided to quit from politics." Referring to the above politician, Sri Nannagaru said: " Perhaps he did not understand where to dig a well or a lake. Hence he quitted from politics."

Holy Company will make us wealthy



A devotee who has served as Commercial Tax Officer incidentally purchased a land in Arunachala. As the land price increased exorbitantly, she suddenly became very rich. Once she told Nannagaru: "Nannagaru! In my 30 years of service, I have been scolded by



several people. However in your companionship I have earned the wealth that I could not earn in my entire 30 years of service." Referring to the above devotee, Sri Nannagaru said: "She never thought that she would become so rich. She was rebuked by her higher officials as well as her subordinates in her job. She had to forbear all that and continue with her job. Everyone has their own troubles. Comparison is unnecessary."

We have to be bold in order to attain Self Knowledge



A devotee (who was very good at heart) narrated to Sri Nannagaru the following conversation with her husband: My husband said: "You have to be my wife even in the next birth." Then I replied: "What! I have to do the same job even in the next birth? Shouldn't I attain Self Knowledge? Should I continue doing



the same job of being a wife? Shouldn't I attain Peace and Knowledge? Is there no opportunity of transcending this business of carrying corpses? Can't I possess higher values?" Referring to the above conversation, Sri Nannagaru said: "*One needs to be very bold* to question thus." While explaining the word boldness as mentioned in the Gita, Sri Nannagaru gave the above practical example.

Guru gives us the strength to forbear destiny



Sri Nannagaru asked a devotee in a consoling manner: "It has been a year since your son expired. Are you still troubled with his remembrance?" The devotee replied: "Nannagaru! Since it is a relationship of 30 years, we certainly cannot forget him. We are reminded of him but his remembrances are not



disturbing us. This is a very good instance to depict that *Guru gives us the strength to forbear the effect of destiny.*" Referring to the above devotee, Sri Nannagaru said: "Her devotion has become her armour and prevented the sorrow from touching her heart."

Our devotion will increase in the Holy Company of the Guru



Few Muslim devotees used to visit Sri Nannagar. When they started coming frequently to Sri Nannagar, their family members cautioned them: "You are frequently visiting Nannagar. Be careful. He may convert you into Hindus." The Muslim devotees then replied:" Sri Nannagar never makes such



attempts to convert us into Hindus. The aspect of religion itself does not arise in His presence. Our devotion for Allah will increase manifold on visiting Sri Nannagaru. If you want, even you can accompany us. Once you come to Nannagaru and then decide it for yourself whether there is any truth in your apprehension." The Muslim devotees themselves narrated this to Sri Nannagaru.

Guru bestows His Grace even through His photograph



One of the Muslim devotees settled down in Qatar and started a business there. She decorated her shop with a photo of Sri Nannagaru. Once she called up Sri Nannagaru and said: "Nannagaru! Ever since I put your photo in my shop, the sales have increased



manifold. The customers are coming back again and again. Initially they asked: 'Whose photo is it?' I replied: 'It is my Guru's photo. I used to visit Him at least twice in a week when I was in India. But now I don't have that chance. Therefore I put his photo in the shop and view Him that way.' Then they said: 'His eyes look very peaceful and powerful. Can we also view Him? Can we also salute Him?' I replied: 'You can certainly see Him and salute Him.' Thus the customers are coming back again and again for the sake of those Blissful eyes."

One can be spiritual even without raising the word of 'God'



Sri Nannagaru narrated the following about a lawyer: 'There is a lawyer who accepts only genuine cases for the sake of argument. Suppose he doesn't want to take up any case, he would directly tell the client that he is not willing to take up his case for argument.'



Suppose the client offers more money and requests him to take up the case for argument, he would not raise the topic of God. Rather he would say: 'I have children and grand children. My entire lineage will get ruined if I do such wrong things.' He would not raise the topic of either Rama or Krishna but would suggest them to go to another lawyer. He would say: "I don't say that your case is weak. You may also win the suit. If I take up your case for argument,



though I may not get affected, either my children or grand children may get affected. Its' ill-effect may ruin us completely. All the days are not alike. As a result of possessing intellect, if I utilize it for wrong purposes, I will get ruined completely." Sri Nannagaru asked the lawyer: "What is this? You dont even raise the topic of God?" The lawyer replied: "Why should we drag God into such affairs? All these are but physical affairs."

Even if God punishes us, Guru will protect us



Once, Sri Nannagaru told a devotee: "God subjects you to severe trials in order to examine whether you are stable in your level of Consciousness." Then the devotee replied: "Nannagaru! Didn't you say that though God may subject us to severe trials, Guru will protect us? " Sri Nannagaru said: " It is enough if you have that faith."

Body is the cause of all the Illusions



Once, a devotee with a big beard visited Sri Nannagaru. Sri Nannagaru asked him: "How are you able to bear that beard?" That devotee replied: " I dont want anyone (both men and women) to get attracted by my form. Hence I am growing this beard. A person growing beard looks to be uncivilized. Therefore I am growing beard not for my sake but for the sake of others." Referring to this Sri Nannagaru said: "*Body is the cause of all the Illusions.*"

When we attain Self Realization, our body becomes an instrument in the hands of God



A devotee performed certain good deeds. Addressing him, Sri Nannagaru said: "You have performed those good deeds. Isn't it?" The devotee replied: "Who am I? God only can do things.(The devotee did not say that 'God can do things'. Rather he said: 'God only can do things) As long as we think ourselves to be



separate from God, it represents our ego. Nannagaru! How can the ego perform any work?" Referring to the above conversation, Sri Nannagaru said: "When we attain Self Realization, our body becomes an instrument in the hands of God."

God grants us hardships so that we can attain a greater state than that attainable through spiritual practices



A devotee remained unperturbed even in the midst of a severe hardship. Addressing him, Sri Nannagaru said: "How is it that you are not at all disturbed? You seem to be maintaining your composure. Even in the midst of this severe

hardship, you possess the same state of mind that existed before being inflicted by this hardship." The devotee, who was a strong believer of God, replied: "Nannagaru! Did I get this hardship without the knowledge of God?" Nannagaru replied: "How is it possible? Nothing can happen without the knowledge of God." Then the devotee said: "I can neither preach nor write nor perform very big pujas/yagnas/yagas. God wants to bestow me with a greater state than the one attained by the people performing the above deeds. Therefore God has blessed me with these hardships." Referring to the above devotee, Sri Nannagaru said: "That devotee possesses neither education nor wealth. But He considers all his hardships to be blessings of God. I did not understand whether that devotee is the Guru or I am the Guru. I concluded that he is



only the Guru. Though he is not well educated, He possesses a lively faith in the existence of God. He has great reverence towards the will of God. God's will has become his will. He will sit down wherever God makes him sit. Whichever direction he may look into, he will experience only peace. He will experience peace irrespective of being talked to or not. For such people, everything seems to be God's blessing."

When we have relationship with the Indweller, we don't need any mediators



Once a devotee fell sick and was being served by her daughter. The daughter said: "Mother, we are going to Nannagaru. Do you want any message to be conveyed to Nannagaru?" The devotee replied: "I don't need any mediators between myself and Nannagaru." Referring to this, Sri Nannagaru said: "Why is a mediator required when there is a relationship with the indweller?"

We must speak softly and smoothly without directly pinpointing other's faults



Sri Nannagaru asked a devotee very casually: "How is your daughter?" The devotee replied: "She is alright but somehow she has changed a bit." Referring to that devotee, Sri Nannagaru said: 'She is very intelligent. She did not reveal that her daughter has become egoistic or



proud. She did not speak anything bad about her daughter. She very cleverly said that her daughter has changed a bit. We must understand the subject but no wrong word must be uttered from our mouth. She has spoken very softly and smoothly by stating that her daughter has changed. Here change does not refer to any change within body. It is the change within the mind."

We reap whatever we sow; therefore we need not grieve



Once, a devotee said: "Why should I blame someone, Nannagaru? The fruit of my past deeds has borne fruit in the form of my elder son. I should not even blame him. *All this is due to my destiny. So why should I grieve Nannagaru?*" Referring to this, Sri Nannagaru said: "The devotee is thinking perfectly."

It is the Divine law that our devotion is carried forward to the next birth without any residue

Once, a devotee became inflicted with cancer. Sri Nannagaru asked her: "Do you want any advanced medical treatment?"

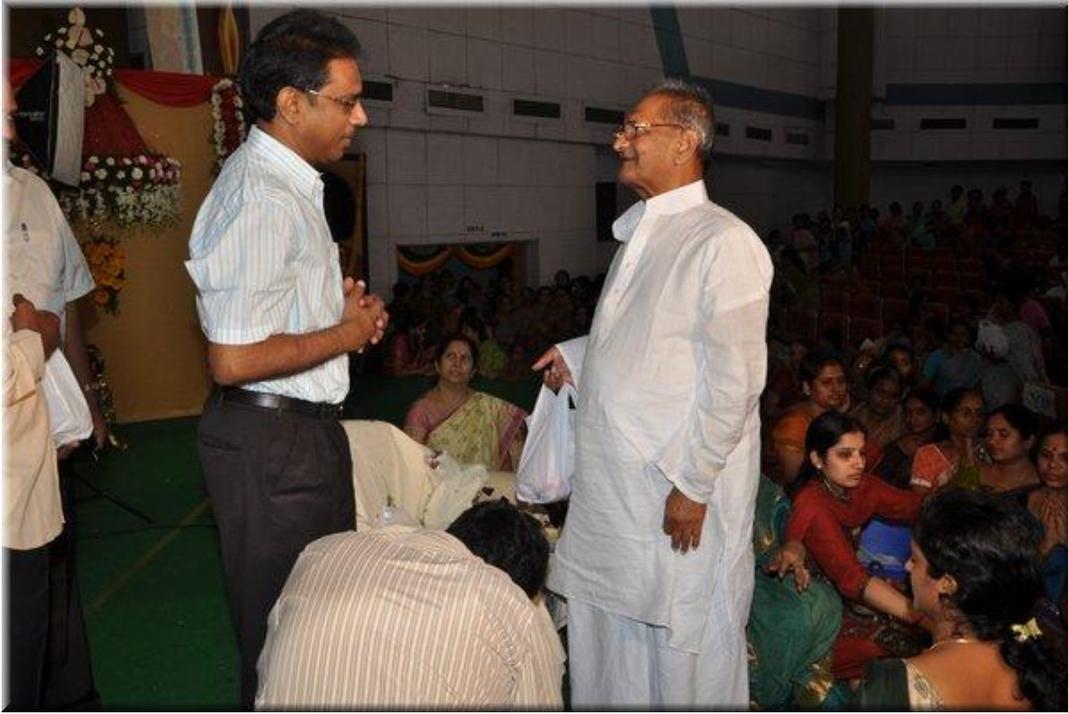


The devotee replied: "Even if you ensure that I will get advanced medical treatment, will I stay on this earth forever? No. Hence I don't want any advanced medical treatment." She then asked: "Nannagaru! Will my devotion for your feet get carried forward even to my next birth?" Sri Nannagaru replied: "*Your devotion will be carried forward to your next birth without any residue. It is the Divine law.*"

We need a lot of boldness to speak the Truth



Once, a husband said to his wife: "You may attend the sermons of Sri Nannagaru on the eve of festivals like Ramana Jayanti or Sri Nannagaru's birthday. Why do you want to go even on normal days?" Then the wife replied very boldly: "Now both of us have become aged. All of our responsibilities have been



fulfilled. Our children are well settled. For today, I have finished my cooking. But you don't want me to attend the sermon! If I stop going there, we will be merely looking at the face of each another. How long shall we look at each other's face? Moreover are we doing any selfless work? No. At least allow me to listen to few good words. I will be back within 2 hours." Referring to the above devotee, Sri Nannagaru said: "She is a very strong lady. *One needs a lot of boldness to speak thus.*"

When we do charity, as the object is released from our hands, it should also get released from our mind



Once, while offering fruits to Sri Nannagaru, a devotee said: "Nannagaru! Please bless me such that my hands will always get involved in charity and good deeds." Sri Nannagaru mentioned about her prayer in an informal



chat. Later while addressing a sermon, Sri Nannagaru referred to the above narration and said:" Till now I have been mentioning only about the chaff. Now let me tell you about the grain. Actually the devotee said: '*While doing charity, as the object is released from my hands, please bless me such that it is released even from my mind.*' This is the true grain."

Joint family is the Ideal family



Once, a lady who lived in a joint family visited Sri Nannagar. When Sri Nannagar asked: "How many people are there in your family?", she said: " We wash 60 plates per day (30 in the morning and 30 in the evening)." It seems that the parents, children and all the grand children lived together in a joint family. Sri Nannagar asked her: "When will you get separated?" She replied: "What is bothering you if we are united? We have come here with the



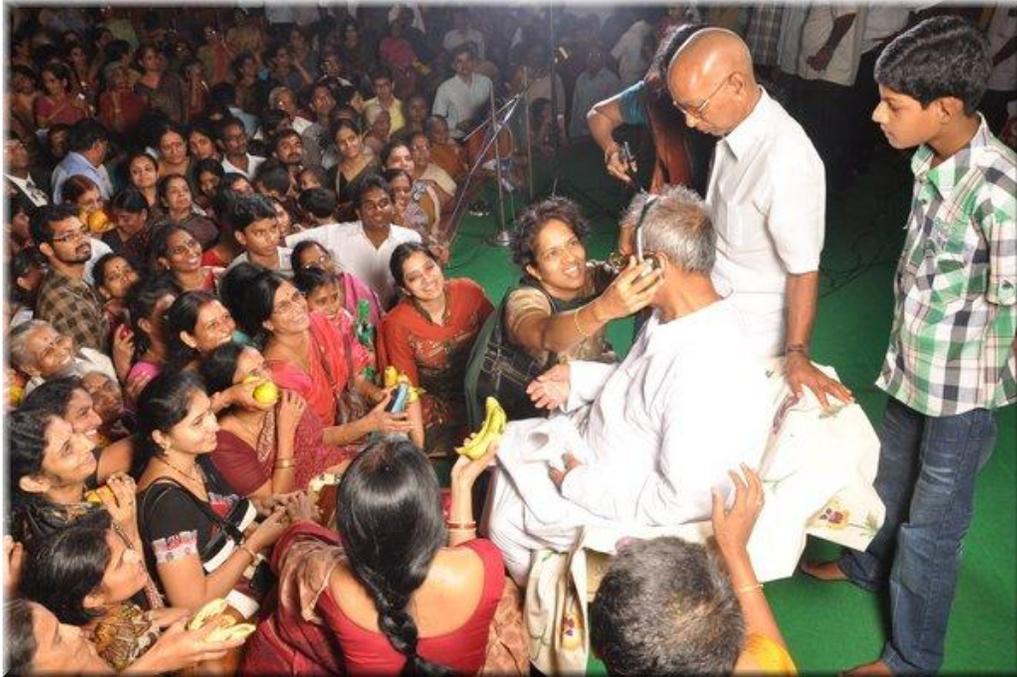
expectation of hearing some good words from you. But you are talking about our separation! Each one of us is doing some task or the other. Marriages within the family are being conducted from the joint money. My father-in-law and husband are fond of you. Hence I have come to see You. But why are you always concerned about our separation? You have been asking me the same question whenever I came here." Again Sri Nannagaru asked her: "Do you have a servant maid to wash clothes or clean dishes?" The lady replied:

"When 30 people in the house are at work, why do we need a servant-maid? Do you think that except eating we know nothing else? Do you consider us to be lazy people or escapists? The next time whenever you visit us, Please don't raise



the topic of our separation." Referring to the above lady, Sri Nannagaru said: "It seems that they wash 60 plates per day. *They are still living as a joint family. Let alone ten, not even two brothers stay together these days as they only crave for separation, separation and separation.*"

Leela represents Maya until Nithya is attained



Once while addressing a devotee, Sri Nannagaru said: "You want only Nithya! You don't want Leela? Why do you want only Nithya and not Leela? Why are you differentiating between Nithya and Leela? Nithya (Salvation) and Leela (the worldly play of God) resemble the two sides of the same coin. How can a coin



be devoid of two sides? How can you attain completeness by craving only for Nithya and neglecting the aspect of Leela?" The devotee replied: "Nannagaru! Whatever you are referring to as Leela is Maya from my perspective. It is because I am still bound by dualities. Nithya and Leela represent the two sides of the same coin only in the state of Oneness. But I am still possessing duality. *I cannot presume Maya to be Leela until I attain Nithya.*" Sri Nannagaru then intently looked into the eyes of devotee out of Grace.

It is glorious to understand the subject



On losing her husband, Sri Nannagaru consolingly said to a devotee: "Since you have lived together with your husband for so many years, his remembrance may bring you sorrow." She replied: "Didn't Bhagavan state that sorrow prevails when we identify ourselves with the ego and not when we identify



ourselves with Self?" Sri Nannagaru said: "Yes, it is true. If the waking state represents a long dream, the dream pertaining to our sleep represents a short dream." The devotee replied: "Bhagavan might have narrated those words for them who are bound by time. Why should the one who has transcended the time be concerned with the long dream or the short dream?" Referring to this dialogue, Sri Nannagaru said: "*Such is the glory when the subject is understood.*"

