Short and Sweet Answers of Bhagavan Sri Ramana

Compiled from the speeches of Sadguru Sri Nannagaru
As per Bhagavan Ramana: Usage of too many words to convey than required also constitutes luxury. - Sadguru Sri Nannagaru
Does Self Exist?

Bhagavan Ramana

Self alone exists.
If everything happens according to law, what is the necessity of having God?

Bhagavan Ramana

When there is a law, there should also be a law maker.
I got operated so as to have no more children .... Is it O.K?

When will you get operated so as to have no more births?
What is your opinion about birth control?

Do you know about death control?
Does rebirth exist?

Bhagavan Ramana

The dead ones taking rebirth is as natural as the one born dying someday.
Is Rama a Jnani?

By chanting whose name one becomes a Jnani, how can He be devoid of Jnana?
Why don’t you go on pilgrimages?

When the seer itself is false, how can the seen be true?

Bhagavan Ramana
I have not visited you for a long duration...

Though you did not understand the benefit of coming here, you at least understood the loss of not coming here.
Is every small thing including the switching on of a fan predetermined?

Certainly.
It is said that mere remembrance of Arunachala leads to Liberation. Is it so easy to get liberated?

Bhagavan Ramana

This is God’s ORDER. It is Supreme Court judgment. Who are you to question?
When anyone prostrated to Bhagavan...

Bhagavan Ramana

Confused Mind

Why so much? Why so much? God cannot be deceived by physical exercises.
Bhagavan, You went very High!...

Bhagavan Ramana

I did not go high but I went deep (within).
In spite of having surrendered, why can’t I feel the Grace?

If your surrender is true, you will not have any questions.
Is Sacrifice a pre-requisite for Self realization?

First of all, the one who sacrifices needs to be sacrificed i.e., the false feeling of ‘I am sacrificing’ needs to be sacrificed.
My father expired. Should I perform the death ceremony?

Bhagavan Ramana

As long as you say ‘My’ Father, it is inevitable to perform the death ceremony.
What is meant by Nirvana?

Bhagavan Ramana

Destruction of the Mind.
Is this world true or a mere delusion?

Bhagavan Ramana

If you look upon the world as the Self, it is true but if you look it apart from Self, it’s a delusion.
Does God possess a form OR
Is God formless?

If you think you have a body, God too has a form.
If you don’t think you have a form, then God is formless.
What is the difference between Karma and Akarma?

Actions done with the ego constitute Karma.
Actions done after the annihilation of ego constitute Akarma.
Is Sanyasa (renouncing household and becoming a monk) a prerequisite for Spiritual progress?

Sacrificing the ego is true Sanyasa.
How do we feel when we attain Self Realization?

Bhagavan Ramana

Before Self-realization you feel that you reside in this world. After Self-realization you understand that the world resides within you.
What is the difference between Aham (Self) and Ahamkara (Ego)?

‘I AM’ implies Aham, the Self. ‘I am so and so’, implies Ahamkara, the ego.
When a gramophone company tried to record Bhagavan’s voice...

Silence is my voice. If you are capable enough, you can record the same.
I desire nothing but salvation.....

Bhagavan Ramana

If you desire nothing else then what is left is only salvation.
Can you show me God?

Instead, can make you God.

Bhagavan Ramana

Confused Mind
Do you possess devotion?

Bhagavan Ramana

When there is no separation (vibhakti), what is the necessity of possessing devotion (bhakti)? When there is no disunion (viyoga), what is the necessity of possessing union (yoga)?
How does Truth exist?

Truth doesn’t exist as per your imagination. It exists as Truth only.
Do you sleep?

Bhagavan Ramana

Only the one who sleeps, wakes up and the one who wakes up goes to sleep.
Can we read the Bhagavad Gita at sometime or the other?

Not just sometime or other but always.
I am unable to control my Mind.....

Even when you try to stop the mind, it does not stop and even if I try to move, it does not move.
Do you like Money?

Bhagavan Ramana

I neither like nor dislike Money.
Why didn’t you mention in your poetry that you have sacrificed so and so things?

I can sacrifice only if there is something pertaining to Me.
Do you intend to say that our goal should be merging the ego into the Self?

First examine whether the ego exists or not. If the ego really exists, then you can try to merge it.
Is sorrow also a thought?

Bhagavan Ramana

Confused Mind

All thoughts are sorrowful.
Were you frightened at any point of time?

What on earth can frighten Me?
As per J.K: Guru is not needed for Self Realization. What is your opinion about the same?

J.K may not need a Guru but how can He conclude that others too don’t need a Guru to attain Self Realization?
Is it easy to attain Self realization?

It is both easy and not easy. Easy to attain through Grace and not so through effort.

Bhagavan Ramana
How to overcome anger?

Don’t get enraged with a particular person. Get enraged with your anger.
Is Guru aware of everything?

Bhagavan Ramana

Guru is aware of everything that is worthy.
Where is the abode of God?

Bhagavan Ramana

Confused Mind

God is where there isn’t an iota of ego.
Did Ramayana actually happen or was it merely an imaginary story of Valmiki?

It doesn’t matter if Ramayana didn’t happen. Even if it actually happened, it’s only a relative truth and not an absolute truth.
How long should we perform spiritual practices?

Perform the spiritual practices till its futility is understood (ie everything happens due to Grace).
There are several politicians serving the nation? Do they all secure liberation?

Yes but only if their service is true and selfless.
When a devotee said: ‘The reader himself doesn’t understand the contents of the book that he reads out’:

He is doing the task of reading. You perform the task of understanding.
When a devotee wrote several verses praising Bhagavan like describing Him to be a God incarnation etc.,...

How does it benefit you if I am called great? Find out a way for your reformation.
Referring to new comers, if anyone asks about their details:

All of them belong to us. Else why would they come here?
When anyone said: ‘We have uttered those words by mistake. Please don’t think otherwise’:

If I have a mind, I cannot stop thinking otherwise despite being forbidden.
When a childhood friend reminded Bhagavan of their childhood memories:

The Venkatraman, whom you are referring to, died long back. You cannot understand who is here even if I tell you.
When a devotee posed some question or the other on a daily basis...

Rather than fostering doubts and questioning, learn to place your burdens upon God. If you take refuge in God, most of your doubts get clarified.
When informed about someone’s death:

Bhagavan Ramana

Those who die rest in peace but the one who remain grieve over them.
Is there any hope?

Bhagavan Ramana

Confused Mind

Yes, there is hope.
Yes, there is hope.
I have prayed God to ensure that a task yields me favourable results. But it didn’t happen. Why?

Perhaps you will get much more ruined by doing so. Hence God didn’t answer your prayers.
Are you fond of your brother?

Bhagavan Ramana

I like my brother as I like anyone else. He is one amongst all.
You ask us to ‘Know Thyself’. Whom are you referring to here?

Bhagavan Ramana

Know Thyself implies Know that which you are (ie Self).
What is the difference between dvaita and advaita?

Identifying yourselves with the Non Self (that which you are not) is dvaita and identifying yourselves with the Self (that which you are), is advaita.
You are referred to as an incarnation of Lord Subrahmanya? Do you accept it?

A stone may get carved into an idol of Lord Subrahmanya and receive the adorations. As the stone accepts the worship, I too accept the same.
Why do you give the same instruction ie ‘Know Thyself’ to both the literate as well as the illiterate?

Do you want me to preach the Truth to the literates and the false to the illiterates?
When will I get liberated?

Bhagavan Ramana

Whenever your Karmic tendencies get annihilated.
You tell me ‘go within, go within’. How far should I traverse internally?

Until it is realized that the ‘i’ thought doesn’t exist, continue traversing internally.
You said: ‘Where there are no thoughts and words, I exist there’. Then why are you talking to me?

Out of Grace, Out of Love, Out of Compassion.
Do I have the next birth?

Bhagavan Ramana

The cause of your current birth would be the reason for your next birth. What is so special about it?
Is destiny inescapable?
Is suffering inevitable?

If so, then what is the purpose of having devotion?
Is devotion a prerequisite for Jnana?

Bhagavan Ramana

Bhakti is the Mother of Jnana. How can the child arise without its mother? Jnana is 100% devotion.
You always preach about the Ultimate Truth. You hardly tell us any stories. Why?

Stories beget miseries.
When someone praised saint Thyagaraja’s songs...

Thyagaraja did not sing first and then got liberated. He rather was liberated first and then sang.
Is your Grace limited only to the people around you?

No. Every noble hearted person in this creation is eligible for My Grace.
Adi Shankara raised his hand and blessed the devotees. Why don’t you bless us similarly?

Is it the hand that blesses you? Is it the hand that showers Grace? No.
What happens if I don’t contemplate upon Self?

You will start contemplating upon sensory objects.
When anyone referred to the animals that visited Bhagavan...

They are realized souls in disguise who come here not for my darshan but to give me their darshan.
What is Karma Yoga?

Work done without doership constitutes true Karma Yoga.
Can you please tell us about our previous births?

When you don’t have the strength to tolerate the sorrow of your current birth, why are you interested in knowing about the burdens of your previous birth?
Don’t you think that surrendering to God is a difficult process?

Initially it may seem to be difficult but continuous practice makes it possible. Partial surrender ultimately leads towards total surrender.
On which name and form of God should I contemplate upon?

Bhagavan Ramana

Be as you are.
Why do you look at the Holy Hill?

I am not looking at the Holy hill but seeing myself. The Holy hill is not different from me. One and only one Self exists.
Why should the mind be introverted?

The causes of rebirth reduce when the mind is introverted and increase when the mind is extroverted.
Why didn’t Lord Krishna help Draupadi instantly when she was being disrobed?

While calling for help, Draupadi referred to the Lord as Dwarakavasi Krishna and not Hridayavasi Krishna. Hence it took time for Lord Krishna to come all the way from dwaraka.
When did the ignorance rise?

There is no existence for ignorance. Not knowing who you are is only called as ignorance. If it has a separate existence, it cannot be lost even through spiritual practices.
Most of the times, you are Silent. Why don’t you preach?

Bhagavan Ramana

If I am a Jnani, I don’t have others to preach. If I am an ajnani, I don’t have anything to preach.
You stay with us all the time. Why don’t you go in and mediate for a while?

The person inside will come out. The person who has come out will go in. A Jnani neither has interiority nor exteriority. He is omnipresent.
You have mentioned that the Guru resides within the Heart. I am not concerned about the internal Guru but I need an external Guru ..... 

It is that external Guru who says that the true Guru is within your Heart.
For how many hours should I meditate in a day?

Why do you need to meditate specially? Your very nature is meditation. Internally, the meditation happens forever. Catch hold of that continuous flow of meditation.
If anyone said: I have seen Lord Vishnu or Lord Shiva...

It is also merely a vision. Is your ignorance destroyed by such a vision? No. The mind only gets suppressed here. It doesn’t get destroyed.
When Bhagavan was getting delayed for lunch, a devotee reminded him...

Though there is no work to perform, eating food is unavoidable. (Ye paatu leka poina Saapatu tappadu)
When Bhagavan asked a child what he wanted, the child replied that he desired nothing...

Oh! It took so long to find someone like Me!
Bhagavan’s Mother Alagamma strongly disliked onions...

Oh! Onion, though you seem to look very small and worthless, you are very powerful. It seems you have the power to stop my Mother from reaching heaven!
During the last days of Bhagavan, a devotee uttered a prayer, the essence of which is: Prostrations to the sun who is about to rise...

This prayer doesn’t suit the current context at all. Here the sun is about to set.
You must give your darshan like this forever...

Is it because you can continue asking desires forever and I shall fulfill them in return forever?
I have trusted my servant enormously but he has stolen very valuable things. How gratitude less he is!

The place of a broom stick is in the corner of the house but you gave it a place in the inner chambers. What else will happen?
As the doctor cleansed Bhagavan’s cancerous abscess, the spirit (medicine used to cleanse a wound) spilled over the entire body of Bhagavan….

Currently I am bathing in spirit but everyone has to bath in spirit (Self). Isn’t it?
A devotee expressed his grief to Bhagavan of missing his deceased wife. That very night he saw her in a dream. He came to Bhagavan and cried for having seen her....

Whether your spouse is visible or not, you don’t stop crying. How are you able to bear these attributes of a Jiva?
Please grant me the state of fearlessness (abhayam)...

Yes, I grant you the state of fearlessness. Your fear will vanish off as naturally as it originated.
Is the sambar tasty or not?

It is irrelevant to think about taste. The taste related to tongue has been assigned to that eatable. You then eat it and call it tasty!
I am able to read their thoughts. Now I clearly understand their intentions...

It implies that there is no difference between you and them.
A Krishna’s devotee said:
‘Sarvam Vasudevamayam Jagat’...

The omnipresent Vasudeva exists within you also. Why don’t you recognize Him? You want to consider everything as Vasudeva but not yourself as Vasudeva!
I got trapped in this vicious cycle of Karma. Is there any way out for me?

Where is the question of Karma (destiny) without Karta (doer)? Enquire about the Karta. Then the Karma disappears automatically.
A devotee observing a vow of Silence came to Bhagavan with a very big letter....

Is this true Silence? True Silence refers to the mental Silence.
I have a desire to touch your feet...

Why do you have such a desire? My feet are always on your head.
A Brahmin devotee wanted to sit and eat with the non Brahmins but he was not being permitted by the ashramites giving rise to a big dispute....

I am the only person here who doesn’t differentiate between Brahmins and Non Brahmins. Why don’t you sit beside me and eat?
A devotee gifted a very valuable watch to Bhagavan but it got stolen within 4 days. The devotee felt very disappointed....

The thief has given us an opportunity to see the watch at least for 4 days. You must feel happy about it.
During the last days of illness, when a devotee sent an ayurvedic doctor to Bhagavan...

Will anyone try to preserve a banyan leaf already used for meals and is ready to be thrown out?
Why should we perform the death ceremony of parents?

It is because they are your very own parents you have to perform their death ceremony. Why will you perform the death ceremony of someone else’s parents?
I have been coming here since several years; but I don’t see any spiritual progress....

There are no milestones in this journey. How can you measure the distance travelled? You are all first class passengers. It is enough if the guard is kept informed. He will wake you up when the station arrives.
When Bhagavan was unable to consume porridge due to ill-health, his sister broke down looking at his pathetic condition. Then tears rolled down from Bhagavan’s eyes.

You are crying as I am unable to eat porridge and I am crying because you are unable to consume the porridge of Vignana.
During meditation, sometimes I feel breathless that results in restlessness hindering my meditation.…

If that breathing stops completely there will be no other problem.
In his intense urge to see Bhagavan, a devotee jumped out of a running train and came to ashram bleeding profusely...

Seeing is not significant but the longing to see is more important.
In your Holy presence the devotee’s ego has to get reduced. But contrarily it is increasing. Why?

If any foreign matter inside has to be lost, it has to be vomited out first. When water is boiled on a stove, initially it becomes hot, then overflows and then evaporates.
Which vritti (profession) suits me the best?

Any vritti (profession) is alright. But don’t be in aham vritti (don’t have ego sense).
My friend’s Guru has not attained the Supreme state...

The Guru’s eligibility is not so significant. The disciple’s devotion is much more important. When served with great devotion, even a stone becomes God.
When an intimate devotee of Bhagavan wanted to become a Sanyasin...

Family life is very painful but it is very easy to become a Jnani out of it.
By a mere touch itself, Sri Ramakrishna blessed Swami Vivekananda with Samadhi. Why don’t you bless me similarly?

Is it Vivekananda who is posing this question? Do you have the stature of Vivekananda to receive such Grace?
So many people prostrate to you but you don’t even see them. Why are you so indifferent to them?

How can you say that? I bow down to them even before they bow to me. Abidance in Heart is true namaskara.
Referring to the cancerous abscess on his hand if anyone unknowingly asked Bhagavan about it ...

It is a Linga, a swayambhoo linga that emerged on its own.
Why don’t you take healthy food?

The body itself is a disease for which a remedy has to be found. Why to search for a remedy to the disease’s disease?
Being a great Jnani why did you display utmost devotion in Aksharamanamala? Is it for the sake of others?

Yes, that is right.
I am unable to chant the entire Panchakshari Mantra ie Om Namah Shivaya....

Chant Shiva, Shiva, the two letter mantra. That is enough.
In the past several demons have performed intense penance and secured boons. Will this imply that destiny has been overpowered?

No. Though God said that their boon has been granted, they have asked only that which they were destined to get.
Which asana (posture) did you adopt?

It is Hridayasana, the most blissful asana. No other asana is needed if you are able to do hridayasana (abiding in the heart).
Please suggest me the path for liberation...

Go back the path you came from. (Mind originates from Heart. Hence it has to get back into the heart in the same manner as it originated from heart).
When someone prostrated to Bhagavan repeatedly...

Why this exercise? Is this a gym? If you have so much devotion, express it silently.
What is the loss in identifying myself with the body?

Body is the cause of every delusion. Therefore go back home (ie into the Heart).
A devotee got frustrated when he heard a dog barking just before posing his question to Bhagavan....

It is not the dog which barks; it is your mind which barks.
When a doctor suggested amputating the hand inflicted with cancer....

Will you amputate the head if this cancer arises on the head?
The Mahamrityunjaya mantra is being chanted so that you will get cured of your disease....

Is the author of the Mahamrityunjaya mantra still alive?
Your stone made idol is getting ready....

Bhagavan Ramana

The Stone made hearts need stone made idols.
The craving to visit Arunachala is also a desire. So shouldn’t we overcome it?

Before calling it as a desire tell me one thing: Don’t you have any other worldly desires apart from the desire to visit Arunachala?
Isn’t it true that God is an ocean of Compassion?

Even an ocean has limits but God is limitless. Hence God can be referred as an endless ocean of Compassion.
I have incurred several sins towards you. Hence I will go to hell.....

I will accompany you even if you go to hell. But don’t ever do anything that places you in hell.
Did you give liberation to your Mother?

Bhagavan Ramana

Why shall I give her liberation? It is her Jnana which liberated her.
Will you bless me with Nirvikalpa Samadhi?

Why Nirvikalpa Samadhi? I will bless you with Sahaja Samadhi.
Do you prescribe idol worship?

When there is nothing wrong in adoring this body made of flesh and blood on a daily basis, how can it be wrong in adoring an idol of God?
How long will it take to attain Self Realization?

It depends on maturity of the aspirant. Gun powder burns immediately on being ignited whereas coal takes a longer time to burn.
What is most loving to God?

Duty done perfectly is most loving to God.
When a devotee repented for not having brought anything to offer Bhagavan....

Why do you say that you have not brought anything? Didn’t you bring the false ‘i’?
When someone talked about Siddhis....

Your mind gets dissolved into its source in the presence of a Jnani. What else can be a greater Siddhi than this?
Mahatma Gandhi eats ground nuts; Sri Aurobindo eats peanuts; but why do you eat only curd rice?

They eat whatever they have. Similarly I eat whatever I have.
Why didn’t I still get a Guru?

Every person has two important tasks on this earth: First to get an external Guru and next to secure the internal Guru. Your first task is done now.
When anyone tried to judge others...

Bhagavan Ramana

There are Supreme court judges to make judgments. Why do you want to do this salary less job?
What is it that makes your head shake?

What happens when a big elephant (Self) is tied down in a small hut (body)?
When the nation is being served by so many leaders, why can’t we still see any change?

When their service is self centered how can the nation get reformed?
When someone talked about the corruption prevalent amongst the politicians...

Why don’t you roam along with them so that you can get your share from them? To find wrong in others is one’s own wrong.
Lord Arunachala appeared in my dream and commanded me to initiate you with this mantra...

Let the same Lord appear in my dream and say so. Only then I will take the initiation.
Why don’t you give me the power to reform others?

When you don’t have anything to eat why do you plan to build a choultry? Without possessing Peace, how can you distribute it to others?
When devotees wanted to retaliate against the thieves who beat Bhagavan...

Will u cut down the teeth if they bite the tongue?
When anyone talked about any irrelevant things....

Is this Jnana?
When anyone talked about reforming the world...

This world existed before your birth and will continue to exist even after your death. There is a Higher power to take care.
‘Oh! Lord, your will is my will. Your liking is my liking’ - Can we call this as surrender?

For me surrender means: ‘Oh! Lord, your will is peace, joy and freedom for me’.
It is very painful when you are annoyed with us...

I am also pained that your mind has not got rid of crookedness.
Why do you treat us as your equal?

The ocean is not aware of the waves. Similarly the Self is not aware of the ego.

Bhagavan Ramana

Confused Mind
We are indebted to you. How can we clear the same?

View Me in everyone. Your debt will be cleared. Ensure that you love all the Jivas in the same manner as you love your Guru.
Who are you? Are you an incarnation of Lord Vishnu or Lord Shiva or Lord Kumara Swami?

Bhagavan Ramana

I am neither Shiva nor Vishnu nor Kumara Swami. I am the Supreme Consciousness that resides in the Heart of everyone.