

Surrender is the only refuge



Compiled from the speeches of
Sadguru Sri Nannagaru



Once a devotee told Sri Nannagaru: "I love the path of Self enquiry. I am not inclined towards the path of Surrender." Sri Nannagaru replied: "The path of Self enquiry takes you only up to the shrine of the main temple. If you surrender here, you will become one with God."



Gandhiji wrote in his biography as part of 'Lessons learnt from Life': 'Though I am followed by happiness as well as sorrow, what I can perceive is the more I surrender unto the Lord, the more is the Peace and Bliss I experience.'

Surrender implies abiding by God's will

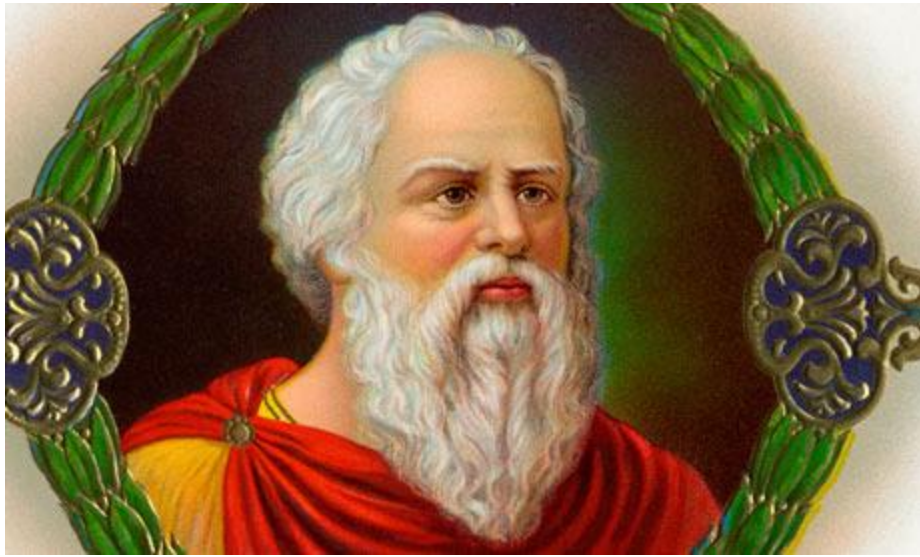


Whether you like it or not whatever is God's plan only that is going to be fulfilled. Man proposes and God disposes. God's will may be against your expectation. If you think that God's will alone shall prevail and hence do not make your own plans, then it is called as Surrender. Our state should be abiding by the prescribed acts of God and sacrificing the acts forbidden by Him without further questioning. If we act thus we will reach ashore. It is called as Surrender.

Surrender implies making God's will as your own will. You should not possess your own will. You must like whatever God likes and dislike that whatever God dislikes. You should do whatever God asked you to do and stop doing that which God has forbidden. In Bhagavad Gita, God has prescribed the dos and don'ts. You should not try to use logic as to why it should be done or why it shouldn't be done. You don't even know what exists beyond the wall. How can you proceed with logic? You don't know about your state in the previous birth. You don't know what is going to happen in the coming future birth. You don't know what is going to happen in the next one hour. How little are you! *What is man's life when compared to eternity?* You don't know when you will expire. You don't know what is destined for the body.

Therefore Lord says: "You think that you exist as well as I exist. Therefore make my will as your will. You don't make your own plans but become a part of my plan."

When it comes to the surrender of Bhagavan Ramana, it is beyond our thought. Even the Vaishnavas don't possess such surrender. The villagers of Kaladi banished Adi Shankara stating that a Sanyasin cannot light the funeral pyre of his Mother. When Shankara asked for wood and fire, they rejected him. Hence Shankara lit the funeral fire through his yogic powers. However he cursed them stating that there will be no burial ground in that village and they will have to bury any of their family's corpse in their very courtyard. If Bhagavan was in that situation, he would not have cursed the villagers but would have said: "*Even this is the will of God.*"



Socrates was killed by giving poison. The night before Socrates was to be given poison, his disciples tried to arrange for his escape. However Socrates said: "If my death is more beneficial to the world than my being alive, I would prefer to die. God must have decided that my end should come in this manner. Being alive is not important. What is more important is the abidance with the will of God."

Surrender implies living in the present



Surrender may seem to be very easy but it is not as easy as you think so. Even the body bound 'i' needs to be surrendered. You have to say: "Oh! Lord, let your will be my will." In Surrender one should not exercise their rights ie., one should not ask God to act in a particular manner. There should not be any questioning (ie., asking God as to why did you do this to me?) In Surrender, there should not be any plans (about future) or thoughts (about the past). We should live in the Present moment accepting God's will and lead a peaceful and positive life.

Surrender does not involve complaints or questions



Once a devotee asked Bhagavan Ramana: "In spite of surrendering to God, why don't I receive the Divine help?" Bhagavan replied: "If your surrender is true, this question doesn't arise. It is God's will whether He wants to help you or not. There is no questioning in true surrender."

Your task will be accomplished when God desires the same as what you desire. You don't think that your task has been accomplished due to God's will. You feel that you have achieved the same. Do you really possess the strength to achieve it? Suppose your will differs from the will of God, it is God's will only that is going to prevail. But you then think that God has done you injustice. God is not your enemy. Even if He punishes you, he does it only to divert you from the wrong path towards the right path. Therefore you should never rebuke God because you are not aware of God's intention. It is a grave mistake. Even if anything which is disastrous happens to your family, it happens only to bestow a larger good upon your family as per God's plan. Till then you have to remain patient but should not rebuke God. Therefore

don't get anxious if anything disastrous happens in your personal life or to your family.



If you have surrendered to God, you should not have your own plans. Therefore you should not think that your Life should be in a particular manner. You must become an instrument in the hands of God. Before bestowing you with Self Realization, God subjects you to severe tests. You must face them boldly by surrendering to God. If you fail, you will be granted another birth.

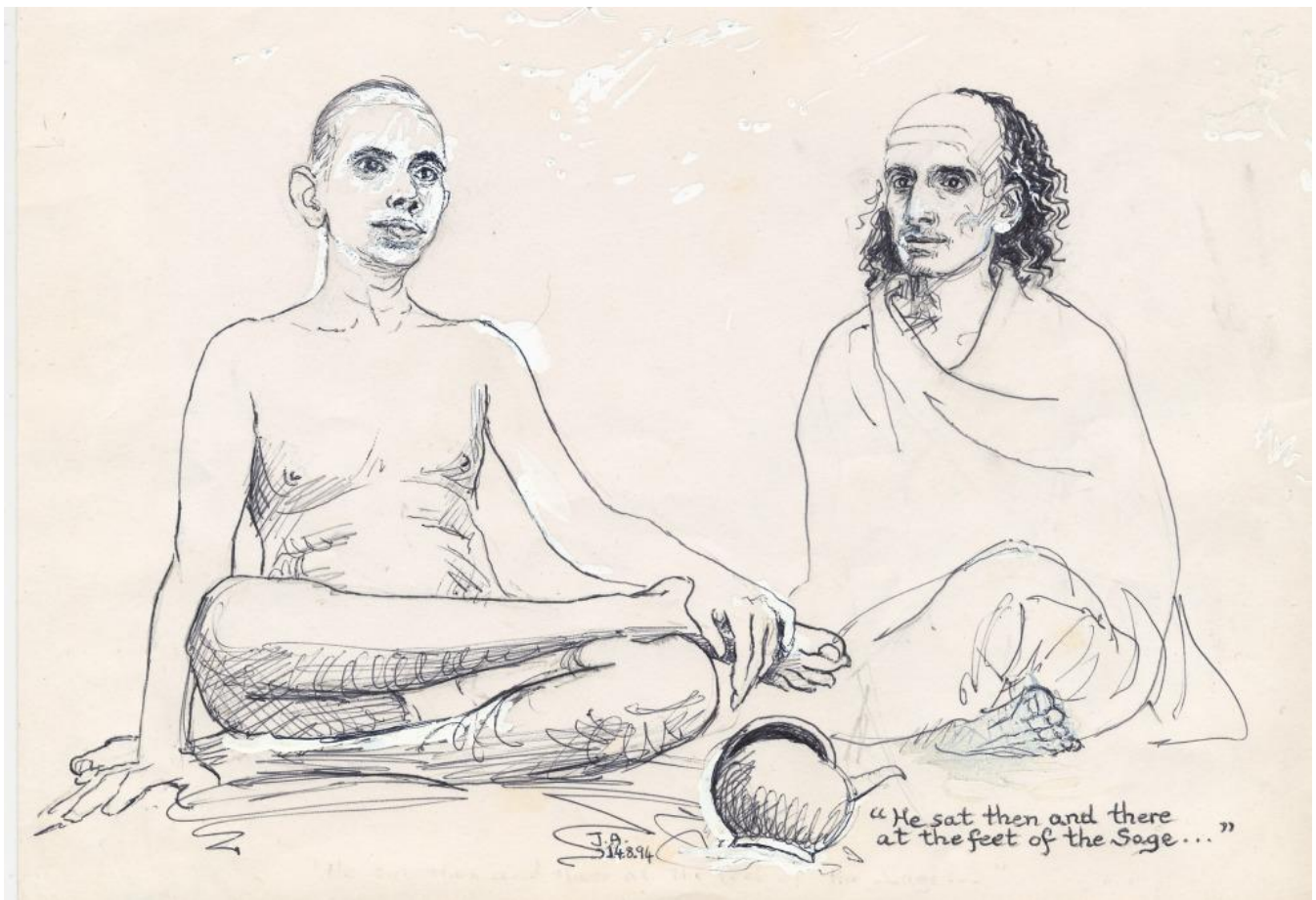
In Surrender there are no plans of our own



There is neither any thinker nor any questioner in the one who surrenders to God. In Ramayana, the surrender of Lakshmana towards Rama is an ideal for us. Lakshmana always held Rama to be superior to him. He never held himself to be superior. When all of

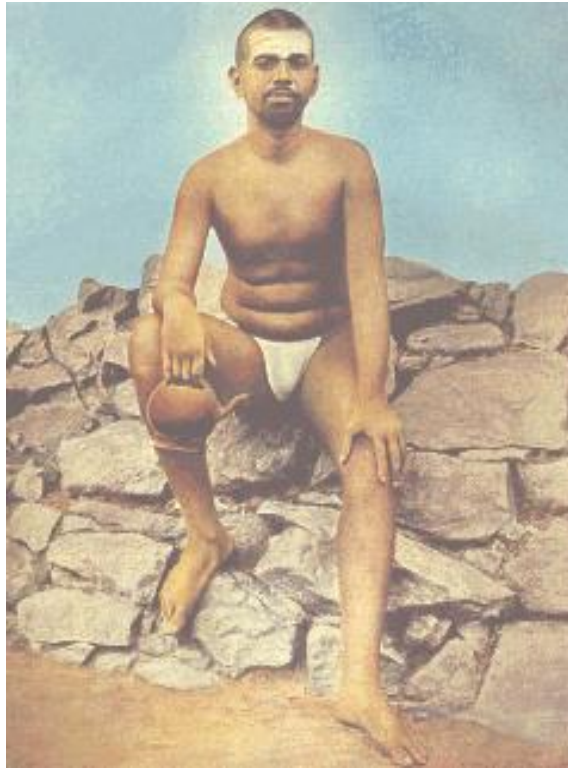


us crave for superiority, how can we surrender? When Rama reached Panchavati, he told Lakshmana: "Build a hut on this hill where ever it is appropriate." Then Lakshmana said: " Don't make me a big man or so superior. I will build the hut where ever you want me to build." It is Surrender. It is 'Complete' surrender to the will of Sri Rama. If your surrender is true, you will never get disturbed. We should surrender the mind saying thus: "Oh! Lord, let thy will become my will. Let your wish become my wish." There is nothing in this Universe which happens without the knowledge of God.



Ganapathi Shastri was a great patriot. He always thought of doing something or the other for the benefit of nation. Bhagavan used to tell him: "Learn to place your burdens upon God, Shastri garu! This world existed even before you took birth and will also exist after your death. There is a controller who takes care of it. Learn to place your burdens upon that controller."

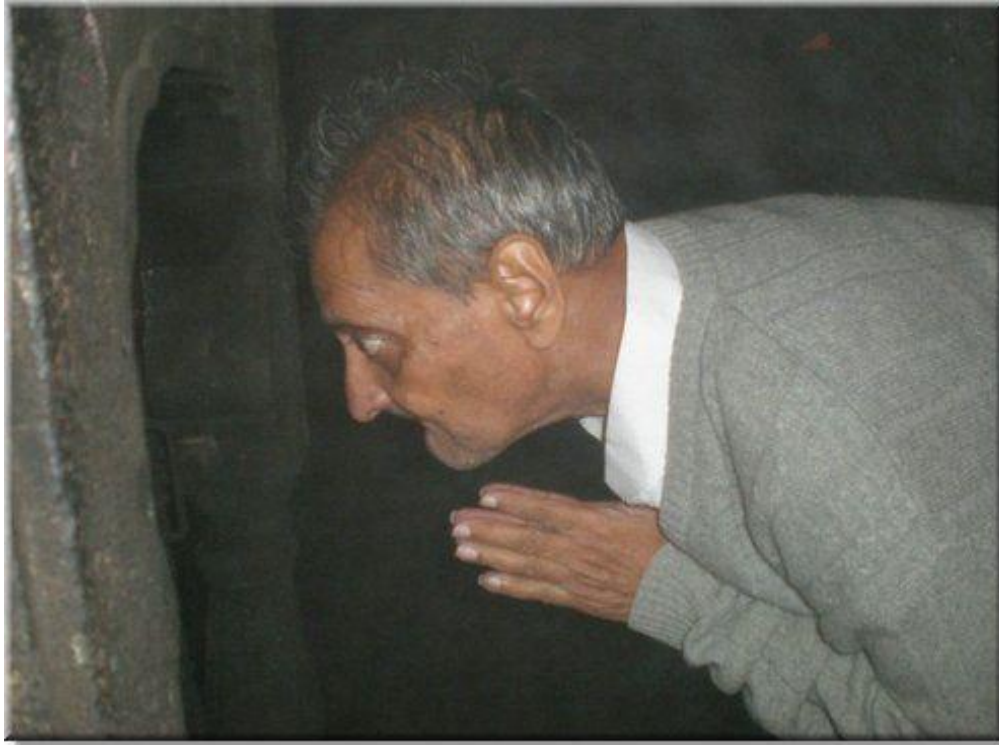
Surrender is not possible without devotion



Surrender is not possible without possessing devotion. One should possess an unwavering living faith in the existence of God.

Bhagavan stayed in a garden in His initial days. Normally He was habituated to sit with His eyes closed. There is a song on Bhagavan stating that if He closed His eyes, He was looking at Himself and if He opened His eyes, He was revealing

that which existed within Him. Those eyes were not normal eyes but Knowledge filled eyes (Jnana netra). There was a blind old woman who lost her eyes in her last days. She visited Bhagavan on a daily basis. One day Bhagavan asked her: "Oh! Pati (Old woman), why do you come to me on a daily basis though you are unable to see me?" She replied: "I am aware that I am blind. I come to you not to see You but with the intention that I will be viewed by You." Therefore what is more important is Bhagavan viewing us and not our viewing Bhagavan. Many people think that they are good. God will not bestow you with Self Knowledge if you consider yourselves to be good. It is God who has to consider you to be good.



There is a difference between devotion and Surrender. In the path of devotion, the devotee asks for something or the other from GOD whereas in the path of Surrender, the aspirant says thus: "Your wish is my wish and Your will is my will. You know much better than me as to what I require." In devotion, there is God as well as devotee but in Surrender, God alone exists ie., there is duality in devotion whereas Surrender implies non duality.

Surrender itself is Mightiest Prayer

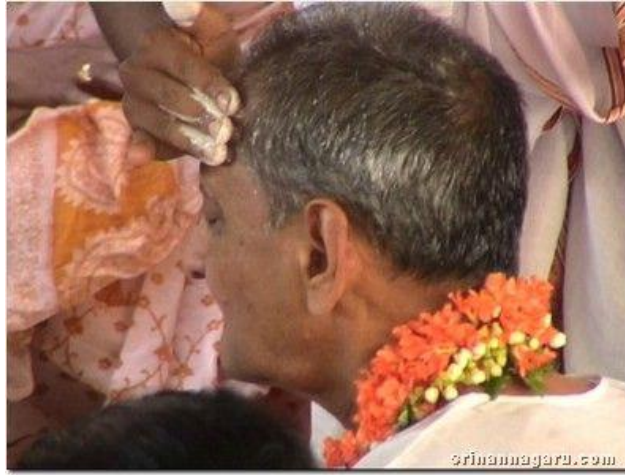


Is there any prayer greater than Surrender? When you abide by God's will, when you are in concurrence with God's plan, what greater prayer can exist than this? It is a real prayer. Will God get deceived with your words of mouth? *Surrender itself is the mightiest prayer.*

Praying thus is also surrender: "Oh! Father, My mind is not yet completely annihilated. Therefore I still possess likes and dislikes. I am asking you to fulfill my desires due to the force of my likes and dislikes. Don't fulfill all of my desires. Fulfill only such desires which do me good."

What you need to tell God is: "Oh! God, You have your own designs. I have my own designs. Though I have my own plans and desires, I don't want them to be fulfilled. Let thy will be done." We should not say it mechanically but we should say it whole-heartedly. If you surrender thus, your surrender will attain a fulfillment.

Surrender should not even include desire for liberation



One who has complete faith in God thinks thus: "God alone has to destroy my ignorance. As per God's plan whenever I ought to attain Self Knowledge, I will attain the same. It is God only who has put this 'i' thought within me. It has to get destroyed only due to His Grace." They don't force God to bestow Self Knowledge upon them in haste. Such a person need not do any breathing exercises. Not that you should not do breathing exercises. But it represents complete faith in God's Grace. This is the sign of complete surrender.



Some people don't desire liberation. They consider it as God's Grace. They think: "Whenever God wills, I will attain Liberation in the process of time. As the body's death is predetermined on a particular day, even I will attain Self Realization on a certain day as determined by God. It is all God's Grace." It is the sign of complete surrender. The devotion of Gopikas reached such a Supreme stage that they even rejected liberation. They were contented with devotion. They experienced and enjoyed to the maximum extent the Joy and Bliss contained in devotion.

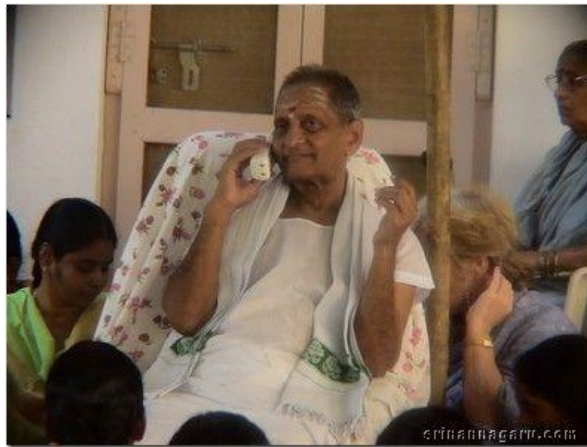
Surrender implies:

‘The Lord becomes our everything’



There is a song on Lord Krishna: “Oh! Krishna, you are only my Mother ; You are only my Father; You are only my companion and refuge; You are only my Guru and God; You are my husband and sole refuge; You alone constitute my liberation, Oh! Krishna. You may think that I am bluffing. But this is true, Oh! Krishna. This is very much true.” This represents Surrender. Surrender includes everything including liberation.

Partial Surrender leads to Complete Surrender



Even Surrender is not easy. As and when you practice, you will understand the hardships involved. We may not be able to surrender completely in one instance. We should slowly learn to surrender. We can't surrender completely in one instance. We have to do it bit by bit. As we take pickles along with the curd rice, we have to learn surrender bit by bit. If we try to surrender completely in one instance, we may get frightened. Therefore we have to learn it bit by bit. *Partial surrender leads to total Surrender.* One has to retain his faith till he attains Complete Surrender.

One can view Supreme Lord even in his foes
only due to Surrender

Prahlada became the first or foremost among devotees only by constant contemplation of Lord Narayana and complete surrender to Lord Narayana. Prahlada never possessed the timidity of Heart



and viewed only the Supreme Lord even in them who tried to kill him. Hiranyakashyapa conducted a ritual that generated demons who can slay down Prahlada. These demons were invincible. Therefore Prahlada prayed to Lord Narayana thus: "Oh! Hari, My eternal Father, if I don't possess any hatred or anger or enmity towards all of them who tortured me till now, let not these demons generated from the sacrificial fire slay me down." The demons could not harm Prahlada.

Fear is inevitable until you surrender

We have several kinds of fears. We work with some expectation and fear that the result may not come. We expect some affluence and authority and fear that we may not attain the same. Until man attains Self Realization, he is chased by some kind of fear. But where is the fear? Fear exists within the mind. The fear is destroyed only when the mind is destroyed. However the mind is destroyed only in Complete Surrender. Suppose your surrender is only 90%, then you will be chased by the fear for the leftover 10%. Therefore Complete Surrender is required.

**The force of Surrender reduces if you
acknowledge jealousy and become jealous**



If anyone is jealous of you, they keep on criticizing you in some form or the other. Though you are aware of their jealousy, you should not become jealous of them. *If you become jealous of them, the force of your surrender gets reduced. Surrender is possible only to them who have a complete faith that God exists and nothing happens without His knowledge.* Surrender is not possible to the faithless. If there is any deficit in your faith, fear chases you to that extent.

When we understand that God is capable of doing anything, only then will we surrender



When Karna's chariot got stuck, Arjuna stopped fighting. He thought of resuming the fight once Karna is back into his chariot as Karna was lifting the chariot wheel. Then Krishna told

Arjuna: "Kill Karna". Karna replied: "Many people consider you to be the Supreme Lord. How can you speak thus to Arjuna?" Krishna replied: "You have done 1000 mistakes like these. How can you point me out? Whatever mistakes you have committed, it is only those mistakes that are bringing about your death. Krishna is only for name sake." Listening to this Karna stopped his argument. Arjuna was thinking thus: "If I kill Karna at this point of time, I will incur sin." When there is an individual 'i' such struggle is inevitable. The glory of God is revealed here. Krishna understood Arjuna's hesitation. Krishna said: "Arjuna, I will bear all your sin. Kill Karna." Arjuna did not have a second thought and did accordingly.



Only the Supreme Lord is capable of speaking such words and not us. When we are not able to bear our own sins, how can we accept the sins of Arjuna? Only Lord can really bear our sins. God is capable of doing anything. He can bestow eyes to the blind, speech to the dumb etc., *When we understand that God is capable of doing anything, only then we will surrender.* When we consider ourselves to be greater than God, how can we surrender?

Surrender implies complete acceptance

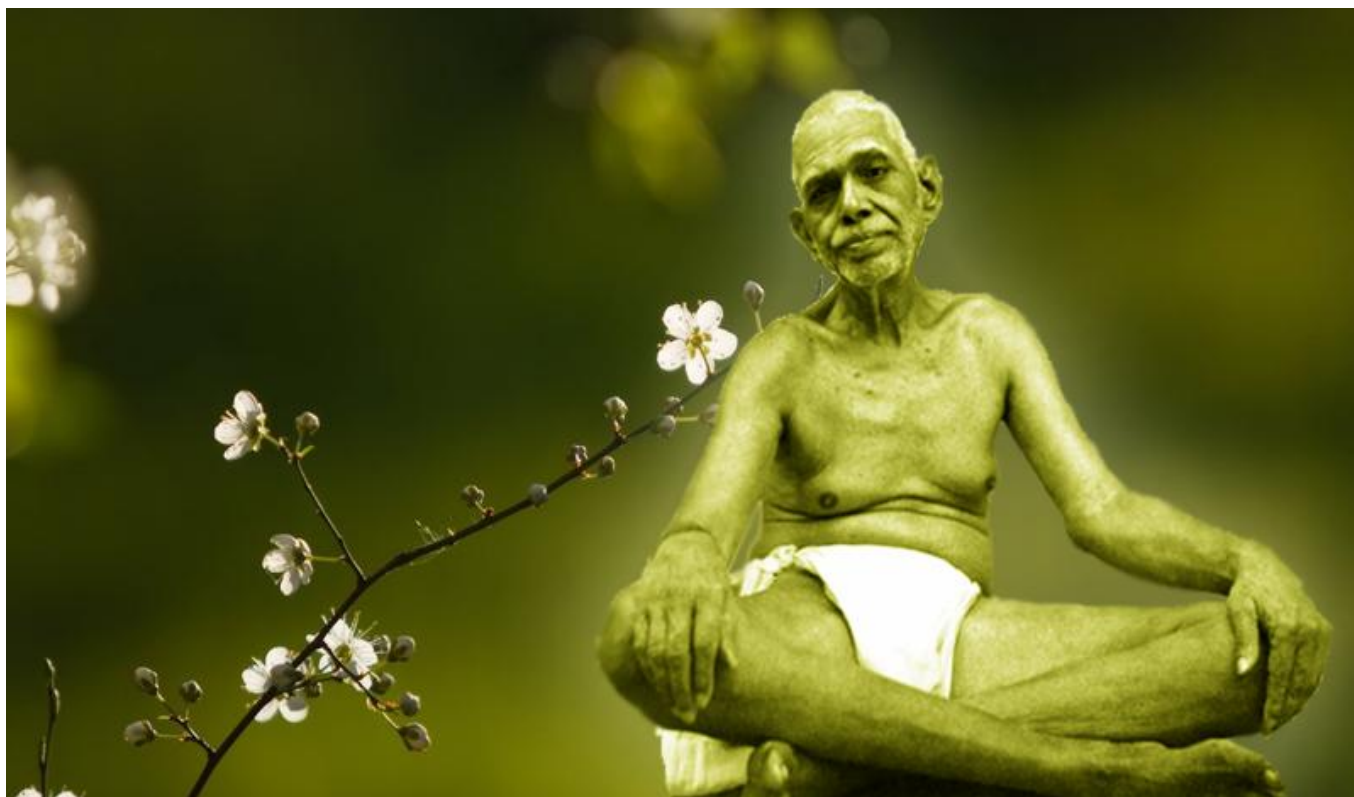


Once Sri Radhakrishnan asked his friend: "Did you get a wife whom you like?" Radhakrishnan's friend replied: "I ensured that I liked the wife that I got." Thus Surrender implies total acceptance.



Once Rama said: "Lakshmana I possess more love for Bharata than that I have for you. Then Lakshmana did not get any kind of reaction. Rather he made Rama's will as his own. Therefore he said: "Even I love Bharata as much as You love him." That is surrender.

Surrender makes you burden-free



Bhagavan said: "While travelling in a train, whether you carry the luggage on your head or put it down in the train, it is only the train which carries the luggage. Similarly irrespective of whether you place your burdens on God or not, it is only God who bears them. Therefore place your burdens upon God and become burden-free."



The One who has lifted a mountain (called Goverdhana) with His little finger, will your burdens become heavy for Him? Can't He bear your burdens?

Being unperturbed by the acts of destiny leads to Surrender

Abiding in the Self, if you possess true faith- it is called as Surrender! If you possess surrender, you can for-bear any amount of hardship considering it to be the gift of God. The glory of Self is revealed to the extent you are able to Surrender to the Divine.

We must realize that whatever incident happens in our life, it is all for our good only. Though it may seem to be bitter for us, we must understand that it will lead only towards our good. This thought process prevents all kinds of ailments. This is only true surrender.

The first preaching that Bhagavan gave to His Mother is: "Whatever is bound to happen will happen. Whatever is not bound to happen will not happen. It is better to remain still." Therefore you should



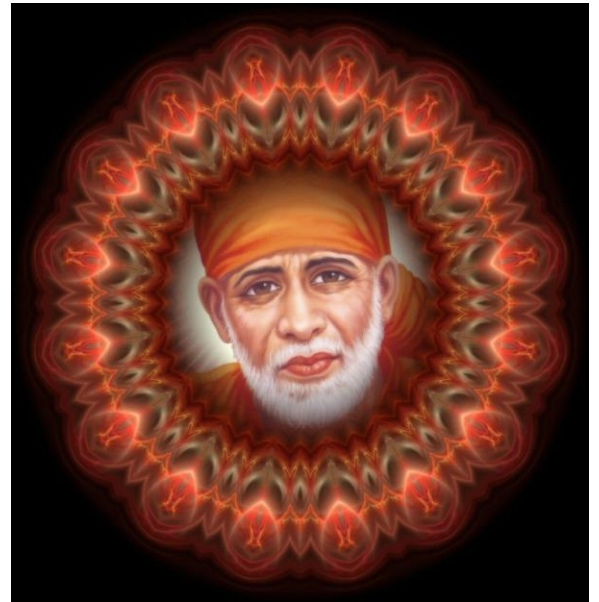
stop identifying with the body. Whether you stop identifying with your body or not depends upon your spiritual strength. When you don't identify with your body, it doesn't matter even if the entire material wealth is bestowed upon you. It will not disturb you even if you lose whatever you possess. You will understand that whatever comes and goes is not true. By Surrendering to God, your life will be filled with happiness, your mind becomes peaceful and you will be purified.

The destiny cannot touch you when the Surrender is complete

If we surrender ourselves to the Master of this creation, the destiny cannot touch us. When one has surrendered oneself, who exists to bear the sorrow? The false 'i' or ego has to exist to bear the destiny. However if you place the false 'i' at the feet of the Master of the creation, who is left over to bear the destiny? When one surrenders, the one who grumbles that he is bearing destiny does not exist anymore. Therefore the destiny cannot touch him. Head ache is possible only for the one who possesses head. How can one get headache when he doesn't possess any head?

God fulfills the desires so that we reach the desireless state ie., Surrender

Baba said: "I am fulfilling all your desires so that one day or the other you will desire that which I want you all to desire for. A boy is given a chocolate in order to send him to the



school. Similarly after your desires are fulfilled, you will understand the insipidity of those desires and will state thus: "You know much better as to what I require. I desire only that which you wish to grant me." Thus you will reach the desire less state. Then you rise to the state of: "Your wish is my wish. You alone exist and I don't exist." Then you will be subject to God's Grace.



Whether the desire is fulfilled or not, you should not leave your faith. You may not possess wealth or education but you should not become faithless. It should be unwavering faith. Wait & See. God is much wiser than you. You cannot imagine why he is bringing about a turning point in your life. If you expect God to listen to your words, then it is not Surrender. Abiding by God's will is Surrender. There is a divinity that shapes our ends. Our relationship with God is enough. We need not even desire for liberation.

There is no expectation in Surrender



Surrender means: “Offer all your actions and sacrifice (the fruits there of) to the highest and the highest only. When you surrender, whether God helps you or not, Leave it to Him and live peacefully. It is God's will whether to help you or not. Therefore perform the work in your hand and Surrender to the Lord. You need not remind Him of His work.



Sri Ramana offered his entire life, his body and his everything at the feet of Lord Arunachala. He challenged Lord Arunachala by saying thus in 'The Marital Garland of Letters': " It is Your wish whether You want to decorate me with Your Grace or not." Sri Ramana offered his senses, honour, the good, the bad and his everything to Arunachala and asked for His



Grace and left it to Him whether He wants to bestow His Grace or not. We break a coconut into two pieces; take one piece and offer the other piece to God and expect the resolution of a problem pending since the era of our grandfathers! This reveals how small or narrow is our spirituality.



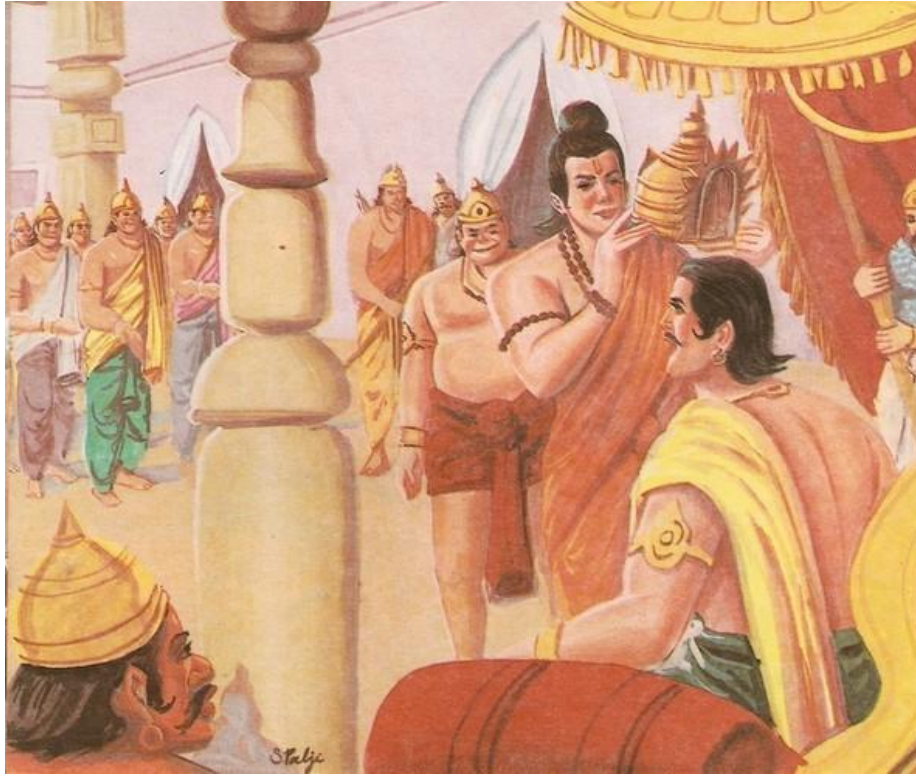
Abraham Lincoln - W © 2006

Lincoln said: "Oh! God, I do not care whether You are on my side or not but Please ensure that I am always on your side."

God gives shelter when we
surrender ourselves



When Vibhishana failed in all his attempts to convince Ravana to hand over Sita, he left Ravana and came into the refuge of Rama. Everyone advised Rama not to accept Vibhishana since he was the brother of Ravana.



However Hanuman told Rama: "I observed Vibhishana's behaviour in Lanka. He is a very good and righteous man. You can trust Vibhishana." Since Rama possessed an oath of giving refuge to anyone who surrenders unto Him, he accepted Vibhishana. Vibhishana left his kingdom and surrendered to Rama. Though He did it only for the sake of righteousness and not for the sake of attaining kingdom, he still attained his kingdom.

God will drive our lives if we surrender to Him



Once Swami Vivekananda visited the Partha Sarathy temple (Partha means Arjuna and Sarathy means the charioteer) implying the temple of Lord Krishna in Chennai. When He was asked to give a message, He wrote thus: "The Supreme Lord who became the charioteer of Arjuna can also become our charioteer and drive our lives in the right direction provided we completely surrender unto Him (like Arjuna)." This message is visible even now in the temple premises.

Lord protects the devotees who surrender themselves



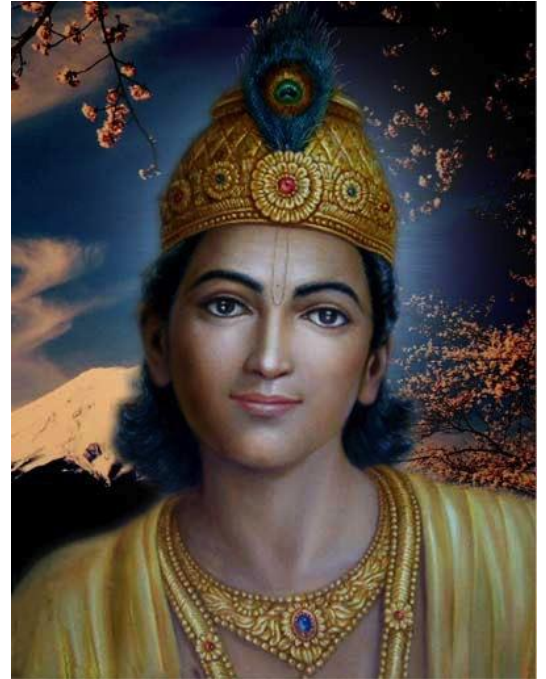
The Pandavas reached the ashram of Roma Maharishi when they were banished to lead a forest life. A tree existed in the premises of that ashram which possessed some fruits. Whoever

eats those fruits would never suffer from thirst and hunger throughout their life. However one should eat them only when they naturally fall down from the tree but should not pluck them forcibly. Pandavas were not aware of this fact. Hence unknowingly they plucked the fruit and were about to eat it so that they may not suffer from hunger and thirst throughout their forest life. Someone informed Roma Maharishi that Pandavas have plucked a fruit and were about to eat. Roma Maharishi came out in a rage in order to curse Pandavas. Suddenly Lord Krishna came to the rescue of Pandavas. He did not go towards Pandavas but directly went to Roma Maharishi. Roma Maharishi duly recognized the Lord and honored Him accordingly in spite of possessing intense anger. He prostrated to the Lord and started towards Pandavas in order to curse them. Even the Lord accompanied Roma

Maharishi. On viewing Pandavas, Lord started bowing down to each of the Pandavas. This was mind blowing to Roma Maharishi. He thought: "What is this? I have come here to curse the Pandavas and they are being saluted by the Supreme Lord!" Even the Pandavas were astonished with the Lord's act. They thought: "We should bow down to the Lord but how come Lord is saluting us?" Then Lord Krishna signaled them: "There is a cause for this. You need not worry." The Lord was bowing down to each of them and signaling them not to worry. Roma Maharishi felt: "How great should be these Pandavas that Supreme Lord Himself is saluting them." Thinking thus even Roma Maharishi started saluting the Pandavas. Roma Maharishi said: "You can eat the fruit. You will

get the same result of eating those fruits as you would get when they fall down naturally."

Thus Lord Krishna ensured that Roma Maharishi who wanted to curse Pandavas saluted them. This is called as Tact. This is the Maya of Krishna. This is a very good instance which depicts that God protects his devotees in several manners when they surrender themselves.



God never forgets them who have surrendered themselves.

When you surrender, you will lose your crown
instead of the head

Once Karna shot a very powerful weapon against Arjuna. It came at such a speed towards Arjuna that it was inevitable that Arjuna should be beheaded by that arrow. Arjuna was



completely helpless and just kept on watching. Then the Supreme Lord Krishna hit down the chariot of Arjuna with his leg. The chariot went down few inches into the earth. The arrow that was to hit Arjuna's head, hit his crown and it fell down. Thus the devotee loses the crown instead of head when he surrenders himself to the Lord.

When you surrender, God comes to your rescue without any second thought

In Bhagavata, the story of Elephant King's liberation is a good instance of Surrender.

The Elephant king was very arrogant of his material wealth. He entered a river and was enjoying the bath along with his wives. Suddenly a crocodile caught

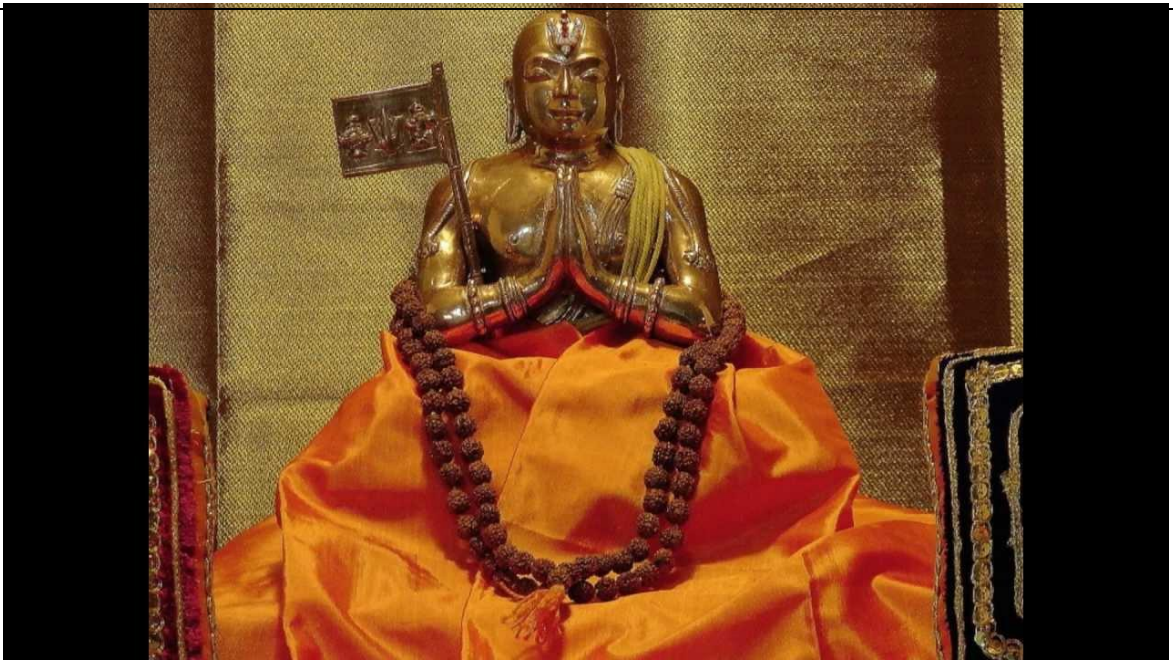
hold of him. He could not release himself from the pangs of the crocodile. He fought with it for several years. Ultimately he surrendered to the Supreme Lord saying: "Except you, I have no other refuge." Listening to this, the Lord came running to protect him even without any weapons. Such is the power of Surrender.



Surrendering to Guru is surrendering to God

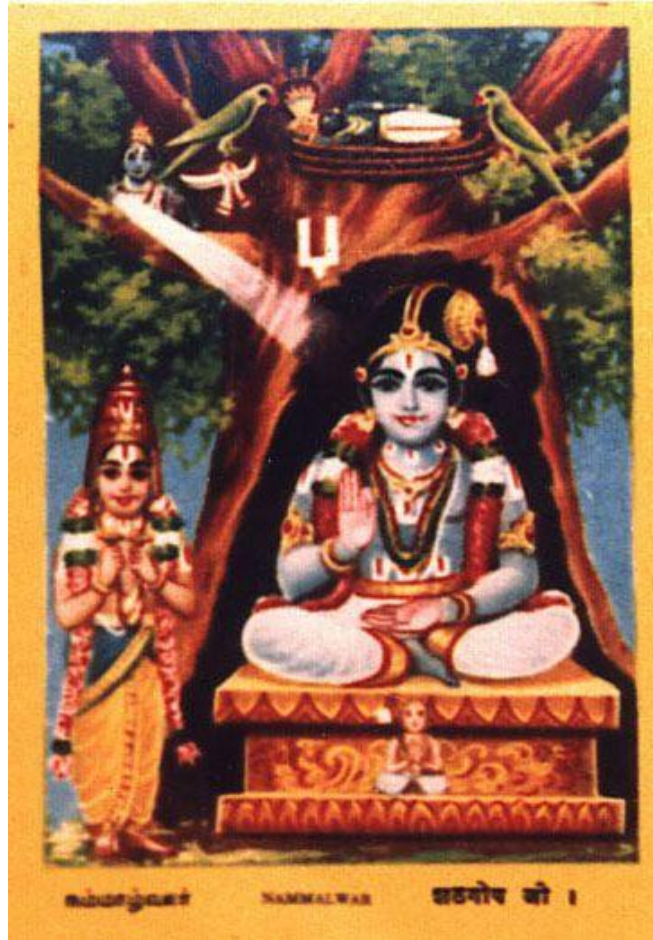


Ramanujacharya possessed a disciple called Govinda who served his master with great devotion. One day Lord Ranganatha came out into streets in a procession. Govinda was cooking food at that time for the sake of Ramanuja. Ramanuja called out: “Govinda come fast. The Lord has come.” But Govinda was quite busy in cooking and hence he replied back: “Master! You serve your Lord and I will serve mine.”



When Ramanujacharya was about to die, he called his disciples and advised thus: "Reduce your body consciousness and ego. Don't be in the company of faithless people. Don't sit beside them who blame God. As far as possible reduce your ego." The disciples said: "We cannot live without you." Therefore Ramanuja got his idol to be made and hugged the same. By hugging it, He bestowed His power into it. He said: "From now onwards I will stay in this form. Don't consider this to be an idol but consider it to be Ramanuja Himself." It is called as charama (final) sannidhi (presence). Even now it exists in Srirangam.

Surrender leads to Oneness with God



Nammalvar said, “Oh! Lord, initially I thought that there is a separate existence for you and me. But only after knowing You, I realize that only You exist and I don’t.”



Anjaneya swami said: "Oh! Rama, when I have body consciousness and consider myself to be body, I am your servant. When I identify myself with Jiva ie mind, I am a part of you. When I experience the Supreme Self, there is no difference between You and Me."

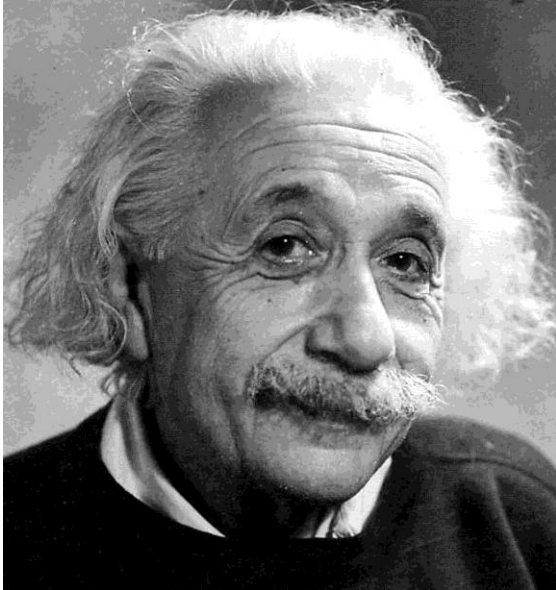


In her last days Meera planned to spend the rest of her life in Brindavan. Then the family members realized their mistake and pleaded with her to come back home. Then Meera asked Lord Krishna: "Oh! Lord, it is your wish whether you want to take me to my worldly home (in-law's house) or to my True home (Brindavan)." Lord Krishna then merged Meera into Him along with her mortal body!!!



At the time of crucifixion, Jesus, in intense pain (as part of natural course of body) uttered thus: "Oh! Yahova, have you abandoned me? Have you forgotten me?" Jesus then immediately corrected his words: "Oh! Father, to consider that, You have forgotten me is a mistake on my part. Are we separate from each other? Now I understand that I and My Father are one and the same." Till then Jesus possessed body consciousness. He attained the Non dual state only after surrendering himself.

**When we surrender to the unseen power,
work is performed automatically**

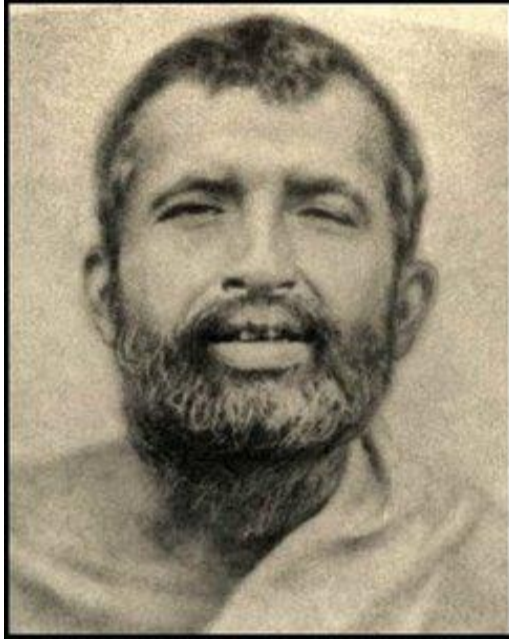


Einstein said: " Everything is predetermined by some forces on which we have no control. Therefore Surrender unto that force."

You think that the work doesn't happen without your will. There is an unseen power working in this world. Surrender unto it then your work will be done. As the current is invisible, even that Power is invisible. It doesn't imply that the Power doesn't exist. There are many things in the world that are beyond your understanding.

Don't think that you know everything. If you understand, you consider it to be true; else you consider it to be false? How big is your brain? It is a little one. How many secrets in the Universe can it understand? Do you know your previous births? Can you know in advance about the future births? We don't even know what is beyond this wall! We don't know these very small things. We don't know why we are unable to complete a particular work. Sometimes a work is done effortlessly without our intervention and sometimes it doesn't happen how much ever we may try. We can't say why it happens thus. All this is controlled by the Creator. There is an Energy. Work is completed not by your doer-ship alone; without doer-ship, if you surrender unto that energy, the work is completed automatically. Even the result is sweet.

If the Surrender is complete, the body
becomes an instrument of God



Once Sri Ramakrishna said: "While feeding a child, the Mother pushes in a lump of food once the child gulps in the food in its mouth. Similarly once I finish speaking a word, Mother Kali is pushing forward another word from my mouth. I am not uttering anything on my own. It is Mother who is sending the same. I am only a Machine, Mother is its operator."

Complete Surrender is possible only to a Jnani



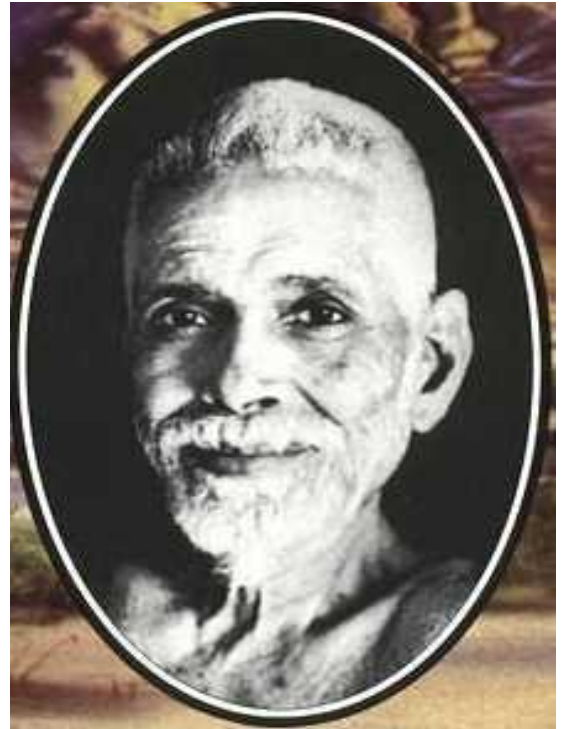
When Bhagavan Ramana reached Tiruvannamalai or Arunachala for the first time, he renounced everything like Subrahmanya enacted in Palani. Bhagavan gave up his clothes and wore a loin cloth. A barber asked Bhagavan if he needed a haircut. Bhagavan consented for

the same and the barber cut his entire hair. Then suddenly it started raining and Bhagavan had a natural bath. Thus Bhagavan became an ascetic resembling Subrahmanya in Palani. Bhagavan Ramana considered Lord Arunachaleshwara as his father. Therefore on the first day when he entered the temple, he said: "Oh! Father, I have come here only as per your call and not by myself. I came here as per your command. I offer my body and mind at your feet. Utilize them as per your wish. I no more exist. You alone exist." This is complete surrender. Whoever surrenders thus completely, their ego is destroyed along with its root. Even Swami Vivekananda asked Sri Ramakrishna: "Can you show me God?" But Bhagavan did not speak in such a manner. It is because He already attained that which He ought to attain ie Self Realization.

In Complete Surrender, there is no resistance

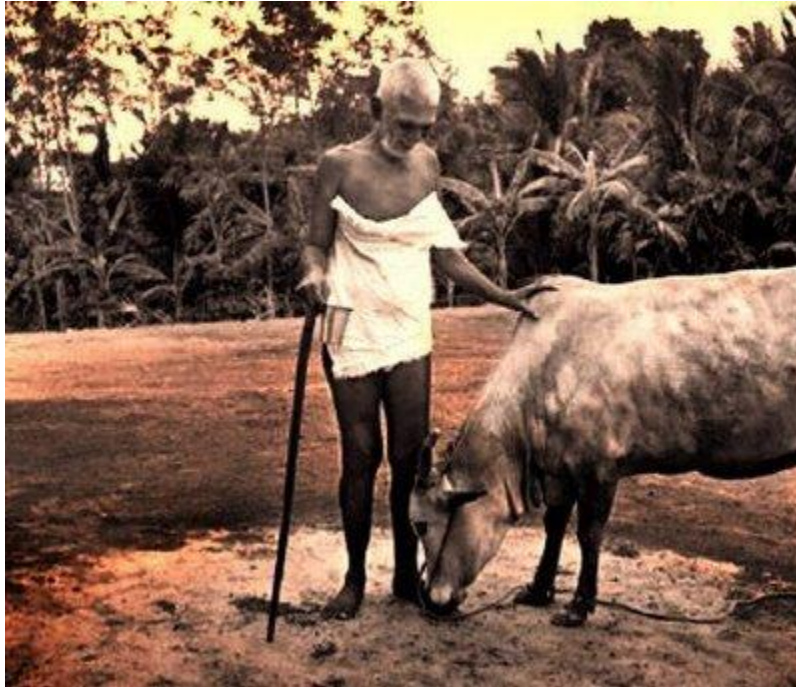
In his initial days of his advent to Arunachala, Bhagavan lived in a garden for few years. One day few thieves entered the garden to make a theft. However they observed Bhagavan watching them. When they approached Bhagavan, Bhagavan remained motionless and constantly stared at them. The thieves decided to pierce the eyes of Bhagavan with mango sticks. Hence they sharpened the mango sticks and almost pierced the eyes of Bhagavan. Bhagavan felt: "If it is the will of Lord Arunachala that I should lose my eyes, let it be so." Thinking thus *Bhagavan did not resist*. Then one of the thieves suddenly said: "Hey! This man seems to be completely mad. He does not even resist when we try to pierce his eyes. Let us not harm him." The other thieves agreed with him and they all left.

Complete Surrender is reflected in impersonal behaviour



Though Bhagavan preached the path of Self enquiry, He lead the life of Surrender. If any devotees asked Bhagavan to grant them liberation, Bhagavan said: "One who bestowed me with liberation, it is the same Arunachala who will grant you liberation." It is the Complete Surrender. There is no personality there.

Surrender implies Unconditional Love

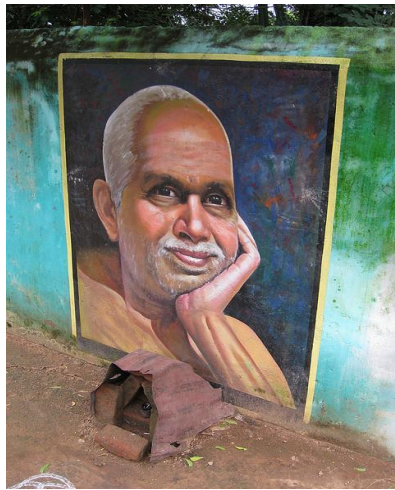


Lakshmi (the Cow) became the purest of the pure being devoid of any tendency whether it is relating to world or body or scriptures. She attained the highest state of Nirvana without possessing any of the tendencies like whether God exists or not etc., "Nirvana implies the Complete Bliss, Contented Bliss, Deficitless Bliss

and Endless Bliss. Lakshmi attained such Bliss without my help,” said Bhagavan.

How did she attain the same? Did she practice any yoga or meditation like us? We are doing japa, meditation etc., and thereby trying to reform our mind. *But Lakshmi's effort constituted unconditional Love for Bhagavan.* If you do good for us, then we will do good in return. If you love us, we will love you in return. If you respect us, we will respect you in return. All these are conditional. Lakshmi had no such conditions in loving Bhagavan ie she had unconditional Love. Out of Love she became purified which is 100% purification.

All the paths should end in Surrender

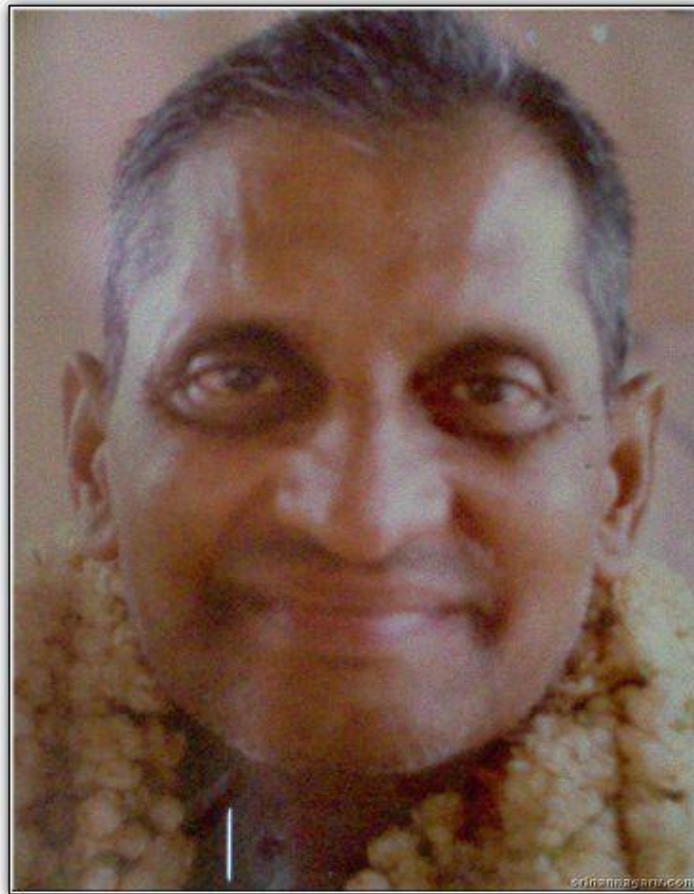


Bhagavan Ramana said: "Some people completely believe in the existence of God. Self Surrender suits such faithful people. However some people constantly doubt the existence of God. The path of Self enquiry suits such people." He further said: "All the paths should end in the path of Surrender." Sri Ramana is blamed that He did not preach the path of Surrender. It is said that Bhagavan preached only the path of Knowledge and not the path of devotion. However Bhagavan said: "If you are able to surrender, you need not do self-enquiry."

The highest form of devotion is Surrender. Surrender is not possible in one instance. The discrimination achieved through self enquiry will help us in attaining partial surrender in the initial stages. Later Complete Surrender is attained gradually. Thus the Path of Jnana and the path of devotion are interlinked through surrender.

There is no spiritual effort greater than Surrender. If your Surrender is complete and unconditional, one need not make any other spiritual efforts.

The only Supreme condition involved in Surrender is – ‘Maintain your faith until your last breath’

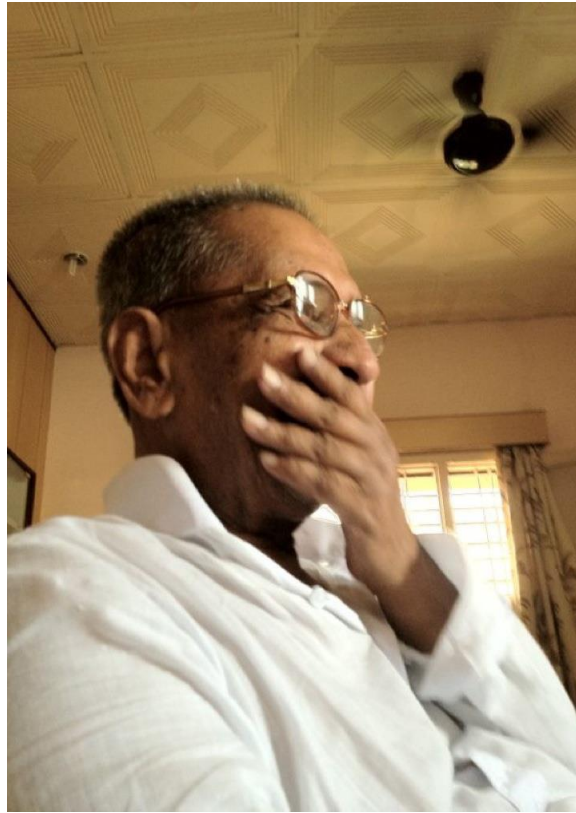


Bhagavan asked us to abide by this condition throughout our life - Don't leave faith till your last breath. Though there may exist any number of flaws within your mind, the

relationship with God should be kept intact. Whether you are blessed with good fortune or cursed with misfortune, you should maintain your relationship with God without maintaining any relationship with nature related objects. Only then the flaws within the mind will subside. The faith should be maintained till the body reaches the burial ground. Then God accepts your responsibilities. Your worries become God's worries. Though you may not get liberated in this very moment, God promises that He will liberate you at least in your last moments. Then you need not carry corpse again (ie need not take rebirth). If you are worried about someone else's welfare, God will take care of them too. If you maintain your faith till your last breath without any wavering, your work will become God's work. It was only due to the long standing Surrender of Arjuna

that Krishna broke his oath and took up weapons, though it would bring Him ill-fame. If even we possess such a long standing Surrender like that of Arjuna's, God will become even our charioteer and drive our lives. At least some pain is involved in our spiritual effort. Bhagavan is telling these words resembling ready-made clothes in order to avoid that pain involved in effort. When you keep your faith intact, your tendencies subside on their own. The Vaishnavas have narrated this in a much sweeter manner than Bhagavan: ' As the cow licks off the dirt on its calf without any irritation, even God cleanses us from our flaws and sins. Therefore the only Supreme condition involved in Surrender is - Maintain your faith until your last breath.

Surrender leads to sorrow less state



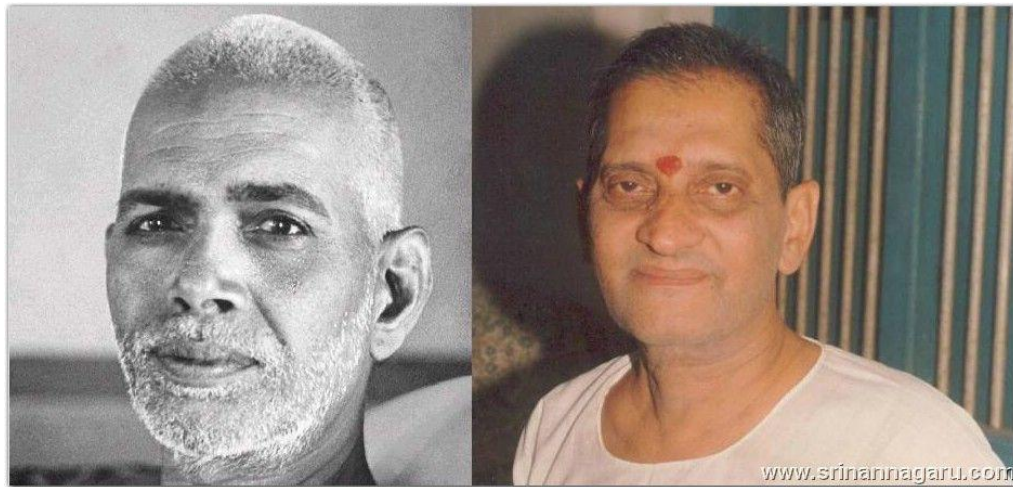
In Surrender, the doer-ship is completely annihilated. Therefore the sorrow disappears completely. If your Surrender is true, at first your sorrow ceases to exist. The mind that has surrendered melts into the Heart by which the tendencies get destroyed. Complete Surrender is equivalent to Self Knowledge.

There are no feelings in deep sleep but there exists a state in deep sleep. Try to surrender to that state in waking state

The one which we are referring to as 'i', 'i' in waking state doesn't exist in our deep sleep.

Still we are blissful. Even an atheist cannot deny of his existence in the deep sleep. The 'I' that existed in the deep sleep exists even in the waking state. You have to trust completely that the deep sleep state exists even in the waking state. It is only this 'i' (which we are referring to in waking state and is the cause of all disasters) which forms an obstacle in experiencing the deep sleep state in the waking state. If we are able to believe that the 'I' which exists in deep sleep also exists in the waking state, this 'i' will surrender itself to that Supreme state (deep sleep state). Then

Narakasura (a demon) existing in the form of 'I' would be slayed down.



You have a strong conviction of your existence but doubt whether God exists or not. Bhagavan asked us to reverse this thought process. He said: "Search whether you exist within God. You will become aware that you have no further existence. What is left over is Surrender only."

Surrender to the Indweller



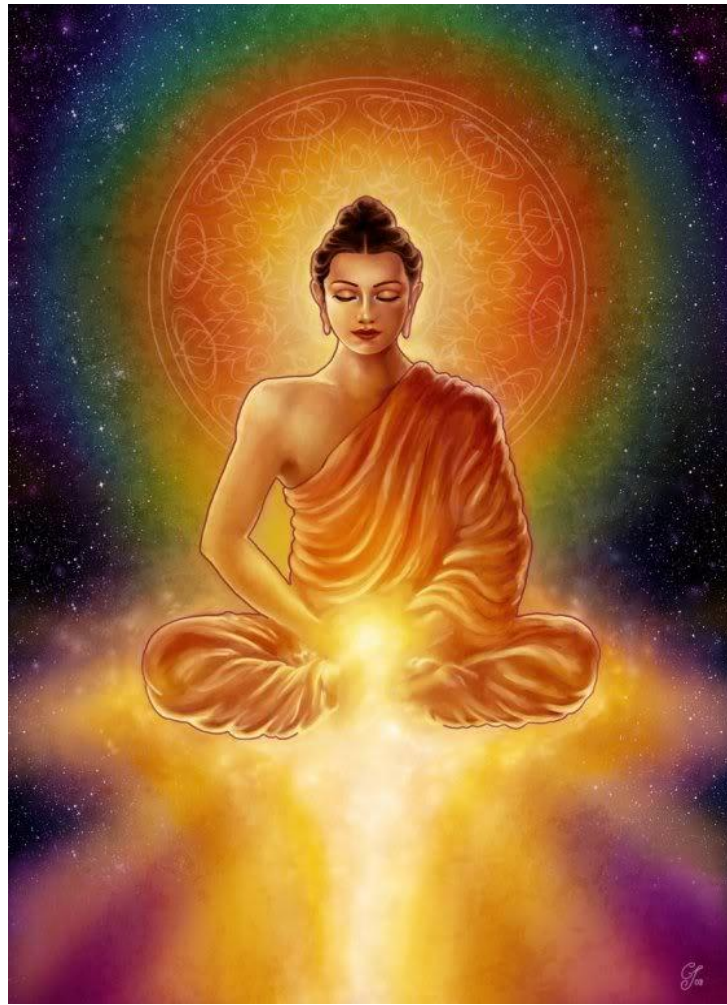
Draupadi asked Lord Krishna: "When I was being disrobed by Dushyasana, why didn't you protect me immediately? Why were you so late in rescuing me?" Lord Krishna replied: "You called Me as Dwaraka vasi Krishna (The dweller of Dwaraka). Hence it took me some time to come to your rescue. Had you called Me as Hridayavasi Krishna (The dweller of Heart), I would have helped you immediately. Lord said: "I am the indwelling spirit residing in the Hearts of all Jivas and make them enact according to their destiny." Therefore surrender to the indwelling God.

Buddhism propagated the path of Surrender



Buddham Sharanam Gacchami: Surrender unto the state of Nirvana which is formless.

Sangam Sharanam Gacchami: If you are unable to attain such a formless state, attain the company of Holy people who attained such a formless state and surrender to them.



Dharmam sharanam Gacchami: If such Holy Company is not available, mould your way of life ie lead a virtuous life and make the scriptures and authoritative books (like Bhagavad Gita) as the very basis of your life. Only then you can Surrender.

Surrender as propagated by Bhagavad Gita



**tvameva sharanam gaccha sarva bhavena bharatha
tat prasadat param santim stanam prapsyasi
sasvatam!!**

Seek refuge in Him (Supreme Lord) alone O Bharata,
in every way. Through His Grace alone you will attain
Supreme devotion and eternal peace.

Nimmitta matram bhava savya sachin :

Just keep on moving your hands. I will do all the work.

Lord Krishna said: "As the rivers merge into the sea, you will merge into Me if you surrender unto Me."

Lord Krishna said: "My Maya is invincible. My Maya clears your path only when you surrender unto Me."

Supreme Lord said in the Gita: "Surrender unto Me. Trust in my existence. Try to attain my Grace. Don't perform the forbidden acts as prescribed by Me. Perform the acts as ordained by Me. Escaping your prescribed duty is as much a blunder as performing the forbidden acts."

**Sarva dharmaan pari thyajya maam ekam
sharanam vraja**

**Aham tva sarva papebhyo moksha ishyami
maashucha!!**

Leave all the virtues as well as vices and surrender only to Me; then I will cleanse you from all your sins, flaws and faults and thereby bestow you with liberation.

This is called the final verse ie charama slokam. Sri Ramanujacharya became ecstatic on listening to this verse. He was unable to bear his ecstasy. His body was entirely filled with happiness. His body experienced horripilation on listening to this.



Lord Krishna implied: Sacrifice all your duties and surrender unto Me alone ie You need not carry your burdens. When I am carrying the burdens of this entire Universe, can't I carry your burdens? How much ever big the bundle of grass may be, it will get burnt by a single matchstick. Similarly though you may possess any number of faults or flaws which are being carried forward from previous births, it is my responsibility to ensure that the fire of my Grace will burn them out, purifies you and thereby bestows you with Self Knowledge.

Even Prahlada treaded the path of surrender. He sacrificed his parents for the sake of God. It is our duty to look after the parents. However the Lord said: "Even if you give up your duty for My sake, you will not incur any sin." Only they can tread the path of

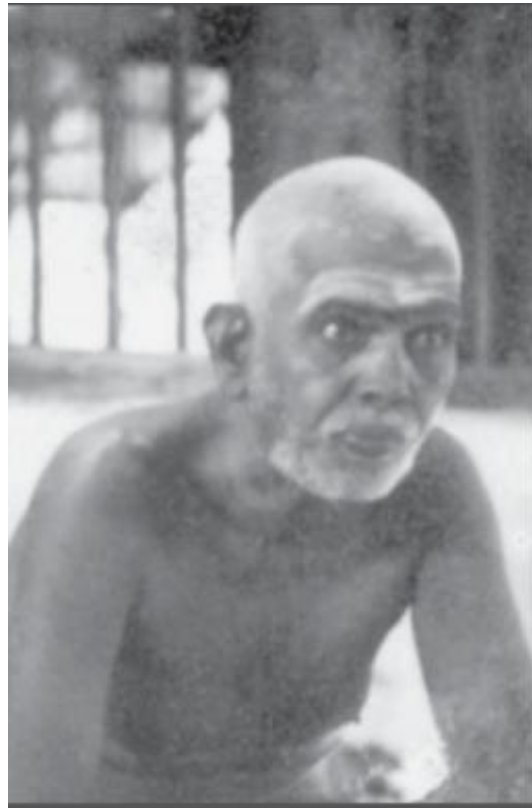


surrender who attain 100% faith in the existence of God. Surrender is not possible to them who grumble: "My so and so desire is not fulfilled. It should have been like this but it isn't so." Thinking thus is a sign of non-surrender. Only they can surrender who make God's will as their own will.

On Surrendering to God, He bestows us with that thinking faculty by which we can attain Self Realization

In the final verse of the Gita, the Lord implied: “Oh! Arjuna, as long as there are flaws within your thinking faculty, you will not be aware of Truth. As long as your thinking faculty is full of flaws, faults and sins, such a thinking faculty cannot perceive Self. Oh! Arjuna, Such a thinking faculty is inflicted with disease. Therefore if you Surrender unto Me, I will drag out all the flaws, faults and defects within your thinking faculty. You cannot transcend them with your self-effort. Your strength is not enough for it. However if you surrender unto Me, if you possess devotion for Me, I will free you with my own hands from each and every fault, flaw and sin that constitute an obstacle in attaining Self. By doing thus and by cleansing

your thinking faculty, what shall I do? I will bestow you with Liberation. Therefore you don't become anxious, do not worry, do not become sorrowful and do not keep weeping thinking thus: Can I ever attain Liberation? Can I ever attain the Ultimate state? Can I ever attain the final state? Can I ever attain the wonderful state? Can I ever attain the advaitic experience (Advaita is not a religion, it is an experience)? I will bestow you with such experience. Make me as your goal. Surrender unto Me. If you give Me a place within your Heart, I will free you from all the flaws within your thinking faculty. I Myself, dwelling within your Heart, will reveal unto you. It is the final state. Then there is no more sorrow or grief or rebirth."



Once a lawyer put a question to Bhagavan: "In the Gita, Krishna said, "Surrender all your actions unto Me then 'I' will cleanse you of all the sins." Does it imply that God's Grace is conditional?" Then Bhagavan replied: "No. God's Grace exists forever. Just like the sun exists forever and you just need to remove your hands kept on your eyes in order to view the sun, you need to surrender in order to recognize God's Grace."



Buddha said: "Events happen, deeds are done but there is no individual doer". However Krishna said: "Surrender unto me". Are they both conflicting each other? No. Both of them are correct. Though we don't exist, we are considering that we exist. Therefore Krishna is asking us to surrender. Buddha is asking us to stop thinking that we exist because we really don't exist. If we give up that which doesn't exist, that which exists is revealed to us. Therefore both Buddha and Krishna were correct. Buddha told it directly and Krishna told it indirectly.

**Surrender implies understanding that
everything is given by God**



Once a devotee visited Sri Nannagaru after completion of her exams. Sri Nannagaru spoke thus: “Very Good. You finished your final year. Now you have completed your studies. Now tell me- You have become a professional! How was that possible?”

DEGREE IS GIVEN.

You don't have any financial troubles as well as any deficiencies in Material Life. How is it possible?

IT IS GIVEN.

You have a lot of devotion in this tender age. How did you get it?

IT IS GIVEN.

You have intellect, goodness and capacity to grasp the subject as it is. How did you get it?

IT IS GIVEN.

EVERYTHING IS GIVEN.

If your Heart can understand this, your mind subsides into its source. Your mind will attain complete surrender if you understand that everything happens by the will of GOD.”

Recognizing that nothing happens without the knowledge of God is Surrender

A devotee was suffering from head ache. While talking to her, Sri Nannagaru said: "You are suffering a lot from head ache." She replied: "Though I don't know the cause of this head ache, doesn't God know about it? I am getting back the fruit of my deeds only. I can't get this suffering without having incurred sin." Thus she was bearing the suffering very naturally. Sri Nannagaru asked her: "Why don't you ask God to reduce the headache?" She replied: "I will not do so. If required I will only ask Him to bestow me with Self Knowledge but will not ask Him to reduce my headache. Isn't God omnipotent? Did I get this headache without His knowledge? It is true that I am suffering from headache. Perhaps God will introvert me towards Self Knowledge through this suffering."



Sri Ramanujacharya said: "Surrender is the only refuge. There is no state greater than that of Surrender."

Songs and Verses on Surrender

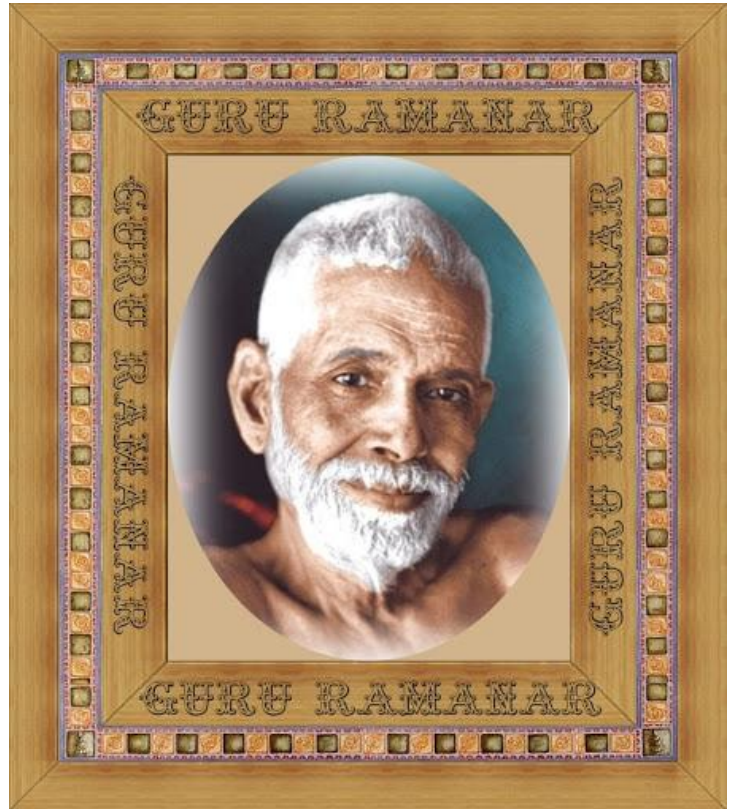
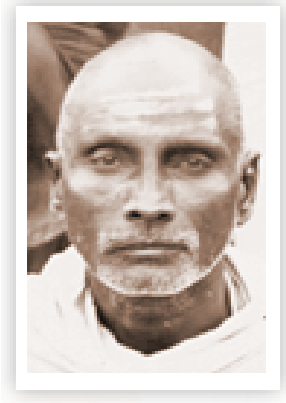
(Source: Internet)



swaagatam krishha saranaagatam krishnaa
madhuraapuri sadanaa mridu vadanaa
madhusoodana

Welcome to you Krishna, Surrender to you Krishna
He who lived in Mathura, He who has a tender face,

English Translation of Saranagati song of Manavasi RamaSwami Iyer:



I surrender — unto you

Where else am I to surrender myself tell me

(I surrender)

Anupallavi

Who is perfect in Arunachala

Which endows one with ultimate Release

O Ramana, Raincloud of Compassion!

(I surrender) Saranam

Is this not the appropriate time

for granting me your glance of Grace?

If you delay, Lo! What am I to do?

My beloved, remove my sorrow and grant me
Bliss

I can't bear indifference any further,

O VEDIYA (One who is Brahman Itself)

(I surrender myself unto you)

Bhavani ashtakam:



1.1: Neither the Father, nor the Mother; Neither the Relation and Friend, nor the Donor,

1.2: Neither the Son, nor the Daughter; Neither the Servant, nor the Husband,

1.3: Neither the Wife, nor the (worldly) Knowledge; Neither my Profession,

1.4: You are my Refuge, You Alone are my Refuge, Oh Mother Bhavani.

2.1: In this Ocean of Worldly Existence which is Endless, I am full of Sorrow and Very much Afraid,

2.2: I have Fallen with Excessive Desires and Greed, Drunken and Intoxicated,

2.3: Always Tied in the Bondage of this miserable Samsara (worldly existence),

2.4: You are my Refuge, You Alone are my Refuge, Oh Mother Bhavani.

3.1: Neither do I know Charity, nor Meditation and Yoga,

3.2: Neither do I know the practice of Tantra, nor Hymns and Prayers,

3.3: Neither do I know Worship, nor dedication to Yoga,

3.4: You are my Refuge, You Alone are my Refuge, Oh Mother Bhavani.

4.1: Neither do I Know Virtuous Deeds, nor Pilgrimage,

4.2: I do not know the way to Liberation, and with little Concentration and Absorption,

4.3: I know neither Devotion, nor Religious Vows; Nevertheless Oh Mother,

4.4: You are my Refuge, You Alone are my Refuge, Oh Mother Bhavani.

5.1: I performed Bad Deeds, associated with Bad Company, cherished Bad Thoughts, have been a Bad Servant,

5.2: I did not perform my Traditional Duties, deeply engaged in Bad Conducts,

5.3: My eyes Saw with Bad Intentions, tongue always Spoke Bad Words,

5.4: You are my Refuge, You Alone are my Refuge, Oh Mother Bhavani.

6.1: Little do I know about The Lord of Creation (Brahma), The Lord of Ramaa (Goddess Lakshmi) (Vishnu), The Great Lord (Shiva), The Lord of the Devas (Indra),

6.2: The Lord of the Day (Surya) or The Lord of the Night (Chandra),

6.3: I do not know about other gods, but always seek Your Refuge,

6.4: You are my Refuge, You Alone are my Refuge, Oh Mother Bhavani.

7.1: During Dispute and Quarrel, during Despair and Dejection, during Intoxication and Insanity, in Foreign Land,

7.2: In Water, and Fire, in Mountains and Hills, amidst Enemies,

7.3: In Forest, please Protect me,

7.4: You are my Refuge, You Alone are my Refuge, Oh Mother Bhavani.

8.1: I am Helpless, Poor, Afflicted by Old Age and Disease,

8.2: Very Weak and Miserable, always with a Pale Countenance,

8.3: Fallen Asunder, Always surrounded by and Lost in Troubles and Miseries,

8.4: You are my Refuge, You Alone are my Refuge, Oh Mother Bhavani.



Those who are devoted to you and take refuge in you, even though lowly and humble, you save them from all discomfort and unhappiness. All worry you take away, Oh Goddess, exposor of Consciousness, we bow to you.

Annamayya Song of Surrendering to Indweller

Antaryami alasiti solasiti

Inthata nee sharanide jocchithini

Korina korkelu koyani katlu

Theeravu neevavi thenchaka

Bhaarapu paggalu paapa punyamulu

Nerupula poneevu neevu vaddanaka!!

Janula sangamula chakka rogamulu

Vinu viduvavu neevu vidipinchaka

Vinayapu dainyamu viduvani karmamu

Chanadadi neevutu shaantha parachaka

Madilo chinthalu mailalu manugulu

Vadalavu neevavi vaddanaka

Edutana Sri Venkateswara ? neevadi

Adana gaachithivi attittanaka



Oh! Venkateswara, the Omnipresent and Ubiquitous Being, I have had enough of this worldly life; I am tired, swooning and collapsing; let me have Your solace; I beg protection under Your shelter!

The desires (wants) of human beings are trash until YOU make them realize so! We cannot isolate ourselves from sins and virtues unless YOU help us!

We involve ourselves so deeply in worldly attachments that we cannot come out of that disease unless YOU nurse us. We embrace ourselves in ominous rumblings of fate that do not leave unless YOU solicit us.

Sorrows in the mind are but heaps and tonnes of filth, which cannot be cleaned unless YOU intervene. Oh Lord Venkateswara, You have been waiting for an opportunity to entangle us with boons in shape of worldly pleasures just for an asking; Now, get us out of these attachments and embrace us!



Whatever I do with my body, speech, mind or with other senses of my body, or with my intellect and soul or with my innate natural tendencies I offer (dedicate) everything to Sadguru's feet.