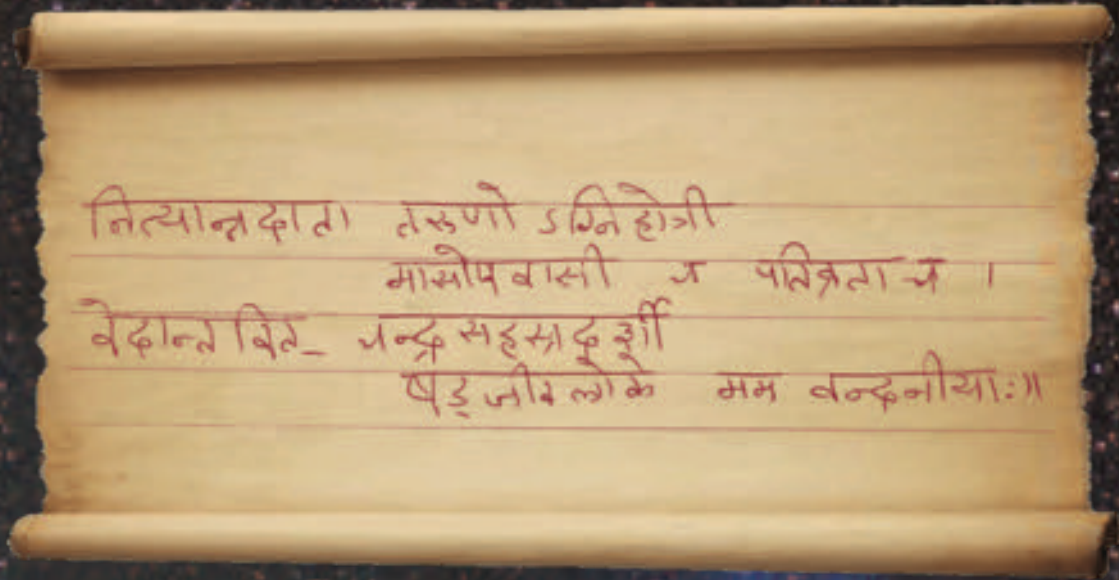




Her Holiness
Sri Sathguru
Swami Gnanananda Sarasvathi

a1000
moon
journey





Creation bows to Him in reverence and thankfulness. From the humble blade of grass to the mightiest, they all do pranam to Bhagavan Sri Krishna. Not wanting to let Him go easily without an answer, curious mortals asked the Creator who does He bow to! As is His humility and way, the Mahakrathu explained the ones He bowed to...

- To the one who does nitya annadhanam
- To the one who does Agnihothram from a young age
- To the one who fasts every month on Ekadasi day
- To the chaste woman who is purity personified
- To the scholar of Vedanta
- To the one who has seen a thousand moons.

It is to them that I prostrate in Bhooloka.

There it is. The star with a yellow haze, that is Jyeshtha. The nakshatram of our revered Sri Sathguru.

a1000 moon journey

Her Holiness Sri Sathguru Swami Gnanananda Sarasvathi



Sri Gnana Advaitha Peetam

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When you have God in the form of your Guru, what happens? Guidance, protection, grace, shelter, elevation and if qualified even salvation comes your way. The demands the Guru places on you are not many. In fact simple. Absolute faith and unquestioning obedience. Some of us have been blessed with these qualities. Even more blessed that we have Her Holiness Sri Sathguru Swami Gnanananda Sarasvathi as our Guru and beacon.

On the occasion of celebration of the Sahasra Chandra Darshanam of our revered Sri Sathguru, we devotees have put together a commemorative volume titled 'A 1000 Moon Journey'.

In which you can discover the true meaning of dasa bhava, and the finest personification of saranagati. In a short and pithy manner, we have attempted to share Sri Sathguru's inimitable facets and lexicon. Sri Sathguru's old pictures and new ones you will find. Grahastha Sri Sathguru to the Vidwat Sanyasa Sri Sathguru, you will get a glimpse. You can also experience the grace of Her Holiness in the countless recollections of the devotees.

We hope each and everyone enjoys going through this volume.

On behalf of all the devotees, with pranams and eternal gratitude, we place this volume at the lotus feet of our gentle, compassionate, smiling, divine Sage. Without whose blessings nothing would have been possible,

A Parasuraman, Managing Trustee
M. Ramadas, Secretary

April 2010



One thing I can safely say.

The happiest moment of my life would have been when, I opened my eyes and looked straight into the face of a Gnani. Is there any thing better that one could wish for? She is the best navigator in the universe to take us to our destination across this ocean of Samsara.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read "Sri Sri Prasad", written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.



Sahasra Chandra Darshanam

Sri Sathguru has always said that India is a *punya bhoomi*. And in this India we mark that moment for posterity when someone has witnessed a 1000 full moons.

But why is this significant and perhaps different for followers of Sri Sathguru and Sri Peetam. It is more than just a celebration and rejoicing of a long life. It is a tribute and offering to the lotus feet of a wise being. It is also an expression of eternal gratitude for having borne the trouble of carrying lesser mortals across the ocean of samsara. For kindling in all those who have come in Her path the divine flame of Saranagati and Krishna. An acknowledgment that God has His own ways and messengers.

For Her Holiness it is a thousand full moons. For the ones who have been blessed with Her darshans and vision it is an expression of endearment and a deep sense of spiritual indebtedness. To this Guru we bow in reverence and with koti pranams thank Her for having made this Janma worthwhile and sending the million more to come in a Godward direction.

Salutations to a Vrddha

The word *Vrddha* means old. It is also a name for wisdom. Vrddha also means increasing or waxing. In the famous *Shanthy* mantra Indra is described as *vrddha shrava* or whose glory is increasing.

It is the misfortune of humankind that great people like Sri Sankara, Swami Vivekananda and so many others have had to shake off the burden of their bodies and leave this world when relatively young, but we are fortunate like the disciples of Sri Ramanuja that our Guru has lived beyond Her eightieth birthday and that the Sahasrachandra darshana ceremony is to be performed.

Growing old is really no achievement – trees do it, animals and reptiles do it. But to grow old with wisdom, to grow old ever a seeker of knowledge, that is a fate not reserved for everyone and that separates the sage from the common crowd.

The American philosopher Alfred Whitehead criticized religion saying that in contradistinction from science which was always opening itself to new ideas, religion had dogmas, firm beliefs that could not be questioned and that its knowledge was final and could not be improved upon.

But Brahman is an ever expanding power, and the waxing glory of Indra symbolizes the ever seeking nature of the human mind. The mind of the wise rishi is always seeking new knowledge because the Supreme Brahman is infinite and cannot be comprehended except facet by facet. This is why the Gods and Goddesses have sahasranamama, verses of thousand names that symbolize the infinite aspects of God.

Salutations to you Sri Sathguru. Salutations to a Vrddha.

Dasa Bhava

the divine difference

Sri Sathguru is different because Her whole self is into the act of teaching. When teaching and at all times Sri Sathguru is in a state of surrender, so natural so much part of Her being as breathing is. Her detachment is such that when Sri Sathguru is not doing something, it is so disaffiliated from Her that She quite forgets about it. This detachment, this surrender springs from Her relationship with God. From an early age Sri Sathguru has adopted what is called the *dasa bhava* or the attitude of a servant towards God and that helped Her immensely in Her attitude to other people and things. Since everything in this world belonged to the Lord and all beings were to the extent to which they followed Him, the images of the Lord, She was able to involve intensely in Her work, in Her relationships with devotees, ill wishers and well wishers, without getting attached or repulsed.

Sri Sathguru does all She can for the devotee and then lets him or her be. If they follow Her commands, She is glad and sees what can be done to help the devotee. Otherwise Sri Sathguru allows them to do what they please and when they return to Her, helps them make a fresh start.

Unlike the solace peddlers and the teachers who appeal to the intellectual minded, Sri Sathguru's teachings are meant to transform the individual in every way, at every stage of his life. This transformation happens because Sri Sathguru's teachings and personality act on three levels of the being, it transforms through the intellectual stimulus, it transforms through the personality of the Guru, for the love of whom the person willingly transforms himself, and it transforms through the constant presence which is consciously felt only at times but is always there.

May we all be blessed with humility and surrender so that we are worthy to have that *dasa bhava* of Sri Sathguru. Even if it means just a fraction of what She has.



Great Gurus live across the dimensions of time

More than half a century ago a teacher wrote a little verse about her student

If you ever get the blues in class

Come spend an hour with this dark eyed lass!

None so merry, none so gay

Ever came across your way!

(A verse written about Sri Sathguru when She was leaving school by Her teacher Mervyn Gallyot)

Those eyes still sparkle with joy and happiness, the joy of knowledge!

After 80 years of good and bad days, happiness and sorrow, Sri Sathguru is the same. This is because of Sri Sathguru's belief that all that happens is the *prasada* of God and it is for Her good. The sages of God are scattered all over the world but they all look only in one direction – Godward.

For the Rishi, for the Sathguru, one thousand moons and a moon mean the same since everything is reflected light and Sri Sathguru looks to the source of all light and ignores all else.

A great Sanskrit poet said that time with its three divisions of past, present and future do not exist for the saints of God. Why is this? The sage has no ego. Time exists only for an individual, for a non-existent person how can it exist? Existing in one division will not be possible as the saint has transcended time and talks just as we talk about the past and present about the future. Most of us have seen this happening in our interactions with Sri Sathguru.

The three divisions of *desa*, *kala* and *karana* (space, time and causation) do not affect them. When Brahman is all pervading

and they have merged with him, then in which place are they situated? When they live in all the three divisions of time, how do we date them? And can such a person be created? He is everywhere and in everything. Only if there is a difference can there be created and non created beings. When everywhere there is the same Being, when every word spoken is his, to whom and how does He speak?

He speaks to His servants in a language different from human tongues and before He speaks they know what He will say and act accordingly.

Annakara Kerala, Salem,
Jamshedpur, Kanchipuram
Chennai, Guruvayur

*Samsara, Bbooloka Triloka,
Brahmanda, Bhuvanatreya*

Maa, Gnani,
Jagathguru,
Narayana

Beyond description lies experience

In their epochal journey how do you mark great gurus? By the places they lived, the lokas they enliven with their consciousness, by the values they propagate or simply their ability to traverse across time. They say great gurus can impact one's soul across time and lives. In hours of wakefulness and sleep they protect, guide and bestow grace which is what powers many a devotee. To describe a soul dyed ochre is not only just difficult, it is perhaps a task fit for a few million lives.

To Her Holiness, a thousand moons is more than just a time band. It is a gentle, yet strong reaffirmation that the path of surrender is the path of souls seeking Narayana.

Milestones

Advent
14th August 1929

Grahashta
1948 to 1973

Vanaprastha
1973 to 1975

Vidwat Sanyasa
1975

Sri Peetam
1975



Her Holiness says

Bhakti & Vairagya

Two things are needed for progress in spiritual life. One is vairagya and the other is strong bhakti. With one we conquer the attractions of the outside world and the other takes us to God.

Everyday a new day

For a sadhaka, every day is a new beginning. Just because yesterday's meditation was bad, it does not mean that the next week's meditation will also be bad. Similarly, just because your sadhana was good does not mean that tomorrow's sadhana will also be equally good. Living each day as an offering for God, without expecting anything, is the highest Yagna.

Random thoughts on Ma



Most of the people who hear about any saint ask, “Does he or she do any miracles?” This same question was asked about Her Holiness Sri Sathguru Swami Gnanananda Sarasvathi. My answer would be “Yes”. She does miracles of that quality which is and was the rarest in the market. She can turn an atheist on to the right Path and lead him to God. But this kind of miracles is unwanted in this age of “Monumental Selfishness” as Ma once put it.

“I don’t have any powers,” said Ma once to a devotee, I am only a servant of God sent here to do his work, a messenger to spread His Divine Message. Everything depends upon your own faith and surrender. Faith is said to move mountains but it must be firm, unshakable and unchanging and unquestioned. If you have such faith then the most impossible miracle can take place.”

It has taken place, is taking place and will take place as this small, unassuming yet irresistibly powerful modern saint goes about the fantastic and seemingly impossible Divine Mission entrusted to Her by the “power that spins the universe”. To mention but a few of these instances will take up volumes. I have had so many experiences in the short time I have been in this world, that it is well-nigh impossible to relate a couple. One ponders—shall I relate this one or is that better? One is at a loss where to begin. One thing I can safely say. The happiest moment of my life would have been when, after I had taken the jump from the other world to this world,

opened my eyes and looked straight into the face of a Gnani. Is there anything better that one could wish for? She is the best navigator in the universe to take us to our destination across this ocean of Samsara. And as she drove, she taught us to drive and finally when she left our little six seater to captain and navigate an infinitely great ocean liner, we were extremely sorry (?) but understood that for the sake of the world and the unprecedented great Divine Mission we had to make a heart breaking sacrifice, yet a relatively small one, one-millionth of what Ma made during Her Life.

Though She went through hell on earth. She remained untouched. "It's easy enough to be pleasant when life flows along like a song, but a man worthwhile is a man who can smile when everything goes dead wrong".

The Messiah with Her Ark, Sri Gnana Advaitha Peetam, has come, and. like the postage stamp's usefulness depending upon its ability to stick, our salvation depends upon our ability to stick like a limpet to it.

Thus wrote Sri Vishnu Mohan







Who is a Guru?

Traditionally, a Guru is known as the remover of darkness. But the Guru is all things to all men. Sri Sathguru is loved and revered by each devotee in a different way. And Sathguru is a part of their lives in different ways. But there is a difference between a real Guru and a mere teacher of thoughts. That is, the Guru is constantly with the disciple and constantly helping the disciple go beyond his existing state of knowledge. His Presence in every moment of the disciple's life is as certain as His Presence.

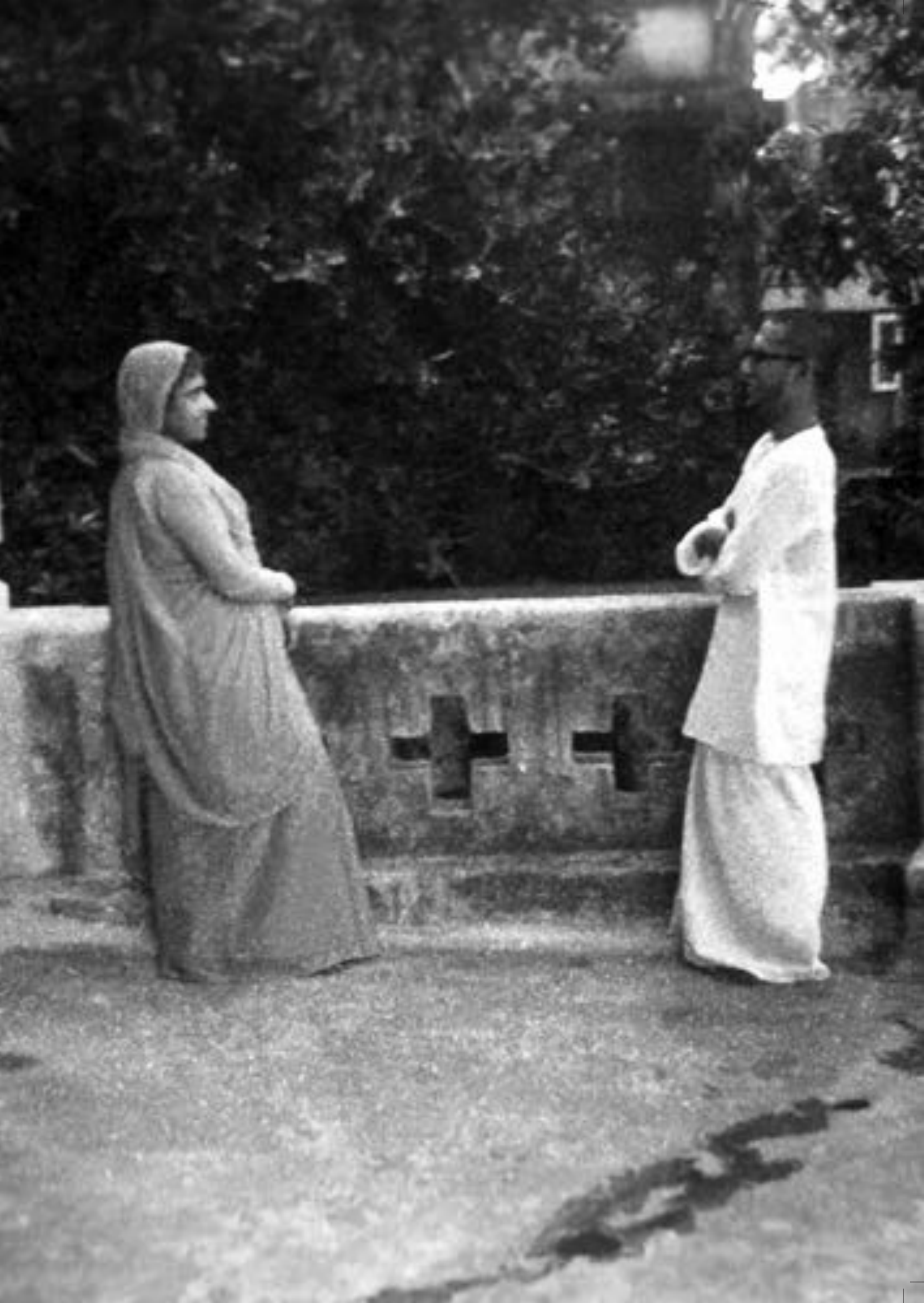
The Guru may be engaged in a thousand tasks, the Guru may be protecting a thousand disciples, but each disciple's needs, each disciple's wishes are constantly in His mind. And at the right time, if it is in the disciple's interest, the Guru sets about fulfilling them.

An incident which happened recently in Sri Peetam bears this out.

There was a lady who was unwell and so Sri Sathguru advised her to minimize travel alone. A year later, Sri Sathguru called a disciple in the morning and said, referring to the devotee, "If she calls, tell her that she may come alone for darshan from now on." That evening the devotee sent a message, "Today is March 13th and it is a year since I fell ill. I have missed so many darshans because I couldn't get someone to come along with me. May Sri Sathguru bless me."

That she would have this feeling of loss later in the day was known to Sri Sathguru who moved swiftly to help the devotee but only at the time, which was appropriate.

At all times, the Guru is waiting with the pot of ambrosia to feed the devotee but the devotee like a little child keeps running away here and there wherever something glittering attracts him. Prostrations to that Guru!



Her ways, Her lexicon

Vidvat. Samyasa
Aharastha
Saramagati
Bhakti
Vasudhaiva
Kutumbakam

Dharma

Truth

Ahimsa

Purity

Duty

Vidwat Sanyasa the way of realized souls

There are two types of sanyasa, one known as vividisa sanyasa and the other as vidwat sanyasa. The first is taken by a seeker in order to further his quest for the Divine. By taking sanyasa, he is freed from the irksome restrictions that society places upon him. Irksome not because he wishes to avoid his duties and obligations but because he is transcending them and seeks other, higher goals.

The sanyasa that is known as vidwat, “with knowledge” is embraced not by seekers but by realised souls. It is an outward expression of an inward realization. The souls that take vidwat sanyasa are soaked in knowledge, their souls are dyed ochre, hearts filled with an unexplainable love of God. The rishi Yajnavalkya left home not as a seeker but as a realized soul. He was a person whose desires were fulfilled because he had crossed beyond desire. A Venkatramana leaving Madurai to become the Maharishi, a Prince Gautama leaving his father's capital to become the Buddha, their renunciation was for themselves and for the world. The renunciation of a vidwat sanyasi is essentially for all beings.

The vidwat sanyasi may go into obscurity and spend his life in absolute seclusion or go forth into the world as a blazing meteor, a very sun of knowledge, giving light and joy from a distance and warmth to those who are close enough to him. All his knowledge, all his actions are dedicated to the happiness of the many because he sees them only as the One who vivifies his life.

Just as we draw back our foot when we accidentally step on a thorn, a vidwat sanyasi feels the hurt and suffering of all other created beings, because he feels all beings as part of himself. And his consciousness of their sufferings and their joys is the greatest blessing for them.

Sri Sathguru took Vidwat Sanyasa in 1975.



Grahastha and God's light

The Grahastha is the torchbearer of God's light In this world. Manu the great lawgiver, speaks eloquently of how the householder is the basis of society and how even sanyasins etc are dependent on the grahastha. Because the other orders of life are supported by the householder, the stage of household life is said to be the most excellent.

To the householder is given the satisfaction of all legitimate desires that can be fulfilled without hurting others. At each stage of life there are actions which are appropriate – it's only the sanyasin who has no action enjoined upon him. But the actions appropriate to one ashrama are not suitable for another. A lemon fruit may be very pretty but it is impossible to eat it raw - it has to be part of a cooked dish.

How does a sadhaka, who is a grahastha, act? Like anyone else. There are no special frills attached to him. His seeking is unobtrusive as it is his seeking. It is not an act for the world. So for Sri Sathguru the seeking was not divorced from Her life and since the quest was the most important thing for Her, She got up in the early hours of the morning, while all the world slept and then meditated. Vishnu Mohan used to speak of how Her wet hair would leave a mark on the wall of the puja room and that was the only evidence of long hours of meditation. But She had time to play with the children, invite visitors home and do all that any other mother did.

Even as a householder, the strong consciousness of the fact that ultimately all the world was but a training ground for the final ascent to the Highest realization was always with Her and all Her actions were directed to that goal.



Saranagati – a state of being

Saranagati or the state of absolute surrender is the natural state of all beings. When we are too tired to think, when we are in a state of happiness and don't wish to see or think of anything, when we see breathtaking scenery or read a beautiful piece that takes our minds of everything else, then also we are in a state of saranagati but that is an unconscious state of saranagati.

That state is the state of the freedom from ego and the endless troubles it brings in its train. The ego doesn't like this, doesn't like that likes this, wants that, has its lists of fears, likes and dislikes. Since that is the main roadblock in the path to happiness, this ego should be abandoned without any hesitation.

Saranagati is both the means and the end. In the statement of absolute surrender, the ego is removed with its root and the blocks in the path to surrender cease to be. This state of surrender is attained by surrender, a path that is easily comprehended but difficult to practice. Each action, each thought each word spoken and each feeling is carefully disaffiliated from the false ego that drives us and is placed at the Feet of God.

Saranagati is something that comes to us gradually but something that helps us to the extent it is in our lives. Even a little bit of this Yoga protects us and to the extent we bring it into our lives, our lives brighten and are filled with joy. Prostrations to the Guru who is Saranagati personified.



Bhakti – love of God

The greatest of all emotions that dominate the human mind and heart is love. Can anyone describe or express in words the happiness that can be seen on the face of a little child when it sees its mother?

Or the sorrow that envelops a family that is well knit when there is a death?

Truly does the sastras say that the nature of love is beyond words.

The mind constantly goes to the object of love and comes back to the lover and the mind is filled with love and happiness. After sometime disillusionment comes in and there is disappointment and the mind does not find so much joy. Or the mind is fickle and has to be fed with new objects of interest.

When that love is directed to God with that same intensity it is called bhakti. The sages have said it is fixing the mind exclusively on the Lord and thereby contemplating the true nature of the Self. Then other things don't matter since the overflowing love of God washes everything else away. Since the Lord possesses such wonderful aspects, contemplation is easy and love wells up spontaneously in a devotee's heart if she or he is sincere.

The river of bhakti that flows washes away all our evil tendencies. All we have to do is to ask for help and as Sri Sathguru says, He will come running to bless us if we sincerely call Him.



Vasudaiva Kutumbakam

It is the feeling that the world is one, a freedom from the thought that this is mine and that is theirs. This is possible only if we know that this world does not belong to you or me but to God. That is a Being, a reality, higher than anyone of us, a Being above us all but whom we unconsciously or consciously look up to for help, solace and justice.

So if we are going to think of this world as something which belongs to us, to think that some of us are friends and belong to us and the others do not belong to us and could be inimical to us, then unhappiness could result. It is difficult for the human mind, holding in its mind the images of so many janmas of struggle against other people, holding in its body the genes of ancestors who had to fight to survive to think of all beings as being friendly and as friends.

Who can then think of the concept of Vasudaiva Kutumbakam, the world as God's family and practice it in his or her life?

It is a person with a large vision, a person who has a noble outlook and has cast aside his fears of other people, has cast out selfishness and fear of the unknown. Such a person does not differentiate between friend and foe when it comes to basics though he knows that they must be dealt with differently.

While the small minded person with a narrow vision is tied down with his feelings of mine and theirs and is unable to really do anything for this world or to attain a place in the next.

Who shall we be?



Dharma sustains the creation

Dharma is the force, an invisible force that takes visible forms, which keeps this world from falling into disorder and chaos. The disorder and chaos that we see around us reflects the reduction of Dharma's presence in our lives. Dharma is by its name, the force that bears us, that lifts us. It is the faith in Dharma that sustains people who are otherwise assailed by lack of hope. Somehow, some way there will be justice, that is the force of Dharma. It is Dharma that sustains society or else people would not follow any laws if they had no belief that they were any good.

Dharma is not a concept that powers us alone; it is a force that enforces all our lives and life's efforts. Even a low thief will have some type of a code to live by and say when he sees some injustice done by someone else or when adharma is done to him, "this is adharma.". This is because dharma is not only the force that protects the universe but is also one of the metaneeds or need of our being that must be satisfied. Dharma is one of the basic needs of the being of a creature like artha and kama and moksha.

Even animals follow Dharma in their actions. When wolves fight should one wolf lose, it goes and places its neck before the mouth of the winner in a gesture of surrender and the winner then accepts it. This is because Dharma is a force that exists in the universe guiding it. It takes the burden of the world and by giving us hope that no burden is eternal and that ultimately justice exists and is perfect.

It is Dharma that sustains our belief in society in all forms of civilized society. It gives hope because it is a reality. Just as karma is a force that is created by our actions which follows us and manifests itself according to our needs, Dharma is a living power. Dharma well protected by us will protect us.



Truth the mainstay of our lives

Truth is that face of reality that we see all around us everywhere, everyday. We do not see that face because we are looking for the images of what we like.

Truth is reality. When we align with it, our minds and spirit, we are filled with its strength, opposed to it, we grow and then being rootless, fall.

Since our nature is truth it comes to our minds and tongues naturally, untruth has to be contrived. Our minds are simple and happy, life is smooth and uncomplicated when we live in truth.

Truth as a quality, a virtue strengthens our character and smoothens our path in life. Truth as a form of shakthi or Divine energy protects us and lifts us beyond the layers of ignorance that bind us.

If we make truth the mainstay of our lives and know its power, and that it exists, then all the quarters, all around us is filled with joy. But if we doubt the power of truth, think of it as non-existent or of no relevance, then we shrivel up spiritually and slowly degenerate.

The path of truth is slow and steady, of untruth flashy and attractive. But the slow progress in spiritual and worldly life is matched by its firmness and once one climbs this ladder one moves only up.



Ahimsa – the most difficult

Sri Krishna once said that the greatest gift one can give to the rest of humanity is to give up the idea of violence or hurt towards them. To practice ahimsa towards other people is the most difficult for any human being. This is because the average human being has the genes of a million militant monkeys in him. He feels threatened and humiliated by incidents which have no meaning for him. This is because of fear. And as life has got more difficult in the past two centuries, the hungry monkey has been taking control of the human in him.

At such a time Ahimsa gives the greatest peace not only to ourselves but also to others. A truly harmless person is recognized as such and if the others around him don't try to take advantage of him it is not only because they feel sorry that here is a person who won't hit back, but also because they feel the steely iron resolve, the strength that one needs not to hit back.

Because the monkey, the untrained animal in him has left him and what remains is a refined human being who really deserves the name unlike the trousered apes who strut around pretending to be human.

If not resisting force is a “type of moral ju jitsu” the peace that it gives is enormous. The fact that one can go to bed without carrying the burden of innumerable griefs and sackloads of resentment itself makes the goal seem really ambrosial.



Purity – liked by the Gods

What is purity? It is the state of mind when one is removed from all influences which are not wholesome. While purity is taken essentially to mean sexual purity, it must be understood that there are various other ways in which we may become impure and that sexual impurity is actually only a result of existing impurities in the mind. Sri Krishna speaks of bhava samshuddhi, purity of attitude or motive. Why do we do this and why do we do that? The action itself, which is what we see with our gross eyes, is the final part of a process that starts with a thought.

So when we see an action we must consider what could have caused it. Sri Sathguru says, *A little dirt somewhere in the vessel can make all the milk boiled in it get spoilt. Similarly a little evil in our minds can spoil an otherwise well ordered life.*

Similarly when we think evil about somebody, that seed is sown in our minds. By contemplating an evil action, even if it is not our own, it becomes part of our mental milieu and when the opportunity comes we do it without much hesitation. So that is the reason Sri Sathguru says that we must constantly keep a watch on ourselves and see not the evil but the good around us.

We become just like our thoughts are and if our thoughts are of unwholesome acts, then it becomes easier to do them.

Similarly what are our motives in dealing with the world? Is it to extract something for ourselves at the cost of someone else's interest? Actions that are done because it is the right thing to do and done at the right time are pure actions and fit to be offered at God's Feet.



Duty

Duty lights up our path to Him

The word duty is in itself very fearful to most of us. Wordsworth called it the stern daughter of the voice of God. But the word duty is not what people think it is. It is the expression of our primal relationship with other entities whether human or institutional.

The word svadharma correctly expresses the meaning. Dharma is that which bears us and sva means one's own. Our duties make us feel worthy of the relationships that we are part of and helps us to make those relationships more meaningful.

So that is why our duties make us more complete persons, for when we do them our minds, hearts and souls are fulfilled and filled with the satisfaction that cannot be easily expressed.

Contrary to popular belief, duty is the expression of the love and regard from one person to another, from a person to his country to the institution he serves, to his community.

A child toddling up to his mother to give her a favorite pair of slippers, is doing his duty without expecting anything, a landlord, unheeding of the damage done to his mansion goes out to help the tenants and give them relief is doing his duty.

These are expressions of a person's being - duty tears off a person's mask and shows the whole world how people behave and what they are.

The light of the lamp of duty casts a benign light that helps us see the glory of the Lord and lights up our path to him.



Her Holiness says Teaching

Now I am teaching mostly Saranagati or surrender. Now surrender is very difficult. That is what they all say. You have Jnana Marga, the path of knowledge; Bhakti Marga, the path of love; Karma Yoga, the path of action; and then you have the path of Raja Yoga-concentration, yoga that is more or less physical or mental. But surrender encompasses all this. Even Ramana Maharshi, who was teaching plain Jnana, was in the early days a Bhakta. He said surrender is another name for Jnana or knowledge and liberation. When you do surrender, you have both knowledge and devotion. You have devotion to the Personal Ideal on one hand and on the other you have the Knowledge of the Almighty, the Supreme Reality that He is and His Almighty Power. You trust Him and then only can you surrender. You can surrender only when you know that you can trust a person, isn't it so? You must know to have that trust; and so you have that knowledge; and so you have knowledge and Bhakti. And when you have knowledge, you have awestruck devotion. When you see the Greatness, automatically you have that devotion. You are awestruck when you see it. Here surrender (what Ramana Maharshi said to you is right) is another name for Jnana, for knowledge and liberation.

They say that Bhakti is for the Kaliyuga, for this age, because people nowadays cannot think of Jnana Marga, the path of knowledge, which says that, "I am not the mind, I am not the body, I am not the intellect but I am the soul. I am He." No doubt it is very easy to say but in action it is the most difficult thing today. Each one's grade is different from another. He or she can say, "I surrender," but cannot put it into practice. You can say I am not the body but if something pains, then you know whether you are the body or not! Then you know how it is! It is not for the present day. Kaliyuga has its own ways of expressing itself: one is speed. You see, supersonic planes have come in now and satellites. Speed is the attribute of the age,

Saranagati

covered by darkness, by Avidya or ignorance, which makes a person think or do evil. The tendency to evil is much more prominent in this age than is any other age. So, therefore, it is not possible for anybody to think on the lines of the Jnana Marga. That was for those days when people were calm and life was calm. Now it is not possible; so the only thing is to surrender.

The pace of life is so fast there is no time to meditate, no time to sit and concentrate unless you take to Sanyasa or you go and sit in an Ashram, where you cannot be disturbed by these things. At home it is not possible. Even about fifty years ago people could do it at home. Now it is not possible because of the hectic lifestyle. The only thing that you can do is a mixture of all the Yogas and that is surrender. With the knowledge of whom you are surrendering to, you must have trust, faith, belief and conviction, more than anything else. Therefore, you have devotion in your heart to that (Ideal). The next part, fifty per cent, is your effort, i.e. you have to do your duty. The other fifty per cent is God's. He'll do his part so long as we do ours. That is called Karma Yoga.



“Devotion to duty is the highest form of the worship of God.” Vivekananda said that. Devotion to duty must be there, come what may. This duty comes to us as our Purva Janma Karma, our past life actions, our Prarabdha Karma. In our present life it comes to us, carried over into this birth; so we have to fulfill it. It is a debt, a debt we have to pay. We have to look at it that way and in a most detached manner fulfill it to the best of our ability so that we are freed from it. Without rewinding the tape! In the tape recorder you will see that you are unwinding on one side and rewinding on the other. That is what most people do because as they are exhausting

Her Holiness says Teaching

Prarabdha they continue in evil acts or evil thoughts. They are rewinding the tape and then they come back here. That is how the cycle of birth and death comes about. So you call a halt to it.



“In this birth I am doing no wrong, whatever anybody else does to me. I am not hitting back in any way.” This again comes from knowledge—because you know very well the results. Because in surrender you do your duty and leave the results to God. When you look forward to the results then the trouble starts. When good comes, we are happy; when bad comes, we are unhappy. We should not want the good, we should not want the bad. You take both—the good and the bad. So you are free from it. You get that freedom and continue to do your duty. As you go on praying to Him and surrendering to Him, you find that you get more and more calmness and self control. When your senses are under control, you find that you are a totally different person and find it easier to live life. Take life as it comes, they say; but who can do it? It may come in many ways that we don't like. That's the problem. There should be no likes or dislikes. “Take life as it comes” means you take it without any likes or dislikes. Take anything that comes to you as part of your Karma. You just have to go through with it. I told you that they had learnt that lesson when the gentleman passed away. They were able to accept it peacefully because they had absorbed so much of the teaching of surrender.



Saranagati

He can take you where you take Him. You have to trust Him, believe in Him and be convinced about Him, and this you can do only stage by stage, step by step, by committing mistakes (maybe learning from those mistakes) but by not letting go of Him. That is the main thing. You may make a lot of mistakes, something bad happens to you and you get desperate; you get sad; you get unhappy. I always tell the Devotees that whatever happens, you go through with it. But keep on repeating your prayer, whatever your problems are. You keep hold of His Feet. You don't give up. When the dark night passes, you wake up in the morning. You feel much better. It is only through these experiences that you learn.

You see, the lives of the Pandavas [heroes of the Mahabharata]. They went through so much suffering. But they would not break Dharma. You know that Yudhishtira was called Dharmaraja. He would not break Dharma whatever happened. It does not matter if others do wrong, you should not do wrong. You should not have their behaviour as your criterion. Your creed should not be that if they do it to me I will do it back. This is revenge or something like it. Under no circumstances, as a personal thing, should you do it.

Doing it in a war is another thing. You have to fight for your country, fight for Dharma, fight for the Right. That is another sphere altogether. Doing it personally, for your own personal reasons, you will have to answer to God. Just leave it to God, leave it to the Law of karma, which will come back and finish them. You don't have to worry. But Dharma and Ahimsa—you have to practice them in your own Life. But in other ways you cannot practice Ahimsa. Krishna Himself made Arjuna fight the battle of

Her Holiness says Teaching

Kurukshetra: made him fight it for truth. Even Buddha, who was supposed to be a man of peace, a great saint of peace, said that, "Man must fight Might with Right, or else Might will rule alone." Might rules alone, if Right does not fight it. See, what is happening. In so many countries, he, who has the gun, is the important person.



You must practice it. When you surrender, you are expected to do your duty to perfection. You must remember your responsibility,. But expect nothing from it. The results are given to God. So He knows how to judge. If things are bad as well as good, we can't say, "We want the good but we don't want the bad." Our attitude should be, "You look after me. That's enough. I trust you." And He will look after you! I used to say that, "I can give it in writing in my own blood that, He will look after you. It's my experience." But you come to such a level that, for example, if you lose something, He will help you. For instance, if I lose something and I can't find it, I will wonder where it has gone. Sometimes, it's a pen or something small and then I find it. I'll just walk along and suddenly the pen is there. He just shows it to me. If He can help us in such small things, will He not do big things for us? It is only that the big things take time and certain things happen which have no explanation. And we can't expect explanations from Him, and if we ask Him, He says, "You go your way and I go mine." It's like if you ask a doctor." "Why should I take these pills three times a day and not four times a day?" He will say, "Find another doctor." God expects Absolute Trust and Unquestioning Obedience. "Don't question Me!" And we find things happening for us! It's a wonderful experience once you

Saranagati

come to understand it and experience it. You must have experience.

Take Life as it comes. If you think something very bad is happening to you, understand that something is being worked out. He cushions it for you. Understand that God cannot be wrong. What He has sanctioned-when something is happening to us, let it be. Something we must have done (something very wrong, very bad in the past birth) to someone and created pain and agony for somebody-that agony is coming back to us in this birth. But when we have surrendered to Him, He takes note of it. And He looks after us with minimum suffering for us. But, something may have to be gone through, because of what you have created. You have to pay something for causing pain to someone else.



Mahavishnu. He is watching all Creation. But if somebody calls Him, He knows that the Law of Karma is taking its course and people do suffer. He is watching but with compassion. Unless you call Him, He will not come to your aid. See, you must want it, isn't it? Nobody will come otherwise, much less God. That is how Draupadi's story [in the Mahabharata] goes. As long as she was holding on to her sari, He did not come. Not until she put both her hands up and called Him, then He came. That gesture indicated total surrender. The same thing is seen in the story of Gajendra Moksham. Gajendra was an elephant. He was a God cursed to be an elephant. He was on the banks of a river and then a crocodile came and caught his leg, you know.

Her Holiness says Teaching

A crocodile came and caught his leg. He was a king in his past birth, and now also he was a king, but of the elephants. In his last birth he was a king of the Devas, the Gods. So he was now trying to pull his leg out of the crocodile's mouth, trying to pull it back. The more he pulled the more the crocodile's teeth pressed into his flesh; He was bleeding. He pulled and pulled, and finally he remembered God. He remembered Mahavishnu. He was pulling back his leg as he called Mahavishnu at the same time. He was trying to help himself. He gave up finally all attempts to help himself and took some lotuses which were growing there and prayed and offered it to Him. The minute he did that and stopped trying to help himself and prayed to God, Mahavishnu, lying on the Milky Ocean, got up and prepared to go towards Him. Mahalakshmi came running behind Him and asked, "Where are you going. Where are you running to?" His Angavastram [upper cloth] was missing; and She asked again, "Where are you running to like this?" He said, "My Bhakta is calling Me, I must go." Riding on Garuda. He came immediately and rescued him. He took the Chakra [discus] and cut off the head of the crocodile. So that is the example of surrender. When you go to God without asking for anything, when you surrender to Him, is there anything which God doesn't know? He is the Supreme Reality and knows everything. Then do we have to tell Him our sufferings? "You know about my sufferings, and I don't have to tell you, you must help me," like that you can ask. That is in the beginning stages. In the last stage you don't have to ask. You don't have to say anything, but just keep waiting. He knows what is best for us. He will do it; and whatever He does for us we should not doubt that it is for the best. Once you come to that stage, you just take Life as it comes: no problems at all.



Saranagati

Happiness and peace, which they say,
Passeth understanding comes from Him alone.
Once you live in Him, then there is no problem.
But till that time, that person has to suffer.
But those sufferings, I tell you, take it as a way and a means to purify
yourself.
So when you find that you are doing this.
Plead to God for help.
And when you do Saranagati and you appeal to Him for help,
He takes away more than half your suffering.
More than half He takes.
He knows you are suffering and He knows that you have surrendered to
Him, and He has got, you must remember, the greatest compassion, the
greatest compassion He has got,
He is watching you, He will help you.
But you must call Him, like Draupadi called Him, like Gajendra called Him,
like Prahlada called Him; you must call Him in the same way.
And He will come to us at any time when we truly want Him with all our
hearts and souls, not before that.

(An excerpt from Sri Sathguru's Discourse on Sanyasa delivered during the 24th Sanyasa
Ashrama Svikarana Dina celebrations on the 25th May 1999).





The Renunciation . . .



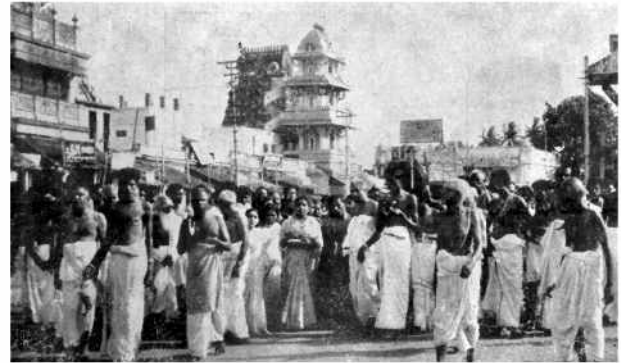
. . . of a small worldly family
 (This photograph was taken just the night before Ma took sannyasa).
 To Inherit . . .



. . . a universal divine family
 (This photograph was taken when Ma sat at the Kumarakkottam Mandapam, after taking sannyasa).



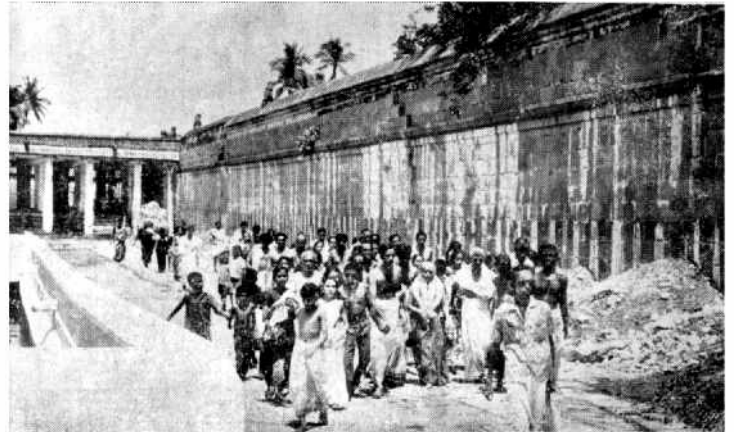
Ma, at the Bhajan on the night of 24th May 1975



On the way to Kumarakkottam after receiving the ochra robes



Ma, seated at the Mandapam at Kumarakkottam Temple, participating in and inspiring the ecstatic Bhajan



Procession from Kamakshi Amman Temple to Kumarakkottam



Devotees receiving Ma's blessings, at Kumarakkottam, after Ma took Sannyasa

The Flame is Lit



Mother speaking to the large gathering at Sri Rajarajeswari Temple



The Invocation

Devotees Singing Bhajan



"The Voice Divine speaks now"



A devotee receiving a copy of the first issue of "Voice Divine"



The Blossom

This photograph was taken just a month before Mother took Sannyasa

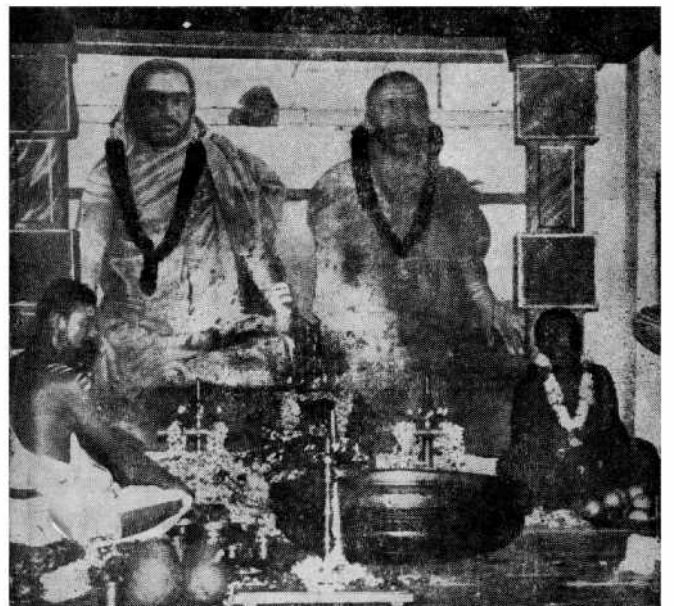


The Bloom

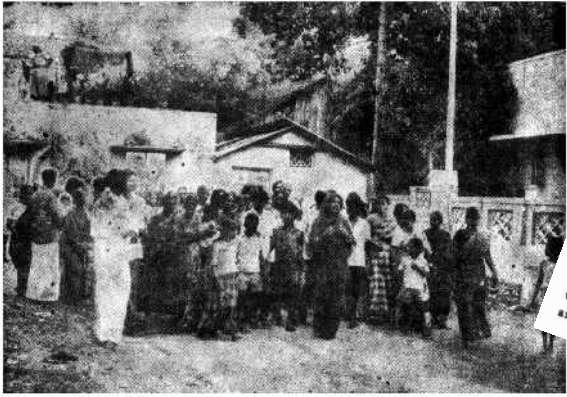
The first photograph taken immediately after Mother donned the ochre robes



Navarathri Puja—Oct '75



Bhagavathi Seva by former Melsanthi Sri. Kesavan Bharrathri.



A familiar sight to devotees in Madras. Whether for lectures or visits, Mother always walked to any place within 4 miles—in middle as well as evening, in pouring rain as well as in hot sunshine.

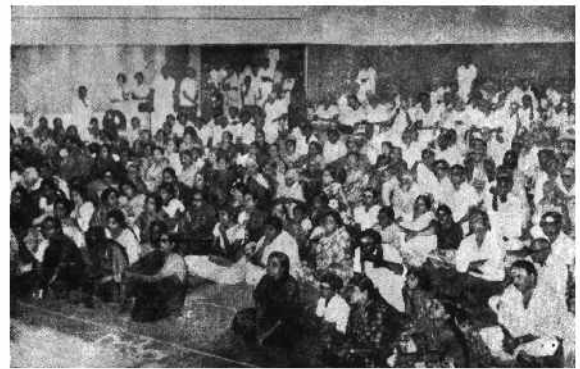


at Bharathiyavidya Bhavan—10th Dec '75



at Queen Mary's College 31st Oct '75

And the listeners



at Sreenivasa Ladies Club—12th Nov.'75



With a group of Ladies



— and with a Jagadguru

Visit to Stella Mari's College
25th Nov. 1975



A warm Welcome

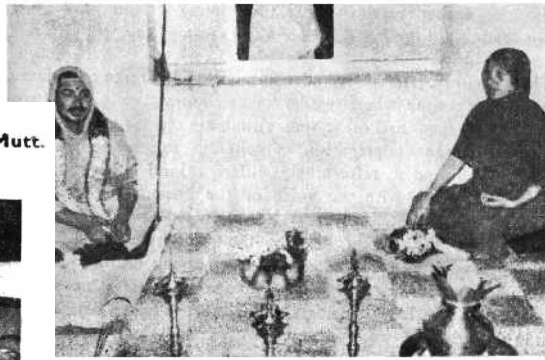


An eager question

Visit of H. H. Jagadguru Sri Sankaracharya of Pushpagiri Mutt.
18th Oct '75



Traditional Reception with Poonakumbham



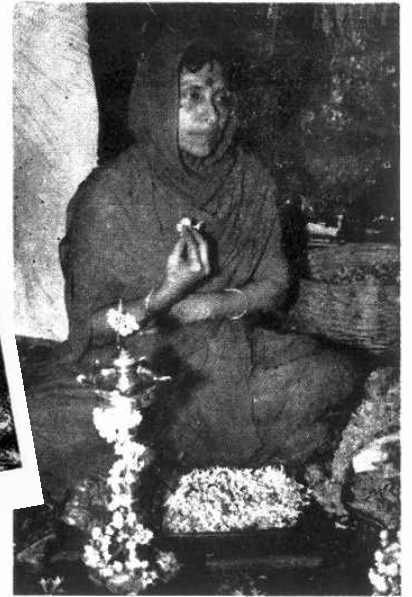
And lively discussion



Worship ---



Mahasivaratri Puja—28-2-76



ARCHANA



PADA SAMPROKSHANAM—27-2-76



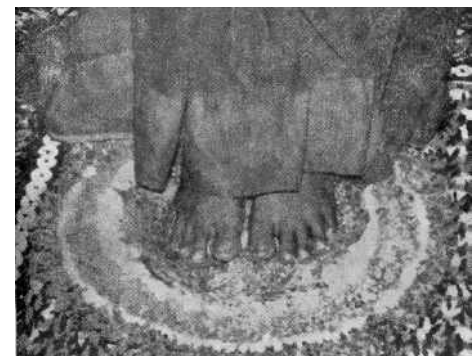
Mother watching 'thriyambaka homam' being performed



Vasoddhara—the pouring of ghee into the sacred fire



PADA PUJA—27-2-76





In the evening of my life, Ma,
When I've done my little bit,
I'll turn to you for help, Ma,
To gain Eternal Bliss.

I don't know how to thank you ;
Mere words just can't express.
But since you are my Mother,
My feelings you can guess.

Padmini Achan



Rama Raja In The Twentieth Century



(at Vivekanandapuram—19th April 1976)



(Triplicane Cultural Academy—10th April '76)



(Sri Venugopalswamy Temple, Gopalapuram—11th April '76)



(Triplicane Cultural Academy—10th April '76)



Divine Message at the Temple





Benign Smile



(at Vivekanandapuram—19th April 1976)

**SANNYASA ASHRAMA - FIRST ANNIVERSARY
25th May, 1976**



Her Divine Gaze Fell On Us.....

*—Ma's posture on that day will ever remain
fresh in our memory.*



LOST TO THE WORLD.....



.....AND IMMERSSED IN HIM

AS THEY SANG.....



*Sri Naganathan, who started the bhajan, filled the air with
his majestic voice.*



Smt. Jaya Sitaram sings her own compositions on Ma, set to music by herself.



Smt. Jayalakshmi pours out sweet melody.



Smt. Lakshmi Shivaram, leader of the Swami Gnanananda Saraswathi Bhajan Mandali, rendering the Sri Peetam's songs and compositions on Ma.

AND AS THEY SPOKE



Sri Muhil, the photographer-devotee, whose photographs printed in these pages have conveyed to the readers the various postures of Ma and Her activities, speaks on Guru-Bhakthi.

SHE LISTENED



SANGEETHANJALI!



"Surrender to me; I shall take care of you".



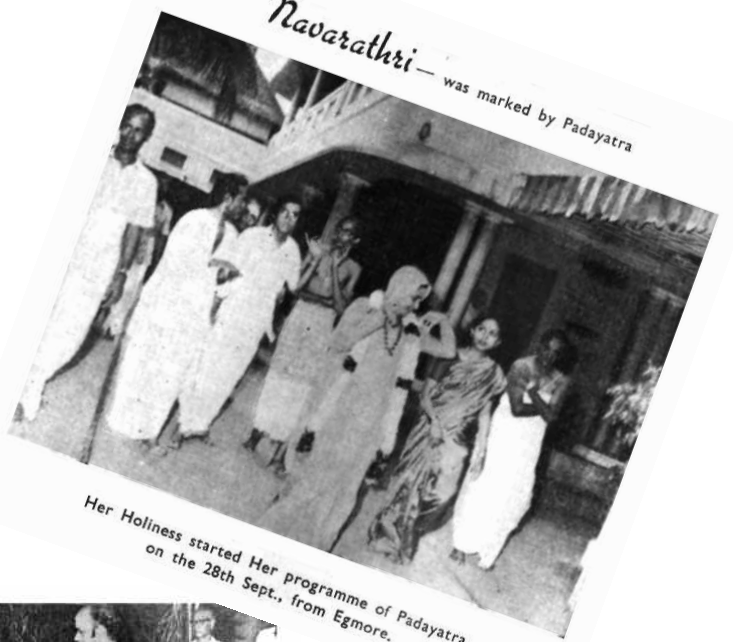
Onam — tributes to Her Holiness...



.....Floral and...



.....Vocal



Her Holiness started Her programme of Padayatra on the 28th Sept., from Egmore.



Poorna Kumbham being offered to Her Holiness by Shri Parasuram (Prop. Minerva Tutorial College) at his house.



Our Revered Sadguru in Shri Parashuram's house.



POORNAKUMBHAM offered by devotees all along the route of Padayatra.





With Her Sweet Smile She walked miles and miles



At the Shrine of Durga (Shiva Temple, Nungambakkam)



Enthusiastic ... reverentially offering Arathi to Her Holiness



—SHE Showered Her Blessings.



Her Holiness with Shri Parashuram at the Minerva Tutorial College



—And the Elders.





Padapuja to the Gurupadukas on Vijayadasami Day



LEAD, KINDLY LIGHT!

The "Messenger".....



"The Voice Divine speaks now"



Devotees sing bhajans before the release of the Voice Divine.



Sweet melody pours forth.....



..... to enthrall the audience.





Tiruvanmiyur 31-12-76



Rev. Fr. Ignatius Hridayam, Founder of 'Iykyalayam', Isha Priya Mathaji & Vandana Priya Mathaji extending their invitation to Her Holiness to visit their Rishikesh Ashram (Convent)



Sweet Reward for little hearts



Her Holiness giving sugar-candy to Sri K. Eswar's (Secy. SGAP) children after their praiseworthy recital of Purushasooktha, Upanisha Shanti Paattam etc.



Her Holiness with a few devotees on Pongal Day.



*"Mother Supreme! Oh, May thy gracious face
Never be turned away from me, Thy child!"*

-Vivekananda

Our Revered Sadguru at the Marundeeshwarar (Shiva-Parvathy) Temple, Tiruvanmiyur on 31st, December, 1976.



Her Holiness
SADGURU SWAMY SRI GHANANANDA SARASVATHI
(Picture taken on Jayanthi 1976)



A Welcome
for the
World Teacher
— by teachers

At Seetha Kingston House School — 9-7-77



Bhajan before Sathguru's Speech.

With the Principal & Staff.



The Divine Light that leads the Way



Learning the Eternal Truths...

In the Presence of the Embodiment of Truth.



Daily Veda classes in progress at Our Sri Peetam.

27-7-'77 — Jayanthi*



*According to the Indian Calendar.

A Rare Privilege



Dr. J. M. Hondius with Sathguru when She visited Vaishnavi Aalayam



Shri K. P. Vellu Pillay with our Revered Sathguru (above) a few months after she took Sanyasa (Edward Elliotts Road, 21-10-75)

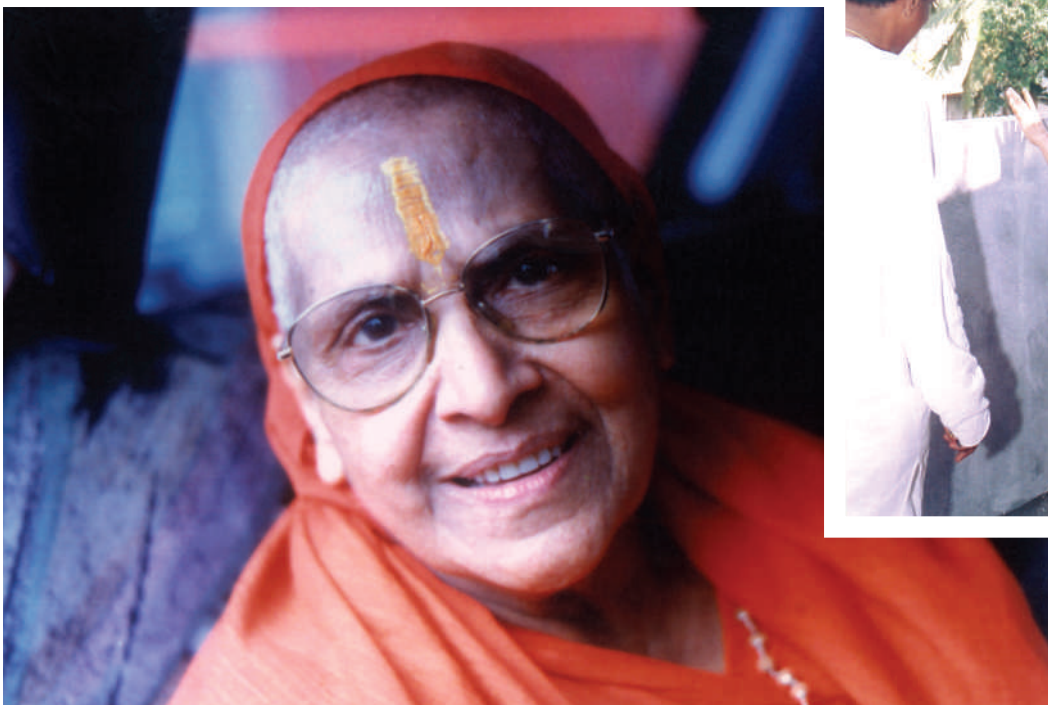
(Below) Receiving the first copy of "Divine Descent" and "Gnana Malar" (Jayanthi celebrations Aug. 1976)



Sri Peetam students reciting Vedas



Shri Naganathan (of Alitalia) sang bhajans with deep devotion in the presence of our Revered Sathguru









Our

This ever-smiling, compassionate sage from Annakara has transformed many a life.

Devotees who have known revered Sri Sathguru from Her grahastha days to the latest entrants to the Sathguruvian legacy –all have had experiences, stories, and anecdotes on how their lives were shown the right direction. And above all, they have had the encompassing shadow of divine protection of their Guru. During the waking hours and beyond, their lives have been touched, studied and given an impetus in an appropriate manner. To each their own upadesam, to every soul their mantra of living a clean, good life. How does this Jagathguru do it? On one hand She seems totally detached to everyone and everything, on the other when She speaks, guides and offers a helping hand it is as if it was done for you and only you. The answer is simple. Souls like Her who have taken vidwat sanyasa are soaked in knowledge. Their souls are dyed ochre, hearts filled with an unexplainable love of God. It is this love of God coupled with the experiential conviction that every soul is a small spark, which has emanated from the Divine, that She sets out to help Her devotees navigate their way through samsara. Through simple suggestions and firm commands, with explanations and deciphering of the loftiest philosophical truths. Always ready to inspire, encourage and self-

Sathguru

realize. Anyone who comes to Her with faith and surrender have found their questions answered. Ask Her devotees and you are certain to get a variety of responses. Some will smile, others will cry. A few will tell you how She is the beacon and you should come to Her. While others may tell you to read Her discourses. Sit with them and rest assured you will find the stories of their lives with the words, nay an emotion called "Sri Sathguru" omnipresent at every turn.

What does She expect of devotees and disciples though? Saranagati. Absolute surrender at the lotus feet of Bhagavan. Live a clean, good life. Adhere to truth, ahimsa, purity and dharma. Be a Rama not just in the puja room but also outside. Practice vairagya. And always remember that God is not your servant.

And believe you me, when Her Holiness says all of this, it is not on the basis of bookish knowledge or some fleeting thoughts. It is based on experience. Her life, ways and lessons are all borne out of Her own experiences.

So as you turn over the page, you can immerse yourself in the countless remembrances of Her devotees. Blessed are those who have had the good fortune of following the path of this disarmingly simple yet powerful voice of Krishna.

Teacher extraordinary, Ma exemplary

In 1982, Sri Sathguru was in total seclusion and did not meet anyone. The work in Sri Peetam went on as usual but we were able to spend more time on sadhana.

All the work was going on , parayanam was going on but Sathguru rarely taught. While Vishnu took it in His stride, I found this difficult. Sri Sathguru was as a mother perfectly ordinary, she cooked and looked after us like any other mother but even when she scolded us it was with a good dose of Vedanta in the scolding. When Vishnu as a boy got angry once too often, Sathguru said, "I think you are eating too much pickle, that's why you have become rajasic and getting angry." He immediately abandoned pickle!!

But Sathguru was the only mother to use Vedanta as a means to scold children.

But in 1982 I was getting impatient to learn Vedanta formally!! When I broached the subject to Her, Sathguru just said, "Read the Bhagavatham this evening." When I opened the Bhagavatham, the first thing I saw was the duties of a brahmacharin and it was written there, Keen and attentive to the teacher, let him learn the Veda when summoned (to do so).





She works invisibly

Sri Sathguru is the invisible beacon that guides me and my family through our daily lives.

- We come across trivial problems as well as difficult ones but somehow the solutions seem to appear from nowhere. We were facing a very difficult situation at our workplace two years ago, where our neighbour was instrumental in getting our operations sealed by the corporation authorities. We had to move court. We apprised Sri Sathguru of the same and each time we went for darshan, she would tell us, "*Have faith in God and don't worry*". We got a verdict in our favour in less than four months' time. Something which does not happen in India!
- At times we present ourselves for darshan with a heavy heart or mixed feelings as something negative would have occurred to us. But the moment we are blessed with Sri Sathguru's smile, our hearts lighten up and all our worries vanish.

Thank you and Pranams to you Sri Sathguru.



To tread Her path

Om Namō Narayanāya.

Pranams to Sri Sathguru Swami Gnanananda Sarasvathi

The celebration of Sri Sathguru's Saharsa Chandra Darshanam – completion of the viewing of a 1000 full moons – is of special significance to all of us who revere and worship Sri Sathguru. One of the reasons being – it serves to remind us that humanity has had the privilege and opportunity to benefit from Sri Sathguru's presence, grace and teachings for all these years. It cannot be said that only a few were blessed – ALL people who have passed through the doors of Sri Peetam have had the same opportunity. But to take in the Grace and truly benefit from it has perhaps been given to a few. And this I believe would be a direct reflection of the individual's aspiration, sincerity, application and faith.

Sri Sathguru's teachings are there for us in various forms, leave alone in all the many hours of darshans and private conversations that Sri Sathguru has had with us. At every turn Sri Sathguru has tried to impart to us some of the infinite knowledge and wisdom that defines Perfection. Several conversations with Sri Sathguru that I have had are etched in my memory – I am grateful for this opportunity to replay several of them in my mind, since with time everything will diminish unless reinforced. I cannot say I understood the significance of Sathguru's words at all times. But making an effort to follow them, in the course of various situations in life, has always led to two results – one, a sense of satisfaction or a smooth resolution of seemingly impossible situations. Two, the understanding, through experience of the good that comes out of listening to your Guru and living up to the expectations of your Guru.

- **The wallet experience**

Sri Sathguru once told a visitor in front of several of us – “Sevarthis cannot do a wrong thing.” I had become a sevarthi a short while before this and I felt very happy to hear this statement from Sri Sathguru. I took it as a certificate of merit. I was to learn...

Shortly after this incident, during a Sri Peetam function at Annanagar, I lost my wallet in the function hall. The wallet contained some money, a few ID cards, but the most significant loss was the newly acquired and only copy of my two wheeler driver's license. Since another devotee had also lost his belongings, it was a clear case of theft by an outsider. After a long tour of the police stations, RTO offices and filling out forms over several weeks, the RTO official asked for a consideration to be paid in order to release the new license copy. After all the weeks of inconvenience, it was a simple and easy task – to pay and go my way. I might have done it too, but Sri Sathguru's words flashed across my mind at that minute – “Sevarthis cannot do a wrong thing.” I realized that this was not a merit certificate in my case as I had thought. It was a statement of expectation. This was what Sri Sathguru expected from us and how could I face Sri Sathguru after letting Her down?

I refused the offer from the official and, of course, he asked me to come back when I was

ready to pay up. I was too young to complain to the higher ups, too scared to face him down, but I would not pay. There was no way out of course but to rely on two statements of Sri Sathguru – “Satyameva Jayate” and “Take the jump and you will be caught”. The right teachings have a funny way of surfacing in our minds when we are in doubt and pray.

The next darshan was a few days later and I had not mentioned this incident to anyone. The first thing I saw on entering the darshan hall was another sevarthi talking to Sri Sathguru and handing over something, with Sri Sathguru smiling at me. Lying on the side table was a dirty, discoloured item – my wallet!!

It had been found by a good Samaritan, in a suburb of Chennai, near a garbage dump with a visiting card in it – that of another Sevarthi. And on being contacted, he collected it and brought it to Sri Peetam. The only thing in the wallet apart from my Gurubhai's visiting card was the driving license.

A lot of things appear as coincidences to the world at large –but only we can feel the significance of our experiences and our Guru. The effect of these experiences is not just to eulogise on God and the Guru's Grace. It is to learn our lessons and have Sri Sathguru's teachings reinforced.

- A spur to action

Several statements of Sri Sathguru have the effect of being a spur to action. On one occasion, in Brindavan Street, Sri Sathguru told all the devotees assembled that I recited the Vishnu Sahasranamam twice a day. Only I knew that this was not entirely accurate – I was and am irregular. Sri Sathguru obviously knew this too. But this statement still makes me feel guilty after ten years – I am making my Guru's words untrue. I have not yet settled to a regular routine for the Vishnu Sahasranamam but I cannot forget this incident. And I will make this statement of Sri Sathguru's true – at least from now, on the occasion of the Sahasra Chandra Darshanam celebrations.

- Not listening to Sathguru

There are of course numerous occasions on which I have either half heartedly or not at all listened to Sathguru's advice. These have perhaps taken me on circuitous paths in life towards the goal. But the only thing I encounter is quite encouragement and not a word of reprimand. Sri Sathguru's mercy allows us the liberty of walking our own path – as long as it is not unrighteous – and we have had our Guru to put us on course again.

I have to ask myself as this significant day approaches – have I really tried to walk along the path shown to me? I pray that I may stop being a burden on my Guru and that I may sincerely follow that which is expected of me, with the least resistance from my ego. A tall task, but it is up to my efforts. And I owe it to my Guru.

Namaskarams to the Lotus Feet of Sri Sathguru Swami Gnanananda Sarasvathi.



I am in safe and capable hands

Narayana

I offer this at the lotus feet of our Revered Sri Sathguru. I am fortunate to get an opportunity to recount how Sri Sathguru has guided and molded our lives. It also gives me an opportunity to actually stop and think again how Sri Sathguru has completely transformed our lives for the here and the hereafter. Indeed, Sri Sathguru has touched our lives in more than a thousand ways.

I can recount numerous occasions in which Sri Sathguru's Grace has helped me or my family. I can also recount numerous occasions of Sri Sathguru's compassion and mercy towards her devotees or towards the common man. The most important lesson Sri Sathguru has taught me is introducing God to me. Until recently, I was never regular in my prayers or for that matter very sincere in my time spent in the puja room. Over time, Sri Sathguru has patiently changed my perspective and outlook in life. Sri Sathguru has also taught me about the importance of repeating the Mantra not just in the puja room but in our daily activities. Clearly I am still a "work in progress" but with Sri Sathguru as my teacher, I know I am in safe and capable hands.

- Recently I was arranging for some pujas at the Guruvayurappan temple here in Chennai. As I was praying in front of Lord Narayana and making a mental offering of the pujas, I had the strong thought coming to my mind that all these Archanas I am doing at the temple are actually an offering to Sri Sathguru herself. I felt that it was Sri Sathguru who was the recipient of the offerings and it was Sri Sathguru's Grace that would ultimately follow. It was such a strong thought resonating in my mind and this was perhaps my first experience of GURU GOD oneness. I thank Sri Sathguru for giving me this experience.

"Just let God manage your life" is something Sri Sathguru has been trying to inculcate in all of us. It is a constant endeavor to indeed let God manage my life. I pray to Sri Sathguru that all of us understand the importance of this simple statement and pray that we indeed let God manage our lives.

Sri Sathguru arpanamastu!



I am a Sathguru product!

An endless stream of thoughts flood my mind when I start to think about Sathguru. What is She? A true bhaktha's heart beat? My lifeline? A perfect Guru? A true friend? And when my mind moves towards the thought of Divine Descent, then perhaps descriptions like A witness, Humbling experience from saranagati, Sri Peetam – an oasis ,nay a paradise seem to be apt and experiential...

I find it difficult to express it in words. It is beyond description for an ordinary mortal like me. There is nothing more purifying than to narrate about Sathguru. Right from the mundane, day to day activities, to life threatening, humiliating and stressful situations, Sathguru's help / grace is always there. An evidence of what Sathguru often says, "Without God's grace nothing can happen." This is reflective of Sathguru's origins. Sathguru always stands like a rock and guides us to safety at times of crisis, when even your friends, relatives and family members desert you. Even in my professional work, I am the odd man out as I try to practice what Sathguru teaches us. Given any opportunity, I am put to test, mocked at and people try to frustrate me. I am compared to persons who are more experienced. At the end, Sathguru sees to it, that the results / work output is better than others and exceeds even their expectations.(A true friend)

About a month back, I had an injury to the right foot. Thinking it would settle down, in due course, I never did anything for it. A few days later, I had a dream about the complications of the injury. Subsequently, on evaluation, it matched with what I had dreamt of. Thanks to Sathguru, I was forced to take precautionary measures as a follow up. (a Bhaktha's heart beat).

" Just let God manage your life"

"If God is every thing to you, then He will do everything for you"

"Tell them that Sathguru has said that it is not difficult to be good."

All these golden words of Sathguru are divine and leave a lasting impression. These look so simple, but how powerful they are !! These awaken us and make us realize that we have miles to go, miles to go

Another very important lesson which I have learnt from Sathguru and is relevant to today's world is : " Consider your food as prasadam from God and do not waste it." *How useful !! How relevant !!!* It is needless to say we have to learn a lot more from Sathguru. This has to be seen in the back ground of Sri Sri Sri Vishnu Mohan's life and work culture – an ideal Sevarthi, a model Sevarthi. As Sathguru always says so much of perfection – perfection at its peak. If I sincerely follow Sathguru's words in letter and spirit, I can boldly proclaim , "*Chandran – a Sathguru product.*" This is the only thing I should live for and pray for. It is the only way I can repay my debt of gratitude to Sathguru and Sri Sri Sri Vishnu Mohan and his family members.

Narayana.

With pranams at the lotus feet of Sri Sathguru



Only true bhakthi and faith qualifies you

My first darshan of Sri Sathguru was in 1990 and after that I had darshan in 1998, in a temple at Chennai. There was no darshan for so many years and Sri Sathguru had come out to the temple. I was sad due to various problems and I was following Sri Sathguru into the temple, almost in the last row of the crowd, thinking that Sri Sathguru didn't know me. Suddenly, Sri Sathguru stopped and turned back. And to my great surprise the crowd had given way and I was seen right in front of Sri Sathguru, a few feet away. I was shocked when Sri Sathguru smiled at me and said, " Don't worry Anu. Everything will be all right".

Sri Sathguru again walked very quickly and the crowd moved. I was spell bound! I was wondering how Sri Sathguru remembered me by my name, when I realized that Sri Sathguru was no ordinary human being.

- I started attending regular darshans after that. I used to be very late because I had to take care of my sick mother-in-law. And as usual my in-laws were not satisfied with my care. I used to sit in the last row and cry praying to Sri Sathguru to call me and scold me so that I would take more care of the elders. One day, Sri Sathguru called me and my husband near her and smiled at me. After that, turning to my husband Sri Sathguru said, " see, she is taking excellent care of your mother. Even you could not have taken better care of her." Again, Sri Sathguru turned to the devotees and said," You should all learn to take care of the elders from her. Though being so young she has set an example to all of you." Again, I was shocked to realize that Sri Sathguru had read my feelings.
- It was then that I realized that words are not necessary to convey your sufferings to Sri Sathguru. Once, Sri Sathguru had few japa pouches to be distributed to devotees. And there was a gossip outside that it would be given to devotees, who were coming there for several years only. So I did not want to wait, but a few insisted on me and my husband staying back. I was standing hopelessly, when we heard our names being called, to the surprise of everybody present there. Because we had attended a few darshans only and it was impossible that we would get a chance. But Sri Sathguru had made it possible for us and we were blessed with japa pouch from Sri Sathguru's hands, which we still preserve and use. This incident made me realize that the number of darshans and years of coming to Sripeetam didn't matter. It is your true Bhakthi and Faith in Sri Sathguru that makes you a qualified person for Sri Sathguru's blessings.
- I was suffering from severe Planter Fasciitis (pain in both the heels) for a few years, for which there is no concrete treatment and cure. I had not mentioned a word about it to Sri Sathguru. Suddenly, Sri Sathguru asked me to go to Guruvayur and do Nirmalya Darshanam for three days. I did so, and within a month Sri Sathguru had asked me to go again. After the second trip I found that my pain had all gone completely. As a doctor I could not believe it myself but it is true that I am cured, for all these years, of the pain. By this time, I had decided that nothing could happen without Sri Sathguru's knowledge.

Each and every suffering, happiness and our day to day activities are meticulously supervised by Sri Sathguru and taken care of if we want it, and surrender to Sri Sathguru who is none other than Sriman Narayana.

If I had neglected or been lazy to go to Guruvayur when Sri Sathguru had insisted me to go twice within a short span of time I would definitely be suffering today. I realized that Sri Sathguru expects us to have unquestioned faith and follow Her suggestions. Even a single word uttered by Sri Sathguru, be it a casual note or an instruction, should be followed strictly for our good. Sri Sathguru does not do or say a single thing or word without meaning and it is only our finite minds that do not understand it.

- Even the simple wishes in our life are taken care of by Sri Sathguru with such motherly care and affection, if we do have complete faith in her. I used to criticize my husband for not coming to shop with me to select sarees for me, and it was just a simple wish of any ordinary wife to a husband. Sri Sathguru had seen that even that wish was fulfilled for me. Sri Sathguru blessed me with a silk saree once, and I came to know that it was selected by my husband and I had the fortune of getting it from my beloved Guru. It was not necessary for Sri Sathguru to do it as it was such a simple thing but still Sri Sathguru had done it for the sake of a devotee.

- Before my first delivery, we had to shift to Salem and I was crying desperately because I didn't want to miss my darshans. But still we had to move. And after a few days I was longing to see Sri Sathguru, but I could not travel to Chennai with the new born. I was worried and lying sleeplessly in my bed. At around 5 a.m. in the morning I heard the calling bell ringing. I rushed and opened the door to see Sri Sathguru, standing there radiant with that bright smile, flowers showering on her. It was a glimpse of Sri Sathguru that I had for a few minutes. Suddenly, I realized that I was still in my bed only. It was so soul stirring that I still could not say it was my dream. Yes, Sri Sathguru had come all the way to give darshan for this poor devotee then. I realized if we call with Bhakthi, Sri Sathguru will definitely come and answer us, no matter in which part of the universe we are. I also realized that it was not just attending darshans that was required but regular prayers and faith in Sri Sathguru, even if something very bad had to happen due to our Karma, Sri Sathguru sees that a devotee is cushioned in all ways possible.

- As Sathguru's devotee, for all these years, I have learnt certain things from Her teachings :

1. Have complete faith in Sri Sathguru alias Sriman Narayana, who can do anything and everything for you. There should be no doubt about it.
2. Do your prayers regularly, as directed by Sri Sathguru as it gives the cushioning effect from all our bad Karmas.
3. Lead a clean, good, disciplined life as taught by Sri Sathguru. Even your professional practice should go by ethics and not otherwise. I don't care even if we are the odd ones out, in this Kaliyuga.
4. Respect your parents and do your duty towards them, even if they are not good. Sri Sathguru always used to insist, "The worst Karma happens to you when you neglect

your parents.”

5. Parents are to be blamed, if children turn out to be bad. So discipline yourself before you bring up your child.
6. Be contented with what you have. Sri Sathguru sees that we are given adequately at the right time. Give away the excess to the poor and needy when it is in good condition. Don't waste, food particularly.
7. Don't leave your dharmik life, come what may. It may be difficult at that moment but Sri Sathguru sees that truth wins finally.
8. If your wishes, prayers, requests, demands are not fulfilled or completed at that moment or time, it means that it is not good for you at that time or it is not required for your life. So as Sri Sathguru says always, “Let God manage your life.”
9. During prayer time, don't ask God this and that. But do your prayers for the pleasure of praying alone. Even after leaving the pooja room, keep repeating your mantra or japa as you continue with your work.
10. Don't expect Sri Sathguru to tell you each and everything. Do your prayers and duty correctly

Things will work out well. Finally, I wonder what Punyam I have done in my last birth to be born as Sri Sathguru's devotee in this life. I pray to Sri Sathguru, my motherly Guru to bless me with the same for all my remaining births. Also to help me follow all the above said teachings of Sri Sathguru. Once again my humble pranams at the Lotus Feet of Sri Sathguru.

Narayana.



Unforgettable lessons

Sathguru has told us many a time to pray to God whenever we are free. When Sathguru says this or when She gives a talk I used to follow Her teachings for a few days and then I forget about the whole matter as I normally do. This is because there are many distractions in my life. But sometimes those holy thoughts suddenly strike my mind. And I find it relevant to my situation and then I start saying my prayers .On one such occasion I saw an accident. Then remembered how Sathguru said we should think of people who are suffering. I couldn't bear it. Then only did I come to know about the importance of Sathguru's sayings. This is one of my big experiences. After that i started saying my prayers properly. Thank you Sathguru for teaching me a lot in my life. I will follow your words regularly, Sathguru.

Pranams to lotus feet of Sathguru



All because of Her

Om namo Narayanaya

Om Sri Sathguru Gnanananda Sarasvathyai namaha

I work in a hotel reception. I had the first darshan of Sri Sathguru, along with my family, in 1990 in Anna Nagar. I had a fracture in leg sustained in an accident in 1984. I have two children, both girls. The elder has completed Engineering and is currently working as a software professional. The younger one has completed B.A.

Sri Mukhil would take me with him as an escort to Anna Nagar and also to Guruvayur, whenever he went.

My pay is very little. With Sri Sathguru's grace, I have been able to provide good education to my children. My fractured leg has also healed now and I can do cycling.

Sri Sathguru instructed me to observe Ekadasi vratam and I did so. Sri Sathguru also advised me to read Sri Vishnu Sahasranamam daily and I am doing so.

After Sri Sathguru came to Mylapore, I used to attend darshan regularly. Sri Sathguru instructed me to perform Sri Vishnu Sahasranama archana every Saturday. I have fixed a priest to do this every week and is being performed every week now.

I accompanied Sri Sathguru in 1998 to Guruvayur, Annakkara, Ambalapuzha. In the house in which Sri Sathguru was born, I was given a book of Sri Vishnu Sahasranamam. Sri Sathguru advised me to repeat in my mind constantly "Om Namo Narayanaya".

In 2000, Sri Mukhil took me with him to Ambalapuzha for a function in which Sri Sathguru participated. In 2002, I bought a house. With the grace of Sri Sathguru, I now have a house and do not have to pay rent.

My elder daughter scored 72% marks in XII Standard. I got an educational loan from a bank and got her admitted to Engineering. She passed the final year with 77% marks and secured First Class. It was difficult to get her employed. In December 2005, Sri Sathguru advised me to make a trip to Guruvayur. I went with my full family and stayed there for 3 days. We had good darshan of the Lord. My daughter got a good job in February 2006. The bank loan for education has since been fully repaid also.

I want to get my second daughter admitted to B.Ed. next year.

Because of Sri Sathguru's grace, I could get both my daughters educated well and also secure employment for the elder girl. I have my own house too. I got all this because of Sri Sathguru only.

Om Sri Gnanananda Sarasvathyai namaha.



Antaryami is Sri Sathguru

Om Sri Sathgurave namaha.

- Admission to the M.S. Degree

I went to Sri Sathguru in 1988. There was no darshan that day. The next darshan, I saw Sri Sathguru. Sri Sathguru asked me, "Which subject are you interested in?" I informed Sri Sathguru that I was interested in M.S. (Gen. Surgery). Two darshans later, Sri Sathguru asked me, "Whether I was interested in Orthopedics?" I replied, "No." The next darshan, Sri Sathguru asked me again, in which subject I was interested. I replied, "M.S. (Gen. Surgery)." Sri Sathguru asked me, "Suppose you get Orthopedics, what will you do?" I replied that I would join. After a few weeks, Sri Sathguru called me and said, "Be happy." I was not able to understand the meaning of it. One week later, the results (for M.S.) were announced. I got M.S. (Gen. Surgery), what I wanted. When I went to Stanley Medical College to join the course, I discovered that I had been selected first in Orthopedics, and after a week, it was changed to M.S. (Gen. Surgery).

- Final examination of M.S. degree

My father passed away in 1984, when I was in the final year of M.S. Only two months were left for the final examination then. Sri Sathguru called me and said, "Sri Krishna is showing the road. So don't worry. You prepare for the examination, as much as possible, and leave the rest to God." Every time I was studying, I got the case of cancer in the stomach, in my mind. I had been to the library only once, during the entire course. Now, I went to the library and went to the "Journals" section. I searched the rack in the library and saw General Surgery, right in front of me! I selected the fourth book. The first topic was, "Recent advances in cancer of stomach." I at once read that topic and took down notes. The examinations came and I finished the short cases. I had an inner feeling that I would fail in the examination. The long case was surprisingly cancer of the stomach! Without my knowledge, the written notes came to my mind, to my utter surprise. The first question asked by the examiner was, "What is R1 recession?" The answer was going within me. I gave the answer. The examiner did not ask any more questions. Only four people out of twenty passed the examination and I was one of the four, by the grace of Sri Sathguru.

- Protection from accident

When I was working in Arni, I used to go by the night bus to go to the hospital. One day Sri Sathguru told me not to go by the night bus, but to go by the early morning bus. I argued with Sri Sathguru that if I went by the night bus, my work would get delayed. Sri Sathguru said, "It is My command that you go by the early morning bus." I went to Arni by the early morning bus. I found to my shock and surprise that the night bus by which I was supposed to go had toppled over between Arcot and Arni! Thus, Sri Sathguru protected me from the bus accident.

- Escaping car accident

Once I was driving my Maruthi 800 car in Nelson Manickam Road and crossed a road. That day I was very tired. Suddenly I saw a Maruthi Zen car coming at high speed and crossing the road in front of me. I was shocked and lost consciousness for a few minutes. Later I came to Sri Peetam. I was standing at the door. Sri Sathguru called me and asked me in a very angry tone, "Why are you driving when you are tired? Don't drive when you are tired." I was taken aback, since I had not mentioned the incident to anyone yet and then I realised how I got saved that day.

- Guruvayur trip

Once Sri Sathguru asked the sevarthis to go to Guruvayur. When we assembled in Sri Peetam to go to the railway station, Sri Sathguru asked, "Have you taken everything?" We told Sri Sathguru that we had taken everything. When we went to the railway station, we realised that no one had taken the bag containing the railway tickets. We rushed to Sri Peetam, got the bag containing the tickets and returned to the station. The train was still there and started, after we got into the train, on time.

- Miracle during surgery

Once I was operating a prostrate patient. Suddenly the patient's heart stopped pumping. Everyone knows the consequences of a patient dying during the surgical procedure. I did not know what to do. I prayed to Sri Sathguru. The anesthetist was trying his best to pump the heart. Suddenly, after one minute of my praying, the heart started beating normally again.

- Miracle after surgery

Recently one person I had operated upon suddenly developed bleeding in the post-operation period and developed jaundice. Then he developed malaria and dengue fever positive. His platelet dropped to 18,000 and he started bleeding from the skin too. Next day, he developed renal failure. Creatinin went up to 8 mg. with Sri Sathguru's grace, that patient became alright and was discharged safely.

- Admission to M.S. (Urology)

I was doing my Govt. dop in Cuddalore G.H. I tried to get transferred to Madras three times. After 5 years of finishing M.S. (Gen. Surgery), I applied for M.S. (Urology). I prepared for the examination. In the examination, out of 60 questions, I answered only 30 questions; I did not know the answer to the other questions. Negative marks would be given if the candidate answered a question wrongly. I answered the questions without knowing the answers! To my utter surprise, out of the 30 questions I had answered, 23 were answered correctly, by the Grace of Sri Sathguru. I got the first rank in the examination and I got selected for M.S. (Urology).

- Disregarding instructions

Once during darshan in Mylapore, I was standing near Sri Sathguru. On that day, a table clock was kept near Sri Sathguru. Sri Sathguru asked me to change the location of the table clock. I told Sri Sathguru that the clock was in the periphery and that nothing would

happen to it. Sri Sathguru smiled at me and kept quite. After about an hour, the clock fell down suddenly because someone shook the table. Sri Sathguru turned towards me and said, "If you had followed my instruction, this would not have happened."

- **Missing sevarthi**

Sri Sathguru was staying in Anna Nagar and giving darshans. One of the sevarthis used to buy the evening paper and submit it to Sri Sathguru. On one darshan day, one sevarthi went to buy the newspaper, but did not return even after two hours. We were about to go in search of him, when Sri Sathguru said that he had just turned around the corner of the street and would be in Sripeetam within two minutes. And so it happened!

- **Saviour of my life**

Sri Sathguru has saved my life on so many occasions. It happened once when I was working in Arni. When working in Arni, I used to stay alone in a huge house. One night, very unusually, a person called me, around 11.45 p.m. I went out, treated a patient and returned to the house at around 12.45 a.m. When I went to my bed, I saw blood stains on the bed I used for sleeping. I did not know how the blood came to be there. Next morning I came to Sripeetam. Sri Sathguru told me, "You must thank Sriman Narayana not a thousand times, but a million times. HE saved your life! Supposing, at midnight yesterday, you were in that bed, you would have been killed through black magic!" Sri Sathguru gave us a lot of instructions after that. Sri Sathguru had saved my life that night. Sri Sathguru immediately gave me tender coconut and two tins of Bournvita. Sri Sathguru also said it is not simply tender coconut and Bournvita, it is for your protection. Sri Sathguru asked me to burn the bed. Sri Sathguru also asked me to keep Sri Krishna's picture above the head while sleeping.

- **My son is cured**

The only son of mine, Krishnaprasad, was once very upset and started behaving erratically. Sri Sathguru called him and gave him a gold chain and instructed him to wear it all the time. A few days later, he became perfectly alright. Sri Sathguru protected my son's life too. Sri Sathguru also mentioned that he was undergoing a very bad time and that the chain would protect him.

- **Regaining land**

There was a problem once in my village. Someone wanted to occupy our land. I was very much upset about the matter, because our prestige in the village was at stake. About a hundred persons came and occupied our land illegally. I could not sleep properly for three or four days. Without my asking even, Sri Sathguru asked me about the problem. Sri Sathguru knows everything about us. One morning Sri Sathguru called me and said, "I know the date on which the problem will be sorted. You don't worry. God will take care and leave it to Him." The problem got sorted out a few days later.

- **Appam in Guruvayur**

My wife and I first went to Guruvayur. We did not take the token for appam, that time. My wife challenged me saying, "If you are praying to Sri Sathguru, you can get appam now!"

Suddenly, one Namboodiri came from the temple, walked towards us and gave us four appams! Needless to say that my wife was shocked!

- **Medicine dosage**

I used to check the blood pressure of Sri Sathguru daily. I prescribed a tablet of 5 mg, but Sri Sathguru told me that God had commanded Her to take 3/4th of the tablet only. Next day, when I checked the blood pressure, it was very low. Had Sri Sathguru taken the dosage prescribed by me, it might have harmed Sri Sathguru!

- **Change of plans**

Once we went to Guruvayur with Sri Sathguru, by flight to Coimbatore and then by road to Guruvayur. Flight tickets for the return journey, for eight of us, including Sri Sathguru had been booked from Coimbatore to Chennai. Just a few hours before departure from Guruvayur, Sri Sathguru desired that the return journey should be from Cochin, instead of from Coimbatore. We needed eight tickets. We checked up the availability of tickets and found that exactly eight tickets were available for the flight from Cochin, with Sri Sathguru's grace! If Sri Sathguru wants to do anything, definitely it will be done.

- **The thin wall**

Sri Sathguru finally wanted to buy a place for Sri Peetam. Two places were considered, one in Kodambakkam and the other in T.Nagar. Sri Sathguru selected the T.Nagar site, after praying for some time. A number of miracles were witnessed by us during the construction. Each time, Sri Sathguru had given clear instructions to solve the problem faced. When there was a claim for ownership of land, Sri Sathguru advised us to file a case in the court to obtain an interim order. Sri Sathguru never visited the site during construction of the building. Yet, Sri Sathguru, one day, pointed out to Shobankumar, who was in charge of the construction activity, that the western side wall of Sri Sathguru's room was thin! Shobankumar had built all the other areas with walls one foot in breadth, whereas this wall in Sri Sathguru's room alone was found to be only six inches thick! This was pointed out by Sri Sathguru from the Peetam, in West Mambalam, without visiting the site even once!

- **The pyramids**

Once Sri Sathguru asked us to place some pyramids in a newly constructed house. We did as told to us and we were about to close the pyramids with cement when a call came from Sri Sathguru advising us that we had kept the pyramids wrongly and they had to be kept exactly in the opposite way!

- **Preparing land document**

We wanted to register the plot that Sri Sathguru had wanted to buy for building Sri Peetam. Till two days prior to registration, nothing was ready. Sri Sathguru asked me whether I could do it. I was not having any experience in that field. With Sri Sathguru's grace, the document was made ready within two hours. Sri Sathguru had instructed me that the document must be complete within eleven pages. The final document was completed exactly in eleven pages!

- **Strike**

One day, Sri Sathguru told me to attend the strike that was going on to prevent a private medical college being set up. My M.S. examination was only three days away. Since Sri Sathguru told me, I attended the strike. They arrested us and kept us in the Egmore Police ground. In the evening, it was announced that the strike was a grand success. Later, Sri Sathguru told me, "You must have the experience of strike and of success."

- **Sick devotee**

Once, Sri Sathguru asked me and Mani to go to the house of one of the devotees. We found him to be sick with cardiac failure. As instructed by Sri Sathguru, we gave him an injection. The emergency situation was overcome and he was admitted to a hospital and then treated.

- **Neck pain**

One day, early in the morning, I had severe neck pain, extending to the arm. I wanted to call a doctor who was a famous neuro-surgeon, but I did not get his number. I got a call from Sri Sathguru who spoke directly to me, while I was crying with pain. Then I contacted my classmate. He advised me traction and medical treatment. Had I gone to the neuro-surgeon, he might have operated on me and I would have ended up with a problem. Sri Sathguru saved my life.

- **Honey and blood sugar**

Sri Sathguru one day gave me a bottle of honey and advised me to take a spoon of it regularly. I am having diabetics and yet Sri Sathguru gave me honey. As instructed by Sri Sathguru, I took one spoon of honey daily. Surprisingly, the blood sugar level did not shoot up and it was under control!

- **Sri Sathguru answers**

Sri Sathguru tells us often that "Even if you are 10,000 Km away, if you think of Me, I will answer you, if you have 100% bhakti." Many have experienced the miracles that occurred immediately after thinking of Sri Sathguru with bhakthi.

- **Blue border Dhoti**

Once Sri Sathguru was distributing dhotis to sevarthis. There was a broad blue colour bordered dhoti and somehow I was attracted to it. I was praying Sri Sathguru that I wanted that particular dhoti. It was below three other dhotis, in the bundle from which Sri Sathguru was distributing them. Sri Sathguru gave those three dhotis to other sevarthis and gave me the blue bordered dhoti, though I had not uttered anything! Sri Sathguru knows even the smallest thoughts, occurring in the minds of devotees.

- **Attending G.H.**

I used to go to G.H. (Govt. General Hospital) around 9.30 a.m. on the days when I had to perform a surgery. I would attend Sripeetam first, and then only go to G.H. On some days, Sri Sathguru would make me wait till 10.00 a.m. in Sri peetam, without giving any instruction to me. I was disturbed mentally, thinking that I had to go to G.H., but

Sri Sathguru would be smiling calmly. When I ultimately reached the operation theatre late, I would invariably find that they would be waiting for oxygen to come and the operation could not have started as scheduled.

I understood why Sri Sathguru was calmly smiling. This has happened many times.

- **Sri Sathguru knows everything**

Everybody was worrying about Srihari and about his health. It was a congenital problem. Most of the doctors suggested surgery. But Sri Sathguru had been telling us, from the beginning, that there was no need for surgery; it would be taken care of by God. Recently we met a doctor. He said that one of his patients was operated for the same complaint but she died after the surgery. Sri Sathguru knows everything that is going to happen in future.

- **Nature under the control of Sri Sathguru**

Sri Sathguru will give darshan on rainy days. Sometimes, homam also used to be performed on rainy days. But the natural events did not affect the darshan or homam even on a single day. Everything, including nature, is under the control of Sri Sathguru.

- **White umbrella**

For every function, I had to arrange the decorative items. I wanted to bring one white umbrella for Sri Sathguru for a particular function. I told one person to supply the umbrella. I reminded him many times. Exactly two days prior to that function, that person could locate the umbrella and brought it. He had been searching for it for many days but just before the function, he could get it!

- **Murukku as prasadam**

One day, a devotee brought prasadam for Sri Sathguru, from the Guruvayurappan temple. I saw in that a murukku, with nice colour. I thought that if I get that murukku, it will be nice to eat. It was prasadam for Sri Sathguru and my very thought itself was wrong. Next morning, Sri Sathguru packed it and gave the same murukku to me as prasadam. Sri Sathguru gave that to me out of mercy!

- **Blessing my sister**

My sister applied for the post of a magistrate in TNPSC. First time, she was not selected. She met Sri Sathguru. Sri Sathguru told my sister not to worry and that she would be selected the next time she applied. With Sri Sathguru's grace, my sister was selected for the post of a magistrate in the next year.

- **Gold chain**

Sri Sathguru called me one day and asked me to buy a gold chain, containing pearls and pavazam. The call came around 12 noon. I was in a surgery at that time. Sri Sathguru also informed me that the chain must be given to a devotee, who must wear it before 5 p.m. that very day. With the grace of Sri Sathguru, I found that the chain as required was readily available. I brought the chain to Sripeetam at 4.15 p.m.. Sri Sathguru gave that

chain personally to that devotee and he wore it by 4.45 p.m. Sri Sathguru explained that the devotee was having a very bad time. The golden chain given by Sri Sathguru protected his life.

- **Driver for the car**

When I had cervical spondilitis, after the treatment, Sri Sathguru instructed me not to drive the car. I needed a driver for my car. I was searching for a driver for fifteen days, but nobody turned up. There were only two days for me to join duty at G.H.. In the evening, all of a sudden three drivers came. I chose one of them. In the last minute, Sri Sathguru sent me three drivers instead of one!

- **Mild stroke**

One of the devotees, while driving his car, had a mild stroke. But with Sri Sathguru's grace, he safely reached Sripeetam. Dr.Mani happened to be in Sri Peetam and took care of that devotee.

- **Reduced impact**

One of the devotees, who came to Sri Peetam, fell in the darshan Hall. Sri Sathguru sent me immediately to take care of him. He suffered a hairline fracture. Sri Sathguru informed us that he was having a very bad time. Because he fell in Sri Peetam, he sustained only a mild injury, otherwise it could have been a major accident.

- **Honey on time**

One day Sri Sathguru called me and Rajesh to go to one of the devotee's house. Sri Sathguru sent a bottle of honey as prasadam. When we handed it over to the devotee, he was shocked and said, "Sri Sathguru had already given me honey as prasadam. It was exhausted only yesterday. For today, Sri Sathguru has sent me another bottle! How Sri Sathguru knows everything!" He was amazed.

- **Archaka of Sri Krishna temple**

One day, in Anna Nagar, an archaka from Gopalapuram, Sri Krishna Temple, came to Sri Peetam. About four of them – father and sons – came, all with tears in the eyes and informed Sri Sathguru that they were not having proper food, clothes and shelter to continue the pujas in the temple. Sri Sathguru visited the temple and presented silver articles and "kuthuvilakku". Sri Sathguru commanded that the "vilakku" should burn for twenty four hours. When Sri Sathguru visited the temple it was dirty. After a few months, they came to Sri Peetam and said the trustees of the temple gave them a house to stay and how lots of devotees were coming and how they were getting lots of money. The temple was totally renovated and "Kumbabishekam" took place. Previously, the deity Krishna was not taken care of. After Sri Sathguru's visit, the deity Sri Krishna was completely taken care of and the devotees were keen to do "chandana kappu". All the sons of that archaka was also settled nicely and they got their individual houses, too.

- **Adikesava Perumal Temple**

One of the archakas from the Adikesava Perumal Temple came to Sripeetam. He was

telling Sri Sathguru that the temple was very old and he was not getting enough money to maintain his family. Sri Sathguru told the devotees to go daily to the temple and clean the temple. The temple was full of wild growth. That was removed and the temple was cleaned up.

Sri Sathguru went twice to the temple. There was also a litigation over the property of the temple in T.Nagar. This temple also had its Samprokshanam after Sri Sathguru visited the temple. The judgement in the litigation came in favour of the temple. Now the temple is very busy!

- **The temple at Padavedu**

One day I went to the temple at Padavedu. It was a very old temple, on top of a hill. One could approach the temple by foot only, or travel by a tractor till the foot of the hill. There were no steps to climb the hill. Atop the hill was the sannidhi of Sri Venugopala Swami, with a mandapam. The deity was in a dilapidated condition, with one arm broken too. The hill was full of sandalwood trees and honey. I came back and informed Sri Sathguru about the temple. After a few days, one of the trustees met Sri Sathguru and asked for help. Sri Sathguru instructed me to collect some money from devotees and give it to the temple. We collected some money and gave it as donation from Sripeetam. From then onwards, the work was done very fast. The TVS Group took over the temple and spent nearly fifty five lakhs of rupees in renovating the temple. They also performed the Samprokshanam of the temple, within one year of Sri sathguru's grace.

- **The temple at Singagiri**

One day, Sri Sathguru went to the temple at Singagiri near Puducherry. It was the temple of the famous Narasimha Perumal, with sixteen hands, each hand carrying a weapon. When Sri Sathguru visited the temple, it was not maintained properly. Trees were growing over the walls of the gopuram. Sri Sathguru told us that we should clean and maintain the temple properly. Then that temple was also taken care of by someone who cleaned the temple and performed Samprokshanam. The temple tank was also cleaned and a new garden named Brindavan was created and the temple car was also repaired. All these developments happened after the visit of Sri Sathguru to the temple.

- **Temple at Nanganallur**

One of the temples in Nanganallur was in a bad shape. As per the request of the priests of the temple, Sri Sathguru visited the temple. That temple was in need of lots of donations and the gopuram was incomplete. Sri Sathguru gave a lot of money to improve the temple, to build a Gosala for the cows and also to build a sannidhi for Chakraththazwar. Money was also given to create a pathway in cement. After Sri Sathguru's visit, that temple also became famous and Samprokshanam was performed within one year.

- **Temple in Mylapore**

Sri Sathguru visited one very famous temple in Mylapore, with poor maintenance. Sri Sathguru donated a Lotus Vahanam to the Thayar of the temple. From then onwards, the

temple became very prosperous and popular.

- **On a rainy day**

Once in Mylapore, Sri Sathguru asked my wife to come to Sripeetam. We had very heavy rain that day. In the entire Bridavan Street water was ankle-deep. We managed to enter Sripeetam. Heavy rain continued. Sri Sathguru gave prasadam. After an hour, we saw the water in the street was above the knee level. My wife was hesitant to come out. We did not know what to do. After about five minutes, a cycle rickshaw came close to Sripeetam, in the heavy rain. The rickshaw puller asked whether we would like to go to the main road. We jumped into the rickshaw without any problem and safely reached the main road. Sri Sathguru had taken care of us on that rainy day.

- **On time for darshan**

Sri Sathguru asked me to go to Sri Parthasarathy temple recently and asked me to give the bananas to Krishna. Sri Sathguru told me to go immediately and quickly to the temple. When I entered the temple, the doors of the Sanctum Sanctorum were about to be shut. I was just able to have the darshan of Sri Parthasarathy before the doors were closed. Sri Sathguru knows everything and made me reach the temple just in time for the darshan of Sri Parthasarathy.

- **Already done, if said**

Sri Sathguru used to say, "From here if I say anything, you mind it, it is already done for you." Sri Sathguru once asked us to go to Guruvayur. Sri Sathguru informed us only three or four days, prior to our departure. I thought I wouldn't get the train tickets, since even fifteen days in advance, we would not have got the tickets. To my surprise, I got the train tickets for both ways, without any problem. Sri Sathguru manages everything before telling us.

- **Curing sinusitis**

When I started coming to Sri Sathguru, I was having severe sinusitis. If I poured water on my head, I would get severe cold and sneezing and fever. So, I used to avoid head bath. One day, Sri Sathguru called me and enquired about sinusitis. Sri Sathguru mentioned that Her Holiness was having sinusitis problem but used to have head bath daily. Sri Sathguru advised me to take head bath daily. Initially, I was hesitant. Then I started having head bath daily. For fifteen days it was difficult. Then the sinusitis was gone totally! Till date I am having daily head bath.

- **Blood sugar level**

Sri Sathguru used to give prasadam daily. I am having diabetes. Sri Sathguru used to give daily one fruit, including a banana. I used to check the blood sugar and it used to be normal. For sometime Sri Sathguru gave only nuts and biscuits for me. I checked the blood sugar level at that time and found it to be above normal. Sri Sathguru knows even about the blood sugar levels of devotees!

- Blood pressure

I used to take tablets for my blood pressure. One day Sri Sathguru suddenly asked me whether I had checked my blood pressure. I checked it and found it to be very high. I had to change the medicine and dosage. Sri Sathguru is watching changes inside the body also.

- Looking after devotees

One day I was working in Sri Peetam. I had hypoglycemia and I was sweating. I did not know what to do immediately. Sri Sathguru came out with one glassful of Rooh Afza (a sweet syrup diluted in water) and told me to drink it immediately. I was surprised to see how Sri Sathguru was looking after the devotees.



People have waited many 'janmas' for such a Guru

It is near impossible to have someone like Sri Sathguru in your life and not be influenced by Her. Whether dramatic or subtle, it may vary, but the influence remains; slowly changing the thought process and the mind of the person, ever so gently, that the person may not even be aware of the changes taking place within him.

As for me, I cannot imagine what course life might have taken without Sri Sathguru's calming influence.

Having Sathguru's darshan for the first time as a child might not make for a dramatic story. I for one did not even imagine the far reaching consequences that this darshan might have. I certainly did not go back thinking I had found my Guru. But somewhere, at some level my Guru had found me. The child in me enjoyed going for darshans simply because there were other children to play with, Bhajans to hear and sing along and more importantly, nobody asked me if I had finished my homework.

Little did I know, that in reality, I was being worked upon, moulded, so to speak. Even without my knowledge, my consciousness was being awakened to 'reality'.

As an adult I can now see how little words of advice, given at the right time by the right person can have a far reaching effect. This combined with our very own experiences make for a solid spiritual foundation. Sathguru often talks to us about surrender. As a child, I could only imagine myself walking forward slowly, with my hands held up high, in a gesture of surrender. I wondered how this would solve my problems. Was I just being weak and passive by surrendering? Should I not fight and never give up? It would take me many years before I even had an inkling as to what Sri Sathguru was talking about. There have been times when I have pushed myself to the point where there is absolutely no way out. Then I would recall Sathguru's words. She would often repeat a prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, "Lord, give me the serenity to accept the things that I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference". I think surrender and this wisdom goes hand in hand.

- **Missed connection**

Recently, when my daughter and I were travelling abroad, we missed a connecting flight to India. Stuck in the airport, with no connections, and lost baggage. I could only tell myself, "If this be Narayana's will. . ." This surrender came not from desperation but from gentle acceptance. Later, sitting in my aunt's house (by Sathguru's grace, I had all the help I needed). I could think back rationally. My flight which initially took-off, re-landed because of a fuel leak, which was accidentally spotted by a pilot from another plane. Had that not happened, my flight could have been a big ball of fire in the sky. Lack of connecting flights seemed insignificant in comparison. Even in a situation which seemed to have no easy solution, Sathguru had provided me with the comfort of a home, hot food and loving company.

Everything in life need not however, be this dramatic. It is often the little things that remind us constantly about Sathguru's teachings. A misplaced document, asking your boss for a day off, or just making it to a meeting on time, all these little hiccups in most of our mundane lives seem to have a simple way of resolving themselves, when we just learn to let go. But is this the surrender that Sathguru was talking about? I simply think of these as little lessons to prepare us for bigger things. Surrendering is really not as easy as it sounds. A lot of times, I find myself clinging desperately, thinking I am strong enough to solve my own problems. One little knock on my head, sets the thinking right, soon enough.

Sathguru has often told us that self analysis is the first step in spiritual progress. Every time we point a finger at the other person, we need to think about the three fingers that point back to us. As much as I would like to believe that it is always the other person who is wrong, Sathguru's words make me think. I soon realise, that the more I think, the more I understand the anger I feel is because the ego is hurt. This realisation calms the mind and I can then actually become a third person to my own misery. Putting myself in the other person's shoes gives my perspective, a sense of balance. Understanding his motivation helps me empathise with him. Many a time this has helped me be more tolerant, taking me to the next stage, which Sathguru often describes as 'Vasudeva kudumbakam'.

All this progress is neither clear cut nor well defined. Just as I have experienced epiphany, it disappears like a flash of lightning. The awareness, however remains, reminding me when I am desperate, that the solution is not too far away. Even the little baby steps taken is purely because of the grace of Sri Sathguru. She has been there for me, to advise me when I was confused, give me hope when I was down, hold me in the palm of her hand, when I needed to be protected, let me fall when I needed to be taught a lesson and bent down to pick me up when I cried like a hurting child. Have I done anything to deserve such grace? I don't know? Am I doing anything to show my gratitude? I hope so!

I have often wondered why anyone would be interested in the experiences of a prosaic life such as mine. Thinking a little harder, I realise that a life which Sathguru has touched is far more exciting than any adventure that life might have to offer. People have waited many 'janmas' for such a Guru. So what can be more exhilarating than our on going relationship with our Guru? All I can then hope is that I live each day, in a way that makes my Guru happy and proud. And for this too, I may add, I need my Guru's grace.



Compassionate, thoughtful my Sri Sathguru

Pranams to Sri Sathguru

- In 1992, Ms.Seela Pattabhiraman took me and my first daughter, Sowmya to Sripeetam in Anna Nagar. We had darshan of Sri Sathguru. Even though I am a civil engineer ,I wanted to qualify myself further, by doing a M.S. Program in Systems and Information in BITS, Pilani under Distance Education Program. I applied three times, but didn't get the admission. The authorities didn't mention the reason for rejecting my application. I was really confused and wanted to find out the reason for not giving me the admission. So I prayed sincerely to Sri Sathguru. On my way back home, one of the devotee was talking with me and during the course of my conversation I told her about my desire of doing a M.S in Pilani. Immediately she said that her relative who is a professor in mathematics in BITS had come down to her house and she invited me to her house. So I went to her house and gave him all the details. The professor told me that he would find out the reason for the rejection and get back to me in few days. He had sent a letter and mentioned that the computer Science department had rejected my application since I had an undergraduate degree in Civil engineering and they felt that I had no knowledge of computer science. So I explained the whole thing to my Principal and she gave a report of my knowledge in the computer science field, including the classes I took and the nature of work I did . So I again applied, with this report attached, and got my admission. My sincere prayer to Sri Sathguru was answered and I felt very happy!
- My daughter, Sowmya did a painting on Yasoda holding Krishna and asked me to give it to Sripeetam. After receiving the painting from her, my husband said that he wanted to keep it, in the house. I didn't know what to say. I went to Sripeetam during the darshan day and I was hesitant to say this to Sri Sathguru. I told Sathguru that Sowmya had sent a painting. Immediately Sathguru told me, " give it to her father." I was really amazed and rather shocked to hear this. How could Sathguru come to know of this, without me telling. Then I realized Sathguru is a Gnani and she knows everything that goes on in our minds.
- The devotees of Sripeetam used to light lamps with ghee, on Fridays, in Ashtalakshmi temple, Besant Nagar. The devotees assigned with this task had to go to the temple on Thursday evening itself and clean the brass lamps. So I was asked to go on December 5th. Two days before that I had a call from Sripeetam that my turn was postponed to the following week. I was upset and I thought that day was assigned to some special devotee. I didn't ask anyone about this. The next week I lighted the lamps. Only then I realized that day was "my wedding day." I was really ashamed of my thought and felt how ignorant I was. Sathguru always does the best for her devotees. How compassionate and thoughtful she was!

I am happy that I have been given a chance to share my experiences with you all.

Pranams

Humble devotee



Her grace, Her blessings

Om Sri Sathguruve Namah

With koti koti pranams and namaskarams at the lotus feet of the most revered and respectful Shri Sathguru, I humbly submit the following experiences I had at Sripeetam.

- **An evolved soul**

It is said that when a soul evolves to a deserving stage, the GURU manifests Herself to that soul; that GURU reaches the disciple and it is not the other way round.

That is what happened on June 1987, to the soul that resides in me, when Sri Sathguru took me into Her fold, when I was taken to Sri Peetam, for the first time by my friend.

From then onwards, truly, there has been a complete reformation in my thought, outlook, attitude and the whole of life, as such.

I have become more humble, polite, self-disciplined, regular in prayers and as a whole, a better person than before. People who have moved with me before and after will definitely vouchsafe for this. This is truly the greatest experience, which I want to share with all and which I attribute totally to the Guidance and Grace of our revered Sri Sathguru.

- **Saviour at all times**

My house was in T. Nagar and at that time, Sripeetam was in Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar. There had been regular darshans on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings. I used to travel by bus up to blue star bus stop and also go back by bus from the same stop, after darshan was over. As usual, on one Saturday evening, after the darshan was over, I came to the bus stop, boarded the bus and reached home safely. After reaching home, I was shocked to learn from the News that there had been a great political commotion and unruly behaviour of some party men on the streets, from the evening of that day.

But there had not been a trace of such commotion during my travel back to my house and I was extremely grateful to Sri Sathguru who had so graciously showered Her mercy on me that day.

"My heart felt prayers at the lotus feet of benign Sri Sathguru"

- **Questions answered**

It is always experienced by many Sri Peetam devotees that their doubts and questions will be answered at Sri Peetam, before even putting it forth to Sri Sathguru.

The same experience happened to me too. One day, I had a guest at home. During the dialogue with him, I had to tell that I would be going to Sri Peetam that evening and therefore the guest was enquiring about Sri Peetam and Sri Sathguru. He then raised his doubt that Advaita philosophy was advocated by Shri Adi Sankara who was a follower of Saivism. Dvaita philosophy was advocated by Shri Ramanuja who was a follower of

Vaishnavism. And how was that Sri Sathguru who was the founder of Sri Gnana Advaita Peetam propogated vaishnavite philosophy. (Devotee of Sriman Narayana!!)

I set his doubt away with a smile and proceeded to Sri Peetam. And imagine what? In an unscheduled discourse that day by Sri Sathguru, the first question was about Advaita and Dvaita philosophy. I was literally in tears!

Though the subject is too big to be deciphered by such a small mind, I was reassured by the very fact that Sri Sathguru is always compassionate and merciful to guide us and to clear our doubts.

I pray to Sri Sathguru to make me more deserving of Her Grace.



Am a 100% sure

- Protector

Once, I booked a two wheeler – Scooty, for my use, by advancing around Rs.14,000/- and by giving post dated cheques for the balance monthly instalments. Only after booking, it struck me that I should get Sri Sathguru's blessings, as is usually done by many Sripeetam devotees. In fact, I felt very guilty about not getting Sri Sathguru's concurrence beforehand.

When I told Sri Sathguru about acquiring a two wheeler, Sri Sathguru asked me whether I really wanted one? I was perplexed to answer, but was very sure that anything that comes out of the mouth of Sri Sathguru had very great significance. Therefore, I decided to answer that if Sri Sathguru wills, I shall buy the two wheeler. For which Sri Sathguru asked me if I could cancel the booking. I was doubtful at that time if I would get back the advance money. But then I decided to follow Sri Sathguru's advice.

When I approached the automobile dealer for cancellation of the booking, without a word, they returned my full advance money and also the PDCs. I was very much surprised, as I was told by many, that while cancellation of bookings they usually oppose and withhold some part of the advance money. That is the grace of Sri Sathguru.

When I went back and told Sri Sathguru about this, Sathguru not only gave a benign smile but also added that She could then be calm and without tension. I was speechless!

I was convinced that Sri Sathguru is taking care of us all the time, protecting us all the time. But I deciphered the full meaning of Sri Sathguru's words only after the incident which happened a few months after this.

I met with an accident while riding the borrowed two wheeler and sustained a head injury and was in hospital for four days with mild sutures, on my head. Probably, because of this Sri Sathguru discouraged me from getting a two wheeler. And probably this incident stopped, with only a milder damage to me, by Sri Sathguru's compassion.

- Provider of everything

For commuting between my house and Sri Peetam during Darshan days, in the absence of proper bus facility, I used to take autos or get lifts from the other devotees, residing in the vicinity of my house. I used to bring my two daughters and most of the time, by Sri Sathguru's grace, the travel to and fro would be very comfortable and safe.

At this time, my husband bought a second hand car and he learned car driving and asked me to learn driving too. With much reluctance I did. But within a month, my husband was transferred to Bombay and it was as though the car was bought for my use. During the two years of my husband's stay in Bombay, I could visit Sri Peetam many times, more comfortably driving in our car.

I strongly feel and am 100% sure that it is Sri Sathguru's Grace that gifted me this car.



Anatha Rakshaka and Apadhbandhava

Om Sri Sathgurave namaha

Sri Sathguru Gnanananda Sarasvathyai namaha

Almost everyday we have some experiences, in a small or big way. Each experience teaches us some lesson or other, in our daily life. Though we are not able to absorb the essence of the teachings fully, Sri Sathguru somehow will make us understand why it has happened that way.

I am an ordinary mortal and at that time I did not even know about spiritualism. I knew only a few slokas, which elders taught me. Only after coming to Sri Peetam, I came to know about spiritualism, and also how to pray to God with love and sincerity and lead a dharmik life, to the best of our abilities and capacity, and for that, we have to receive the grace of Guru and God.

When I first went to Sri Peetam, I felt a different serene atmosphere. I also found some peace and happiness within me, which I had not found anywhere else. Such experiences one cannot explain or express in words.

- When Sri Sathguru started giving darhans in Radhakrishnan Salai, after coming back from Kanchipuram, we all went, and had a very good darshan. That night, I had a dream that I was sitting in the hall, on a wooden plank, in front of Sri Sathguru. A priest was standing near me, holding a pot (kudam) containing water. Then Sri Sathguru showed signs to start. Then the priest recited some mantras and poured water from the pot on my head. Then I woke up.

I was wondering what the meaning of the dream was. I understood after a period only that Sri Sathguru always cleanses and purifies, who ever comes to Her, so that they can absorb the grace easily. Sri Sathguru is always ready to help and guide, without partiality, those who come to Sri Sathguru, with true and sincere bhakthi.

- When Sri Sathguru was in Radhakrishnan Salai, one day, I was really worried and confused because in this janma, Sri Sathguru is with us to guide us to go in the right path; I don't know how many janmas I have to take and go through. In that case, who will guide me in those janmas? For this question I had no answer. I was very much upset and sad and could not even sleep. The next morning, with a heavy heart I went to Sri Peetam. I did namaskarams and sat in one corner. I was about to say my prayers, when Sri Sathguru called me and told me with love in a consoling voice, "Hyma, don't worry. If a person surrenders to his Guru, the Guru will take care of him till he reaches his goal. It does not matter how many janmas he takes." I was astonished and spellbound, looking at Sri Sathguru and did not know what to say. It took me a while to realise that Sri Sathguru is all pervading. She can see in and out, and know what is going on around us. Whether we are in front of Sri Sathguru or far away from Sri Sathguru, distance and time is not a barrier

for Sri Sathguru. (But I am still happy to sit in front of Sri Sathguru!)

- That day was Sri Sathguru's Jayanthi day. One of the devotees of Sri Peetam, telephoned me and told me that there was a message from Sri Sathguru. "Sri Sathguru asked me to tell you to make Sarakarai pongal, ven pongal, Puliodarai sadam, Thenga sadam and vada or rava kesari". I forgot what I prepared – for eighty persons, that evening as prasadam. I was wondering how I could make so many varieties, and that too a large quantity. I prayed to Sri Sathguru very hard and I had no other way but to surrender to Sri Sathguru. Within ten minutes, the cook who used to cook for our family functions and special occasions like Navarathiri puja, etc. came. He told me that he, came on his way, dropped in to see us. I asked him whether he was free to prepare the prasadam. He agreed at once. He went and procured the necessary ingredients to prepare the prasadam and called his brother to assist him in cooking. He finished preparing the prasadam before 6 p.m., making it possible for us to take the prasadam to Sri Peetam in time.

Sri Sathguru is a reservoir of love and compassion: Whatever little bit we do, so called surrender, is also answered. If we surrender to Sri Sathguru, the way Sri Sathguru asked us to, we will definitely become purer and purer and our soul would go higher and higher, in a spiritual plane. The way Sri Sathguru's grace works is beyond our imagination.

- Another time, Sri Sathguru asked us to perform Sri Vishnu Saharanama puja for Sriman Narayana's picture for forty one days, for some reason.. Sri Sathguru asked us to start doing the puja as early as possible, as early as 4 a.m. By Sri Sathguru's grace we were able to find a priest who was willing to come to our house and perform the puja at 4 a.m.. We were also able to get a proper picture of Sriman Narayan.

My husband was in a fix since he had already committed himself with some friends to visit some temples in the South. They had done all the arrangements, such as train tickets, accommodation, etc. My husband felt bad to say that he could not come. So he left for Egmore station at 9 p.m. I was feeling very sad, since normally, when a puja like this commences, the master (Yajamana) should be there to initiate the first day's puja. I was praying to Sri Sathguru. I was left with no choice but to surrender to Sri Sathguru and accept whatever comes, in the right spirit.

I made all arrangements for the next day's puja. By the time I finished all the preparations, it was 11 p.m. Suddenly, the door bell rang. I opened the door and I was astonished and thrilled to see my husband there! First I thanked Sri Sathguru. Then I asked him what had happened. First he said, "Narayana wants me here to participate in the puja tomorrow." Then he explained that though his friend had confirmed tickets with him for five persons, but they had got only three confirmed seats in the train. They had argued with the train conductor for some time and then my husband and another friend said they would not be able to travel without reservation and returned home. By Sri Sathguru's grace, the next day's puja went off well. My husband was at home for all the forty one days of puja.

If Sri Sathguru says, "Do it", it mean it is already done! If Sri Sathguru says something, Sri Sathguru sends Her Divine grace also along with that.

- One morning, I was standing in front of the pressure cooker on the stove, waiting for the whistle to sound. Since there was no sound from the cooker for a long time, I just went to the sink to wash my hands. Suddenly, I heard a big sound. The next moment I found the lid of the pressure cooker flying and hit the wall and all the food stuff scattered all over the place. At once I closed the gas cylinder, which was near by me. I found the vessels, kept in the cooker and the plates I kept near the stove were, all damaged and had gone out of shape. To my surprise, there was not even a single burn mark on me! Had I stood in front of the stove at that time, the lid would have hit me with full force and with hot steam. I didn't think of Sri Sathguru for help, at that particular moment. But Sri Sathguru's grace started working. That grace pushed me away from the stove for some reason and saved me from the peril. Sri Sathguru is Anatha Rakshaka and Apadhbandhava.

- Some years back, electrical work was going on at home. I came from the garden into the house and wanted to wash my legs and opened the tap. Suddenly I got an electric shock and I screamed. Within a few seconds, with great force I fell down on a plastic bucket nearby, which broke into pieces. Some of the small pieces stuck to my hand and legs also. Only then I started saying, "Narayana." All at home came and wondered what had happened to me. I asked my daughter Harini to see the junction box whether it had tripped off. She went and saw and said "no". Probably, at that moment the electricity went off and came back again. I was saved. Who could have done this except our Pujya Sri Sathguru? Even though we are not thinking of Sri Sathguru at that moment (since we did not expect this would happen to us), Sri Sathguru is there at the right moment to help us, save us from the trouble. Sri Sathguru will never let down Her devotees at anytime, at any circumstance. As Sri Krishna says in Bhagavad Gita, Sri Sathguru also asked us to be always in Narayana mantra, as it will act as a kavacam (protective shield).

- This incident happened recently. Bhajans were going on at Sri Peetam. I was listening to the bhajans, stretching my legs, leaning back on the wall (because I could not fold my legs). Suddenly, something fell on my hand and it was a wasp. I just shook my hand. Meantime, it stung my finger. Then it fell on my lap. My daughter, Shuba was sitting in front of me. I asked her to remove the wasp to the far off corner, without hurting the wasp. My finger became red and started swelling with pain. I thanked Sri Sathguru because it happened at Sri Peetam, that also during darshan time. If I had been somewhere else, a more poisonous one could have stung me and the situation could have been worse. To my surprise, the pain suddenly came down and within a few minutes, there was no pain. The redness and swelling also disappeared before the darshan was over.

What I understood from this event is that Sri Sathguru will see that Her devotees work out their prarabdha karma, probably without rewinding the karma. Sri Sathguru will give us the physical, mental and spiritual strength to accept whatever comes to us in the right spirit. Sri Sathguru will also cushion us, all over, when we pass through our bad patch of bad karma. Sri Sathguru will guide us not to become arrogant and selfish. Sri Sathguru trains the devotees to take both good and bad fortune in the same stride with an even mind. Sri Sathguru wants us to go beyond this also.

I sincerely seek Sri Sathguru's blessings and grace to follow Sri Sathguru's teachings with

absolute trust and faith in Sri Sathguru. Whatever I do, I should do it with true humility and see everything with "Sakshi bhavana."

Sathguru," please guide me and help me to use the ego to do what Sri Sathguru wants me to do and also show the way Sri Sathguru wants me to do it". This way, the dominating ego's power will come down gradually and slowly, which will lead to inner peace within me. Then that leads us to do selfless service. That would help us to understand a little bit about the sayings of Sri Sathguru, "Just let God manage your life." Narayana!

My ananthakoti humble Pranams to Sri Sathguru.



Enlightenment at every step

(This is an abridged version containing a portion of the original Tamil version and a part of the English writing of 26.02.10.)

Pranams at the Lotus Feet of my Revered Sri Sathguru.

To ponder over the relationship that I have with Sri Sathguru itself is an experience. Sri Sathguru makes us evolve gradually by improving ourselves step by step, making us a better person today compared to yesterday. She enlightens us at each step with Her Upadesams.

- Blessings for anyone who serves Narayana

Our maid servant brings Tulasi every Saturday to enable us to performance Vishnu Sahasranama Archana as ordained by Sri Sathguru. Through this small service rendered, she got the blessings and grace of Sri Sathguru recently.

She has a son, Manikandan, studying in Standard IX. He is suffering for the past three months with some heart ailment. We took him to a cardiology specialist for consultation. I was praying to Sri Sathguru that the doctor should do the service free of charge. The doctor, indeed, said he would not charge any fee for consultation from poor people. He suggested, after examination, that the boy go to Ramachandra Hospital for surgery.

We took the boy to that hospital. The surgeon after examining the case, said it would cost nearly fifty thousand rupees for the surgery. We thought we would give the money since my maid servant cannot raise such sums.

A few weeks ago, the consultant doctor rang me up and said that the Chief Minister has implemented a medical insurance scheme for the poor and the surgery could be done, without any cost to the patient.

Sri Sathguru has answered my prayers to help the maid servant and her son.

With Pranams, Humble devotee



Surrender completely to Her

Om Sri Sathgurave Namaha

- Mathematics exam

Om Namō Narayana. It was a bright sunny day. The day I dreaded. Why? My twelfth board mathematics exam. I had prayed to Him and asked for an easy paper. Alas, it was not to be. It was one of the toughest exams CBSE had ever set. I made up my mind to write to the best of my ability. But the pressure got to me. My mind went blank. I was shivering. I knew that I should not waste time in the exam. So I started writing. The bell rang. The papers were collected. I felt dejected. I knew I had made mistakes worth twenty two marks. 'Just let God manage your life'. That quote came to my mind. So I did what Sri Sathguru asks of us to do. I stopped thinking about it. I told Him, I leave it all to Him...

The day of the results. I finished my prayers and checked the result. Mathematics- 90. I knew for a fact I had made mistakes worth twenty two marks. I expected seventy eight but got ninety. I don't know how I got so much. The only explanation was Sri Sathguru had helped me out of this situation and taught me an important lesson too. Surrender completely to Him after doing your duty. Don't try to control the situation. He will do that for you. Pranams to the lotus feet of Sri Sathguru.

- ACS foundation exam

Om Namō Narayana. My ACS foundation exam was upon me. It took place in the month of June and it was very hot. My college exams had got over, only a few days back and I was lazing around, postponing the day I had to start studying for this exam. I lost track of time. Suddenly, seven days to go! I didn't know what to do. I prayed to Him and asked Him to write my exam for me. I prayed to Sri Sathguru. I studied hard that week. It was a very difficult exam, everybody said. Not many passed. I got the twenty fifth rank.

- ICWA Inter exam

There was another instance too, in December 09, I had my ICWA inter exams. My college exams were postponed and I had only ten days left to study topics, which I had to study for the first time! I came to Sripeetam and told Gurubhai that I was very scared and this exam I had no hope of passing. Gurubhai showed my hall ticket to Sri Sathguru and told me, "Sri Sathguru told me you will pass. Don't worry". That gave me the confidence to write the exam. I didn't know anything in Taxation. More than half the people in the exam hall gave up and walked away. After finishing the paper, I thought there was no chance of passing and told myself I should be better prepared for the next attempt. As Sri Sathguru had said, I passed. No logical explanation. Thank you, Sri Sathguru.

I learnt that even if you waste your time, He won't give up on you and still help you out if you are willing to put in the effort.

Pranams to the lotus feet of Sri Sathguru



“Here only adhvaitham”

Sri Sathguruve Namaha

- Escorts arranged

Sri Sathgurubyo namaha

By the grace of Shriman Narayana, the Lord of Guruvayur we went for Darshan of Sri Sathguru, at Edward Elliotts Road, for the first time in September 1975 , after Sri Sathguru shifted to Chennai from Conjeevaram. With a smile full of compassion, Sri Sathguru welcomed us. The preliminary introductions were over and after some time, looking at me Sri Sathguru said twice, “ here only adhvaitham”. For a minute I was stunned and till today the words ring in my ears. I pondered for a long time and finally by grace of Sri Sathguru I understood that Sri Sathguru is an Advaitin – Jeevan Muktha – one with the supreme Brahman .

By the grace of Sri Sathguru, we were able to go for darshans regularly and the devotees were at ease inspite of sitting in front of a great Advaitin who taught “ Saranagati” – an easier way to reach God. We have the privilege of singing the immortal Advaitic Hymn of Adi Sankara Bhagavath Pada, “ Nirvana Shatkam” in the presence of Sri Sathguru countless times and everytime we sang the line, “ Na Bhandhurna Mithram Gurunaiva Sishyaha “, Sri Sathguru used to give a meaningful smile.

Devotees have often heard Sri Sathguru explaining the whole of humanity as one, “ Vasu Deva Kudumbakam.” In this respect I would like to share an experience that I had. A few years back, I was planning to go to Cochin for a family wedding. Sri Sathguru never wanted me to travel alone and this time when Sri Sathguru enquired, I replied that the other family members from Chennai were also attending the wedding. Though I was anxious to go to Guruvayur to worship the Lord, I was hesitant to seek Sri Sathguru's permission, assuming whether Sri Sathguru will like the idea of combining both social and religious trip together. Knowing my mind, Sri Sathguru asked whether I would be going to Guruvayur, and when I expressed my doubt Sri Sathguru replied, “ So what? Go to Guruvayur” and that was a real blessing .

On the day of my departure to Cochin, I reached the station and was shocked to find that not a single soul from the family were there, in any of the coaches. Assuming that everyone like me would be traveling only by the Allepey Express, I had booked my berth without consulting anyone. It was too late when I realized that they had all left by the previous train, Trivandram Mail. Worrying how to face Sri Sathguru, I got into the sleeper coach and settled down. The compartment was full and the train moved. I noticed two people, occupying the aisle seats, and discussing something among themselves, with a paper in hand. A little later, they showed the paper to the co-passengers and asked for some clarification. Everyone blissfully expressed their ignorance and gave back the paper. The paper came to my hand and I was totally shocked and surprised to find in the paper the address of the place where I was going. Seeing my reaction they told me that they were assistants of one of the leading Caterers of Chennai, who were to cater for the

Cochin wedding. The master cook and his other helpers had left for Cochin the previous day itself. Owing to some work, only these two people took the train the next day. Not knowing either the place or the language, they were worried and they were greatly relieved and thankful, when I told them that I was also going to the same place and assured to help them to reach the place safely. Next day, when we reached Cochin they did not allow me even to call for a porter.

This was a great lesson for me. In the train, with so many coaches, they could have booked in any other compartment or even in the next train. I would not have met them. Sri Sathguru always says that at Sripeetam nothing happens by chance, but everything is planned and executed perfectly. Here, the question arises, whether they were my escort or I was their escort. Planned by the Divine it was mutual – “Vasu Deva Kudumbam”.

- “If God is everything for you then He will do everything to you”

This is one pearl among the “Upadesams” of Rev. Sri Sathguru and God in the form of Sri Sathguru helps the devotees in various ways, depending upon the situation, is my personal experience.

In the year 1976, after much persuasion, Sri Sathguru agreed for Jayanthi celebrations and with great enthusiasm and happiness, the devotees together celebrated the Jayanthi, at Subramanya Kalyana Mahal in Triplicane. Beginning with Sri Ganapathi Homam, at 4.30 in the morning, the programme was chalked out for the whole day function. Sri Sathguru was kind enough to allow me to prepare the Naivedyams, namely, “Modhakam and Appam” for the Ganapathi Homam. My duty was only to keep the Naivedyams ready by 4 in the morning and another Gurubhai would take them to the Pooja Hall, from our house at Mandaveli.

The preparations for the Naivedyams, I finished in the night itself and went to sleep. I was fast asleep when I suddenly heard the sound of the light switch being switched on and it was bright everywhere. Without opening my eyes, I only asked as to who was putting on the light, so early. There was no reply but it was still bright. Getting up from the bed, I opened my eyes to find out who had switched on the light. To my astonishment, I found the form of Rev. Sri Sathguru, going inside the Pooja room from the hall where I was sleeping, pushing the curtains aside. In the other hand the book, “Autobiography of a yogi” — Paramahansa Yogananda was there. I just exclaimed, “Sathguru” but the form of Sri Sathguru vanished and the light was not there. I could not believe myself for a few minutes. After gaining composure, I looked at the clock and it was 2 a.m. Assuming that Sri Sathguru wanted me to get up so that the naivedyams will be ready by four, I got up and went about my work and the naivedyams reached the Pooja hall on time.

In the course of the day, Sri Sathguru, out of compassion, gave me an opportunity to narrate my experience and I was thrilled. Listening to my narration, Sri Sathguru with utmost care and concern replied, “Having given you a responsibility I wanted to help you and that is why the lights were switched on.” What I felt at that moment is beyond words and cannot be explained!

Eternally, I am grateful and it is amazing to re-live this experience, during the “Sahasra Chandra Darshanam” year of Her Holiness Sri Sathguru, after a gap of thirty four years,

the episode is still fresh in my mind.

- **Govinda**

Singing in the presence of Her Holiness Sri Sathguru is a blessing and pleasure. I used to sing ,“Sri Narayana Treertha A Tharangam, “Govardhana Giridhara” in the Raaga Hindolam, a song that Sri Sathguru likes. Whenever, Sri Sathguru wanted me to sing that particular song, Sri Sathguru would only say, “sing Govinda”. I used to blink and Sri Sathguru would say, “Govardhana Giridhara.” One day, I went home and when I referred to the book it was Govardhana Giridhara Govinda and not Gopala, the way I used to sing. Then I understood that “Govinda” is the core of the song, and Sri Sathguru used to refer to that particular name of the Lord. In another Thyagaraja Krithi also, Sri Sathguru would always say “ sing Sri Rukmini,” where as the beginning of the song is,“Gnana Murthi”. Sri Sathguru's teachings are very subtle and one has to be ever alert is what I have learnt by the grace of Sri Sathguru.

- **Rahu kalam**

A few years back, the devotees of Her Holiness Sri Sathguru accompanied Sri Sathguru to Guruvayur and from there to Annakara – Awathara Khestram of Sri Sathguru. Sri Sathguru had commanded the devotees to leave Guruvayur at 11 a.m., being Friday the devotees preferred to leave at 10 a.m. itself to avoid Rahu Kalam and boarded a chartered bus. Within a short time, we realized that one devotee, who had arrived in the morning from Chennai was missing. The bus was stopped and two devotees went back to Guruvayur by car in search of the missing devotee. Not finding him there they returned to the bus and when we moved again it was exactly 11 a.m. As soon as we reached Annakara we found the missing devotee blissfully sitting there. Sri Sathguru said, “ Rahu Kalam or Yamakandam is irrelevant and the time which is given from here is most auspicious to commence any work”. It was a lesson for everyone of us.

- **Take the commands seriously**

Like any Hindu household, we also had a lot of Divine Pictures in our house. Knowing what is essential and what is not, Sri Sathguru chose a date and time and advised me to hand over some of the pictures at Kapaleeswar temple , Mylapore. When I asked as to whom should I take with me, Sri Sathguru casually replied, “you go, it is enough”. On that particular day, I left for the temple along with another person, sharing the pictures. Suddenly, I found the other person had vanished and I became panicky . Not wanting to miss the time given by Sri Sathguru, I went to the office to hand over the pictures that I had and there I saw the other pictures welcoming me. When I came out of the office, with great relief I saw the other person waiting for me. I looked at the time and I heard Sri Sathguru's voice saying, “you go it is enough”. This was a great lesson for me. Not a word of Sri Sathguru's should be taken casually. Everything has a meaning.

Pranams to Sri Sathguru.

Let me be worthy of Sri Sathguru's grace is my humble prayer.

In the service of Sri Sathguru.



Omnipresent, Omnipotent

Sri Sathgurubyo namaha

Ananthakoti pradakshina namaskarams at the Lotus Feet of Sri Sri Sri Sathguru.

- Sri Sri Sathguru's unmatched extraordinary powers

In the early days of darshan, one day all our family members were standing in front of Sri Sri Sathguru and talking. Sri Sri Sathguru asked me to say the 'Narayana' Nama. Except me, no one was able to hear it. They said that they heard the roaring sound of a lorry.

- Sri Sri Sathguru appearing before devotees at distant place

Once during our trip to Kedamath, while climbing the mountain, I saw Sri Sri Sathguru walking along with me in the opposite side of the road.

- Sri Sri Sathguru and Guruvayurappan are one

With Sri Sri Sathguru's permission, during my mother's first trip to Guruvayur for darshan, as she went towards the sanctum sanctorum, she said that she saw Sri Sri Sathguru sitting with crossed legs instead of the idol of Guruvayurappan.

- "Mookam karothe vaachaalam"

Sri Sri Sathguru can convert a dull or ignorant person to a scholar. I have no knowledge of music but by Sri Sri Sathguru's grace, I am able to sing bhajans which is unimaginable.

- Sri Sri Sathguru can liberate us from bondage

I was a timid person. Now I am bold and confident enough to stand on my own feet independently, happily and worrylessly.

- Sri Sri Sathguru can make things possible which are impossible

A few months back my sister's son who is mentally retarded, got lost from the school. Searching for two days brought only failure. I came to know that he was lost only on the second day. I informed Sri Peetam and prayed before Sri Sri Sathguru's picture with all my heart and soul. We got him back the next morning at Thiruvanmiyur signal, which was really a miracle.

Sri Sri Sathguru has taken avataram for "sadhu parithranam and Dushkritha vinasanam":

Sri Sri Sathguru has destroyed my bad qualities like hatred, anger, jealousy, etc. and has developed good qualities in me like kindness, helping others, being friendly, etc.

I pray Sri Sri Sathguru that I should become worthy of getting Sri Sri Sathguru's grace and attain the Lotus Feet of Sri Sri Sathguru.

With ananthakoti humble namaskarams at the Lotus Feet of Sri Sri Sathguru



Ever-forgiving, ever-giving

Pranams to Sathguru with ananthakoti namaskarams.

- 1975 is an important year in my life as I got Sathguru Swami Gnanananda Sarasvathi's guidance. My small family consists of my mother, elder sister and myself in Kancheepuram. My mother was a devotee of Puttaparthi Sai Baba. As we were young my mother could not leave us alone and go to Puttaparthi. Therefore, to know our problems and difficulties, she prayed for motherly guidance nearby. After sometime, my tenant told us that there was a motherly saint in a house near the school. The next day itself, myself and my mother had Her darshan. As I was afraid to see Sathguru, my mother gave me courage to speak to Her. I was taken aback to see the Blissful Divine Personality. When I started speaking to Her my fear vanished. She wanted us to come on a Friday again. When we went there on Friday, she gave me a picture of Sri Raja Rajeswari and explained the mode of doing prayers. My mother gave importance to my prayers. After puja on a Friday, I told my mother, "It is only those who do more prayers who suffer, others are very happy". My mother scolded me, saying that there was a devil in me. We forgot about the incident later.

When Sathguru was in Shastri Nagar we had Her darshan. Sathguru was talking to my mother for a long time. Later Sathguru told me, "Don't think that those who do puja suffer. That is their Karma." I came to know that Sathguru knows each and every act of individual persons.

- When my mother was seriously ill, I was studying in Chennai, remaining in a hostel. Sathguru instructed me to see my ailing mother, at frequent intervals, at Kancheepuram. She wanted me to explain to her Gajendra Moksham, after reading the Bhagawatham. She also asked me to provide all assistance that she needed and said that studies could wait, not mother. Sathguru gave me the will power to live alone. When my mother died, nobody was nearby except the servant maid. Hence, I was worried about what my mother would have thought about our absence, at the time of her demise. When I informed about this to Sathguru she said, "Your mother was thinking of you. She said that I would look after you and that she was worrying about Anandi, my sister". On hearing Sathguru, I had mental solace.

As there was no son to my mother, except two daughters, her last rites were not performed, except punyavajanam. When Sathguru was informed of our inability to do anything for my mother, Sathguru instructed me to pay for prasadam and wanted me to be present at the time and to distribute the prasadam myself. Then, Sathguru told me that my mother was safe and happy there. This gave me mental solace.

When I was not keeping good health, I again lost courage and was worried about my living alone. I told this to Sathguru. She closed Her eyes for a moment and understood my position and told me to go to Guruvayur for three days with relatives. As my relatives couldn't come, Sathguru instructed Smt. Lakshmi to take me to Guruvayur with her family. I had darshan of Lord Guruvayurappan in the company of Mrs. Lakshmi and her family members.

On another occasion, Sathguru wanted me to come to Sri Peetam at 10.30 a.m. for taking Japa Malai from Her. While giving Japa Malai, Sathguru told me that I should do aarhi after puja. I was surprised, as I was doing aarhi after puja on only auspicious days and not on all days.

To err is human, to forgive is Divine, our Revered Sathguru. Sathguru forgets our mistakes and blesses us. Pranams at the Lotus Feet of Sathguru.



Overwhelming grace

- Choking to death

One day I was at work eating pieces of melon in my office. I was 7 months pregnant at that time. Suddenly a small piece of the melon became lodged in my throat.

So I ran out of my office toward the nurse's desk. I could not talk. I pointed to my throat as I could not breathe either. The nurses started panicking as the color on my face was changing. I was truly choking. They could not perform the Heimlich maneuver (to get the food out of my throat) because I was pregnant. They picked up the phone to call "a code."

In US hospitals, when someone stops breathing or their heart stops, they call "a code." A team of doctors, nurses and others rush to the patient with equipment and start resuscitation. Initially, I was panicking so I did not think of Sri Sathguru. After a total of 5-10 seconds I started saying my japa. Within 2 seconds the piece of melon just flew out of my mouth and fell 6 feet across the room. I was not coughing or doing anything except just standing and saying my japa. The nurses were just staring at me with their mouth open. They could not believe it.

They told me that it was as though someone was standing behind me and was pushing on my belly and performing the Heimlich maneuver on me. They thought that the way the melon shot out of my mouth with so much force was truly a miracle. I could feel Sri Sathguru's grace flowing through every part of my body. Healthy and fit, I am a testament to the protection that is given to us by Sathguru. We only need to ask and the grace overwhelms us.



Leave it to Narayana

Narayana

Pranams to Sri Sathguru! Below are my thoughts regarding what Sri Sathguru means to me and how Sri Sathguru has changed my life.

When I consider Sri Sathguru's nature, my thoughts tend to turn to what scientists know of the universe. In the past 15 years, significant advances in physics and astronomy have changed man's understanding of the universe. It is now believed that what we naturally have observed in the universe (ie. planets, stars, galaxies, interstellar gases) actually make up only about 4 percent of the known universe. The rest is made of dark matter and energy. The dark matter is actually not dark in the usual sense, but utterly transparent. It neither emits nor absorbs light significantly, which is why astronomers failed to notice it for millennia, even though dark matter contributes five times as much to the total mass of the universe as normal matter. It was only in the late twentieth century that careful study of the motion of normal, visible matter revealed the gravitational influence of lots of otherwise invisible stuff.

As Sri Sathguru's chela, I have tended to, as it is human nature, to focus on the results of Sri Sathguru's Grace. Whether it is the avoidance of extreme suffering, or achieving a sincere desire, most devotees have experienced Sri Sathguru's Grace in many unusual, beautiful, and extraordinary circumstances. But one may ask what is the process that was involved that enabled one such as Sri Sathguru to intercede in the life of another? It is as if I am on the shore of a pond and I have noticed a ripple (Sri Sathguru's Grace) on the surface of the water that is reaching the water's edge (the effect on the devotee). The ripple may have emanated as a result of a pebble being thrown into the water (ie. Sri Sathguru's decision to intercede on behalf of the devotee). And as the ripples are generated from such an action, the life of the devotee is forever altered, whether it is known and understood or not.

If only recently mankind has realized that what we see around us is only 4% of the total universe, one then begins to wonder about the other aspects of existence that has not been observed. One begins to see another side to Sri Sathguru's teachings. I cannot fully explain how an LCD screen works, or how a mobile phone works, or how a microwave works. The instruction manuals do not dive into the physics behind such devices. But I can use them to my benefit. Likewise, I may not be competent enough to understand the intricacies of Advaita Vedanta. But Sri Sathguru does urge devotees to follow Her simple instruction manuals as detailed in Her short and simple publications that are unfortunately few in number.

If mankind can prevent its own destruction in the near future (a significant probability due to the proliferation of nuclear technology and misuse/unfair distribution of natural resources), science may begin to verify and bolster the Truth detailed in the Vedanta. So we must begin to inquire into Sri Sathguru's Nature. We must understand why the pebbles were thrown into the pond by Sri Sathguru. Thanks to Sri Sathguru's Grace, the

pebble that was thrown into my pond has resulted in changes in my diet, lifestyle, character, morality, and, most importantly, the way I view the world around me. Though there have been outstanding occurrences of Sri Sathguru's Grace in my life, I believe the most significant of them all has been the changes within me that allow me to deal with the vicissitudes of life in a healthy, truthful and dharmik way.

- **Extended stay**

One recent incident out of many come to my mind. We had made a trip to India to visit Sri Sathguru 2 years ago. As usual we did not have the heart to leave. I tried to reschedule our flight but was told there was no availability of tickets for the next month. The day before we were scheduled to leave india, my son had an unfortunate incident. I bought a diaper wipe from a local store. He was only 17 months old at that time. I used the wipe on him and he started crying. I soon realized that the wipe caused a second degree burn on his skin around his bottom. The whole night he was just crying and writhing in pain. He was not able to sit and the only thing he could find comfortable was to lay down without any clothes on his bottom. I explained the situation to SriHari. In his usual calm and reassuring way, he told us not to worry and just leave it to Sri Sathguru. He asked us to come and do namaskaram before our flight. We had Sri Sathguru's darshan and Sri Sathguru told us to just leave it to Narayana. On our way out, Srihari told us he will see us later.

When we checked in we were told that the flight was overbooked and they asked us if we would like to stay another day. It turned out that they had exactly three overbooked seats (just enough for myself, Mandar and amma). They arranged for a hotel that was close by to our house and took us there in an AC car. Not only did we get to postpone our ticket by a day, they paid each one of us the equivalent of what we paid for our round trip ticket. They put us up in a four star hotel, and gave us meal vouchers for the next day. We were able to have Sri Sathguru's darshan again the next day. And by the end of the next day, Ishaan's burns had improved so much that he was able to wear clothes and his pain was almost gone. But the amazing thing was that when we checked in the next day, they had upgraded our seats to business class. So, I was able to lay down completely with Ishaan and he slept the whole flight.

It was truly a miracle. Not only were we able to postpone our trip by one day, but they actually paid us for our whole trip and they sent us home on business class. The only thing Sri Sathguru asked us to do was to leave it to Narayana. Sri Sathguru has always told us that when He answers he does so in the most perfect and grand way. This is a prime example of how well Sri Sathguru takes care of us. Ishaan is too young to understand what happened but I cannot wait until he is older so we can share this and other stories. We are truly blessed to have Sri Sathguru taking care of us.



Sri Sathguru fills your vessel as much it can hold

Among human beings most fortunate are devotees of Sri Sathguru since we are blessed to have the direct contact with Sri Sathguru who is the personification of parabrahmam. For those who have been fortunate enough to reach the lotus feet of Sri Sathguru would have come across a lot of happenings in their lives right from the time they came to Sri Sathguru. We call these as miracles as we notice them only occasionally even though it keeps happening every moment. Sri Sathguru often used to say, 'God is willing to help you always if you just call him with devotion and faith'. The most important miracle that happens to anyone is the complete transformation of their outlook towards life if they are receptive to Sri Sathguru. This explains why some are able to change fully while others are not. The problem lies with us. We can't say Sathguru is not helping me. She has no favoritism. Sri Sathguru fills your vessel as much it can hold.

Lot of experiences I had of Sri Sathguru's grace some of which I wish to share with you.

- Few days after I came to Sri Sathguru I was watching a movie with my friends at the hostel at 10.30pm when I heard Suresh coming in on his bike. Suddenly I had a feeling that Suresh might have brought something for me from Sri Sathguru. I immediately got up and went to my room. To my astonishment I saw one and a half mangoes on my table with a note from Suresh saying, 'prasadam for you from Sri Sathguru'. How did this happen? Can this be called a coincidence? It can't be. I can't expect the least to get prasadam from Sri Sathguru who knows me only for a few days. It was only her Divine Love seeing the thought that is going to come into my mind and didn't want me to get disappointed and sad that has sent me the prasadam.
- After I finished my final exam I came for darshan. Sri Sathguru asked me how I did my exam. Then Sri Sathguru told me I went through your paper, it got stuck in medicine. I got shocked for a while. Later true to Sri Sathguru's words I failed in medicine for which Sri Sathguru told me 'don't worry, God will not do this unless it is good for you'. The mere thought that Sri Sathguru is with me immediately removed the depression I had and made me elated.
- Sri Sathguru had asked us to recite Sri Vishnu Sahasranamam twice a day. I used to do this by looking at the book this was going on for six months. On this particular day morning I was able to recite it by heart. I was very happy. Later in the afternoon I went for darshan. As I entered the hall Sri Sathguru called me and asked 'have you by hearted sahasranamam'. I was pleasantly surprised. How did Sathguru know this. She could have asked me on some other day. Sri Sathguru has shown this to me only to let me understand that Sri Sathguru is watching and guiding us all the time.

Many many things are happening every day to everyone who has faith in Sri Sathguru. Whenever we call Sri Sathguru sincerely from the bottom of our hearts Sri Sathguru is there instantly to help you out. We can see her doing the impossible. Sri Sri Vishnu

Mohan was the foremost of Sri Sathguru's disciples as he lived his life full of love and faith with mind filled with thoughts only of Sri Sathguru. He has shown us the way how a perfect disciple should be and how to put Sri Sathguru's teachings to practice. He said when he was in a most trying time. I am being a burden to Sri Sathguru instead of being of any help, what is the use'. For him his problems didn't matter. He was thinking only about how to serve Sri Sathguru. Such was his guru bhakthi. I wish all of us to absorb the divine love Sri Sathguru is showering on all of us without any distinction on this momentous occasion.

Narayana.



Sri Sathguru is always with me

Namaskarams to Sri Sathguru

- One day I was returning from office. My regular auto man didn't turn up that day. So, I fixed an auto (unknown person) and was coming through Usman Road. All of a sudden an imported car, coming at a high speed, came from a by lane and almost hit the auto and sped away. I closed my eyes and called, "Sathguru, Sathguru," with much difficulty the auto driver brought the vehicle to a halt. It was a close shave. There was a big bang, and people on the road gathered around the vehicle. I only fell down inside the auto. By the grace of Sri Sathguru I was not injured. When I reached home, I gave the auto man extra money. I did not know what prompted me to ask his name. He said, "Guru." I was dumb founded. But for Sri Sathguru's blessings, I would not be alive to narrate this incident.

- This is another experience which goes to prove that Sri Sathguru is always with me. One day I was locking the main door of my house, to go to office. Amma and Seetha were at Sri Peetam then. I heard a voice asking me to go and look into the mirror. I didn't understand what it was. I checked my bindi and it was in its place. Again the voice asked me to do the same. I went inside my house and to my surprise I found I was wearing ear rings of different colours which did not match with each other. If I had gone to the office without checking it I would have felt embarrassed by the comments of my colleagues and their fun at my cost.

I was very much moved and felt grateful to Sri Sathguru that Sri Sathguru guides me in everything, even if it is a small matter.

With Namaskarams to Sri Sathguru



Divine protection

Pranams to Sri Sathguru.

I had appeared in a written examination for selection to Adiyaman Grameen Bank, but I failed to get through. When I next met Sri Sathguru, Her Holiness asked me what I was doing. I mentioned that I failed to get through the examination for employment. Sri Sathguru asked me not to worry since there were many more opportunities.

After some time, there was a selection for IOB (Indian Overseas Bank). I appeared for the written examination. Many advised me to contact someone and to get recommended for the job. I told them that Sri Sathguru would make me get the job, if Her Holiness felt that I am qualified for it; not otherwise. Hence, I would not seek any recommendations or someone's influence to get the job.

Soon the results were out. Out of two lakh people who took the examination, only 250 were selected and I happened to be one of the selected!

I did not have a child for six years after marriage. Many asked me how I remained unperturbed. I used to reply to them that Sriman Narayana would give me a child when He wanted, and therefore I was not perturbed. After I became pregnant, Sri Sathguru got a copy of Narayaneeyam, and gave it to my brother Mani, and asked him to send it to me without delay. She wanted me to read it regularly and was taking care of me like a mother. Complications arose during pregnancy. There was a likelihood of the child being born after 7 months. Doctors who took a scan informed us that there was a tumour in the spinal chord and that the child could be born with some deficiency. It made everyone sad and even the doctor was feeling bad.

I was moved in an ambulance to Coimbatore for a Ceaserian. Though I thought for a fleeting moment that I would not be giving birth to a normal child, my thoughts were automatically diverted to Sri Sathguru by some force. I was only thinking of Sri Sathguru constantly, even during the operation. I was informed later that the child was normal and healthy, weighing 2.5 kg. This was a miracle and I can never forget Sri Sathguru keeping vigil and protecting me that day!

My husband works abroad. He does not keep a cell phone. Sometimes he would be so occupied with work that he would not ring me up for days together. I went to meet Sri Sathguru once, and Her Holiness enquired whether my husband talked to me regularly. I mentioned to Sri Sathguru that it was forty days since he had rung up. I was camping in my brother's place in Chennai then. That night itself I got a call from my husband.

Not only on that occasion, but whenever I appealed to Sri Sathguru mentally about delays in getting a call from my husband, he would invariably ring me up, almost instantly!

Submitted at the Lotus Feet of Sri Sathguru.

Ever worshipping the Feet of Sri Sathguru



Her blessings are infinite

Infinite Pranams to Sri Sathguru.

By Sri Sathguru's Grace, I, would like to narrate my experiences after coming to Sri Sathguru.

- **My first contact with Sri Sathguru**

In 1979, I got Sri Sathguru's photo, and started preparing for my CA final examination. In one paper I did not do well and I thought I would fail. I prayed before Sri Sathguru and I wrote my next examination. By Sri Sathguru's grace, I passed my final examination in the first attempt and scored decent marks in that paper. That was a turning point in my professional career.

- When my father passed away in 1980, Sri Sathguru, blessed my father's soul and placed my father's soul at the lotus feet of Goddess Meenakshi. My father's soul attained peace.
- Sri Sathguru blessed me in my professional career. Whenever I changed my job, Sri Sathguru blessed me each time and by Sri Sathguru's grace, I have done well .
- When in 1989 ,at a function at Sri Peetam, Sri Sathguru informed my wife that she had got full blessings on that day. That year only, she conceived and delivered my eldest son .
- Sri Sathguru blessed me with Sacred Mantra in 1990,which is a life long boon given by Sri Sathguru and helps me in my spiritual and material development.
- In 1998, when I went to Japan on an official visit, Sri Sathguru, blessed me and that gave me a lot of confidence and I did well in that conference, when nearly 20 people came from different countries.
- In 2002, Sri Sathguru advised us to do service at Sri Mahalakshmi temple in Besant Nagar. One Friday, we did service and on that night, a thief came and broke open the window of one of the rooms, where we kept a lot of jewels and cash, in a cupboard. We slept outside the room. When I woke up at 4.45 am the next day, and was trying to open the room from outside, I could not open the room, because, the thief had locked from inside. After hearing my voice, the thief ran away through the window. We were in a shock when we saw the room. All the things were ransacked, except the cup board, wherein we kept jewels and cash. Then we realized that by Sri Sathguru's grace, by doing service at Sri Mahalakshmi Temple, we were saved from physical assault and financial loss.
- When my wife, could not speak due to some ailment, Sri Sathguru advised my wife to try aurvedic medicine, and my wife got cured and she got back her normal voice.
- My eldest son was struggling to pass in one of the languages in Xth standard, Before that Board exam, he came to Sri Peetam and got blessings from Sri Sathguru. No wonder he scored high marks and stood first in his class. The Headmistress really wondered how he got such high marks, when he did not score half of the marks in the quarterly and half yearly examinations. We felt Sri Sathguru would have written the examination on my son's

behalf.

- Lastly, when my wife underwent mental depression, our family was undergoing mental trauma. Sri Sathguru blessed my wife and all of us, time and time again and saved us. My wife has come out of that depression and all that was due to Sri Sathguru's grace.

By Sri Sathguru's grace, I have narrated only a few experiences. There are lot more, to write, but I am limiting it to ten only.

I always remember Sri Sathguru's command to lead a Dharmic life and surrender to Lord. I am trying my best to follow Sri Sathguru's command and will try to follow Sri Sathguru's command for the rest of my life..

Infinite Pranams to the Lotus Feet of Sri Sathguru.



We are merely “Her” tools

Poojyasri Sathguru charanaravindabyam namaha

- One morning, when Sri Sathguru was residing in West Mambalam – it was a non-darshan day – Gurubhai gave me one dozen bananas and half a kg. of toffee packets and told me not to distribute them to the devotees or to the watchman, but to keep it at the corner of the road. For a moment, I wondered what I should do if the security or watchman in the opposite house saw it. I decided to do what I was ordered to do and leave the rest to Sri Sathguru and went outside.

The security and the watchman in the house opposite to Sripeetam were not to be found. I crossed the road and placed the bananas and the chocolates in the road corner. I came back to Sri Peetam and stood at the gate, waiting and watching.

A young woman with a basket in her hand came round the corner. She went straight to the cover containing the bananas and the chocolates, picked it up and put it in her basket and walked away. She did not look this way or that but went straight ahead as if she knew that it was meant for her.

The next day, during darshan, I told Sri Sathguru what I had seen. At once Sri Sathguru said, “She has taken it? Then she will get married soon.” It was only then that I understood that Sri Sathguru not only showers Her grace on the devotees coming to Sri Peetam or those who come from outstations, but Sri Sathguru being Sriman Narayana Himself, showers He grace on all who pray to “Him”.

- One Sunday morning, when I went to Sri Peetam, there was a basket full of Tulasi. When Sri Sathguru gave Darshan, I stood in line with other devotees seeking to speak to Sri Sathguru. When my turn came, Sri Sathguru called another devotee and started to speak to her.

I assumed that Sri Sathguru would want the Tulasi to be taken to Sri Guruvayurappan temple. It was 10.30 a.m. then, and I was worried that the temple might be closed by the time I went there. At 10.45 a.m. Sri Sathguru called me and asked me to take the basket of Tulasi to Sri Guruvayurappan temple at once. For a second, I wondered what I should do if the temple was closed. I thought that Sri Sathguru would show the way and went to the temple. The time was already 11.00 a.m. The main gate was half closed. Inside, Guruvayurappan melsanthi had closed the sannidhi and was standing outside it. On seeing me, he said, “Sri Sathguru has sent Tulasi and I am waiting with prasadam for Sri Sathguru. Please give the prasadam to Sri Sathguru.”

We should obey Sri Sathguru's commands wholeheartedly without any doubts in our minds. We are not doing anything by ourselves. We are merely “HER” tools. As Sri Sathguru always says, let us pray for implicit obedience.

- Once in West Mambalam, Sri Sathguru asked me to telephone seven lady devotees and ask them to come to Sri Peetam the next morning at 8.30 a.m. to receive prasadam. The next day, all seven ladies came. There were other devotees also. Sri Sathguru came

to the first floor darshan Hall at 8.30 a.m. Sri Sathguru called me and enquired if all seven devotees had come. She asked me to tell them to come up to the first floor Darshan Hall one by one and receive prasadam.

There were seven saree boxes beside Sri Sathguru. As each devotee came in, Sri Sathguru asked me to place one box on a tray, place chandanam and kalkandu on it and give it to Sri Sathguru. Sri Sathguru gave it to each of the devotees. Each one showed the saree to Sri Sathguru and received Her blessings.

After all of them had received their prasadam, Sri Sathguru asked me in what order I had asked the devotees to come in. I said I had just asked them to come one by one and not in any particular order. Sri Sathguru then asked me if I had noted the names on each box. I had not noticed it either. I had simply picked up the boxes in the order in which they had been placed there.

Sri Sathguru said that each devotee had received the very saree that Sri Sathguru had assigned for her. Lord Narayana merely has to think. Sri Sathguru being Sriman Narayana had executed it just as She had thought. Only we take a long time to understand it. Sri Sathguru always blesses us with whatever we need at the right time, even without our asking. Let us pray that we be worthy to receive Sri Sathguru's grace.

- We were once commanded by Sri Sathguru to go to Sri Ashtalakshmi temple in Beasant Nagar, perform an archana for Sri Guruvayurappan and bring the prasadam. We went to the temple and performed an archana at the Guruvayurappan Sannidhi. The archaka gave prasadam for Sri Sathguru and said that there was a pearl garland in it. He asked us to give it to Sri Sathguru.

We dutifully brought and placed everything at Sri Peetam. Sri Sathguru gave darshan the next day. We thought of mentioning the pearl garland to Sri Sathguru and went nearby. We saw that Sri Sathguru was wearing the garland. We told Sri Sathguru that the archaka had given it along with prasadam. To which Sri Sathguru said, "Sri Guruvayurappan told Me yesterday to receive the pearl garland. That was why I sent you there." We realised that this was one of the leelas of Sri Sathguru to make us understand that Sri Sathguru and Sriman Narayana are one and the same!

- One early morning, I heard a voice say, "Fire in a room, fire in a room." Immediately I went to all the rooms and checked up. There was no fire anywhere. Thinking all was well, I started for Sri Peetam at 7 a.m. I went back home at 9.30 a.m. Again I heard a voice repeating the same warning. It was only then that I remembered that I had not checked the two rooms on the ground floor.

When I went down, I found a short circuit from where sparks were coming, I switched off the mains at once. Sri Sathguru had warned me well in advance. But I had not taken it seriously and overlooked it for over two hours. But Sri Sathguru had saved us.

Sri Sathguru always takes care of devotees and blesses us with whatever we need at the right time.

I humbly pray that I always think of the Lotus Feet of Sri Sathguru and try to do Saranagathi just as Sri Sathguru wants us to.

Cushioning our karmas

(Translation of Tamil article given by author)

Besides blessing us, being Sriman Narayana, Sri Sathguru also functions as Dhanvanthiri and cures us, when required.

- One morning, I was having headache and feeling giddy too. Thinking it was better to go to Sripeetam than staying in the house, I came to Sripeetam. That day was Guru Purnima day. We had to draw big kolams near the gate and the Darshan Hall. Middle aged ladies were ready and waiting for that purpose. But Sri Sathguru sent instructions that only three old ladies should draw the kolams that day. I happened to be one of the three! I immediately understood the treatment meted out by Sri Sathguru. I forgot all about my headache and giddiness and was fully involved in drawing the kolams. I was soon relieved of both ailments! See how easily Sri Sathguru treated me!
- One day, when Sri Sathguru came to give Darshan, I was having severe hip pain. With difficulty I could manage to do namaskaram. A sevarthi gave me a heavy bronze vessel – Kerala type - and conveyed the instructions of Sri Sathguru that I should carry that vessel downstairs, wash it thoroughly and bring it back. When I was getting down the stairs with that heavy vessel, Gurubhai Srihari saw me and advised me that the heavy vessel be carried by a sevarthi. I told him that the instructions were that I should carry it myself and hence no sevarthi was required. I took that heavy vessel downstairs, washed it thoroughly, brought it to first floor and kept it there. After that, I came to the terrace and could do namaskaram without any difficulty. What an ortho doctor would cure through traction, Sri Sathguru treated in a trice!
- Once, Sri Sathguru enquired of my son, Sundararaman and instructed that he should immediately buy four or five vastrams and give them away in charity. I requested Sri Sathguru whether he could give the vastrams to Sripeetam, since he would not know whom to give, and Sri Sathguru accepted my request. It was done accordingly, without delay. After a couple of months, my son had been to Delhi for some work. One evening there, he suddenly developed giddiness. The hotel physician examined him and admitted him to the Apollo hospital there. He enquired there and found out that two of his old classmates were employed as doctors in the same hospital. He contacted them and they came to see him. They conducted the requisite tests and looked after him very well. He stayed in the hospital for one complete day and got cured. The charges were also minimal. One calls God as One Who protects the devotee before the difficulty arises. Sri Sathguru is Sriman Narayana Himself and in this instant, he had not only cared for him, but had also got my son to perform the remedial action in advance!

Sri Sathguru says often that “I cannot completely remove the black spot from your prarabdha karma, but I can reduce the impact when the difficulty arises by acting as a cushion.”

I pray that I should always think of the Lotus Feet of Sri Sathguru and follow the path shown by Sri Sathguru. Ananthakoti pradakshina namaskarams at the Lotus Feet of Poojya Sri Sathguru . Narayana



Her “easy to do” ways are many

Om Shri Sathgurave Namaha

Om Namo Narayanaya

The eyes alight on the devotee, as light as a butterfly and then the recognition.

The smile begins in the eyes and with the light of a thousand suns spreads across The Divine Face.

The smile promises Tenderness, Grace and Blessings and seems to say –

If you strive for worthiness, I'll show you the way to unimaginable Divine Delights!

This is an offering with a prayer that we all strive for this Nectar

- **Nurturing God's Child:**

Her Holiness Sri Sathguru Swamiji teaches us to bring up children in a spiritual way, while living and interacting in the present day world. When we follow Her “easy to do” way of bringing up children – our way of looking at things from a different perspective starts us on our spiritual climb.

It is suggested by Sri Sathguru to young mothers to consider the child as “God's Child.” That soul has come from God and we are caretakers as long as the Prarabdha Karma of the child and our Prarabdha Karma coincide. When our duty to this soul (child) is over – we each go our way. This concept of “God's Child” tries to annihilate the Ego in us and teaches us detachment. Slowly this idea makes us look on all children as God's Children and leads us to the concept of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakkam.”

Sri Sathguru would like us to do the everyday nurturing of the child as being done for Baby Krishna. This would lead to all actions being offered to the Lord and teaches us Nishkama Karma. When children are taught good values, habits etc – the thought that we are doing it for Baby Krishna, will lead us to do duty correctly and live our life with discipline and Bhakthi.

The Lord is happy with even Patram, Palam, Pushpam, Thoyam – so when we live a life as a parent, in dedicating the very upbringing of a child to Him – He gives all help.

Any age group can relate beautifully to Sri Sathguru and the very basics of our Sanatana Dharma are conveyed in simple understandable language to even children.

Once, a seven year old went up to Sri Sathguru and asked, “What is Dharma?” after coming across this in Amar Chitra Katha stories. Sri Sathguru patiently, gently explained how it was “all about doing the right thing and sticking to values, come what may.” Her Holiness explained all this with reference to the story of Harishchandra – on always being Truthful; the story of Prahalada about steadfastness in Bhakthi and Dhruva about Determination. The little boy went away satisfied. Another time, another small boy asked Sri Sathguru if She could see God and was answered, “As clearly as I see you!”

We pray that we serve Sri Sathguru by following Her Upadesams in all aspects of life.

With Pranams



Unconditional surrender, unquestioning obedience gets unlimited grace

Sri Sathgurave Namaha

- [Surrender, Krishna Mantra and Guruvayur](#)

Sri Sathguru teaches us Ananya Saranagathi or unconditional surrender by providing us with several subtle experiences. One such experience, I am here to narrate

Several years back when Sri Sathguru was residing at West Mambalam, Sri Sathguru had commanded us to perform Bhajanam at Guruvayur. In those days, Darshans at Sri Peetam were invariably during evenings. We decided to have Sri Sathguru's Darshan before we took the train to Thirur, which was late in the evening. We had reached Sri Peetam fairly early and our planning was to do Pranams to Sri Sathguru, take His blessings and permission, pick up the luggage from home and proceed to the station.

When I went up to Sri Sathguru about the Guruvayur trip, Sri Sathguru smiled at me and said, "Why don't you sing "Krishna Mantram" before you leave? I was stunned. Devotees at Sri Peetam know that this devotional piece takes a minimum time of 45 minutes to render. Yet knowing Sri Sathguru's mysterious leelas, I began singing. Other devotees joined me too. I was lost in the sublime lyrics of the song that so beautifully describes the various Poojas and "vazhipaadu" at the Guruvayur Temple and through the song, I was already (mentally) present in the temple. When I was through, Sri Sathguru looked at me and said, "Oh! I don't want you to be late; now you can leave!"

We were late !! We sped home and picking up the baggage we rushed to the station. Cutting across the chaotic peak hour traffic, traffic signals with barely half an hour on hand was just an impossible feat. Fleeting thoughts came across our mind that only a miracle can carry us through. Knowing well of the ways of Sri Sathguru we knew heart of heart that this pilgrimage was at the instance of Sri Sathguru and we have embarked on it after getting Sri Sathguru's blessings and Sri Sathguru would somehow carry us through to Guruvayur. Yet we were highly curious to know how the Divine Drama would eventually unfold.

As we entered the station compound, it was past 8 – the scheduled departure time of this train. We were also getting prepared for the worst – yet without losing hope. As we reached the platform we were stunned to see that the train had still not departed. Gathering all our strength we ran as clumsily as we could and boarded the last bogie and started moving towards our compartment through the vestibule. The train was still stationary.

Fretting and fuming we finally reached our compartment and slumped into our seats – and the next moment, we felt the familiar jerk and saw the train moving out of the station – a

clear 14 minutes beyond the scheduled departure time.

Sri Sathguru had shown us in a simple subtle way that by surrendering to the Divine Will, She could make our path easier. What was required was to surrender unconditionally and let go all anxieties and ideas, handover the steering wheel to the God – allowing him to fully take charge of our destiny. A conviction was required that whatever happens - both getting into the train or even the situation of missing the train would be decided by Sri Sathguru keeping our best interest in mind. By surrendering the final outcome of that evening at the Lotus Feet of Sri Sathguru, we learnt the real import of “unconditional surrender” and got a real life experience of *“Just let God manage your life”*

- Liberation

There is a story about a great Guru whose disciple once asked him, “ Swamiji, there is another Guru across the road to whom people flock from all walks of life. He cures the sick, gives wealth to the poor, sees that unmarried daughters are married off and unemployed sons get jobs. Why don't you perform miracles like him?” The Guru smilingly answered, “ My child, that Guru and myself we have a pact – whoever wants solutions for worldly problems, I send them to him; and on the other hand those who want cure from Bava Rogam (the ailment of birth-death cycle) , he sends them to me”

This story in nutshell explains the mission of our dear Sri Sathguru on this earth. Not all devotees who come to Sri Sathguru for the first time ask for liberation from Bava Rogam. Many of them hope to have their day to day problems solved. But Sri Sathguru in her own gentle way teaches them to face the problems with patience and courage; giving them the inner strength – thereby destroying their bad Karmas and Vasanas. At the same time on countless occasions their worldly problems would have been miraculously solved. In this way Sri Sathguru establishes Bhagavan Sri Krishna's proclamation “Yoga kshemam vahaamyaham”

- Ishta deivam

When I first sought Sri Sathguru I was worshipping another deity as my Ishta Deivam. Sri Sathguru slowly steered me towards Sriman Narayana, which she did gently and without hurting my sentiments. Gradually over a period of time my mind came to accept Sriman Narayana / Krishna as my Ishta Deivam. Sri Sathguru stresses on worshipping only one deity so that our mind may be permanently fixed and focused on Him alone. In this way we gain precious time in our journey towards reaching the ultimate.

Sri Sathguru has fixed my mind so firmly on Sriman Narayana / Krishna / Guruvayurappan that even when I visit temples of other deities I see only Sri Krishna in the sanctum sanctorum and my lips would automatically mumble Sri Krishna Ashtakam. Here I would like to quote Sri Narayana Bhattadiri (Canto 90 Sloka 10) where he explains “Arthavadha” in order to stress the greatness of a particular deity. Arthavadha is of three types

Bhootharthavadha – where the deity is hailed as having killed the wicked and saved the good and thus hailed as the chosen one.

Anuvadha - The greatness and various qualities of a particular deity is described thereby worshipping Him only with love and gratitude. And

Viruddhavadha – whereby other deities are described as subservient to the chosen deity, thus enabling the devotee to worship him with utmost love and devotion.

All the above methods have been given only in order that our faith and devotion in the chosen deity may strengthen and that we may attain Him in the end.

For laymen who are not knowledgeable about all these intricate manifestations and interpretations, Sri Sathguru has just simplified, digested and capsulised a straight and simple and easily understandable solution - in accepting Srīman Narayana / Krishna as one's Ishta Deivam. Bhagavan Sri Krishna had also explained in Chapter 9 – 23 in Bhagavad Gita that whichever form a person worships he worships only Srīman Narayana.

- **Calming me**

Depressed, frustrated and helpless that I was during a particular period of time, I had begun to despair at the hopelessness of the situation that I was placed in. Disappointment started staring me from every walk of life and my self confidence took a severe beating. Family problems bogged me down and it seemed that no solution was anywhere in sight.

In this mental condition I once blurted out to Sri Sathguru that I feared that I would go insane. Sri Sathguru quickly turned towards me and asked, "Do you think I would allow that?" There was firmness in her voice and compassion in her eyes. My turbulent mind calmed down immediately. Soon I learnt to tackle my problems with courage and fortitude and gradually regained my mental balance and confidence.

This is the greatest miracle Sri Sathguru performs in Her devotees. She allows the devotee to go through his / her the bad Karma - but watches over them constantly and sends her grace so that they come out of the "test by fire" in flying colours. Thus the devotee emerges not only mentally purified by the experience but his or her devotion to the Guru and God strengthens manifold and it establishes him / her firmly in the path towards God.

Sri Sathguru has always been guiding us that there must be an unconditional surrender and unquestioning obedience. That was in the year 1996 – I had to spend a year at Salem, leaving my daughter, young Vaishnavi and my wife at Chennai. There was tremendous mental agony – at the office and at home. Darshans were the only times that we could meet and I gathered courage to tell Sri Sathguru about my plight. After a few seconds of silence, Sri Sathguru admonished me – "If you think you are going to solve your problems, then keep worrying. If you think He has to help you, just leave it to him and say your prayers regularly".

I moved out and an unexplainable calm prevailed. I stopped worrying – and the transfer materialized soon enough.

Sri Sathguru being a Mahagnani – knows very clearly what every devotee is undergoing – one need not take the trouble to elaborate the personal miseries to Her. One February morning in 2004, when I was unduly being harassed by various official demands, it suddenly struck me that I must visit Sri Peetam and do Namaskarams on my way to

office. As I entered, I was excited to see Sri Sathguru giving Darshan. With Her enchanting smile, Sri Sathguru asked me to sit down and count some of the coins and currency notes. Painstakingly I counted and counted for the next two hours – the office pressures gnawing me at regular intervals. As I was completing the task, Sri Sathguru instructed me to have the collection donated at Guruvayurappan Temple. Since it was already late for the morning session, I was asked to go at 5 PM. As the money was getting deposited – the bells rang, the conch was sounded - the doors of the sanctum sanctorum opened and Deeparadhana was performed – as if symbolically acknowledging the receipt of the donations.

The tumultuous situations that were threatening my mental balance had settled automatically through the day.

Learning Point – Once you surrender to the Guru, the Guru takes charge of your destiny. Your problems will be taken care of automatically. But what is required is the unquestioning obedience and total surrender.

The March of 2005 was unduly stressful with so much of ado about the development of a new product. A month of continued work had culminated on a Saturday, when the product was to be dispatched to the Head Office, for the product launch on Monday by the Steel Minister. I had left on Friday night to Guruvayur, for the pre planned Saturday Parayanam.

On Monday morning hell broke loose – the product was shown before the launch to the Chairman, who was not pleased about the design. It was too late in the day and the much publicized launch was to take place – and all that he could do was to shower an array of threats for not carrying out his diktats. Every one in the hierarchy faithfully relayed the abuses – some in the same tenor and some with sympathy, but all were singularly targeting me.

At the launch, when every one waited with suspense, the Minister unveiled the product and was extremely pleased about the product. The entire scenario changed and even the Chairman took a 180 degree change in his posture and gracefully accepted the compliments from the Minister. My senior colleague rang me spontaneously and told me, “ Only your Guruvayurappan has saved you today.”

Touched and moved by the turn of events – I unhesitatingly will admit, that for me, my Guru is the Guruvayurappan and Sri Sathguru had only transformed what could have been an unfair and unceremonious banishment

- Sri Sathguru had visited Guruvayur on Thiru Onam Day. It was celebration time all around. Not only for the temple town of Guruvayur – but for all Sri Peetam devotees who had gathered at Guruvayur from far and wide. The temple was overflowing with devotees. It was raining too, and in our minds we were quite worried that the Darshan of Sri Sathguru at the temple should go well, without any discomfort, since she was not keeping well for a few days, then. The Darshan went off well and as Sri Sathguru departed from the temple precincts, she mentioned to me, “please see that all devotees get Darshan of the Lord”. Sri Sathguru had told me and it had to be done – but how?

I was quite perplexed seeing the teeming crowd of devotees. I went to the Dwajasthambam and found around seven Sripeetam devotees. Praying to the Lord, I took the help of a temple official, who obliged to send them for a special Darshan; and as I turned back I was shocked to find five more devotees. I was feeling squeamish to approach the official – yet I mumbled, “there are three more,” while my hand was actually showing five. He laughed at my predicament and obliged again. These are moments where there is a Divine intervention.

When the Guru commands you on an errand, as long as you sincerely and obediently abide by the command, the Guru will work out the means of carrying out the order. All that you need to deploy is your sincerity, obedience and concerted effort with utmost humility.

Again as Gurubhai Vishnu Mohan used to mention, Sri Sathguru is like an expert technician who knows which tool is required to be deployed for which purpose. This will be a function of the karma of the devotee, his prevailing phase and need and ultimately as per the Divine Plan to uplift the devotee to higher levels of self realization – which will be known only to Her.

- At Ambalapuzha, during the grand felicitation at the temple, Sri Sathguru delivered an anugraha bhashanam. I recollect her telling us that you need to keep your (mind) vessel clean and big and worthy enough to collect as much Divine Grace as possible. She also mentioned, on a different occasion, that we must wholeheartedly and with utmost sincerity call out to him – the way Draupadi and Gajendra called out to Him and He will definitely come running to your rescue.

This, I feel is just like opening the main door of your house. If you have to allow any one to enter you have to open it wide and without any obstruction. If you take out obstructions like Ego, anger, hatred, malice and the whole of the tribe that resides in you, in abundance, then that would enable you to open the door wide open and would allow the Lord to enter. Or else, he will continue to wait outside – waiting for you to remove the obstructions and invite Him with a pure heart.

We have heard about Sri Vishnu Mohan's quote that Sri Sathguru's mind is like a huge screen where she can visualize all aspects of all her Devotees wherever they are.



Guru Sakshath Daivam

This incident took place in October 2007 when I was undergoing a phase of immense mental agony due to various domestic pressures. Overwhelmed at the various compulsions, I sat before Sri Sathguru's picture at my Pooja Corner. It was around 6 in the evening – I had no other recourse and poured my heart out.

An amazing event happened. There was a call from a Sripeetam devotee asking me to rush out of the house immediately and come to the gate. I rushed out and to my wonder Sri Sathguru was there. I wept uncontrollably – here was a guru who came to the devotee's abode to console and reassure a devotee. I was only reminded about Lord Krishna who came running at the call of Gajendra. The Guru smiled – a lot more meaning manifested in this smile conveying – Child, why are you worried when I am here?

- I was in my confinement period at that time and we were living at Salem. My husband was going to Chennai and being Darshan day, he was planning to go to Sripeetam and have Darshan. When my husband was leaving for Chennai, I requested him to see if he could bring some Boli. Though my husband was aware that it is customary to fulfill the cravings of a pregnant lady, as always he was lost in his set compulsions and priorities.

The Guru – here is not only the spiritual Guru – for my sake she transformed as a Loka Matha. And realizing that my husband was likely to return empty handed to an expectant mother, She intervened. To the surprise of my husband, who had all but forgotten my charter of demand, it was a rude shock that Boli was being distributed as Prasadam, at Sri Peetam, that day and Sri Sathguru asked my husband to carry a few Bolis for me.

- How often do we realize how fortunate we are to be blessed in this journey of life to be guided by a Guru like Sri Sathguru. I am reminded of this situation – in Brindavan, Bhagavan Sri Krishna descended to the plane of the Gopas and Gopis, played with them and elevated them. Are we realizing that we are also in a very similar situation with Sri Sathguru – in Her Divine Descent, transcending to our levels, guiding us and protecting us, to elevate us on this spiritual journey.

- The Darshan proceedings at Sri Peetam, then functioning Mambalam, were drawing to a close. Suddenly there was a power breakdown engulfing the entire Darshan hall into darkness. Sevarthis rushed down and within minutes a few candles were lit. There was an expectant wait, in silence, for power supply to resume and... A random thought flickered in my mind – in this darkness, we are not even able to see Sri Sathguru. Will Sri Sathguru be able to see all of us? And swiftly enough there was a counter thought – isn't Sri Sathguru an Atmagnani ? Will mere superficial darkness mean anything at all for her – who is dispelling the darkness of Agnana around all of us. After all, she can read into our minds, transcending boundaries of space, time and form. Just at that moment – in the dim candle light I could see Sri Sathguru turning her face towards me. She was nodding at me and flashing her radiant smile – a smile that asked me “Child, did you get your doubt clarified now?”

- I feel, quite often the greatest predicament for a sadhaka while carrying out the Guru's command is a question popping out from time to time – “have I done my duty to perfection? Have I been humble and was there any shortcoming in my shraddha?”

One such instance occurred to me while Sri Sathguru had initiated a planned schedule for Sri Peetam devotees to clean and light lamps as a seva at the Astalakshmi Temple at Besant Nagar. The practice was to place the various dhrayams at Sri Peetam on Thursday evening and get it blessed by Sri Sathguru. On the following morning the same would be collected and taken to the temple to do the Seva. Sri Sathguru had told me, on one such occasion, that devotees can take Agathy Keerai for the cows at the Temple Goshala. On the date prescribed for me to do this Seva, I was put to a test – in spite of all efforts and a sincere hunt, I could not get Agathy Keerai. I had to rush to Sri Peetam at Mambalam for collecting the dhrayams and then proceed to Besant Nagar in time, before the Pooja commenced. Time was running out. I stood before the closed doors of Sri Peetam and confessed that my efforts had proved futile and prayed to be excused. That very moment, there was a hawker passing outside Sri Peetam calling out, “Agathi Keerai.”

Needless to say, it was not a normal occurrence for a hawker to vend Agathi Keerai at that time of the month and it cannot definitely be discounted as a mere coincidence. For me, it was a prayer answered. It gave a resounding message to me, “ As long as the action is for a right cause – more so at the instance of Sri Sathguru and full sincere efforts were put with humility and devotion, the Guru will provide all support and make the mission a success”

- The greatness of Sri Sathguru lies in the fact that She guides every devotee at a personal level. One can confide in Sri Sathguru one's innermost thoughts and Her advice and guidelines are most reassuring. I once asked Sri Sathguru as to why we continue to get negative and “not so good” thoughts even though we do not want them. Sri Sathguru smiled at me, overflowing with compassion and answered, “Thousands of thought waves from other people are bombarding us from all directions. Many of them may not be good ones and they may enter a weak mind. Therefore, whenever such thoughts come to you, tell yourself 'this is not my thought' and disown it. Automatically such thoughts will get weaker and disappear altogether”.

This piece of advice from Sri Sathguru has had a profound impact on me and this has been guiding me ever since.

- Not all experiences with Sri Sathguru are dramatic. Nevertheless, most of them are internal transformations. Slowly and steadily, over the years Sri Sathguru has been steering us, through the treacherous path, strewn thorns and stones of anger, resentment, passion etc., and has been navigating us to safety.

One of the greatest lessons I learnt from Sri Sathguru is how to surrender to the Divine Will. When one goes through various experiences (many of them unpleasant) in life, Sri Sathguru takes personal care to teach us how to tackle them with detachment and be unconcerned about the outcome. The mind is like an untamed bull and naturally rebels during such situations. But with the Grace of Sri Sathguru, I realize that the mind can be trained. Sri Sathguru has often declared, “One finds immense peace once unconditional surrender is

achieved". By Her immense compassion and the Grace of Sri Sathguru, I find that it is gradually becoming possible to reach such a stage – though the progress is slow.

- Sri Sathguru has a special message for Grihastha women. Through example She has taught us that it is possible to lead a life of a householder and still be in oneness with God. Sri Sathguru once told us that a woman is naturally endowed with qualities like endurance, love sympathy, devotion to duty etc., which are all indispensable ingredients in the path towards God. If only women care, overcome negative qualities like selfish attachments, jealousy, possessiveness etc., their spiritual advancement will be much faster than men.

Sri Sathguru has specially trained the lady devotees of Sri Peetam not to hoard articles like clothes and sarees, utensils or any other unnecessary articles. In her own inimitable style, She would gently tell us, "Don't buy or hoard items more than necessary. Don't get attached to your home and household items like furniture, utensils etc – you don't know when you will have to leave them for ever."

Such thought provoking messages have had immense impact on me and I sincerely try to follow Her advice, in this journey of my life.

- I recall a question answer session where a devotee asked Sri Sathguru about killing insects like cockroaches and mosquitoes in the house – does it not tantamount to doing an adharmic violent himsa. Sri Sathguru spontaneously shot back – in the first place why do you keep the place dirty and create a ground for such insects to breed. Subtle, firm and direct words of wisdom make us look inwards and improve ourselves in this journey. No wonder Sri Sathguru has embodied Saucham (Cleanliness) as the fourth guiding pillar of Sri Peetam. Saucham – external cleanliness being the first step in progress to achieve internal saucham.

- It was a monsoon night when Sri Peetam had just moved to West Mambalam. I had the rare blessing to get a new telephone instrument. Actually such commands are those given by Sri Sathguru as deftly as a pilot would manipulate his aircraft to change its course. A strange coincidence was that the instrument was delivered to me by one Mr Krishnan – the sales man and I faithfully carried it to Sri Peetam. It started pouring very heavily and there was a terrifying combination of thunder and lighting too, making it more dramatic. When I delivered it to Gurubhai and returned home I was fully drenched and shivering. That moment my telephone rang and Gurubhai was on the other end and unbelievable – I heard Sri Sathguru talking to me on the phone. With tears of joy I was speechless and mumbling. I conveyed my Pranams to this embodiment of compassion .



Smallest things, biggest help

- For many of us who have had the fortune of being present at the darshans of Sri Sathguru it is not surprising that Sri Sathguru treats all devotees alike – men and women old and young, rich and poor – why even the squirrels and sparrows at Sri Peetam, that way they have been fortunate souls. Even the smallest beings would not be allowed to go dejected and disappointed.

This incident happened to me when I was barely 8 year old, when Sri Sathguru's Jayanthi was being celebrated at Kalyana Nagar association hall at Mandaveli. Since I was accompanying my father to bring Sri Pithukuli Murugadas, who was to render bhajans on that occasion, I had chosen to wear a nice chain with a precious studded locket. We accompanied the artiste to the mantapam and while the programme was going on I was shocked to realize that the precious locket was missing. I was scared and started crying. My father saw me and asked about the matter. He consoled me and asked me to pray to Sri Sathguru.

I was not satisfied. I searched in the car and every where in the mantapam, but could not find it. Then as a last resort we went near Shri Murugadas' house and to my surprise, right on the road, where hundreds of vehicles and pedestrians would have crossed, for over four hours, the locket was lying there, in tact. I only take, that this is a miracle of Sri Sathguru, that even a small devotee does not leave Her sad and disappointed. This incident has cemented the conviction in me that the Guru will take full care of you – all that you need to do is do your duty righteously and offer unadulterated devotion and obedience.

- October 2009 – After staying in at the hostel - for the first time away from the comforts of home, the week-end family reunions, and Sri Peetam Darshans had become the most sought after moments of life. The annual music competitions at the Mylapore Fine Arts were additional commitments – but I would not like to miss Sri Peetam darshans – for, it was these darshans that have been charging me for the entire week, to grapple with the challenges alone.

As luck would have it, that Sunday my turn in the competition was towards the end. I was worried that I would miss the darshans and therefore, after every contestant, I was checking up with my father over the phone, about the darshans. At one point of time, I decided to dump the competition and rush to Sri Peetam. My father told me to check up with the organizers for an advancement – which I could manage by the Grace of Sri Sathguru. I finished my performance and anxiously rushed to Sri Peetam and was greatly relieved to have Sri Sathguru's Darshan, that day. Not only that, Sri Sathguru affectionately asked me, "How are you? I was remembering you yesterday. Are you saying your prayers regularly? – Indeed it was an unforgettable moment.

I was told later, that though the ladies had finished their singing, quite unusually, Sri Sathguru had been giving instructions regarding cassette sales, book sales, etc., much after the normal darshan timings that day – all of which helped prolong the Darshan

proceedings by at least 45 minutes.

I felt overwhelmed how Sri Sathguru knew and granted my earnest craving to have Her Darshan on that day. By the Grace of Sri Sathguru , I was also awarded the Dr ML Vasanthakumari endowment Thanbura Prize for that competition.

- On an honest introspection, I will admit that I have very poor knowledge about scriptures; I have not read the Upanishads or Bhagavad Gita. My knowledge on other earthly matters is also very superficial. For a person of such primitive intellectual grounding, the matter of Surrender and Spiritual advancement are normally too lofty, unattainable and unimaginable goals. But Sri Sathguru has capsulated such great values of sadhana and made it into one easily understandable statement – “Just Let God Manage your life” . It covers it all in just six words.
- Sri Sathguru has been guiding us in small, subtle ways to organize ourselves and get moulded in the realms of perfection. Sri Sathguru has told us on many occasions to learn by observing. By merely observing smallest of actions and happenings at Sri Peetam – the practices that have been formulated over the years, closely guided by Sri Sathguru and implemented by the various sevarthis, is an education in itself.

The way plastic covers are folded and stacked for future use, the way sevarthis anticipate and get things organized for Darshan, the way smallest of toddlers abide by the unspoken manners of washing legs before entry, maintaining silence, abstaining from infructuous gossip, doing namaskarams at entry and before exit – they all speak of the cultural moulding that has taken place in Sripeetam. This is internalized by the smallest of children to the oldest of devotees. The obedience, equality in treatment and orderliness internalized is a rarity in many of the religious mutts of the day.

Sri Sathguru has herself practiced and perfected various simple acts of discipline – like “a Place for everything and everything in its place”. Sri Vishnu Mohan has been perfection personified in his own way. The way the office of Sri Peetam is organized and the Darshan Box with various prasadam, give aways, meticulously stacked, and replenished speaks volumes of this discipline having percolated to all. This can happen only with the Divine blessing of Sri Sathguru. This leaves us a direction and guidepost to follow in our daily life, to make perfection a way of our lives, the first step, in leading a good clean life.



True prayers are always answered

Om Namō Narayana!

Pranams to Shri Sathguru.

It's really a Poorva Janma Poonya to experience and write about Sathguru's miracles. I just want to share some of my fantastic, unbelievable experiences that had happened to me by Sathguru's grace.

- **Honest police**

When I was working in Srilanka, I used to come once in two or three months to Chennai, on a short visit to have darshan and to complete some of the petty jobs at my Head office at Tirupur. During that time, I used to carry some money to give it to my head office. On one such occasion, in 2005, I was carrying around USD 4500 to handover to my office and I landed in Chennai. I used to keep the money in my wallet, which I use in Srilanka and was carrying the money all along, since I may have to handover the money to my office, at any time during those days. As a practice, I attended the immediate darshan on that day and the next day. When I went home after the darshan, I was shocked to note that I have missed the wallet somewhere, and my mind was totally blank. I was sure that I had lost my company's money and also lost some of my personal money as well, my original driving licenses (international and local) too, as a penalty. There was no business card or any information related to my Chennai address and there were only Srilankan references. I didn't know what to do and was just praying to Sathguru, on my own that, "If this is my money, let it come back to me or else I will earn and pay it back to my office." I did not inform this to Sathguru and conveyed it only through my prayers.

I was sure, if I said that I had lost such a huge sum of money, there was a possibility that my office also would not listen to me and would be looking at me with a different eye. Due to this, my wife was literally upset. She asked me, "Why do you carry Company's money like this?" And we had a big argument for the first time, after my marriage.

I visited Sri Peetam everyday and kept praying in front of Sathguru. On the third day, I received a call from my colleague, asking me if I had any problem with the police. I said, "No," and nothing flashed on me. And he said that one inspector wanted me to come to the police station for an enquiry, without giving me any information. Since I was in utter confusion, I did not give any importance to this call. Moreover, I was not such a person as to have any problem, as to visit the police station for any sort of enquiry. He called me on the next day and told me the same thing firmly, and informed me that the inspector shouted at him because I had not responded. I refused to meet the inspector the next day too. I was praying in Sri Peetam and preparing my self for repaying the amount to my company, the next week.

I got another call from my colleague on the following day and he said that the inspector threatened him and asked me to visit the station immediately on the next day, without further delay. To avoid further problems, I decided to visit the police station on the next day, at 8a.m. When I went there, the inspector was not there but the writer was there, as usual, with old furniture and an unclean atmosphere. He asked me about my details and suddenly asked me whether I had lost anything. I was once again shocked and instantly said, "I lost my wallet five days before." He instructed me to stand up and to look up on the top of an old wooden cupboard, which was behind him. I was perplexed to see my wallet, on the top of the file box, kept on the cupboard top. Then he asked me to write the contents of the wallet and told me to check it. It's true with Sathguru's grace that not even a penny or any paper was displaced. I thanked the writer and he told me to be very careful and said, "You must be lucky to receive your wallet." Of course, he was right, that in a police station, some good mannered person had handed it over and it was kept intact for another four days. Whoever looks at a wallet, with such huge amount in it would have changed their mind and easily taken the money. Only Sathguru changed that person's mind and showered Her grace by answering my prayers. Not only did I get back my wallet it also saved my reputation. This incident shows that true prayers are always answered.

- Another incident, which gave me an important message in my life was during darshan hours. I saw a Muslim devotee talking with Sathguru. I felt that I should take a snap of it. I took a few snaps in my camera. I could see the clear images of the photos taken, during that time. When I came out, to my dismay, I could not find the pictures saved. I was a little confused and realized that I had not taken any permission to take snaps inside Sri Peetam. So, this small incident made me realize that it is necessary to take permission of Sri Sathguru for anything at Sri Peetam.

I am very happy to have Sathguru's association in my life and would like to continue to lie at the lotus feet of our revered Sathguru.



“You do your share and God will do His share”

Sri Sathugurubhyo Namaha

Narayana

- Care of Sri Sathguru

When I was in my eight grade, I was not doing well. I was very weak. Sathguru called me and my mom and told me to take chywanprash, with milk, daily in the night. Sathguru warned me that if I didn't take it I would have some serious nervous problems. I started having this regularly and my health improved. For about two years, I was regularly having Chywanprash. One day Sathguru called me and asked me, “Are you still taking chywanprash?” I told Her, “yes.” Sathguru told me, “It's time to stop it.” Sathguru was so much concerned about me and this is the way Sathguru takes care of Her devotees in all aspects or spheres of life.

- Degree Exam

One more incident that took place, when my father was in ICU, with severe health problem. At that time, I had my final year exams of my graduation. It was a tough time for me as I was not emotionally and physically doing well. I didn't want to take my exams. But my mom told me, “you try to attend and leave rest to God.” It was really a miracle! I had severe vomiting sensation, head ache and body ache. The exams for the five papers were from Monday to Friday, without any break in the middle. My sister used to accompany me for all my exams. I was totally drained out and only during those three hours (exam time), I used to overcome the sensation of nausea and aches. My invigilators also helped me a lot, in the midway of my exams. I was given water and glucose. All my exams went on this way. After one and a half months, I got a call from one of my friends that I passed my final years with a good grade. I was really surprised. I didn't know what I wrote in my exams. It was a shock to me. Then on the day of collecting my mark sheets, I went to my college. I got distinction in all my papers. I told this to Sathguru. Sathguru was really, extremely glad about this. This is the way Sri Sathguru takes care of all Her devotees, at all levels. Sathguru tells us, “leave all your woes and worries to God and Pray, do your share, the rest will fall in place.”

- Hindi exam

Another incident was when I was taking my Hindi exams of Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha. I passed the first three exams and then I lost interest. Though my parents told me to continue, I was reluctant. There were still five more exams for me to get degree in Hindi. One day, Sathguru called me and gave me prasadam. Sathguru told me, “Why not you become a pandit like Prasad? Don't you want to complete your course in Hindi?” This motivated me to continue, and I took the remaining five exams to get a degree. Sathguru was very happy. I would not have got this degree but for Sri Sathguru.

- Pleased with my gift

Similarly, another incident, I worked in Air India on a temporary basis for about four months. At the time of completion of my period, the staff of Air India gifted me a big closed stainless steel vessel with my name on it and with a one rupee coin in it. I directly went to Sri Peetam from my work place, on that darshan day. I showed this to Sathguru. Sathguru was very happy and saw this with so much fondness and interest. An omnipotent God, coming down to a mundane level is a very rare thing. But this is true of Sri Sathguru.

- Academics improvement

From my younger days, I was much interested in games and not studies. I used to spend time mostly in playing. Then as years passed, the teachers used to complain that I was academically weak. I was unlike my sister and brother. But still my parents never scolded me for my academic weakness. One summer vacation, I was just thinking of Sathguru and sleeping that night. Next day morning, my mom woke up and saw Sathguru's big size photograph (a one framed in glass) on me. I was embracing the photo. My mom woke me up and was worried if Sathguru's photograph was broken or had cracks, but not a tint was touched. It was all the same. From the following academic year, I don't know what happened; there was a great improvement in my academic side. I got very good marks and good comments from my teachers. Sathguru always tells us, " you do your share and God will do His share. Don't worry." This is true for all students and householders, as well.

- Mercy and love for devotees

There were a lot of obstacles and unpleasant incidents(which would have created mental agony in any one's life) that took place before my marriage. But Sathguru was a guide and a savior. Sathguru sent all devotees and Sri Peetam people to my marriage and guided me and my family, at each stage. This is a sign of protection as Krishna did to Bhima, a shield to protect him. This shows Sathguru's mercy, interest in one's devotee, which can't be explained in words. Similarly, my husband and his family also started feeling a close link with Sathguru. He also has had experiences.

Likewise, when my son was three years, he was stammering a lot. He had a problem in speaking continuously. I told this to Sathguru. And Sathguru told me, "He seems to be normal" and told him to sit with the childrens' bhajan group, with a Jalara. He sat with them. The same day we could notice that his flow of words was fluent and without stammering.

- Towels as prasadam

Again, when Vishnu was taken for regular check-up, he was told by the paediatric doctor that he had some rhythm problem in his heart and we would have to take some tests, ECG & x ' ray [heart] after another review/check-up. Two days later, Sathguru gave Vishnu a small hand towel and bath towel. I kept these towels inside, in a safe place. Fifteen days later, the Dr's check- up was due. The same day morning, Sathguru called me and asked me if I was using the towel. I told Her, "No." Sathguru told me to use it. The

same day evening, before going to the doctor for another review, I made him take a bath and wrapped him in Sathguru's, given bath towel, for sometime. Then, I took him to the Dr. She checked him up many times and told me that he was fine and there was no unique sound/rhythm heard, as before. Still, I took the two tests and everything was normal. From small to such big incidents, Sathguru protects the devotees. Not only this, there are still, a lot & lots of experience one can't forget. Vishnu also narrates this experience, every now and then to others. This shows Sathguru's grace, protection and support that is extended to devotees, without even being asked for. So, God's hand in any work is ultimate.

Sathguru's anecdotes, messages and sayings are golden and a tonic for our body and soul to evolve and to live in this terrible world, of serpents. Also Sathguru's grace, blessing and protection crosses miles across to every nook and corner, to the yearning and deserving souls. So, Sathguru's saying, "if God is everything to you, He will do everything for you" is apt here.

Though, my mother's health is not sound, she is managing and not grumbling and waits for a chance to have Sathguru's darshan. She is happy to come to Sri Peetam and have a glimpse of Sri Sathguru. That is the power, grace and mercy of Sri Sathguru. All age groups have a close link with Sathguru, on a par with their mental state. So, Sathguru is Sri Krishna, lovable one, for all. Sathguru is Anaatharakshaka, Abathbandhava and savior of all people.

May all of us have the privilege of association with Sathguru for ever and have an inclination to follow Sri Sathguru's teachings as Sathguru is happy when Her devotees pass the test given by Her. So, let us all sincerely pray for Bhakthi, and knowledge to be showered on us. Let us all pray with humility and unshakeable faith that we follow Sathguru unquestionably and know and understand that Sathguru knows everything and will lead us all to light, goodness and peace.

Sathguru's ever loving devotee



Small things, life's lessons and boundless compassion

Sri Sathguruve Namah:

- **Amma's sickness**

It was a normal day, for me in the morning to finish my usual routines, and I was about to leave for office at 7.30 am, and just then the telephone rang and it was Gurubhai Shrihari on line. He asked me to immediately leave for Parthasarathy Temple and pray there and then go to office. Jayanthi and I went to the temple and when we got a large quantity of prasadam there, I called Gurubhai to find out whether I could distribute the same at my office. I got a reply asking me not to distribute the prasadam to anyone. Jayanthi dropped me at office at 9 am and came back home. At 9.30 am, when I was about to get into a meeting, I got a call from my sister that my mother was very serious and I should start immediately. I don't still know how I could have managed to board the 11 am flight to Trivandrum with only one and half hours time left, after I got the first information. When I called Gurubhai on phone, the message for me was to carry the prasadam for my mother. I was at my mother's side at 12.30 pm and she was not responding to my calling, "amma, amma," and the doctors told me that we had to wait till evening. At around 4 pm my mother opened her eyes, as if from a deep sleep, and asked us where she was.

The doctor later told me that she was very critical at 8 am in the morning and they did not know what to do. That was the exact time when we were praying at Parthasarathy Temple and then I knew who the real 'doctor' was!!!

- **Vikram's Injury**

One evening, when Vikram was playing with his friends, he got injured in his forehead when he got hit with another boy who was coming in the opposite direction. Since the wound was very deep, they had to put four stitches. This was informed to Sri Sathguru through Gurubhai Shrihari over the phone. However, even after two days, the bleeding in the wound was not subsiding and in the middle of that night we found his entire pillow soaked in blood and did not know what to do. Next morning, I rushed to Sri Peetam at five am and was waiting for the door to open to make my first application of the day. I got the message from Gurubhai Shrihari that Sri Sathguru had already spoken to Srimannarayana many times about Vikram and in fact Sri Sathguru was told, "I have already told you I will take care of this boy and why are you again and again asking!!" Hearing this, tears ran down my eyes. The same day we got the blood clot test, and it revealed no problem and the wound got healed soon.

- **Alangara Gopuram At Ambalapuzha**

It was during one of initial years, after knowing Sri Sathguru that one day I asked Sri Sathguru about a request from Ambalapuzha Sri Krishnaswamy temple for a donation for some renovation work. I was asked to go Ambalapuzha and meet the office bearers of the

temple and list down the tasks to be done at the temple and their approximate costs. On seeing the list, Sri Sathguru, who is always very thoughtful approved the work of the Alangara Gopuram, at the entrance of temple. This is a very far reaching idea, as for years and years to come, the starting point of the temple land is established and cannot be easily changed. Soon after, Sri Sathguru laid the foundation stone at Ambalapuzha temple, and to the surprise of all the office bearers, agreed to bear the entire cost of the Alangara Gopuram. Sri Sathguru signed the advance cheque in the Sanctum Sanctorum of Sri Parthasarathy temple and told the people that 'this is given by Him and not by me and hence spend the same judiciously'. I was asked to monitor the progress of the work and payments to contractors. We had many issues during the construction stage, with various agencies and shop keepers in the area. For the first time, in Ambalapuzha, we got a project completed on time. I could see Sri Sathguru's hand in getting the many hassles cleared, which we encountered during the course of construction, and each time a decision or direction given by Sri Sathguru was like how a highly competent professional manager would do in business situations. I used to get astonished as to how a person who is spiritual and not connected to the daily issues of management could give such clear and precise directions which encompasses all aspects. The project was completed and Sri Sathguru inaugurated the same in a glittering function, attended by a huge crowd. It was a great day for my father, who organised the entire visit and schedule of Sri Sathguru, at Ambalapuzha. At that age, he was running about making arrangements, like a school boy! During the inaugural speech, Sri Sathguru mentioned that if the devotees pray sincerely, many more things will come to Ambalapuzha temple and money will never be an issue as Sriman Narayana wanted to divert a part of the flow coming to Guruvayoor to Ambalapuzha. In fact Sri Sathguru at the end told us that she too acted only on that instruction! True to Sri Sathguru's words, the temple since then got many projects done in lightening speed and the devotees coming to the temple have surged since then. People there are fondly waiting for the next visit of Sri Sathguru..

- **My Guru My Krishna**

I was pleasantly shocked when Gurubhai Srihari told me one day that HH Sri Sathguru had ordered me get the traditional bhajans of Sripeetam to be translated into Malayalam and also get the same recorded in a CD/Cassette to be released on Sri Sathguru's Jayanthi Celebrations. The first job, was translation with the help of Prof Naryankutty. We spent many evenings on the job. Prof Narayankutty used to come home after his tiring classes at Vivekananda College. It was a difficult job to translate the Tamil songs to Malayalam, without losing its original meaning and spirit. Whenever, we got stuck for an appropriate word, the Prof. used to tell me to do one namaskaram at the H.H.Sathguru's photo and come back, and pat would come the most appropriate word. When it came to the question of music composing,, through Mr Ananth Vaidyanathan, we got the great man HMV Raghu to do the work and equally important was getting Smt Kalyani Menon to agree and sing a few songs for the project. When I heard the songs for the first time in the studio, I could not believe the kind of sync Raghu mama had created which he candidly admitted was due to only HH Sri Sathguru's blessings and he became an instant devotee of Sathguru.

- **Mantropadesam**

It was one of the trips from Indore to Chennai that I got a message from Sri Peetam that Sathguru would give me (and Jayanthi) mantropadesam. It was very kind of Sri Sathguru to have chosen us to grant this. I was not too sure whether I deserved this. During the brief ceremony, I went on chanting 'I don't deserve' 'I don't deserve' and Sri Sathguru with a very kind smile told me, 'It is not for you to decide that'. But even today I feel that I don't deserve that as I don't chant the 'mantram' regularly. Even for this Sathguru used to say, 'Manushyalle' in chaste Malayalam tone which means, 'after all we are human beings.'

- **Guruvayoor Trip**

During one of Sathguru's trips to Guruvayoor, many devotees had planned in advance and had booked tickets, by train and plane for the travel. As usual, because of office uncertainties, I could not plan for the trip, in advance. In the last minute, I decided and also got permission to travel with Sathguru in the same flight to Coimbatore. At the airport, I bumped into (I may think so!!) one of my old acquaintances who was then working for Jet Airways and he made arrangements for receiving Sathguru at the Airport and gave us the VIP lounge. He even made the security and other formalities easier for Sathguru. At Coimbatore, when all the others got into their allotted cars, Gurubhai called me and said 'you are going to travel in Sathguru's car.' It was one of most memorable rides, with Sathguru from Coimbatore to Guruvayoor. In the same trip, while coming back, we decided to take Sathguru through Cochin as the road travel would be shorter. It was a miracle to change all the tickets from Coimbatore to Cochin - Chennai flight and we reached the airport on time after having dharsan of Sarada Devi and Krishna temples, in the birthplace of Adi Shankara at Kaladi.

- **Driver's Seat**

I had the rare privilege of driving Sathguru, on many occasions in the past (now-a-days I don't get a chance). Sathguru always chooses to sit on the seat behind the driver's seat and used to enjoy the scenery outside. It could be trees, buildings, people etc., She would observe many things on the road, which normally is missed by us. Sathguru would also ensure that we took appropriate breaks on the way and also drive carefully. Each time before starting the car, Sathguru would instruct me to pray and then start. This has become a habit for me now.

- **A small task and a big return**

One day, just before I took an assignment, I was asked to pick up Mukhil Mama and rush to Malar Hospital, where Sushma was lying critically ill. I went to do namaskaram at Sri Peetam, before picking up Mukhil mama. Sathguru told me that, "you are doing today a big job and will know its results when you go to Indore." I thought it was a very ordinary job of escorting Mukhil mama. Later I came to know, he was asked to chant Vishnu Sahasranamam in the room where Sushma was lying. The same evening Sushma passed away and we all felt so sad at the sudden turn of events for such a lively girl. Within a week, I had to pack off to Indore and it was miracle that I finalised a brand new house called, 'Dharshan Residency' with a big Flute & Mayilpeeli (peacock feather) in the building and the street name was Vaikunt Dham. Vikram and Vidhya too got admissions in

good schools, without any difficulty and we settled down at Indore very fast. All through our stay in Indore we got a great support from one Raman uncle and family, whom we got introduced only at Indore, but seemed as if we had known them for ages. At this point, only I realised what Sathguru had said when I was asked to do a 'small task'.

- **Back to Chennai**

During my Indore days, I used to get a chance to come to Chennai, once a month on some office work and at that time, I used to manage to get dharshans of Sathguru. Invariably, I had to leave in the middle of Dharshan for the airport when Sathguru would ask me to sing, "Karuna Cheyvaan endu thaamasam Krishna" and then leave. I used to plead with Sathguru to get me back at Chennai. One day, when I finished the song, Sathguru told me, "if you sing like this, how can He be without showing Karuna" (compassion). To the surprise of many, very soon, we came back to Chennai.



Lucky Sevarthi?

- More than a mother

Sri Sathguru is a name synonymous to motherly love for me. My real experiences started at the West Mambalam residence when Sri Sathguru nominated me as a sevarthi. As a twelve year old and an erratic devotee, I hardly knew the terms, duties and rituals at Sri Peetam. I still feel embarrassed when I think of the very first time Sri Sathguru gave me an errand to check up with Gurubhai if it was time for Sri Sathguru to proceed upstairs for darshan. In my negligent ways, I forgot it on my way up the stairs and felt sheepish to ask Sri Sathguru to repeat it again for me. Gurubhai then reminded me of my chore after which I completed it successfully. Even now, I feel bad for having made Sri Sathguru repeat some directions again and again in the past though Sri Sathguru did it with utmost patience and affection. I definitely know for a fact that my initial period as a sevarthi meant more strain and work for Sri Sathguru and Gurubhai. They would have definitely benefited more by actually not having me rather than having me as a sevarthi. I would always be infinitely thankful to Sri Sathguru for choosing me as a sevarthi. I understood and continue to understand how beneficial it has been and will be for me. I shall definitely serve Sri Sathguru sincerely in an attempt to repay at least 1% of what Sri Sathguru has given me.

- After my board exams in class XII, I had an immense dilemma on deciding between 2 colleges-SRM University, Chennai and SASTRA University, Thanjavur. The pros and cons on the 2 sides seemed teasingly equal. Sri Sathguru wanted me to leave behind the prospectus of both the colleges and me to come the next morning. I went the next morning anxiously to know Sri Sathguru's choice for me. Gurubhai asked me to do namaskaram and handed over the SRM prospectus to me and passed on Sri Sathguru's message that there was a reason which we would understand later. I understood the enormity of that decision only 6 months later when my mother fell ill and was hospitalized wherein I was of great help to her at that critical time.

A sevarthi in Sri Peetam performs a variety of tasks for Sri Sathguru and Sri Peetam. Of the spectrum of tasks done here by the sevarthis, mine is very narrow and mostly confines to attending on Sri Sathguru. Standing very close to Sri Sathguru, I have observed Sri Sathguru talking to each and every devotee, each having a gamut of problem in the most comforting, understandable and a firm way at the same time. The way Sri Sathguru relates to people from diverse age groups, linguistic and cultural backgrounds is really amazing. Having repeatedly heard guidance from none less than Sri Sathguru, I can say proudly that I am definitely one of the more lucky devotees in Sri Peetam. I really at sometimes feel that all of Sri Sathguru's teachings form a kind of protective bubble around me, protecting me from all kinds of vices which I come across every day at college. Over the years, I think I have improved at getting done what Sri Sathguru intends to without much strain for Sri Sathguru be it reaching out the kalkandu and chocolate plate or Sri Peetam publication etc. I am again embarrassed to confess that albeit all this guidance from Sri Sathguru, I still am irregular with my prayers. I shall definitely strive for improvement in that department. May God enable us to keep serving Sri Sathguru.



A smile and lasting peace is here

Sri Sathguruve Namaha.

I am relatively a new comer to come under the spell of Sri Sathguru's teachings. I was under tremendous pressure to move over to Bangalore in the office. The senior in the organization had almost decided about it. I explained this to Sathguru, in one of the Darshans. She asked, " why do you have to go to Bangalore?" Little did I realize that this innocuous statement was a blessing. Within two weeks, after this, some other group in Chennai itself, wrote to the company and required a profile, similar to mine, and thus, I was posted in Chennai itself. All my worries had vanished. Sri Sathguru's grace and compassion is unbounded. Her Holiness's smile is captivating. Just a smile, looking at us, drives away the worries and one gets a lasting peace within the heart.

Om Sri Narayana



She protects, guides and transforms

- My first experience – sometime in 2004

This was a usual hectic day in February when we go through some very tight timelines on closing annual assessment and recognizing people who made some outstanding contribution to the business in the course of the previous year.

These are the times when the days start at 8 in the morning but close past midnight. I had been through three such days already. My eyes had begun to give me some trouble and I had attributed that to over usage of a computer. On this one day I woke up in the morning and realized that vision in my left eye had dropped. From my left eye I could not see beyond my height. There was no ceiling and no sky. I complained about it and then left for work. I wasn't driving that day since I had to visit a hotel and agree the terms for the forthcoming event. And I was then scheduled to reach my office later that morning.

I reached office at around 11 and saw the doctor who advised me to see an eye specialist who I met at noon. After thorough examination I was advised that the symptoms were strange since the eye was fine. I went about my duties but at 10 that night the vision in the eye had dropped very seriously and I was now concerned. I spoke to the doctor again and went to see a Neurologist who promptly concluded that I was suffering from Optic Neuritis or had a stroke. If it was former I would recover but if it was latter the chances of my regaining my vision were slim. Further I was advised, that I would need to get hospitalized immediately and undergo MRI to ascertain the cause of this.

I then spoke with Viji who immediately called to speak with Gurubhai Shrihari. At 2 that morning I was administered the first dose of what was going to sort the issue out. I was tired and upset and slept off.

Next morning when I woke up at 8 there was the usual sky. A little cloudy though.

Viji later told me that Gurubhai Shrihari had spoken to Sathguru about it last night. And that Sathguru had commanded that that cloud will also go away soon.

- And then the next one followed soon thereafter – 2004

After getting discharged from the hospital and having stabilized Viji and I with SS grace visited Sri Peetam. Sri SATHGURU enquired about my eye and commanded that I should visit Guruvayur. As per SS instructions we made the bookings to be at Guruvayur.

I must confess that at this stage of my life I was new to God. I didn't know anything. It was only a day back that I had been in the grace of my God Sri Sathguru. First rendezvous with God.

At that point in time my professional life wasn't exactly progressing in a satisfactory manner. Viji and I were waiting at the lounge for our flight to Cochin to be announced happy that I was keeping well now. Workplace issues did haunt me once in a while but I

had learnt to distract myself with other things – worldly of course.

As we sat in the lounge waiting for boarding announcements to be made I was informed that I could be moving to bigger assignment. I left Madras for Cochin hoping that I would be selected for that assignment.

In one of my conversations with Viji, after reaching Guruvayur I happened to tell her that I didn't know Krishna too well. And I cannot get myself to read the usual literature. We spent 3 days with Guruvayurappan and then returned to Madras.

As per SS command we went to Sri Peetam after our return. I had by then become the lead candidate to be appointed for the assignment. And SS in Prasadham had included some books on Krishna, which had pictures and the narration.

2 months from then I had been selected for the new assignment and had been promoted. Also had finished reading the bedtime stories on Krishna.

- **Sathguru got me home**

In July 2005 Mumbai experienced a cloud burst which killed many people and left the city scrambling for shelter. I was in office that day. At 4pm on that day it was as if it was 8 pm. It was dark and gloomy. It had been raining continuously since the morning and the monsoon activity was looking completely strange from the 5 years that I had been in Mumbai. At 6 we knew there was something wrong since the trains had stopped running. And people were now beginning to realize the gravity of the situation since they had to return to the office to stay overnight.

I had two choices – leave right then and there (at 6 pm) or allow for the city to stabilize and start driving later in the evening. I followed Sathguru's command of staying at my office till late evening. There was dinner in the office since many had no option but to stay the night over at the office.

I then set out at 1130. My house those days was about 17 kms from office. For about half the distance there was no water logging and no traffic. 15 minutes into my journey I realized what the city was going through. There were parts of the city (main arterial roads) that were flooded with waist deep water.

Only 6 months back Sathguru had bought me a brand new Scorpio. Given the built of the car, I decided to drive through the water log since there wasn't any point in turning back. With Sathgurus grace I drove for an hour at speeds of 5 km/hr in knee-deep water (by the side of the road) and some parts even on the pavement. At around 4 in the morning after having been through start / stop / slow moving traffic I finally reached the vicinity of my home. I still remember seeing a Sumo and 2 other cars 'floating' in water as my car waded through the streets. I was tired. The apartment had no electricity supply given the intensity of the situation. I was too tired. That didn't come in the way of my hitting the bed.

Next morning there wasn't any question of getting to work. I went to a friends place to figure what had happened the previous evening – since the power supply to their apartment had been restored. I also wanted to charge my cell phone which had gone dead given the number of calls that I made / received the previous day.

24 hours later people were still stranded in waist deep water on the road. They hadn't reached home. They had no water. No food. They didn't know if they'd make it. Some of them made it to their homes another 24 hours from then. Some didn't.

Sathguru not only got me home safe, but got me there in 5 hours. Which is 3 hours more than what I would have taken on a bad traffic day.

Sathguru got me enough food before I left so that I don't need anything on my way back home. And there was nothing that I needed except for Sathguru's grace to get back home.

- Living without Oxygen

On one of my trips to Calcutta the agenda was designed in a manner that I could take the 1500 return flight to Mumbai. There were 4 other colleagues of mine who were on the same flight.

Each of these meetings are extremely tiring. They start early and finish each day with dinner. By the second days one is usually suffering from some serious sleep deficiency. And the first opportunity to fall asleep is when one has boarded the flight.

I boarded this flight from Calcutta in the afternoon and promptly fell asleep. We were all seated in one row and I could in the early phase of my sleep here them chatting. I didn't wake up even as the aircraft chased the runway down to take off.

I woke up to sound of a big thud. I woke up thinking we hadn't taken off and some stuff from the overhead bin must have fallen down. When I opened my eyes I saw the scariest sight I have ever seen in an aircraft. Till then I had seen that only in Discovery channel.

I saw yellow colored oxygen masks hanging in front of everyone and an automated voice saying that the oxygen levels in the aircraft had dropped and that we should pull the masks towards us and put them on. As this was happening the aircraft dropped down very dangerously and stabilized at a much lesser height than it was when the masks popped open in front of us. I could see worry on everyone's face and the cabin crew running in the aisle to ensure that everyone had indeed put their masks on.

All this would have happened in all of 60 seconds. It's just that those seconds get etched in the memory. After putting the mask on I saw one of my colleagues even read the emergency evacuation note kept in every seat packet. All I remember after putting that mask on is that I heard Sathguru's voice commanding me to chant Krishna Ashtakam.

A minute or so later the pilot announced that there was a technical failure and that he was returning to Calcutta and would land in 15 minutes. And that at the current altitude there was no more any need for the passengers to wear that mask.

3 hours later I was on another flight on my way back home.



Divine comfort

It is indeed a great day for a person of my sort at my 55 years of age to meet our Sathguru at Sri Gnana Advaita Peetam on Thursday, 10th December 2009 through Sri R.Mukhil.

I heard about the importance of Kula deivam. The first question Her Holiness asked was about my kula deivam. I replied, "Akilandeswari Amman at Rajavallpuram, a small village near Thirunelveli, is my kula deivam."

Then She thought a while and then instructed to read Sri Vishnu Saharanamam. Surprisingly, the Tamil version of Sri Vishnu Sahasranamam was provided to me without asking anything about my lack of Sanskrit knowledge.

On 28th February 2010, I got the book of HER UPADESAM. After going through the first few pages, now I got the confidence that my entire burden of countless yester years will be cleared at this moment through the grace of our Sathguru.

Now I feel comfortable on the ladder of spiritual evolution, correcting my own mistakes rather than trying to correct others' mistakes.



Obedience matters, faith guides

Sri Sathgurubhyo Namaha

My Ananthakoti Namaskarams to Sri Sathguru's Lotus Feet.

I want to share some of the incidents I had come across in my life after I came to Sri Sathguru.

- Once I was working in a private factory which was surrounded by mountains, trees, bushes and snakes too. There I had been compelled to stay in a room in the office itself. I was both mentally and physically tortured by senior staff in so many ways. I hardly slept in the nights and I felt that I was put in a prison. I hardly had good lunch. Above all I was not even allowed to write letters to my parents, since they felt that I might complain about them – their illegal transactions and mal practices. Somehow I had a chance to tell my father how I was being tortured in the office, for which my father did not pay heed to my words. Afterwards I somehow found a way to send a letter to Sri Sathguru through Her Grace. When my father went to have darshan, Sri Sathguru got angry and told my father ,” Do you know how much the child is suffering?” On Sri Sathguru's command my father met one officer who knows him well. After coming to know about my condition he suddenly came to my office one night without giving any prior notice and told me to be bold. He appointed some securities to protect me by the grace of Sri Sathguru. Above all he appointed new people in the posts and sent out all the others. Only by Sri Sathguru's grace and karunyam I was relieved from the grip of evil forces. I pray humbly that I should be worthy of getting Sri Sathguru's blessings.
- When Sri Sathguru was staying in Lloyds road on Sri Sathguru's command devotees have been asked to prepare Prasadams. My mother had been asked to prepare ' Sweet Pongal'. Unfortunately it did not come out well. My mother started crying. After Naivedyam devotees started serving the Prasadam in banana leaves. My mother did not know what to do. In a split second Sri Sathguru took the Sweet Pongal well in her hands and started serving. All the devotees were overwhelmed by seeing this incident and happily ate it. They all commented only Sweet Pongal tasted very good. My mother said Amma has saved me. She used to narrate this experience now and then to others. She added that it was nothing but a great miracle !
- Sri Sathguru showers Her blessings on us. This shows her Vathsalyam. 25 years ago once I became very sick. Sri Sathguru had asked me to go to General Hospital after consulting a doctor for check up and the doctors suggested that I was having small pox infection. When my mother reported the matter to Sri Sathguru She instructed me to chant the Vishnu Sahasranamam repeatedly. I followed according to the instruction. This was in the midst of June very hot summer and so I felt burning sensation in my body. I couldnot open my eyes also. I cried so badly and prayed to Sri Sathguru. I was badly affected by the disease from head to toe. After some time I noticed in the sky the

formation of black thick clouds, with chill weather followed by heavy rain. Immediately I could feel the cool breeze and my burning sensation of my body disappeared. I told my mother about this for which she replied at once that it was nothing but a miracle of Sri Sathguru. I had taken only the Prasadam blessed by Sri Sathguru. Without Bakthi or surrender on my part but in response to my call with heartfelt cry Sri Sathguru came with Divine protection just like Lord Narayana protected Gajendra. My Humble Pranams to Sri Sathguru.

- Sri Sathguru is very caring and always compassionate. She gives us lot of Prasadams like provisions and what not. My parents are no more and we have none to take care of us, except Sri Sathguru and Gurubhai Sri Srihari and with instruction of Sri Sathguru Sevarthis and devotees are helping us. Sri Sathguru's soothing words and mercy takes away our depression and all our problems are solved. Myself and my sister feel happy to say that we are fortunate to receive the compassion of Sri Sathguru. We pray to Sri Sathguru to give us strength to follow Her preachings and practice saranagathi through sincere devotion and Bhakthi.
- My mother used to become sick now and then. Sri Peetam Doctors with the instruction of Sri Sathguru prescribed medicines and guiding us in all the ways. My mother used to tell that all the Sevarthi Doctors doing their services to Sri Sathguru. They should not be considered as ordinary physicians. Before I contact the doctor and ask for medicines for my mother 90 % of the illness would have disappeared by that time 10 % was due to medicines. My mother used to tell us that they are neither ordinary doctors nor their medicines but Danvanthri Prasadam itself, since they participated in homam at Sri Peetam and their medicines are 'Oushadam'.
- Once I got a job in a private firm which was dealing and assembling the parts of Hearing Components. The shop was situated nearer to Sri Peetam at Lloyds Road. The owner of the shop asked me to join on an auspicious day and told me that I should be very punctual and should be in time to the office. The office hours was between 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. On the day of joining, I got ready reached the bus stand and waited for the bus to come. On that particular day the bus no: 13 came late. When I got into the bus and the time was 9.45 in my watch. At all the bus stops due to heavy rush the bus stopped and started very slowly. When the bus reached Royapettah I noticed the time on the co passenger's watch and it watch showed 10 a.m. and my watch showed 10.20 I had lost all hopes of getting the job. Through the way I tried to compare the time of my watch and the co-passengers. It would not tally. I got somewhat mad. Finally I got down from the bus at Lloyds Road prayed to Sathguru and entered the office. At the same time the proprietor of the shop entered the office along with me with a smiling face told me that I was punctual to the office. I noticed the time of the office wall clock showing 10 a.m. I could not understand anything and got confused – what was happening around me? Somehow my mind was completely occupied that some miracle was done by Sri Sathguru. My proprietor called me to his cabin and explained about my nature of work etc., for ten minutes. I left the cabin and when I noticed the time was 10.30 a.m. and there was coincidence. Here Sathguru had stopped all the timings for the sake of myself to get the job. This was similar to the incident taken place in Mahabaratha war. Krishna while in the

midst of the battlefield teaches Bhagavath Gita to Arjuna and it hardly took some few minutes and at that moment Lord Krishna stopped the Kalachakram for teaching the Geethopadesam to Arjuna.

- Sri Sathguru with Her blessings sent the pedestal fan which was used in Sri Peetam for Sri Sathguru , through the Sevarthi Dr. R.Govindan along with another person with instruction that it should be used only for my mother and should be placed on the head side of my mother who was bedridden due to cancer and she was counting the days at that time. This happened just 2 days before the demise of my mother. My mother passed away peacefully without having much difficulty. After the demise of my mother on all the 13 days upto the end of ceremonies Sathguru instructed all the devotees to chant Sri Vishnu Sahasranamam. Only through that chanting my mother's struggling soul attained peacefulness. My humble Pranams to Sri Sathguru.

- Sri Sathguru gave us lot of prasadam to my parents, my sister and myself. On two occasions Sri Sathguru while at Anna Nagar through Sri Vishnu Mohan sent all the Sevarthis with a cash of Rs. 2000.(on each occasion Sri Sathguru gave us Rs.1000) under the instruction that it should be utilized by me only for my medical treatment. I did the same as per instruction of Sri Sathguru. My bank balance was very low and it was not sufficient for our family to meet the day-to-day expenses. After depositing the amount of Rs. 2000 in bank the position was completely changed and I have got enough bank balance.

- In the earlier stages I was a low salaried employee of a private firm and my father, a retired person was forced to go for employment in a private firm. Not having much bank balance he found it difficult to feed the family. We were staying in a rented house at Purasavakkam and the roofing was full of tiles, very hot in summer and very cold in winter and the water would come inside during rainy season very often rats, insects like cockroaches and scorpion appeared. During summer season insufficient water would come in the corporation pipe and we had to get water from far off places. During that period Sri Sathguru was residing in Anna Nagar. All Sevarthis and myself chanted Sri Vishnu Sahasranamam as per Sathguru's command, got prasadam and returned to our duties. As per instruction of Sri Sathguru on Thursdays, I used to go to Sri Parthasarathi Perumal temple at Triplicane, before going to my office. One fine day I was asked by Gurubhai Sri Sri Sri Vishnu Mohan to receive Sri Sathguru's Prasadam kept for me at the residence of Sevarthi Sri Gnanaprasad. When I reached Sri Prasad's house he was not there and his mother Kumari mami invited me and handed over the Prasadam to me. She told me that a new flat was under construction and we both visited the flat, booked one flat on the rental basis. We are all happy in the new flat for some years and it was very near to Kumari mami's house. Before that Gurubhai Sri Sri Sri Vishnu Mohan advised me to search a suitable home near Kumari mami's house and by the grace of Sri Sathguru we got the flat. In spite of we having an own house at Tirupathi in the name of my grandmother. As per the instruction of Sri Sathguru we used to go to Tirupathi to look after my grandmother. After the demise of my grandmother the house property was transferred in the name of father according to the will. By Sri Sathguru's grace we sold the house at Tirupathi and purchased a new flat at Triplicane. My sincere Pranams to my Sri Sathguru . Sri Gnanananda Sarasvathi not only says without saying but also does without saying.

- The celebration of Krishna Jayanthi take place every year at Sri Peetam in the presence of Sri Sathguru with chanting Sri Vishnu Sahasranamam, bhajans and speeches by Sri Sathguru and finally prasadam is distributed. Once after getting permission from Sri Sathguru at Anna Nagar all sevarthis under the guidance of sevarthi R. Govindan purchased artificial decorations like flowers etc. from Parry's corner shop and returned to Sri Peetam. After taking bath we decorated the place where Sri Krishna's idol was kept with flowers and garlands. On the day of Sri Krishna Jayanthi it was celebrated in very grand manner in the presence of Sri Sathguru and finally Sri Sathguru distributed prasadams. After a few days, we all sevarthis waited for Sri Sathguru's command to remove the nirmalyam. Seeing Sri Krishna's idol full of artificial flowers and garlands I thought it would be nice to decorate the Krishna in my pooja room similarly. Immediately I thought it would not be possible for us to purchase those costly items and finally dropped the idea. Instructions came from Sri Sathguru for removal of Nirmalyam. Sevarthi R. Govindan came with an instruction to remove all decorative items, pack them and that will go to TKS's house. At that moment I reached the top of happiness and couldn't find any words to thank my Sathguru.

Sometimes we feel that we are not able to come out from terrific hindrances and obstacles and we are sure that it is beyond our control. In those particular times our Revered Sri Sathguru takes us in Her hands , saves us and protects us. I pray to Sri Sathguru to give me the inner strength in making sincere attempt to follow Her preachings and practice Saranagathi. I also pray to Thee Sri Sathguru that I may become worthy of receiving Thy grace and blessings.

With humble Pranams at the Lotus Feet of Sri Sathguru.



Karunyam and Vatsalyam

Sri Sathgurubhyo Namaha

My humble pranams at the Lotus Feet of Sri Sathguru. I may not be worthy enough. But Sri Sathguru comes down to my level and showers Her Grace and Blessings on me. I earnestly pray to God that I must become worthy of getting Sri Sathguru's blessings not only in this Janma but in the next Janmas too.

- My mother, who is no more, used to tell us now and then that if we had not come to Sri Sathguru we would have gone into a miserable condition. My father who is no more was going on asking my Bhajan note book. Without Sri Sathguru's permission I did not want to give my note book. He passed away one day. Seela Mami came to our house with other devotees on that particular day. She told us that they should sing the Bhajans on Sri Sathguru's command. Both my mother and myself did not know how to express our feelings. They sang some particular songs which my father liked very much.
- When my mother was in the hospital one night Sri Sathguru appeared before her in the dream carrying a book in Her hands. At once my mother cried out, "Sathguru why did you come here I am not clean". Smilingly Sri Sathguru disappeared. After having Sri Sathguru's darshan my mother and myself were returning home by bus. Before getting into the bus I could see the Divine face of Sri Sathguru. Happily I got into the bus. I was standing in the bus since I did not get a seat. After sometime the running bus came to a sudden halt. The next moment I lost my grip and fell down near a platform. All the people got down from the bus except my mother. My mother had faith in Sri Sathguru. With others help I came to my normal position, nothing happened to me. Sri Sathguru is protecting me every now and then, each and every minute. Sri Sathguru used to tell me that I must be alert always. My ananthakoti namaskarams at the lotus feet of Sri Sathguru.
- Sri Sathguru is well known for Her compassion and mercy. Even if I do not think of Her and call Her earnestly She Protects me and saves me when I get into trouble. Once I was working in a nursery school. The children were in the age group of 3 to 3 1/2 years. One day when I was going to school by bus, I saw one child's face was coming before me continuously. The principal was on leave that day. Another lady and I were in charge of the children. During the play period the child who appeared before me in the bus, fell down from the Jungle Gym. Without knowing the consequences, I just opened the main door and rushed upstairs to inform the principal's relatives about the child's condition. Immediately the child was taken to the hospital by them. When I came down I was shocked to see that the children were running out through the main door. The security rushed outside and caught hold of a child who had crossed the road. In a split second all this happened. In the same way the security and the other lady managed to bring all the children inside the class room. The child escaped with minor injuries. No one scolded me for that event. Sri Sathguru had saved both of us (me and the child). My humble Pranams at the Lotus Feet of Sri Sathguru. Many a time I have experienced Sri Sathguru's karunyam and vathsalyam. Her soothing words and compassionate glances make me feel happy.



Faith and obedience make things fall into place

Pujya Sri Sathguruve Namaha

- With Sri Sathguru's grace and blessings, I want to narrate an incident to show that absolute faith will carry us through in life.

A few months ago, Sri Sathguru asked me to buy two trunk boxes for Sripeetam. Before starting, Sri Gurubhai told me about the availability in a particular shop in Parrys corner. With two other devotees, I went there. To my surprise I found no such shop existed by that name. I felt upset and I was in a fix. Slowly walking on the road, in search of a shop selling trunk boxes, suddenly two auto drivers approached us and volunteered to help us. They took us through a narrow lane. I was a bit nervous but kept on chanting Nama Japam. There stood a small shop, behind a temple, with boxes. I was amazed! The shop owner obliged us and agreed to fix wheels to the boxes.

Whatever Sri Sathguru asks us to do, we should not hesitate or doubt about the results. Faith and obedience make things fall into place.

With Pranams to Sri Sathguru.



Many facets, abundant grace and boundless generosity

When my son Niranjana visited Her Holiness Sri Sathguru for the first time, he was so attracted by Her divine look that he humbly requested Her to pay a visit to his house. Sri Sathguru said that if She got the divine command, She would do so. After a week Niranjana got a call from Gurubhai Srihariji stating that Sri Sathguru had consented to visit his house. He was overwhelmed with joy and started making all preparations for receiving Her Holiness.

- **10th. October 2002** Her Holiness Sri Sathguru Gnanananda Sarasvathi visited our house. We received Her with Poorna Kumbam, and chanting mantras by the priests. On Her arrival, the slum children of Sri Satya Samiti Anna Nagar chanted Vedas. This was followed by bhajans by the ladies of H Block, Anna Nagar. Niranjana asked a few questions about, "how life and death are not in our hands." Sri Sathguru quoted from Srimad Bhagavat Gita the teachings of Lord Krishna to Arjuna, which are actually meant for the people of the universe. Sri Sathguru spoke about true Bhakthi and Saranagathi by quoting examples of Gajendra, Draupadi and Dhruva. She also advised people to get rid of negative qualities like anger, hatred, egoism, selfishness, worry, etc. While explaining the Law of Karma she said, "If we do wrong, it will come back to us in the same way, if we do something good, that also will come back to us." Sri Sathguru also spoke about the control of mind. One should have control over his mind and should not allow the mind to control him. This can be achieved by doing constant Japa and Dhyanam. Talking about the importance of Humility, She said that one cannot attain the Goal without humility. She also said that "only God exists." He is "Sarva Vyapi. Yatho Krishna Thatho Dharma. Yatho Krishna Thatho Dharma." Where there is Krishna there is Dharma, there is victory. In conclusion, she stated that true Bakthi and Sharanagathi can lead to complete Self Realisation. Her speech was, later on, published into a book, named, "You can't remain in the Kindergarten all your life" and then transferred into a CD.
- **November 2002** Sri Sathguru visited "The Banyan", a home for the mentally ill women, situated in Mogappair. There was a Bharathanatyam programme by the children of "Gokula Kalalaya" school of Bharathanatyam. Sri Sathguru spoke to the inmates and blessed them and the staff. After Sri Sathguru's visit, the institute received a lot of donations and opened two branches, one a vocational centre at Kilpauk and the other in the outskirts of the city.
- **26th. December** Sri Sathguru inaugurated Prof. Prema Pandurang's discourse on Srimad Bhagavatham at Sriperambadur. There was a large gathering. Sri Sathguru spoke to the people on "True Bakthi and Saranagathi".
- **August 2003** Sri Sathguru arranged for a donation of Rs. 40,000 (rupees forty thousand) to the school for the Hearing impaired children, Guild of Service, Anna Nagar, through a devotee. The amount was spent towards fixing of a sound system for two class

rooms. The secretary of the school invited Sri Sathguru to inaugurate the installation of the sound system and Her Holiness came and inaugurated it, and addressed and blessed the children. Sweets and Sugar candy from the Peetam were distributed to the children.

- **September 2003** Sri Sathguru visited Swami Vivekananda Study Centre, Anna Nagar run by Miss B. Krishnaveni and her sisters. There was a large gathering. Sri Sathguru spoke to them and blessed all the devotees. The next day, she sent two brass lamps, books and sweets as gifts.
- **January 2004** Sri Sathguru visited the Special School for the Handicapped children, Guild of Service, Anna Nagar. Her Holiness arranged for donation of wheel chairs, tricycles and crutches for the handicapped children through Mr. Sankarnarayanan. Mr. Anthony Swamy of "Work Trust", Katpadi sponsored the programme. The handicapped children played the band, on the arrival of Her Holiness. There was a small cultural programme followed by a speech by Sri Sathguru. Children were given groundnuts and Laddus, specially made from Peetam. Niranjan sponsored the special dinner for the children from Bay Leaf Hotel.
- **April 12th. 2004** I went to Sri Chandra Mouleeswarar temple, Anna Nagar, as it was a Pradosham day. It was a Saturday and so I wanted to light lamp with gingelly oil . As it was a Saturday many lamps were lit in front of Sri Saneeswara temple. While I was lighting the lamps, my saree palloo caught fire. I was able to feel the heat only when the fire came upto my hip. On seeing the fire, I got scared and screamed, " Sathguru, Sathguru". Within a second, a lady at my back pulled the palloo and put it on the ground and extinguished the fire. Another lady brought a bucket of water and poured on the fire. I was so frightened that I was speechless for sometime. Some lady brought a cup of water and requested me to drink it. All this happened within a second. With Sathguru's blessings nothing happened to me, not even a tiny burn injury on my body. It was Sri Sathguru who saved my life that day. When we call out to Sri Sathguru she is already there, no matter what the distance, time, etc. is. I was reminded of Draupadi calling out to Lord Krishna for help in Duryodana's Darbar. When we surrender totally to Sri Sathguru, she immedietly responds to our call and solves our problem. This experience I can never forget in my life.
- **June 2004** When Niranjan bought a new car, we wanted to go to Tirupathi. When we told this to Sri Sathguru, she advised Niranjan to drive slowly and carefully, with somebody sitting beside me. With Sri Sathguru's blessings we reached Tirumala safely. As there was heavy rush many people retuned from Tirupathi without going to Tirumala. We prayed to Sri Sathguru and we were fortunate to get comfortable accommodation, VIP Darshan and a safe return journey to Chennai.

Pranams to Sri Sathguru.



My Punyam

- My father had given me a house in Coimbatore which was rented out. Since my father was based in Coimbatore, he was taking care of the property. Years later, when we decided to sell the place, we requested the tenant to vacate the premises. The tenant, however, refused to do so. We had to resort to legal means to get him evicted. The tenant seemed to know all the loopholes in the legal system and with that knowledge and bribes in the right places managed to constantly get stay orders. After five long years, the hearing came up in the court. I had informed Sri Sathguru about this troublesome tenant and how he was harassing me. I had to go to Coimbatore and appear in the court.

I reached Coimbatore and was sitting inside the court room, praying earnestly to SriSathguru, waiting for the lawyer to call me to the stands, when the tenant suddenly had a change of heart. He sent word saying that he was very sorry for all that he had put me through in the last five years. He confessed that he felt that it would be a great transgression on his part if he let me appear in court. He apologised and insisted that we travel back in his car and withdrew his case from the court. With the grace of Sri Sathguru what could have been an unpleasant experience was converted into an amicable settlement.

- Sri Sathguru asked Mr. Pattabiraman and me to go to the Thriunindravur temple, every friday in the month of adi along with Mrs. And Mr. Sankarnarayan. We would first go to Sri Peetam, where Sri Sathguru would give us a lot of flowers and fruits to be taken to the temple. Once we were there, we would finish the archana and bring the prasadam back to sripeetam. This became a weekly affair and we got to know the archakas in the temple quite well.

The wife of the head priest was not well and required a heart surgery. Sri Sathguru on hearing this story, out of compassion and generosity wished to donate some money towards the medical expenses. We were asked to come and collect the cheque and hand it over to the priest. When we went to receive the cheque, the cheque was accompanied with some strange instructions. Sathguru commanded us that we hand over the cheque outside the temple. She also did not give us any fruits or flowers to be offered. She also told us specifically not to take any thing for the archana.

We were very puzzled with the instructions given to us. Mr. Pattabiraman was in fact worried. He wondered how he could tell the priest to come outside the temple to collect the cheque. With faith in Sathguru's words, we made the trip to Thriunindravur. To our amazement, we discovered, that the temple was closed because someone from a nearby madam had just passed away. The priest, hearing we were there, came out of the temple and accepted Sathguru's cheque gratefully. Needless to say there was no need for any fruits or flowers because there was no archana being performed at the temple that day!

- May 25th was Mr. Pattabiraman's birthday. My daughter, Srividya and son-in-law, Srikumar wished that we could all celebrate it together. Since they lived in Singapore, they wished that we could come there and the holiday could be a celebration as well. Like with

most things, we went to Sri Sathguru and told her that we would like to go to Singapore for a few weeks. Sri Sathguru did not look too happy with the prospect. "Why don't you stay back in Madras," she said. When we explained the reason, she still insisted that we should not travel to Singapore. "What about June then?", asked Mr. Pattabiraman. "let June come, then we will see", was Sri Sathguru's cryptic response.

Around May 21st, Mr. Pattabiraman suffered a heart attack from which he never recovered. He passed away a day after his birthday. Sri Sathguru looks after us till our very last moments. If we had travelled abroad during this period he could have well suffered his heart attack in Singapore or worse, mid-flight, causing undue stress. This experience taught me that every word of Sri Sathguru is fraught with meaning. Sri Sathguru can see into our future and help us plan for today.

- There was a time, in West Mambalam during darshan, when i was suffering from severe laryngitis. I could hardly whisper. Sri Sathguru looked at me and told me to start the bhajans. I was surprised. How could i, who could barely talk actually sing? not knowing what to do, i started to sing. Miraculously, my throat cleared up and i was able to sing for more than an hour. People who had heard me earlier were surprised to hear me sing. After the bhajans were over, as suddenly as my voice appeared, it disappeared. Such is the power of Sri Sathguru's words.



My life changed

Excellent extraordinary spiritual experiences by the grace of Sathguru.

Pranams to Sri Sathguru.

- A pleasant experience, at the temple of Ambalapuzha, I got by the grace of Sathguru, which I wish to share with all. This incident occurred in my life, within a short period of one year after my entry into Sri Peetam. I would like to share this with you all, with the blessings of Sathguru. My wife suffered due to severe back pain that radiated to her leg too, which made her unable to walk properly. She had been suffering for more than a year and various treatments at various places did not yield any result. I got the contact of a senior devotee of Sri Peetam at that time, who advised me to go to Guruvayurappan temple at Mahalingapuram and Parthasarathy temple. I immediately followed his advice and the Melsanthi at Guruvayurappan temple advised me to take her to an Ayurvedic hospital at Chennai. In the mean time, a friend of mine, a doctor with MS, advised me to take her to a place near to Alleppey, where they give special treatment for this problem. I went there with my wife after visiting Guruvayur temple. She got cured after the treatment and now she is perfectly alright. During the treatment period I went to Ambalapuzha temple, as advised by the senior devotee of Sathguru. There I got a very good darshan of Lord Krishna. I was even offered the famous Palpayasam, even without booking it earlier. Then again, I went to the temple after three days, after booking for Palpayasam. On my second trip I met a small boy, aged ten years, who came with me wherever I went into the temple and surroundings of the temple. He chatted with me in Malayalam and even told me about my first trip. He wanted one belt for himself and I advised him not to take such a thing, instead asked him to demand something else, which he refused. Again, I went to the temple, a third time, but now with my wife. At that time too, I met that boy but he did not meet my wife. He chatted with me for a few minutes and went away. All the three times, I saw the Garuda (eagle) circling the tank and flying very close to my head. After reaching Chennai, I saw the photo of Lord Krishna given by the shop owner and was shocked much as it resembled the boy, whom I met. I was speechless and tears rolled down my cheeks. Yes, definitely it was Lord Krishna, I hope. This is a miraculous experience I got by grace of Sathguru.
- Similarly, such an incident happened at Tanjore, where I witnessed twenty two Garuda seva. Simultaneously, at the same place, when from different temples, nearer to Tanjore, the deity was taken on Garuda vahana from twenty two temples and blessed the devotees, which I never before saw in my life, and that too happened to me during my visit there. Never before had I got such an experience. This was also purely by the grace of Sathguru.
- Similarly, many of my prayers were answered by Sathguru who saved me from losing my money, during the purchase of a flat which was dropped due to Sathguru's blessing. Otherwise, I would have lost my money. My son's passport difficulty was simply sorted out by Sathguru and it was issued in time. On another occasion, I paid 1.75 lakhs, while my friend also paid 1.75 lakhs for purchasing two plots near Arakonam through a Society.

But there too they delayed, and we smelt something fishy due to the delay of more than five months after payment. I again prayed to Sathguru for the safe return of our money and by Sathguru's grace we received the cheque back.

- A recent visit on Jan. 27 at Guruvayur spoke the praise of Sathguru's Grace, due to the incident that happened there for us. There was heavy rush and we had to wait in the queue for darshan. I, as usual, prayed to Sathguru to allow us in without waiting in the queue, which happened to us, through the manager of the office. The next day we got Nirmalya darshan, by entering first inside the temple, without waiting in the queue, which had never happened to us before. Moreover, they had first issued passes to only two, but my appeal, after praying to Sathguru, was considered and they allowed four instead of two. So, we all four got good darshan and there too we were allowed to have darshan as much time as we wished, without any pull or push. Thus, Sathguru showered Her blessings, with or without Her presence, at that place. Our sincere prayer is heard by Sathguru, wherever we pray.

- Even while penning these experiences, I got another one on the 19th. Feb. 2010, when I went to the hospital for taking endoscopy for my gastric problem. Before the endoscopy, as usual, I prayed to Sathguru to give me good result, without any complications or major problems, in my stomach. The same I got, when the doctor told me that there was no major problem, only a mild gastric and worm problem, which would be cured, within a month of medication. Thus, I never experienced anywhere, even though I am ardent devotee, visited so many temples in Tamil Nadu like Devarpadalpetta Sthalams and other temples, what I experience now: everything is Sathguru and Sathguru takes care of my life.

I must be thankful to the senior devotee of Sri Peetam, who advised me in time and also who had taken me to Sri Peetam. This entry changed my life and I must be thankful to him too. Pranams to Sathguru and I thank Sri Peetam for allowing me to share my experiences with you all.



I should never forget thinking of Her

I would like to share some of my miraculous experiences which happened in my life by the grace of Sri Sathguru.

- In 2003, at one point of time, I was in a deep state of depression in my life. I didn't see any more life for me, due to my personal problems. I was really undergoing a miserable period in my life due to my bad karma that I did in the past. I realized all my mistakes and got refuge in Sri Sathguru's Lotus feet. Sri Sathguru consoled me saying that She will save me and everything will be all right. Under the grace of Sri Sathguru all my problems were solved and I enjoyed my bhakthi yoga. I was admitted in the hospital for a chest pain and I was asked to undergo an angiogram and other tests by the cardiologist. By the grace of Sri Sathguru every thing turned out all right, and that time I felt like I had got a re-birth to do my bhakthi yoga.
- When I was in US, my elder son Balaji was diagnosed for a mild autism and I was told that he will not be able to speak and lead a normal life as well. After coming back from there, I prayed for him to Sri Sathguru. As per Sri Sathguru's advice we took him to Sri Guruvayoor and now he is able to chant Sri Krishnashtakkam and is now learning Vishnu Sahasranama. In fact, Sri Sathguru taught it to him.

There are many incidents in which I have seen Sri Sathguru's presence with me.

Sri Sathguru has told all the devotees' that whenever we go through sufferings/problems, we should request for a right direction and help from God. We all know that Sri Sathguru is none other than Sriman Narayana! So when ever I go through problems I will pray to Sri Sathguru. This I am practicing in my day to day life, and I see Sri Sathguru's helping hand all the time.

- Once, I lost my credit card (which I was not aware of). After some days, I received a call from the credit card customer care centre for confirming a transaction of Rs 21000. Only then I realized that I had lost my card and I told the same to the customer care official. I requested them to block the card and put the card on the monitor. I was told that there were transactions for about Rs 50000, for which I had to take responsibilities. I realized the problem, and as per Sri Sathguru's advice, I left it to God and proceeded to the police station to give a complaint. Before I reached the police station, I again got a call from the customer service that there was one more transaction going on at a mobile store, which is in Purasaivalkkam. I was in Adyar at that time and I requested them to hold the transaction for another 20 to 30 minutes. I rushed to Purasaivalkkam and was able to catch hold of the thief. I dialed 100, for police help and the police were there in five minutes. With the help of the Police department I was able to get all the money back.
- One another day, my family was undergoing a severe water problem in my house, due to the water scarcity. Because of that nobody was able to take bath and I was also not

able to make it to the office. Since the morning I was trying all the possible means to get water (like ordering for a tanker lorry etc). But nothing worked till evening. Then I took a step back, and saw what was the wrong thing that I had done. I realized that I didn't leave the problem to God, rather I was holding on to my ego, till that time. I prayed to Sri Sathguru and left it at her feet and went out for shopping. When I came back from shopping, I saw that the water was coming, in my corporation tap. I really had tears in my eyes!

I prayed to Sri Sathguru that I should never forget (or) live without thinking of Her.



Walk Her path

Pranams to the Lotus Feet of Sri Sathguru

When we were asked to put down our experiences with Sathguru, I was testing the patience of people who had to edit it. It was an arduous task, trying to put down on paper the experiences of almost an entire lifetime. Each day is a miracle, when we look back we realise how well organized, and well planned our lives have been, within the circumstances to which we were born. It may not be the path which we think we want for ourselves. Even adverse phases in life, in the end turns out to be finally to our advantage, and in the process we learn many lessons. Sathguru only wants us to walk the path and She is always there, guiding and helping us along the path. We see only a few meters in front of us, while Sathguru sees the entire map of all our lifetime and helps us to reach our goal through the maya of life.

I never realised until I was much older how fortunate I was to have a Guru from a young age to guide me. Nothing was ever told as an order, it was merely a suggestion, but somehow you will end up complying with it sooner or later.

There are some vivid instances, which I can recall when Sathguru's grace was showered on us.

- When I was in college, there was a paper on forensic medicine in which there was no proper teaching and just a week before the final examination, they introduced marks for internal assessment and most of us had got very poor marks and hence it was mandatory to do well in the examination to pass. It was the last of series of examinations, by which time mental and physical fatigue had set in and hence I could not read well. I was in tears. My mother consoled me, asking me to pray and go. On going to the college, I discussed a couple of questions with my friends and we went inside the exam hall. The question paper came late by 15 minutes, when somebody discussed cyanide poisoning, a chapter which I had not touched. Sure enough it came, and it was one of the essays and other questions discussed with my friends were of short note types. On enquiring from a couple of friends in other colleges, nowhere else had the question paper come in late.
- Another time, when I was certain I would fail was in my M.D. examination. The paper was easy, but had very biased professor who hinted that I might not be successful. Sathguru had asked me to come to Madras for some poojas, going on at home, even though I had not yet completed my course. When I met Sathguru during the darshan, She enquired about my exam, when I mentioned about my problems. She told me that I would scrape through. When the results were announced, I had literally scraped through with grace marks, to the surprise of the professor, as some rules had been changed in the University, of which the professor was unaware. Sathguru would always say 50% is in our hands and 50% is in God's hands. We must do our 50% and leave the rest to God.
- After my M.D., I was wondering what I should do, when one of my friends asked me to apply in Pondicherry and Sathguru gave Her nod. When I went and submitted my application, I was told that the interview was already over and two people had been

selected. I left my application there and came away. About a month later, I got a call asking whether I could join immediately as both the selected people did not join.

- Although Sathguru says that physical presence is not mandatory and however far we are, we can keep the contact by thinking of Sathguru and praying. Not having attained that stage, when we desire to have darshan of Sathguru, it is Sathguru's grace that makes it possible. When I was doing my training in Children's hospital, I used to have night duties on Saturdays. Sathguru at that time was residing in Anna Nagar. There used to be darshan on Sunday mornings. In order to get there on time, I had to come straight from the hospital. Normally in that hospital, to get a mug of water in the tap was very difficult, but unfailingly I would get a bucket of water to have bath and then come for darshan.
- When I was in Ahmedabad, there were no darshans for a long time. During that period, I had come for a vacation and gone back. Within a month of going back, there was a strike and the hostels were cleared and so I came back. Exactly at that time, Sathguru moved to Brindavan Street and darshans resumed. I could get Sathguru's darshan. Immediately the strike was called off, and I went back.
- Another instance, when Sathguru had arranged everything, so that everything fell into place. It was when my parents went to U.S.A. for a holiday. Sathguru insisted that my sister and I accompany them. I was wondering how that was possible. My father's company was generous enough to sponsor my trip. The next hurdle was getting a visa, as under normal circumstances, they would have refused a visa. At that point of time, I got a letter of appointment from the Railways, which I produced in the interview and the visa was granted, though subsequently I did not take up that job as per Sathguru's advice.

On this trip, when we were in Rome, one evening we had gone to see the Trevi fountain. We located this with some difficulty, by which time it was dark and we could not find our way back to the station. The streets were dark and desolate. Nobody knew English. Everybody, including the policeman, was pointing in different directions and we were going round in circles. Each one of us was praying hard. We stopped two young college boys to ask for directions. One of them knew English and said that he had been studying it for the last month. He also had a map with the help of which, they walked us up to the station and left.

So many times, when I had to travel alone, Sathguru always asked us to keep repeating our mantra which is the protection and keeps us in touch with our Guru. Sathguru often used to express Her concern about traveling alone. When in ignorance I expressed my inability to get people to travel as it was an official trip, Sathguru explained to me that by expressing Her concern, we were on Her mind and it is the protection.

- Another time, when Sathguru was in West Mambalam, one day after evening darshan it started to rain. It was a cloudburst and I had to wait for sometime for the rain to abate. It was late and I had come by a two-wheeler. I never realised how it had rained until I got on to the road and all of them were like rivers. The further I went, there was more water, and also a subway to be crossed. The engine was getting submerged. With Sathguru's

protection, I managed to reach home without the vehicle stalling.

- When Sathguru asks us to go to Guruvayur, She will ensure that we somehow have a darshan, provided we put in our efforts. Once I had gone to Guruvayur with my cousin and we had good darshan. I was wondering what I should get for Sathguru. I had seen the prasadam board several times, but only on this particular occasion I saw that it said kalabam ball. I was wondering what it was and when I enquired, I was told that it was Kalabam prasadam, which, when ordered, takes two days. The timing was so perfect that it was coinciding with my departure. Had I ordered it too early, it might have got spoilt, or, if I had seen it the next day, it would have been too late. When I offered it to Sathguru, She said it was quite sometime since She got kalabam.
- We think we are doing everything, but Sathguru had planned everything. Even recently, in one of the darshans, Sathguru asked me to distribute bananas. I picked up some and put it on the plate, thinking I would take some more later. As I was distributing the bananas, I realised that all the offerings had been taken down and should I need some more, I had to go and ask, get it. When the distribution was over, the number was exact and the plate was clean!
- I was fortunate enough to follow along with Sathguru, on a couple of trips to Guruvayur., Ambalapuzha, etc., Sathguru would ensure that the needs of devotees who came were taken care of, in terms of accommodation, food, etc. While traveling by car from Ambalapuzha to Trivandrum, Sathguru would stop the car to ensure that the other vehicles coming behind would catch up, so that nobody would get left behind. Most of these trips were planned at very short notice and we would be wondering how it would be possible to go. On one of the initial trips to Guruvayur, we decided to go, at the last minute. We got confirmed tickets for the onward journey but the return was on RAC and waitlist. I was wondering if my mother could manage and I kept asking what were the chances that it would get confirmed. The man in ticket counter told me that with Guruvayurappan's grace, it would be confirmed. Anyway, we went and it was my first visit to Annakkara. We had a nice time and on the return journey, we found an extra coach had been attached and we had been allotted berths.

Similarly, when Sathguru decided to go to Trivandrum from Ambalapuzha suddenly, we got confirmed tickets for the return journey.

- One of the most unforgettable events in Sri Peetam was the bhajan held in Anna Nagar. The date is imprinted in my memory – 18th April 1988. It was a very hot day. There was not a cloud in the sky. The sun was scorching at 8'o clock in the morning, with sweat pouring down as we walked from the bus stop. It was supposed to be an important day, the significance of which is beyond my comprehension. The bhajans were led by Kamalini. Sathguru also sang a song. From nowhere dark clouds gathered and it started raining. It rained for two to three hours. Umbrellas brought for the sun were opened up for the rain as people were waiting downstairs also. Sathguru led another song and asked people to repeat it, it was for asking for forgiveness for all our sins. Somehow you felt so elevated that day and there was a feeling of intense happiness or contentment, I am not even sure how to describe that feeling. I don't think there has been another bhajan like it

after that. Even the memory of that day brings intense happiness.

At the end of so many years, I don't think I have comprehended even a part of Sathguru's greatness. I only hope that I have Sathguru's grace to follow on the path which is shown to attain the final goal.

With Pranams at Sathguru's feet



Gentle Sage

- Teaching French

It was almost 6:45 am. I was lying on my bed. I heard a voice remembering me "Get up Shupraja, remember you have got your first board exam today". That was my mom. I opened my eyes slowly and said "Mom I had a dream where Sri Sathguru taught me French conjugation for today's exam". Then I got ready and reached exam hall with my hall ticket. Though my physical presence was there in the exam hall, my mind was thinking about the dream. Finally the French question paper was given in my hand and I closed my eyes and by saying "Om Namo Narayana". I opened my eyes and started to go through my question paper.

When I was going through the question paper, my eyes were caught by a question, "Complétez les phrases avec avoir conjugation" which means "complete the sentences with avoir conjugation". This was exactly what Sri Sathguru taught me in my dream. I found other two similar question in my question paper taught by Sri Sathguru. Each question carries 7 marks. I was very happy and my heart was happily bounding to write the answers taught by Sathguru. Then I conformed myself that I will definitely score 21 marks (7*3) due to Sri Sathguru grace.

After my exam I was discussing answers with my friends. To my surprise I was the only person to write the correct answer for the above questions among our group. As soon as I reached home, I went to pooja room and thanked Sri Sathguru and told my mom about the incident.

This is an incident in which I have experienced the Grace of Sri Sathguru. According to me each and every happening that happens around us, no matter whether it is good or bad, trust in Her and surrender every thing to Her and She will take care of us.

Om Namo Narayana



My world, Her grace

Pranams to Shri Sathguru

- To Guruvayur: (2004)

Two weeks back, on a Monday (darshan day) when Her Holiness asked me suddenly, "Sridhar, can you accompany Sri Shankaran to Guruvayoor on Thursday, for two days?" I did not even think about anything and with all obedience said, "Yes", Sri Sathguru. Her holiness just smiled and left it at that.

Later after coming out of the Sri Peetam, I realised that I had a very important assignment from a foreign client, to be started the following Monday. Though my inner senses kept saying that Sri Sathguru would work out something and wriggle me out of this. Outwardly I did have some tension.

To my utter surprise, on Thursday morning I got a mail from the foreign client stating that the assignment was postponed by a week and that we needed to do one more assignment. We had not even asked for postponement, but not only did the Divine Grace postpone the schedule but also got us one more assignment.

I am sure this is only a tiny reflection of the divine grace and design on some mundane matter and there are so many other things happening in other spheres, which we are unable to comprehend.

Placed at Her holy lotus feet



Her devotees are always in Her radar of grace

Sri Sathgurave Namaha

Pranams to Sathguru.

- I was six or seven years old when I first got darshan of Sri Sathguru. My father took us for darshan and we went subsequently also. Due to a great misfortune I lost my father when

I was eleven and did not attend the darshans thereafter. But Sri Sathguru sent word through my uncle and aunt asking us to come and blessed us and guided us when my mother and I went for the darshan. She also gave us the ability to carry on.

- After finishing college, I was inspired by Sri Sathguru to go for a darshan again. Sri Sathguru guided me by asking me to say the Sahasranamam which I started saying regularly and by Her Holiness's grace I got married and my husband also came to Peetam for darshan. Through Sathguru's grace I was blessed with a baby girl. When the child was only 30 days old my mother fell critically ill all of a sudden. There was no darshan at that time but devotees could go and pray to Sathguru. I rushed to Sri Peetam with my letter and prayer and there I was blessed with Sri Vishnu Mohan's presence. Even though it was late evening, he was there and he also kept a tray for me to place my letter and allowed me to pray. The next day, Prasadam was sent for my mother. When my aunt came to know about it she said that my mother was sure to recover and get well, as it was a blessing to have seen Sri Vishnu Mohan at that time and to have received prasadam immediately. Through Sri Sathguru's grace, both, my mother and my husband who was down with typhoid, recovered very well. Sri Sathguru made it seem easy to manage a small baby, a sick mother and husband and did not even allow me to feel let down.

- When my daughter was eight months old, we wanted to do Annaprasanam for her at Guruvayur and wrote a letter to Sri Sathguru. When darshans were resumed, a few months after that, Sri Sathguru saw me and immediately asked me whether I had done the annaprasanam at Guruvayur, showing that Her devotees are always in Her radar of grace and that she never forgets them, even if they get confused or worried or upset.

- Meanwhile my brother-in-law decided to get married to a girl of his choice, which was an upsetting time for all of us. We had gone to Bangalore for the celebrations and were on our way to the girl's house, when I was sadly thinking of how the marriage would take place if it had been a normal one and praying to Sathguru, thinking about the Nichyadartham done at the temple according to our custom, when suddenly somebody pointed out to a huge and beautiful Sri Venkatachalapathy temple and all of us went there. Arthi was going on at that time and after we had darshan the Nagaswara vidwans who saw that we were a wedding party started playing music and a whole nichyathartham took place, effortlessly at the temple, without any organization on our part between the bride

and the groom's family.

- This same brother-in-law was without issues for five years and my mother-in-law was very sad and worried about it. Suddenly one day when we were having darshans, Sri Sathguru called my husband and enquired about my mother-in-law, who had never come for darshans and gave him prasadam and asked him to give it to her. My mother-in-law, with great respect took the prasadam and she was blessed with a grandson immediately. This shows us how Sri Sathguru sends her grace to anybody suffering, even if they have never come to Sri Peetam and had darshans.

- I always carry the pictures of Sathguru with me, in my purse, in my handbag, as I feel that Sri Sathguru is always with me. I had collected a whole lot of pictures, blessed by Sri Sathguru, over the years. One day, when I went to Parthasarathy Swami Temple there was a special pooja going on and they were distributing prasadam. I had my handbag on my shoulder and was extending both my hands for prasadam and got it. After a few minutes, when I wanted to take out my purse from my handbag I noticed that somebody had stolen my purse. I was very upset because though it did not have much money it had all the pictures. I was very upset and during darshan I told Sri Sathguru about this. Sri Sathguru blessed me and said, "pray to God." That evening, there was a special programme and darshan, outside Sri Peetam. When we were attending the programme, somebody called my husband saying that he had found a purse near the waste bin, in Triplicane and that it contained my husband's visiting card, credit card and a lot of pictures of some Swamiji. We were overjoyed, and right after darshan was over, rushed and got the pictures back from a poor hawker, who was good enough to do this deed, after thanking him.

- When my daughter was in the eighth or ninth standard there was special darshan, on Vaikunta Ekadasi day and Sri Sathguru gave prasadam individually to all the devotees. When I went upto her, she asked me where my daughter was, and I replied that she was at home, doing her maths as she had not performed well, and was scolded by my husband, and was asked to stay back and do it. Sri Sathguru told me that from then on I must bring my daughter on all important days as, "when someone comes to Peetam for darshan, all negatives can be changed to positives." After this my daughter never missed darshans, unless it was unavoidable and through Sri Sathguru's grace scored centum in her board examinations.

These are but a few glimpses of the deep oceanic grace, that is Sri Sathguru. I hope, I am coherent enough to make others understand these experiences. I pray to Sri Sathguru that I am worthy of her grace in being allowed to express myself and pray to Her Holiness that I become more worthy of Her grace.

With ananthkoti namaskarams



By my side

Pranams at the lotus feet of Sri Sathguru

- My Career path and job related

Many a time Sathguru had instructed me not to change the company where I was working. Even when I had superiors who were bad I remembered Sri Sathguru's instruction and followed it. "Do not change company now, things will be all right". I did not able to believe that... Till now three Reporting Managers of my current company have left the company with out any reasons.

- Two accidents in my car

In the last 1 to 1 ½ yrs I had accidents twice in my car. On both the occasions the car got the brunt while did not even have a single scratch. or pain to me. I pray every morning and I have Sri Sathguru's picture in front of me in the car.

- Life is smooth

I got married in the year June 1998. I was struggling from my college days till my marriage. After my marriage around July 1998 I had visited Sri Peetam and met Sri Sathguru first time. Since then my life is going on very smoothly with my lovely wife (Nivethitha) who is a Devotee of Sri Sathguru (Since childhood time) and having 2 beautiful daughters (Age 11 and 6). Both are very smart, cute and doing wonderful studies. I got my car, own house, facilities etc.,etc.,, My life is going on very smoothly since then and very happy in my life and God has given me everything. I strongly believe this all all due to my belief in Sri Peetam and Sri Sathguru's regular darshan. I got into many big positions, earned a good name, completed my financial commitments like car, house loans etc., and keep growing in my career.

Surrender at the lotus feet of Sri Sathguru



Mere instruments, eternally divine

- The “Bangalora” mango

I am very fond of the “Bangalora” variety of mango, since it tastes very good, even if not fully ripe. This season, we hardly got a chance to buy any mango, since Sri Sathguru blessed us daily with a sweet and delicious mango fruit.

On 23.06.05 morning, while returning from Sripeetam, after reciting Sri Vishnu Sahasranamam, I told Malathi (my wife) that I must have the “Bangalora” mango, one big complete fruit all by myself, that day, come what may.

And lo! In the evening during Darshan, Sri Sathguru gave me one ripe big “Bangalora” as prasadam. When we returned home, I cut the fruit into small pieces after dinner. The grand children and other members of the family were there and I offered a piece to each. Two pieces were left and since no one was staking a claim for them, I was happy that I could have both the pieces. I finished one and was about to take the second piece when my grandson suddenly asked for one more piece. I gave the second piece to him, unhesitatingly and gladly. Instead of feeling disappointed, I found myself happier.

Suddenly, I remembered Sri Sathguru's words that a service or help must involve a sacrifice, the magnitude not playing a role. I realised the meaning and importance of the saying then.

I am grateful to Revered Sri Sathguru for making me experience what it is to give.

- Grace of Sri Sathguru

I had to go for a presentation regarding “Environment” and “Safety” to a place called Karuppur, 35 km from Kumbakonam, on Monday the 4th July 2005.

It was Sunday, the 3rd July, almost noon time. I had completed creating the presentation on my computer. I was trying to give it a final shape for viewing, when someone came. In a hurry to close the computer, I gave a wrong command only to realise that while shutting down the computer, the entire presentation had been erased. It was too late to retrieve the situation!

After attending to the caller, I was wondering what to do. There was no other alternative but to create the programme once again and I was feeling dejected, for there was not much time left. The programme had to be e-mailed to my colleague, Govindarajan who had to view it at Neyveli and any corrections had to be discussed and incorporated before I set out for darshan in the evening.

I sat in front of the computer and tried to locate and retrieve the lost presentation, knowing fully well that I was only wasting more time. Then it stuck me that I should pray and seek the help of Sri Sathguru, the one sure way of getting what had been lost. I sincerely

prayed to Sri Sathguru, opened the programme file to find blank slide staring at me ! I uttered Sri Sathguru's name again and clicked to see all the slides together. What a wonder ! The entire presentation appeared from nowhere. I thanked Sri Sathguru, who helped me even though I appealed rather late like Gajendra or Draupadhi, but the help did come, as in their cases.

May Sri Sathguru bless me with a consciousness to appeal first to Sri Sathguru, whenever there is trouble.

- **Guruvayur trip – reservation of tickets**

Gurubhai Ramdas had booked the tickets for thirteen of us devotees, from Chennai to Kuttipuram by the Chennai – Mangalore Special, leaving Chennai Central at 21.45 hrs. of 24th August, 2007. All were placed in wait-list at the time of booking. The wait-list position improved to WL 1 to 11 and 45&46, by 12 noon on 24th. With my experience on previous occasions, I thought that all of us would at least reach RAC status, if not as confirmed passengers, by the evening.

By 1200 hrs on 24th, I contacted one Mr.Kabir Ahmed, a senior officer in S.Rly. and an erstwhile junior of mine. I wanted him to let me know the timings of the train. He enquired whether the accommodation had been confirmed. I responded, saying that we were thirteen in all, travelling that night and that I anticipated no difficulty in getting confirmed accommodation. Mr. Kabir Ahmed insisted that I apply for EQ. I reiterated that we were thirteen and that there were good chances of all Wait Listed passengers getting at least in to RAC status without the help of EQ. But Mr.Kabir Ahmed was not willing to let go of me and insisted that I furnish the PNR numbers to him, on the telephone. He said he would apply for EQ for all the thirteen.

When I checked the reservation status in the evening at about 7 p.m., I found that EQ had been allotted for 9 out of the 13. The remaining 4 had been automatically upgraded to RAC 72,73, 74 & 75.

I was shocked. Had not my friend insisted on applying for EQ, most of us would have been stranded in wait-list and hence would have missed the trip.

There was no reason for me to talk to my friend that noon. And he insisted, not me definitely, on trying for EQ for thirteen passengers.

Only the Grace of Revered Sri Sathguru Swami made me talk to Kabir Ahmed. Only the Blessings of Sri Sathguru Swami induced Kabir Ahmed to insist that we try for EQ. All thirteen of us travelled that day, enabled by the Grace and Blessings of Sri Sathguru Swami. I am eternally grateful to Revered Sri Sathguru Swami for securing us a comfortable travel, all thirteen devotees.

And at Guruvayur also, we were the beneficiaries of the abundant Grace of our Revered Sri Sathguru Swami in getting good darshan of Lord Guruvayurappan.

I pray to Sri Sathguru Swami to make me worthy of such continued Grace.

- Story for Sripeetam

As had been commanded by and with the blessings of Sri Sathguru Swami, stories are being told by me on darshan days in Sri Peetam. The selection of the story is also discussed with Gurubhai Sri Hari frequently. The selection is done with much care.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday this week, (5th to 7th May 2008), when I switched on the fans in the inner hall of the office in the ground floor, in the morning to dry the mopped floor, the front cover of a Gnana Bhoomi magazine (Jan '06 issue) kept on top of a carton would fly open. On the inner cover is a photograph of our Revered Sri Sathguru Swami. I would do pranams in my mind and the cover would close and would not open again, even though the fans would be on.

On Wednesday, I was still wondering what story to relate on Saturday, 10th May. (For Thursday, the 8th, the second part of Dhruva Charitham was ready to be told.). Since I had some time on hand, I opened that issue of Gnana Bhoomi. I was flipping through the pages (more as a pastime than for any gainful purpose) and suddenly a title "Ramayanathil Kuchelan" caught my attention and fascination. I read that story and later obtained permission from Gurubhai Sri Hari to tell that story in Sri Peetam. It was a story that was linked with Sri Rama and I felt it was quite uncommon, At least I had not heard of it till then. The magazine was returned to the same place and position.

On Friday, 9th May 2008 when I switched on the fans as usual, the magazine cover did not fly open, as it did on the earlier days, even though the magazine was lying in the same place and position. It struck me then only that Sri Sathguru Swami was wanting me to read this magazine and tell the story.

I am grateful to Sri Sathguru Swami for this act of Divine guidance. I do consider this incident a miracle only, for it defies the laws of nature as known.

This is an experience for me to realize and remember that Sri Sathguru Swami is ever looking after us, caring for us and guiding us, even if invisible to our physical eyes.

- The missing key – Guruvayur

On the 20th of May 2009, I experienced the benevolence and blessings of Sri Sathguru, in a situation I thought was quite desperate. It happened thus:

I had transferred some stories from the laptop to the flash drive and wanted to get print-outs of the same. It was around 2.15 p.m. and I wanted to hand over the print-outs to Gurubhai Srihariprasad, in the evening at SVLN.

Since Malathi, my wife, was resting, I decided to lock the Railway Guest House room, where we were staying at Guruvayur and took the key with me. I first got the print-outs in a DTP shop and then went to the adjacent shop for photocopying them. After completing my errand, I returned to the Railway Guest House, only to discover that the room key was missing! I asked the attendant for the duplicate key, only to be told that no duplicate keys were available. I knew that the controlling officer would be able to help me out, but he was stationed at Ernakulam.

I retraced my way back to both the shops and searched for the key. There was no sign of it in either of the shops or on the road. I came back to the Guest House, not knowing what to do. I was thinking of disturbing the officer at Ernakulam for help. Not having the key meant that Malathi was locked inside, and me locked outside the room and with no chance of making it to SVLN in the evening for reciting Sri Vishnu Sahasranamam.

I again went back to the shops, searching along the road that I had traversed earlier. I remembered Malathi's oft-repeated advice that I should search, repeating the name of Sri Sathguru. So, this time I was repeating the name of Sri Sathguru Swami and mentally appealing for help in this helpless situation. I went to the photostat copying shop but to no avail. I went to the DTP shop next and again there was no luck. I was really breaking down and praying repeatedly to our Revered Sri Sathguru Swami for help. Two persons came to that shop and looked at me, asked the shopkeeper what happened. The shopkeeper told them that I had lost the room key and was searching in vain. They immediately told him in Malayalam that a key was hanging in a post outside the shop. The shopkeeper took me to that post (a small iron tube kept vertical on a base) which had a small hook for hanging a rope or chain. And lo! the room key was sitting smugly in that hook on that post, as if someone had just hung it there. Who else but Sri Sathguru Swami had hung it there, since I had not gone anywhere near that post at any time! I had not even noticed that a post was there!

I thank Sri Sathguru Swami again and again for saving me from an embarrassing and a hopeless situation. The grace had been showered upon me in spite of my not strictly or continuously following the advice given by Sri Sathguru on various occasions.

I pray to Sri Sathguru Swami to make me determined to follow all the advice of Sri Sathguru. I pray for the continued blessings of Her Holiness.

- **Train ticket for TKS**

I want to share with you my experience of yesterday (7th March 2008).

As advised by Gurubhai Sri Srikumar on Thursday (6th March '08) night, I decided to book train tickets for TKS by the Alleppey express leaving Chennai on the 14th and leaving Trissur on the 16th of March.

I had booked tickets through internet for Dayanand and self from Chennai to Trissur for the 14th of March by the same Alleppey express (and by the same class of travel) and we were placed on waitlist 64 & 65, at the time of booking on the 5th of March. Therefore, it was no surprise when I sought to book the ticket (through internet on the 7th of March afternoon) to find that TKS would be waitlisted at 81. I went ahead and gave the command to "buy". The ticket was issued, with confirmed accommodation, taking me totally by surprise. Immediately, I made another request for another ticket – just to check - and the position indicated was WL 82! The status of Dayanand and self remained unchanged at WL 64 & 65 when I checked again.

I also found that TKS would be waitlisted (WL 65) for the return journey from Trissur on the 16th by the Alleppey express. I would not be able to help him get a confirmed accommodation. I contacted Gurubhai Sri Srikumar and explained that TKS may face

difficulties for a berth. He advised me to go ahead and buy the ticket and said they would manage! I went ahead and gave the “buy” command and what a miracle again! A confirmed ticket was issued for the return journey also! Needless to say that I tried to verify and found that wait-listing of passengers had not changed!

I had thought that I have to help TKS to get confirmed accommodation by train. I have now learnt again that Her Holiness controls all our actions and we are but instruments in the hands of Her Holiness. The will of Her Holiness is carried out, and our efforts cannot bring results without the blessings of Her Holiness.



We should make ourselves worthy

- Pace maker

This happened in 2002, before I came to Sri Sathguru. My very close friend, Seela Pattabiraman, who is like my elder sister, always used to tell me about Sri Sathguru and Sri Sathguru's teachings. She had even advised me to accompany her to Sripeetam for darshan, I couldn't make up my mind, wondering if Sripathi would approve of it .

Due to swelling in both the ankles, for ten days I went to my doctor, who asked me to take an egg daily. He then said I must see a cardiologist at once. Then I went to our railway hospital, at Perambur, that afternoon itself. There, the cardiologist was surprised that I was able to walk. He said people have come to him in my present state and have almost collapsed on his table. He said a pace maker had to be fitted immediately. Anyway, after two days, an operation was done. I spoke about it to Seela and told her to pray for me. She said, "you pray to Sri Sathguru." So, on the day of the operation I went on praying to Sathguru, by just repeating " Sathguru, Sathguru."

I felt Sri Sathguru was standing there and watching the operation and smiling at the end. After I came home I told Seela about my experience and said I must thank Sri Sathguru for being there for me even though I had never come to Sripeetam and did pranams to Sri Sathguru. I was asked to write a letter to our Rev. Sri Sathguru and Seela presented the letter to Sri Sathguru.

I am forever grateful to Sri Sathguru.

- Gallbladder operation

Sripathi and I were to go to Australia to be with our son , daughter-in-law and grand daughter. We wanted to go for one year.

When we asked for permission, from Sri Sathguru, Sathguru asked us, " isn't three months enough?" Sripathi at once said, "okay, Sathguru I shall come back in three months." I, without realising, not to argue and to have implicit obedience, requested Sri Sathguru for staying there for at least five or six months. Sri Sathguru just looked at me and said, "okay." I was very happy, at that time .

As promised, Sripathi returned exactly after three months. Exactly after ten days I developed severe jaundice, shivering, etc., and was admitted to a hospital, where they found out that a big stone had come out of the gallbladder and was in the bile duct. An immediate operation was considered necessary. I didn't have medical insurance cover in Australia and the hospital charges were quite heavy.

I apologised mentally to Sri Sathguru for not listening to Her Holiness, and prayed that I should come back to Sri Sathguru and get operated only in India. Due to Sri Sathguru's grace, there was an Indian doctor, in that team and he understood guru and devotion to

guru. He made arrangements and allowed me to come to India by administering heavy doses of antibiotic medicine and advised me strongly to get operated, within ten days of reaching India.

As soon as I returned to India, I came to Sripeetam and did pranams to our Sri Sathguru and told her holiness that I had learnt a bitter lesson - not to argue or disregard suggestions offered by Sri Sathguru. I understood why Sri Sathguru had asked, "isn't three months enough?" I was operated in India only after two months of my return, till then I had no pain nor was there an emergency situation.

Sri Sathguru always showers love, grace and blessings on all of us all the time, even when we make mistakes. Only, we realise it much later! We should make ourselves worthy, to always receive Sri Sathguru's blessings and be under the graceful protection of our Sri Sathguru.

- [Visit to Parthasarathy temple](#)

We go to Sri Parthasarathy temple, Triplicane, every Thursday morning to have Visvarupa darshanam, at 6.00 a.m. The temple main gate opens at 6 a.m. on all days except on Dwadasi and certain special days. The entrance to the main sannidhi is closed at 6.30 a.m. and reopened only at 7.30 a.m.

Normally, we leave at 5.30 a.m. and on that day we left at 5.35 and the car wouldn't start. Ten minutes later my husband said, "let's go home." I told him to have faith in Sri Sathguru and if Sri Sathguru felt that God would accept the Tulsi and the flowers, we were destined to have darshan, and we would be able to go. I went on praying to Sri Sathguru, "Sathguru, Sathguru" and the car started and we left at 5.50 a.m. and reached the temple at 6.12 a.m. We were very surprised, for on that day, due to some reason the temple main door was opened only at 6.10a.m. Thanks to Sri Sathguru, we could have a nice Visvaroopaa darshanam and could offer lots of Tulsi and flowers to God.

This goes to tell all of us to have unshakable faith in our Guru and when we pray sincerely Rev. Sri Sathguru does shower grace and blessings to us .

- [Memorable Guruvayur trip](#)

Sri Sathguru was going to Guruvayur and permission was given to devotees to join in the trip. First, due to short notice, we all decided to go by bus. As it worked out to be very expensive most of us dropped out. The other reason was it was to be an over-night bus and all the old people were very doubtful whether we could withstand the strain. The number dropped from fifteen to four.

We were sitting on the steps of Sripeetam and talking amongst ourselves and feeling very sorry that we wouldn't be able to make the trip. Suddenly, Manimala got a call from her husband, Ramesh that a special train to Mangalore was being announced and if we all went by that we could get down at "Kuttipuram" and then take a van from there to Guruvayur. We were all thrilled and at once contacted Mr. Ramdas, who was arranging everything. He at once bought eleven tickets, all on wait list. And for the return trip we all got confirmed berths. Mr. Dayanand and his daughter decided to come and had to buy

tickets separately.

On the day of departure, Sripathi rang up one of his friends, one Mr. Kabir Ahmed, in the railways, to find out the timing of the special train. On his own Kabir asked Sripathi if we had confirmed reservation, to which very hesitantly Sripathi replied that we were thirteen (9 ladies and 4 gents) and all in wait list. Mr. Kabir insisted on Sripathi applying for emergency quota. In the evening, when we checked up, we found to our surprise, nine had confirmed reservation through EQ and four were on "RAC". In the train all had berths allotted and travelled comfortably.

Next day morning, when we reached Sankaridurg station all the trains were stopped due to a rail – roko agitation, organised by the ruling DMK party. The agitation was to last the whole day. We all were again worried and prayed to Sri Sathguru.

What a surprise! After fifteen minutes, our train started to move --- reason being our train was for Mangalore, in Karnataka, and only all trains to and from Kerala were stopped. Our train right royally went where as on both sides trains were standing and we felt this is how it must have looked when Vasudeva took Krishna and Yamuna gave way. We all had a nice breakfast at Erode. When we came to Shoranur, all of us got down, took a van and reached Guruvayur comfortably. There again, all of us got accommodation in the same hotel, though all hotels were fully occupied on account of Onam festival. Travel back to Chennai was also very comfortable.

At Guruvayur, both Sripathi and I over slept and couldn't go for early morning Nirmalya darshan. We felt very sad and requested Sri Sathguru to excuse us. At 7.30 a.m. Mr. Dayanand told us that due to heavy crowd they were allowing senior citizens by special entrance. We went to the temple at once. Due to some reason they were doing punyavachanam, and we could have Nirmalya darshan of Sri Guruvayurappan.

All this was possible only due to the kindness, grace and blessings of Sri Sathguru. It was a very memorable trip and we could sing bajans in Srilakshmi Niketan, with Sri Sathguru staying there.

It is difficult to find words to thank our Revered Sri Sathguru for all the grace and blessings that we all continue to receive. We pray that we all should continue to be worthy of receiving it always.

- **Blood sugar level**

One morning, when I got my blood test report, i couldn't believe my eyes. It was a miracle, which was experienced by both Sripathi and me. Tears came to my eyes at the thought of blessings and grace showered on us by Sri Sathguru .

Fifteen days back, the sugar level was very high. Following Sri Sathguru's advice, on following strict diet, medication and walking for at least 45 mts. Everyday, had its effect.

Fasting sugar was 342, which had come down to 125 and post prandial, which was 472 had come down to 195. This had happened in just fourteen days. Its another experience of a miracle, of our Sri Sathguru.

Our belief in surrendering at the feet of our revered Sri Sathguru ,who lovingly takes care

of all of us, has embedded more firmly in our minds. After telling about my health to Sri Sathguru I had forgotten all about it. Both Sripathi and I find it difficult to find words to express our gratitude to Sri Sathguru.

- **Guru's compassion**

One day, I heard that Geetha Behen had walked all the way to Sripeetam. I realized what true Gurubakthi means. A great lesson learnt, thanks to Sri Sathguru. Till Geetha reached Sripeetam it was cloudy, which I am sure, was due to Sri Sathguru's karunai towards Her devotee.

I was reminded of the incident, which Sri Sathguru had often told us about, Sri Sathguru's walking to QMC when it was scorching hot and when Sri Sathguru thought of Sriman Narayana, a heavy cloud covered the entire way.

Feel very grateful and thankful to Sri Sathguru for guiding us in every walk of life and also showering blessings and grace on all of us. Only always keep wondering, if we are worthy of it, and what we can do to be really worthy of receiving such wonderful blessings, grace and guidance.

- **Protected from strangers**

This is what happened on a Sunday morning at 10.30 a.m.

My son, Muralidhar and his children had gone to Sripeetam. My husband, Sripathi was at Bangalore and my daughter-in-law, Supraja who had viral fever, was sleeping in their room.

Our watchman brought two Sardars (Punjabis) – one older, say 45-50 yrs. and another, younger one 25- 30 yrs. and said they wanted to talk to someone who knows Hindi . Then I asked them what they wanted.

In our house we have a grill door, in front of the main door. I never open the grill gate to strangers.

They said that in their Gurudwara they were having poor feeding.

straight away asked if they wanted donation and the younger one said, "yes" and showed me a palm sized photo of Gurunanak.

Still don't know what made me open the grill door and take that photo, and asked them to come inside. They sat in the drawing hall and I kept the photo at the foot of Sri Sathguru's calander, and went inside to open my godrej, and with my purse in hand, hesitated as to how much to give them. First I thought ten, then changed my mind to twenty five and brought a twenty and a five rupee note. They could have come and attacked me but thanks to Sri Sathguru they did not do any such thing .

When I gave the money, the younger fellow took it and went on feeling the two notes with both his hands.

Then he told me, "I have three good news for you, which will take place before the end of Jan 07, and there is a female member in your family, a relative of yours, who doesn't want

your family to come up in life. I will tell you her name but don't go and fight with her . o.k." I just smiled and looked at the elder one, he immediately told me, "wo guruji hai, "to which I looked at the Anatharakshaka photo in the hall and said , "My Guruji is this one." (We have photos of Sri Sathguru hung in facing every direction and in every room.)

The younger one took out a small piece of paper and tore one end of it and wrote something on it and folded it well and asked me to take it and not open it. I said, "why should I take it?" He said, "just have it," and I took it. He then asked me to tell the name of a flower and I said, "rose" and he wrote it on the other paper. Then he asked for a number between 1 and 9 and I said, "six" and he wanted me to say another number between 6 and 98 and I said, "7" and he wrote that also. Then he said, "you are a very educated person and retired as a teacher or headmistress." I just shook my head to say yes. Then he said," you have two sons. In your mind you are worried whether you will get a grand son or a grand daughter. I will tell you all the three good news with dates. You give me Rs. 500, and he wrote 500 on that paper and then asked me to open it. He had written rose and the number seven. I was surprised. I replied I did not have that much money. He said," through my ganadrishti I see two or three five hundred rupee notes with you."

I did have three five hundred rupee notes. I said, "it may be there or not, but that money is not mine and I can give you only twenty five, which I have given." The older man said again that," the younger one is a guruji and he has come to tell you the good news and about that lady and he will be able to tell you, only if you give 500 again . I said,"sorry." He then said, at least," 200." I said,"I cannot give anymore," and the elder one asked me in Hindi , "aap mazbhur hai ?" meaning are you compelled not to give . I said , "yes." They got up and the younger one said in an angry voice," you suffer and eat sweets. " I did not say anything and as they left I closed the outer grill door and said," a true guru never demands and never gets angry. You are fake." They then went to my neighbours place and I immediately rang up a person in the second floor and told him about the two strangers who were frauds and he at once came up and drove them out of our premises .

In the meanwhile (my ringing up our friend and his coming up with the watchman) they had repeated the same things in my neighbour's house and had demanded Rs.1001 from her and her husband .They had given Rs.51.

My personal feeling is that he may be a mind and face reader. Anyway, only Sri Sathguru had saved me.

We are for ever indebted to Sri Sathguru for helping us.

- **Attempt to kidnap my grandson, Aprameya**

Aprameya, being in class six has half-day school on Saturdays (half day for vi to xi. After the school got over, he came out of the school gate to get into the van to come home. As soon as he got out of the gate, a tall and hefty man caught hold of Aprameya's shoulder and asked him what chocolate he liked best. The man was dressed in a black pyjama and a shiny kurtha and his kurtha top pockets were filled with toffees. By then, the van cleaner, a woman whom these children call as auntie shouted to Aprameya to come soon. When Aprameya started to run to the van, the man went on shouting "yeh payyah,

yeh payyah,” but Aprameya got into the van. Again we feel only Sri Sathguru had saved him from being kidnapped.

- **Vision of Sri Sathguru**

Thanks to Sri Sathguru's blessings, we could complete reciting Narayaneeyam, on an Ekadasi day, in Sripeetam.

I had a vision while reading the 91st. chapter , around 2.30 p.m., as I was reading, I felt and saw Sri Sathguru coming in through the door to the guest room from the office and standing in front of the built – in – cupboard. I immediately got up and did Namaskaram and talked with Sri Sathguru. Then everyone said, “why are you doing Namaskaram now? We do it for the 98th. chapter.” Then I asked everyone, “why are you all sitting? Can't you see Sri Sathguru standing here?”

I raised my head from the book and looked around to see everyone reading and there was no sign of Sri Sathguru, but I felt happy with that wonderful vision!

I don't know the meaning of that, but I am very blissfully happy and satisfied. My thanks to Sri Sathguru. Later I came to know that Sri Sathguru was in the office room at that time when I had the vision.

- **Pace maker**

Three months back, I went to my Cardiologist for the annual check up of my Pace-maker. He found that one of the leads was a bit weak. So he asked me to come after three months for another check up and said if it had still weekend, then he might have to replace the lead and also the battery since he would be doing the surgery. I came and told Sri Sathguru about it and didn't bother about it and went about my usual routine. After three months, I got an appointment with the doctor and told Sri Sathguru that I have been asked to come on a Tuesday. Sathguru just said, “okay,” but I could not go on that day, as Sripathi was sick. I got another appointment and again told Sri Sathguru about it. This time also it was a Tuesday. On the previous Sunday, during darshan Sri Sathguru asked me as to when I had to go for check up. I told Sathguru that it was after two days. When asked by Sathguru if I was worried or scared about it, I said, “Why should I worry or feel scared. I have left it at the feet of Sathguru. Whatever karma I have to face, I know Sathguru will give me the strength to bear with it.” On Monday Sathguru asked Sripathi, “the appointment for Malathi is tomorrow isn't it?” Sripathi said, “yes.” Next day, the doctor took fifteen minutes for the check up which normally takes five to seven minutes only. At the end, he asked me, “what have you been doing to yourself? Let me know the secret. All the leads are perfectly okay. I am amazed!” Mentally I thanked Sri Sathguru for the miracle. I just told the doctor, “It is my Sathguru.” Of course, he couldn't understand.

I am forever thankful to Sri Sathguru for blessing us and showering Her Grace on us. I pray that we should continue to be worthy of receiving such Grace and blessings and to be always be under Sathguru's protection.

- Buying a flat in T.Nagar

We were in Kasturba Nagar, Adyar. Sathguru told us to move closer to Sripeetam in T.Nagar. We were in a fix, as to sell the Adyar flat first, then move into a rented accommodation in T.Nagar or fix a flat for purchase in T.Nagar, then dispose off the Adyar flat. Anyway, we left it to Sri Sathguru. Simultaneously we were trying to sell the Adyar flat and also to buy one nearer Sripeetam. One Sunday evening, there was no darshan and Sripathi had gone out for a meeting. After my evening prayers, I sat down with a copy of "Adyar Times" of that Sunday. I still don't know what made me open page six directly and looked at a bold blocked advertisement. I couldn't believe my eyes. It just said, "Flat for sale at T.Nagar, single bedroom, 760 sq.ft. contact phone number" I immediately rang up that number and the first thing that I asked was, "Is the flat still available for sale?" He said, "yes." Repeating Sathguru's name silently, I asked him where it was? He said, It is in very near Habibulla road, behind Vidhyodhaya school and said we could see it the next day. So, next day morning we met Sri Sathguru and told Sathguru about the house and also mentioned it was only eight minutes walk from Sripeetam. Sathguru said, "go and see the house and come and tell me." So we came, saw the house, liked it, and went and described the house to Sri Sathguru. I said he is asking XX lakhs for it where as our budget is YY lakhs . We had finalized a buyer for our Adyar house also. Sathguru took some time and told me, "poor fellow, he should not be at a great loss, so go upto SS lakhs, go now itself." We went to the owner and I told him that our budget was only BB lakhs, but we could extend it buy one more. He told us he would get back to us. We narrated it to Sri Sathguru through Gurubhai. In the evening, at 4 p.m. he rang up to say the house was ours if we could make it to SS lakhs. My surprise and joy knew no bounds! Immediately we agreed and the whole deal was over in less than twenty four hours !!! Now we are happily settled in this house, thanks to Sri Sathguru. We can never forget this wonderful guided experience.

Sathguruvin Thiruvadigale Charanam.

Humble devotee



All that mattered

- Meeting my Guru

Even before I came to Sri Peetam and had Sri Sathguru's darshan Sathguru was already protecting me and organizing things for me to meet my Guru. The situations developed only to pave a path for me to meet Sathguru.

It was the time when I was with my parents and sister in my father's company leased accommodation in R.A. Puram. During one of the cyclonic monsoons a lot of water including sewage water came into the house. We had to wade through water inside the house and more water outside to get to the gate. At one point I thought it might make more sense to use our car as a boat. My mother had a tough job cleaning up the place and it took us more than 2 weeks to get back to near normal.

This incident made us think about moving out of that house. We did find a place in Abiramapuram. The first floor of an independent house was vacant. The downstairs was occupied by the owner and his family. They seemed ok as neighbours with the limited interaction that I had. My working hours did not leave much time for socializing.

It was around November when my father made an official trip to Thailand for two weeks. I think the owner took advantage of this fact. I am not going into the details of it but the man made advances at me. I was scared I did not know what to do. I tried to fob him off politely but did not help. I was lost on how to deal with the situation without creating a scene. I did not want to worry my mother either. He would make crank calls to my office. Then I noticed him waiting outside my office in the evenings. I sought the help of my colleagues and then also spoke to his wife. This must have hurt his ego. Also he must have been worried about what would happen upon my father's return. The moment my father arrived from his trip the man informed my father that we would have to vacate the place.

The next 2 months was a nightmare. One day as I was entering the gate the man started abusing me. One day when my father went to get the newspaper he saw some meat and some funny stuff lying outside the front door. I would get calls at work and the man would abuse me over the phone.

It was during this time that Mr T. L. Sankaranarayanan was renting the upstairs of his house. We moved in around January. Their family and ours interacted like one happy family. It was a memorable time that we spent together. Sunday mornings they would go out. I came to know they have a Guru in Annanagar and they go there for darshan. Soon after Hyma mami took my sister and me to have Sri Sathguru's darshan.

When I look back at the events that happened that made it possible for me to meet my Guru I know it all happened because of Sri Sathguru. The entire chain of events that happened that made it possible for me to meet my Guru was not possible without Sri Sathguru. It was the right time for me to meet my Guru and it happened.

When I look back I know Sri Sathguru was protecting me in every possible manner even then. Just that I did not know. But I didn't need to know. The Divine Protection was there and that is all that mattered.



Her grace eternal Her ways disarming

Pranams to Sri Sathguru's Lotus Feet.

- Dr. Mani, my room-mate

I was doing my final year in medicine, and my parents had an urgent need to go back to Madurai. I decided to go to the hostel, and so I fixed up with a good friend of mine to stay in his room. My parents left and I took an auto to the college. I walked into my friend Raj Kumar's room, only to find his room-mate. I was told in no uncertain terms that there was no place for me to stay; he was blatantly blunt. On hearing this, I had no choice but to walk out. I walked across the corridor with my suitcase, not sure what to do. I sat down on the stair case nearby, and knocked the door of the room behind me. I asked him if I could leave the suitcase till my friend came. There was this short person, who seemed very friendly. I told him the entire story, and he listened and simply offered a place in his room. I was delighted. It was a larger room than Rajkumar's, as it was a new block. He was very kind and even arranged food to be brought to the room as I had not yet registered in the mess. What a miracle I thought; this guy didn't even know me and asked me stay with him. "Thank you Sathguru," I told myself. We were both writing the final year exam. I had been to the US and hence was not able to take my final exam of my batch. So I had to take the exam with my juniors.

My hostel life, thus began peacefully. I started going to Sri Peetam from my room. SS would give me Kalkandu as prasadam. I would keep them in my suitcase as it would be plentiful. When Sri Sathguru gave prasadam She would say that it was only for me; I used to eat those chocolates and throw the paper in the room. This was observed by my new room-mate and once his curiosity grew so much that when I was away he actually ate my prasadam, in my absence. Today, he is one of our sevarhtis, and he is none other than Dr Mani !

- Near miss

Every year for Diwali, come what may, we would go to Madurai to see our relatives. All our relatives would come to see my father and he loved it and so did we. A couple of years back, we started early in the morning by car; normally my children would not like any car passing ahead of us. There were times when I would have touch 170 kmph and the kids would want more! For some reason there was this huge hold up on the way and we were delayed for three hours. So, to make up we went and reached Trichy pretty fast. I think it had rained the previous night and I had to slow down to 90's, and there was this culvert, which appeared from nowhere. It was a kind of a blind turning and I somehow managed to hold my car steady, but to my horror I saw a lorry coming straight into me; I had no choice but to slam the brake on the wet muddy road, and my car started to head for a spin first my rear right to lead, followed by a corrective manoeuvre that lead to rear left to lead, by then it was too late and we were only ten feet away and my car was still doing

60+ kmph. I told myself that we would survive, but would be late for Diwali lunch, no matter what. I was preparing for the crash and my car swerved again, this time missing the lorry and slightly out of the road and then back into the road; we actually escaped without a scratch. "Ha," I told my kids, "that was a miracle and the grace of Shri Sathguru!"

- Krishna asking for butter

Shri Sathguru had told me many years ago that, "if a person prays to Lord Guruvayoorappan sincerely, he would answer your prayers." She would say that, "if you prayed with all your heart, he would actually come and ask butter from your hands." "Oh really? Come on," I told myself, "how could Lord Krishna come and ask butter from someone?"

A few weeks later, I myself had an opportunity to go to Guruvayoor, and after having finished darshan, I decided to go and buy some prasadam. I got a token for butter and suddenly I remembered what Sri Sathguru had said. "hmmm, ok dear lord please come and take butter from me," I began to pray, and I prayed for a while, and then there was what I felt, someone tugging at my kurta. I looked behind only to find a small boy asking for the token in my hands. I completely forgot what Sri Sathguru had said, then. Only much after the boy went away, I realized that it could have been Him asking through the boy!

Pranams to Sri Sathguru's lotus feet.



My thank you note, My Saint

Pranams to Shri Sathguru

- One experience which I hold very close to my heart is the first day I came to Sri Peetam. It was under circumstances that I then thought intriguing and I came for Darshan with a sense of adventure. My first exchange with Shri Sathguru had to be suspended as inexplicable tears overcame me and I was very sorry for the public embarrassment as I perceived it, I told Her that I did not know why I was so sad and apologized for my behavior. She made the mandatory enquiries about my family and I told Her that I was very anxious for my brother to be married as many, many attempts in this regard had resulted in near misses. She smiled and advised prayers. It is now just about a year since that eventful day. I have since come for Darshan feeling bewildered with my work and life but always left feeling joyous and unburdened.
- On the 31st of January 2010 the elders of a young girl my brother had briefly met, visited my family and sought my brother's alliance and requested the betrothal be had on that very day, unprepared as we were, we agreed and before we knew it my brother was married to the girl on 17th of February 2010. The travails of my family a year before are not of any relevance here except to state that we have felt with gratitude the Grace and Miracle when it happened.

In the catholic schools I went to, children were taught a Novena to St.Jude the Patron Saint of Desperate situations and Hopeless cases, mostly pressed into service during exams. I later knew others who would use this Noveana for more suitable occasions and always when favours were granted, a Thank You note to St Jude was published in newspapers as it was hoped that the act of gratitude would be received by the unseen Saint, perhaps many of us have seen this insert in newspapers.

I am more blessed now than I was then, I can actually see the Saint at whose Lotus Feet I can place my thank you note. Please accept my pranams Shri Sathguru and thank you for the Grace, the Miracle and favours received.



Unseen She works

- The missing cheque

After an eventful first day at Sri Peetam I was really enthused to know that I could go over for Darshan the following Sunday if I wished and was looking forward to it. My office had spent the past week preparing papers for a recovery action by a financier and the documents involved various high value cheques which were left in the custody of my secretary who is as trustworthy as she is meticulous. On Saturday evening she returned the papers to the client who found them in order but on Sunday morning called to say that one of the cheques was missing.

Surprised at this turn of events but not unduly worried I summoned my secretary to work early on Sunday morning and we spent the whole morning searching the entire office for the missing cheque and thereafter reported to the client it had been returned to him with the other papers. The man was livid with anxiety and rage and an heated exchange ensued resulting in my promising to do necessary by the afternoon. We had combed the entire office and the result was a huge mess but no cheque was found. I was now in a state of panic and as a last resort was calling upon all the Gods I could think off.

Needless to state, that Darshan was the last thing on my mind, and the turbulent prospect of meeting an angry client was the only thing I could think off. However well wishers who caused me to visit Sri Peetam on the previous day were anxious that I should not miss the second day of Darshan and prompted me not to miss Darshan, to leave everything and go over to Sri Peetam. Though reluctant, I yielded to their persistent goading but felt very guilty about my own cavalier attitude.

It was very difficult for me to sit through Darshan in the beginning but by and by the characteristic feeling of being ensconced which now marks all my weekends took over. The client and the missing cheque however loomed large over me and after Darshan I instinctively headed to office for renewed searches. Strangely as though guided by an unseen hand I immediately walked to a set of multiple drawers used as a stationery rack. We had searched there in the morning and drawn blanks. I do not know what prompted me to pull out the last draw from the slot and peer into the case that holds the whole set of drawers only to find a rolled piece of paper crushed against the interior wall of the rack. The missing cheque was found, it had been pushed down from the overflowing first draw to the back of the case and to the bottom of the rack.

Perhaps to many my experience will seem like an exaggeration of sorts , but the magnitude of the whole event will speak for itself, if perceived in the light of fiduciary capacity in which I was acting for the client and the irreplaceable value of the cheque. What cannot be trivialized is the unseen Hand which terminated my ordeal by guiding me to the most improbable place in my office, the cheque would have lain there for years causing unimaginable turmoil. I still get overwhelmed when I remember the flash which caused me to pull out the draw from the slot and by instinct I know where I should place my thank yous. Please accept my pranams Sri Sathguru and please guide me always.



Ideas will change into solutions

Whenever I have darshan of Sri Sathguru I am overjoyed.

I keep looking at the Feet of Sathguru and will be thinking of my desires and problems and how I could get them fulfilled and solved. I hardly approach Sathguru to have personal counseling. I submit all my problems at Sathguru's Feet. Sri Sathguru always enquires about my well being. I just answer that I am fine, even though at times it is not so. I never thought I am lying to Sathguru by answering so, because I have already submitted my problems to Sathguru. After that, my problems are solved in a day or two.

Sometimes when I come across any small problem in my job during the working hours, I just think of Sathguru and will phone to my wife to discuss it with her. To my surprise, she will not be in the house. She would have been told by Gurubhai to be present in the Sri Peetam. By the time, she returns home after prayer at Sri Peetam, a solution would have to come to my mind with Sathguru's grace.

When I long for a solution, Sathguru will fill me with number of ideas and solutions. For the past two years, I would have hardly taken any decision on my own. With the grace of Sathguru ideas will change into solutions.



Pray, pray, pray

Om namo Narayanaya

Om Sri Sathgurave namaha

- Once I was having severe back pain. I normally avoid taking medicine unless it is absolutely necessary. When the pain became nagging, I applied some oil externally. My husband warned me against making a habit of it. At first, I was angry with him for not being sympathetic. I could not sit straight, so I lay down on the bed and started saying, "Om namo Narayanaya".

Soon I realised that I had unnecessarily yielded to a temptation and applied the oil. Everytime we sing bhajans at Sri Peetam, we sing, "Krishna nin namam enrum or aushadam". When there was such a wonderful medicine, why should I apply oils or take medicines? I prayed everyday to Sri Sathguru and went about my household work.

During one darshan, I prayed as usual to Sri Sathguru while doing namaskaram that I be cured of the pain and sat down with other devotees and sang the bhajans. But it was extremely painful to sit on the floor with crossed legs. I looked at Sri Sathguru and in my mind, I said "Sri Sathguru, it is very painful to sit on the floor. Please help me." Sri Sathguru looked at me and smiled. Instantly, I felt a warmth on my back and the pain was gone! Throughout darshan, I could sit comfortably and soon forgot all about the pain.

Now the pain is almost cured, with the help of one medicine: the Krishna mantra. I say almost because it surfaces whenever I get complacent in saying my prayers. Just a reminder to tell me not to take anything for granted, but be perfect in my duties towards God and Guru.

- By the grace of Sri Sathguru, I always repeat "Om Namo Narayana" while I ride my scooter. One evening I was hurrying to pick up my daughter from school. Even though I made it a point to start early and drive slowly, on occasions when I have some extra work, I get delayed and hence have to hurry.

When I had gone some distance, I realised by the grace of Sri Sathguru that the TV serial music that was being played, when I left home, was on my mind. I started saying the, "Narayana mantra."

When I reached a road corner and signaled to take a turn, a speeding car hit me from behind. I applied the brakes and found a huge MTC bus just a few feet in front of me. Luckily, the bus driver too had applied the brakes. A rarity, considering the speed with which these buses are driven!

While I was wearing my helmet, my son's helmet was held at the back of the scooter with a helmet lock. In the impact, the helmet broke from its lock and rolled across the street to the other side. But that was all the damage! I did not even lose my balance in the impact, even though it was quite an impact.

Had Sri Sathguru not made me say the mantra in time, I am sure the damage would have been severe.

No matter how much the surroundings affect and assault our mind and thoughts, we have to stay focused on our prayers and Sri Sathguru is always with us. I sincerely pray to Sri Sathguru that I always be worthy to receive Sri Sathguru's grace and blessings.

Pranams at the Lotus Feet of Sri Sathguru



Wonderful are Her ways

Pranams to Sri Sathguru

It's only because of my poorva jenma punyam I have to come to Sri Sathguru. I have a lot of experiences in my life, in this short period of time.

In the first instance, I like to reveal two of them, particularly that which happened four years back.

- **Surgery in the mouth**

I had a problem in my tooth. I thought it was a small one and I went to the doctor for treatment. The doctor found one tissue had grown in my gum. He told me that there was no solution except surgery, as a tissue had grown on the bones. At the time of surgery, the doctor told me he might have to take some tissue from the thigh and do the needful. It was a complicated case. I got frightened. I told Sathguru about this. At that time, Sathguru did not reply anything and was quiet. I was worried and was thinking about Sathguru not responding to this. I stood behind, and once more repeated the matter to Sathguru. That time, Sathguru shook her head and gave me prasadam. I was in confusion as the date of the surgery was fixed.

On the day of my operation, I was praying to Sri Sathguru and thinking why Sathguru didn't talk about this. My husband and my son were waiting outside the operation theatre. I was given anesthesia and the surgery went on. After the surgery, the doctor patted my cheeks and called me, "Usha, are you ok?" He again called me, "Usha, Usha!" Just then, I opened my eyes to see Sathguru with Naryaneeyam book on the left hand, standing and smiling and seeing me. Really, I was seeing Sri Sathguru standing beside me, before they shifted me from the bed to the stretcher. My eyes were filled with tears. The surgery was in my mouth and I could not to talk for twenty four hours. I was taken away from the theatre to the ward. When I saw my husband, I told him, "See Sathguru, Sathguru" and Sathguru was coming along with my stretcher.

My husband was informed by the doctor that the operation turned out to be simple and there was no need for them to take a tissue from the thigh, as said before. There, only Sathguru did the operation for me. After fifteen days, I went and told Sathguru about this. Sathguru asked me to visit Guruvayoor and stay there for three days. We planned to go there with all our family members, eight in number.

- **The Guruvayoor trip**

As my husband had to get back to work after his leave, I immediately checked for the reservation to Guruvayoor and found there was no immediate availability. I informed the to Sri Sathguru about this, on my next darshan and Sathguru simply said, "you will get it and you will go and come this time." My husband wondered how it was possible.

One of my friends came to our house that day and discussing about her husband's profession and informed us that he used to travel very often. At that time I just enquired

whether she could help me in getting tickets for Guruvayoor. She told me that she would make a try. She called me after a day and informed me that there was a special train to Guruvayoor and she had booked confirmed tickets to Guruvayoor and back. We had a nice darshan with the grace of Sri Sathguru.

Pranams



Only Sathguru manages my entire life

My pranams to Sri Sathguru. I like to share my every experience in my life with Sathguru. Sathguru is the God who led my life. When I am in trouble Sathguru gives me instructions to lead a good life. Sathguru used to give me some advice during exams, travel or for other important things. Sathguru used to tell me to chant slokas regularly. If I was in trouble or tension I used to think of Sathguru, which helped me to relax my tension and made me happy. I like Sathguru so much, than every thing else. With Sathguru's grace, what ever step I take in my life, is a success. I did so much punya to see Sri Sathguru in this janma. I love Sathguru so much. Sathguru's message, "Just let God manage your life" comes to my mind. Only Sathguru manages my entire life.

Ever-loving devotee of Sri Sathguru.



Sathguru's Lilas are many

Om Namō Narayanaya

Pranams at the Lotus Feet of Sathguru.

It is said in the Upanishad that a great teacher is one who has attained one with Brahman and is a man of God, and to obtain the grace of such a Guru is the same as having the grace of God. So, I thank God for my fortune in getting a Jivanmuktha as my Guru.

When I came to Sathguru, in the early eighties, our life was very unstable, as we had lost our loving father. All our relatives were in my native place but my mother decided to stay in Chennai, as we were all studying here. We came to know about Sathguru through my brother, Dayanand. It was through Sathguru's grace that my mother was able to bring us up. Till we came to Sathguru, we didn't know anything about Bakthi. The power of prayer, and the habit of lighting the lamp was taught to us. By Sathguru's grace we were able to learn Raja Rajeshwari Ashtagam, Vishnu Sahasranamam, Krishna Ashtakam. Since Sanskrit was not known to us, we learnt it from a temple priest. When I asked my mother if she had any experience to write about, she told me to write all this. All good things happened, in our life, after coming to Sathguru.

Sathguru's discourses are very simple and very powerful, as it comes straight from Srīman Narayana. Sathguru has said, "when God says something it rings in your ears, you don't have to go elsewhere". By hearing Sathguru's personal advice and from those discourses I developed a strong love and unshakeable faith in Guru and God, which helped me to face many problems in life. I find faith in Guru and God, which Sathguru has developed in us, is a great treasure gifted to us.

Sathguru has gradually taught us the art of living in a spiritual way. To accept whatever situation we are placed in, to leave our problems at Her feet, to live correctly and properly in the eyes of God. To do Nishkama Karma, Sathguru taught us the law of Karma. By understanding this principle, we are able to accept it when something bad happens.

Sathguru said we have to work out our bad Karma and God will mitigate the effect when you surrender to God. From our experiences, I found it true. After surrendering to Sathguru, I found that my sorrow of not having a child vanished. I no longer feel depressed about it. When I came to Sri Peetam I was very timid and was with a wavering faith in God. Now Sathguru has transformed me completely. The spiritual discipline taught by Sathguru has helped us feel the grace of our Guru.

- My first experience which I will never forget is when I joined the Railways in 1985. I was timid and a quiet person. One of my colleagues, who was working in my section wanted to marry me and proposed to me directly and threatened to commit suicide if I refused. I was very upset and didn't know how to handle the situation. I had none other than Sathguru to help me. When I told Sathguru, I was told not to worry and Sathguru also told me, "if it is his karma to die, let him die". Sathguru sent my brother and brother-in-law to speak to my officer. Sathguru gave me the courage to face the situation boldly, as many

in the office came to know about it. Within a month, by Sathguru's grace, he came to me with his marriage invitation and also apologized to me for troubling me.

- I got married in 1990. My would be husband was working in Best and Crompton, Overseas Division, in Damman and had come to Chennai for one month's holiday. My marriage proposal came through my close friend. I was reluctant to get married, as my sister was not happy in her married life. There was no darshan those days so I went and prayed at Venugopal temple and also Sri Peetam (Anna Nagar) before I agreed for the proposal. My relatives were surprised when they came to know that I had agreed, without seeing their house at Trivandrum, and there was no time to enquire. Now, I feel God had united us because of Sathguru. Though we are poles apart in all other things, when it comes to Sathguru we think alike, and love for our Guru makes our marriage successful.
- My husband was in the Gulf during the war in 1990. Even telephone contacts were difficult because of the war. I was so worried about his safety and he had already informed me he was not in a position to take leave and come to India as it would affect his promotion chances. Sathguru asked me during darshan, one day, whether he would come by the fifteenth. So I had to tell Sathguru what he had told me, but Sathguru didn't say anything. Within two days, I was surprised to get a call from him to inform me that he was starting on the fifteenth. He arrived on the sixteenth at Trivandrum. Only Sathguru's grace had made him resign his job and come off to India for good. But till today he has no regrets of quitting his job. Now he is happy serving Sathguru.
- My husband had to undergo Angiography in Railway Hospital where he used to go for a regular check up. His ECG and treadmill test were not normal. I told Sathguru about it, in Mylapore, the previous day. Sathguru enquired about the doctor and asked us to pray well. Next day, as I was waiting outside the theatre praying to Sathguru, the doctor came out smiling at me, and told me there was nothing to worry, as everything was normal. For me it was nothing but a miracle by Sathguru's Grace. I was told to give him tender coconut when he came out of the operation theatre. My friend, who was staying near the hospital, came and asked me if I needed any help. I never expected her to come at 7.30 a.m. in the morning, when she would be sending her children to school. Sathguru's Leela's are many, if I recall.
- Our neighbour was constructing a building behind our house. They were deviating from the rules while constructing and my husband got angry and said he was going to file a case as they were not listening to him. I told my husband , " why don't you tell our Sathguru instead of giving a complaint?" So during the next darshan when we told Sathguru about it, my husband was advised to speak to our neighbour once again. But before he could speak to him, the problem was solved and they changed their plan. I find it is enough to tell Sathguru, and not to worry about it. Sathguru does miracles, if one surrenders.
- This incident happened on the day when we brought a elephant head teapoy to Sri Peetam for Sathguru. It was made in Trivandrum. It was a Sunday morning and my husband was fixing it and I was helping him fix it. It took nearly an hour to complete the work. To our disappointment, we found that the top round frame bent, as a result the

round glass on top was not fitting correctly in the frame. So we both were upset, as we couldn't take it to Sri Peetam, during the evening darshan (at West Mambalam). Within a few minutes, our calling bell rang and when I opened the gate I saw a stranger standing there, who wanted to meet my husband to give him some work. My husband was very happy to see him, as he was a carpenter. He fixed the teapoy properly, with minor adjustments. Timely help came from God, when anything is done for Sathguru.

- We have Nithyamalli (jasmine) plant at home and I used to make garlands and offer it to Guruvayurappan at Mahalingapuram temple, whenever I went there. Guruvayurappan is my Ista deivam and it gives me joy when the Melshanthi puts it beautifully around the idol. One day, I thought why not I tie one garland and offer it to Sathguru also, though I didn't know whether it was permissible. I brought one and offered it to Sathguru but Sathguru asked me to distribute it. That night, I was very upset because Sathguru didn't accept it. I was asking Guruvayurappan why Sathguru didn't accept it. Sathguru called me during darshan the same day and said, "I accept garlands only from the temple". I was shocked, when I got the answer to the question I asked God in the morning. I knew Sathguru is none other than my Guruvayurappan. Sathguru also gave me an idea through a devotee. She told me to tie the garland, offer it in the nearby Adikesava temple and bring it to Sathguru. Words cannot express the feeling I got, while making garlands for Sathguru. Every time it is like a learner tying a garland for the first time, because I know God will accept it only if we do it with full Sradha.
- One evening, around 3'o clock, when I was plucking flowers from our plant, it was very hot in the terrace. Only if I started at that time I could tie the garland for Sathguru and finish it before going for darshan. That particular day it was extremely hot and I said, "Ayyo it is so hot Guruvayurappa". And I found, within a few minutes, suddenly it became cloudy and started drizzling after some time. I found many unbelievable experiences when I do something for Sathguru.
- On a Vishu day, I wanted to make a nice and unique Pookolam for Sathguru, but had no idea how to do it and what design to make. Daily when I say my prayers I would be looking at Unnikrishna's picture in our Pooja room and suddenly a thought came to me that I should make a design of peacock feather, as an offering to Sathguru. I got permission from Sathguru for putting that design on Vishu day. My husband brought all the flowers I required from the market. The peacock feather design came out beautifully, but till today I don't know how I was able to arrange the flowers, without any difficulty to form the design. I feel the divine power helping me when I do anything for Sathguru.
- One day, while we were returning from Sri Peetam after darshan, my husband's scooter broke down, near the signal at Ashok Nagar. It was nearly 9 p.m. and only after reaching home I had to make dinner. We were standing near the platform, my husband was restless as he could not find any fault. As usual I started praying to Sathguru. After some time, I saw two persons getting down from their two wheeler and coming towards us. First I thought they were going to a construction site, near the platform where a light was burning, but they came only to help us. He was a mechanic and he started the engine with one kick. We thanked him and knew only Sathguru had sent these two persons to help us.

- We were going to Guruvayur every month as advised by Sathguru. Once we were lucky to have Bhagavan's Prasadam also, without buying a token or standing in the queue. We were sitting and saying our prayers as we were not allowed to sit inside because of the crowd. It was almost closing time. Many were buying Palpayasam and going home. I told my husband to buy tokens but he told me that only if we had bought tokens earlier we could get Payasam. So we couldn't buy Palpayasam. After the temple was closed at 2 p.m., I just sat for a few minutes to recite Krishnashtakam, near the front entrance. One old woman came and sat next to me and asked, "Kuttiku Payasam veno?" in Malayalam. She forced me to drink more and more till I said enough and she also offered it to my husband. I know almost all the old woman who stay there but I had not seen this old woman again. I can never forget this incident in my life.
- When Sri Peetam was in West Mambalam there was darshan everyday, in the evening. As soon as I reach home from office at 6.15 p.m. I had to rush to Sripeetam so that I would reach there, at least by 7.15 p.m. It was a ten minutes walk to the main road and one day I was upset to find no auto and I didn't want to return home. As I started praying to Sathguru, I saw one auto coming towards my direction, with Unikrishna's picture stuck on it. Such experiences we get only by the grace of Sathguru.
- Once, we were in Trivandrum to attend a relatives marriage. Usually, we go by train but that time we went by air as I could take only two days leave because of election duty. We reached our husband's house around six p.m. That night my sister-in-law suddenly became very ill. She was gasping for breath and my mother-in-law started crying. My husband also was shocked and unable to react. I too didn't know what to do, but I started chanting, "Sathguru, Sathguru," and made her sit in a chair, in front of Guruvayurappan picture. As I was praying to Sathguru, something made me ask my mother-in-law whether she gave any medicine to my sister-in-law that evening. She told me, "yes." And she brought the prescription and showed it to me. When I saw it, I found the reason for her breathlessness. My mother-in-law, by mistake had given a high dosage of medicine. My sister-in-law was a psychiatric patient, though she is normal now. My mother-in-law used to give her a mild dosage of medicine when she took her out to attend any marriage. Immediately, my husband rang up to Sri Peetam Sevathi doctor, who assured him there was nothing to worry about and she would be all right, once the effect of the medicine had gone. We rushed her to a nearby hospital with the help of a neighbour, who was kind enough to bring his car during that night. We also had a problem getting her discharged from the hospital as the doctors told us she had some heart problem. My husband informed Gurubhai Srihari all these incidents, over the phone. By Sathguru's grace, I spoke to the doctors and got my sister-in-law discharged. When we showed the ECG reports to Sri Peetam doctor, in Chennai, we were told everything was normal. In all difficult situations, Sathguru was there to guide us through our mental contact with our Guru.
- My mother, of late, is not keeping good health. She is a Diabetic patient and has B.P. also. She is staying with my younger brother's family, in a flat. My sister and one elder brother also stay in the same block of flats. One afternoon, after Darshan we went to see her and I went to my sister's house to see my niece and nephew. My sister and my husband were there with my mother. It was a rainy day. After one hour, my husband

came rushing to me telling me my mother was not feeling well. When I went to see my mother, my sister was stuffing Marie biscuits in her mouth and my mother was sweating. She couldn't eat the biscuits. Immediately, I knew that her sugar level had come down as I have the same feeling often. I made her drink a lot of water mixed with Guruvayur sugar and glucose and telephoned my family doctor, who asked me to admit her in a nearby hospital, as she was almost unconscious. She was in ICU for a few days. Only Sathguru had sent us there at the right time, as only my sister and her children were at home that day.

- 'Kanni Konna' is a beautiful yellow flower which is kept in Vishu Kani. My husband used to bring the seed from our native place and planted it but it never used to sprout. This happened three times. Once again when he planted the seed, the young sprout came very fast and started to grow in the pot. I was not surprised when he told me why he was successful this time. Because it was for Sri Peetam he had planted it.

- Once I saw my husband standing downstairs, after evening darshan, at West Mambalam. I could see that he was upset over something. Just then, one sevarthi came down to tell him that Sathguru was calling him and so he went to the first floor where Sathguru gives darshan to sevarthis, after darshan. When I asked him why he was upset, he told me that one of the sevarthis closed off the door when he went to first floor. But Sathguru knows all our inner most thoughts even without our knowledge. This was one of my husband's experiences.

- This happened five to six years back. My husband always argues / fights with the auto man as they ask double the rate or the auto meter won't be working properly. While going to Guruvayur we took an auto from Arumbakkam to Central station. As usual, I told him that he shouldn't argue with the auto man. When I saw the auto meter running very fast I knew it would double the rate by the time it reached Central station. So I was sure my husband would fight with him as usual. Then I would forgot about it. When we reached Central he paid the auto fare and I was surprised to see my husband coming behind me, without arguing with the auto man. I was stunned, when he told me what really happened. He said, "when the meter was running very fast, I just prayed to Sathguru. Suddenly, the meter stopped at Aminjikarai and started again later, so the reading was correct, when we reached Central station!"

- When Sri Peetam was in West Mambalam, a few months after Homam was performed, on Kettai day, my husband asked me whether only Brahmins could perform Homam. I told him not to ask such questions in Sri Peetam. It was on a Kettai day, and we were starting for Sri Peetam. Imagine our feeling, when we saw one sevarthi, who is not a Brahmin, sitting and performing Homam. We get answers for everything without asking Sathguru.

- When Sathguru gave us prasadam during Deepavali, my name was stuck on the cover as Mrs. Shoban. I told my husband casually that Sathguru had forgotten my name. The next year, when I got Prasadam, during Deepavali, my name was written as Mrs. Usha. I would tell my husband that you don't have to tell anything, the minute you think, it reaches Sathguru.

- In West Mambalam, sometimes special darshans were there for devotees. My husband used to go straight from his site, where he was working and I would go alone, after coming from office. Many darshans I missed because I didn't get information from Sri Peetam but when my husband came and asked why I didn't come, I became upset. I wanted to have darshan but without getting a message from Sri Peetam I did not want to go because it was special darshan. One day I started crying because Sathguru was not calling me for darshan. My husband said, "if you cry like this, I'll phone and tell Srihari." Next evening, when he went to Sri Peetam, Sathguru asked him, "why is Usha not coming?"
- Sathguru came to my rescue whenever I had problems at the office also. One of my Senior Officers was a very short tempered person and had a complex. When we corrected his mistakes, he used to shout at the ladies, in particular. When I told Sathguru, Sathguru told me not to do anything against him but to ask permission to attend Sri Peetam functions. Though he was short tempered, he was a religious type. So, I did as I was told by Sathguru. Within two months he got a transfer from my office.
- Many times in office I was unable to trace the misplaced files, which were racked in the wrong place. Only my prayer to Sathguru had helped me to find them. When, sometimes, I would be asked to answer questions to the ISO Auditors, only the divine help from Sathguru had helped me. All my officers have full confidence in me but I know I am a big zero without Sathguru.
- Whenever we go to Guruvayur we stayed in one particular lodge, for the past twenty years. So, we usually got accommodation without any difficulty. Once, when we went to stay at Guruvayur for three days we were given a small room in the corner as all the other rooms were full. The bathroom was a little raised from the room. I had taken a Unnikrishna picture which Sathguru had given me during darshan. It was a small wooden box with Krishna's picture on it. I kept it on top of the cupboard, in front of the bathroom. As I came out after my bath, looking at the picture, my foot slipped from the doormat and I fell down crying out 'Krishna'. It was a terrible fall and I thought I would never be able to get up. My back soon started swelling like a balloon. My husband got scared and wanted to go back to Chennai. But I was reluctant and I refused to go to a doctor also as I wanted to go to the temple. I couldn't get up for few minutes. By Sathguru's grace I was able to bear the pain once I took a painkiller and rubbed some gel on my back. My husband went off to his work, at Mama Bazar, when he knew I was better. Only in the evening, I could go to the temple and it was Sreeveli time. One lady standing beside me was continuously chanting 'Dan Vantri Mantram' and soon I was also chanting it without knowing it was the Mantra for health. On all the three days I too recited the Mantra along with other slokas. Till I was in Guruvayur, I was able to bear the pain, but I had to take one week's leave once I came to Chennai. Again, it was Sri Peetam Sevarthi doctor who prescribed medicines for my pain and I was relieved of my back pain within a week. Thus, Sathguru had helped me. Had I fallen anywhere else, it would have been a fracture of my ribs.
- I have this habit of falling down. Once, I slipped and fell down on our backyard, while washing clothes. My right hand was hurt and I couldn't turn it. So the ortho doctor put a big bandage so that I would give rest to that hand. I had already told Sathguru about this.

On Sunday evening, when I went for darshan, I was asked to distribute flowers. Being a Sunday, the darshan hall was full of ladies. When Sathguru called me I knew I would be able to do it and by Sathguru's grace, without any difficulty, I was able to distribute. The flowers given to everybody, without any feeling of pain was really a miracle. I find that Sathguru always calls me to do service in Sri Peetam, whenever I am sick, to make me all right. Sathguru is also my doctor who prescribes Ayurvedic thailam for my back pain.

- I go regularly to the Vishnu temple, near my house. One day while I was sitting in the temple I was thinking that I was losing interest in cooking as there was no one at home. Always, I would be alone, because my husband went to his work site, even on holidays. Sathguru heard my prayers, because when he came home he brought a 'Vazhapoo' which was from Guruvayur Sri Peetam and asked me to cook it for the Sevarthis.
- Once my mind was very agitated and was not able to concentrate on my prayers. I wanted to ask Sathguru how to control the mind when it is restless but as usual when I go to Sri Peetam I find I had become peaceful and forgot to ask about it. It was a Saturday and Swaminathan uncle was giving a talk on Bhagavat Gita, and the topic that day was how to control the mind. He said, "you have to keep on chanting the Mantra to control your mind". I was so surprised, while after darshan, when Sathguru was about to go upstairs, Sathguru stood near the door and asked me, " Enda Usha Manasilayo ?" i.e. what Usha, did you understand?
- Sathguru has brought a complete transformation in me. We live in a small independent house, at Arumbakkam. I would never go out in the dark and also was scared to go from one room to another if it was dark. Now, Sathguru has given me the courage to stay alone at night, when my husband goes to Guruvayur. I am not afraid as I feel the protection of Sathguru.
- I am a diabetic and take tablets regularly. I was eating all prasadam from Sri Peetam and devotees know how much sweets we get during functions. So I avoided to go for my regular blood test. I had to do the blood test as I was feeling giddy. When I got my blood test result I was pleasantly surprised that my sugar level had come down in spite of taking sweets. My doctor told me to stop the tablets for a month. Sri Peetam prasadam (sweets) had reduced my sugar. It actually acted like a medicine. Only Sathguru can do wonders like this!
- Once, we were in Trivandrum. Since all my husband's property is there, he was finding it difficult after his father's death to look after it. One of the neighbours, opposite to his rubber plantation, was giving him trouble and there were other personal problems. Both of us were tensed and perturbed. When we reached Trivandrum, my husband spoke to Gurubhai Srihari over phone and he came to know that Sathguru was very sick. There was no darshans at that time. When my husband told me this I forgot all about our problems and we started going to all the Vishnu temples there. For the first time we saw the early morning Abishekam at the Padmanabha temple. We had beautiful darshan, which we wouldn't have had otherwise.
- Our mind was only fixed on Sathguru as we were praying for Sathguru's health. Our mind was at peace. I realized, for whatever may be the reason, "if your mind is fixed on

God you get peace. Sathguru has promised that," you will get the same Guru in your next birth if you continue to practice what the Guru says.

- I pray to God that I should be blessed with more and more Bhakthi towards our Sathguru and make me worthy of Guru's grace and blessings. I thank Sathguru for giving us the opportunity to express our feelings. The teachings of Sathguru i.e. Surrender to God and to accept whatever happens in life (good or bad) as prasadam, to do self analysis, not to expect anything from others and to bank only on God, has helped us to become better persons and I thank Narayana (Sathguru) for everything. I thank Sathguru for directing me to my Ista Devatha, Sri Guruvayurappan, when I was going to all other temples. When I first came to Sri Peetam I read in one book that the Guru will direct you to your Ista Daivam, in your previous birth.

With humble Pranams



Remover of ignorance

This is submitted at the Lotus Feet of Sri Sathguru.

Ignorance is an evil in life. Sri Sathguru will make all those who had surrendered to Her by removing that ignorance and enlightening them. This may not be understood by those who do not believe in spiritual life.

Sri Sathguru assigns specific tasks to persons who attend Sripeetam daily. I used to feel sad, initially, that I had not been assigned a task. But later, I realised that Sri Sathguru assigns a task to a person for a specific reason and all my sadness vanished.

Once there was a picture of Sri Sathguru that appeared in a handout. My sister got a copy blessed by Sri Sathguru, enlarged it and kept it reverentially. Seeing that, I yearned for a similar picture and expressed my desire to Gurubhai Shrihari. He took the blessings of Sri Sathguru and gave me one, saying that only one copy was available and that Sri Sathguru had told him to give that to me. I am keeping that picture with utmost respect. Even today, I stand in front of that picture and address Sri Sathguru, whenever I want to speak to Her Holiness.



Peace and tranquility came our way

We the devotees of Sri Peetam are fortunate in getting Her Holiness Sathguru Swami Gnanananda Sarasvathi as our Guru. Our Guru, the Divine Apostle is the personification of kindness and mercy. She does not expect the devotees to go to Her. She comes to their level and relieves their pains and sufferings. I am one of the thousands, who have been freed from sufferings and mental agony. She has shown us all the path to peace and tranquillity. But for the blessings she bestowed on me, the onward course of my life would have been different. Hence, Guru is a must for any Sadhaka. Each and every experience I had with Sathguru enhances the strength of my faith and belief. Here, I would like to narrate some of my experiences.

- I was suffering from acute pain in my legs for many years. The best available medical treatment gave me no relief. I thought I was destined to live with it. Then came a turning point. One of my relatives told me that there was a Divine personality, "Amma" at Thiruvannamur, Chennai, who might be able to help me. Out of sheer inquisitiveness I went there and had Her Darshan. The moment I saw the powerful Captivating Divine Smile, I could feel it enveloping my whole being. Apart from the total relief of the acute pain from which I was suffering, it gave me renewed confidence to live with a smile on my face. Though the relief of physical pain is to some extent measurable, the mental relief and the calmness, which the serenity of this Divine personality generates is immeasurable. It is to be experienced.
- Sathguru will read devotees "Minds". I longed to attend Vidwat Sanyasa held on 25th. May 1975. But I had to be in office for unavoidable work. My thought was entirely on the sacred ceremony.

My wife went in person for the function and had the blessings. After her return, she told me that Sathguru informed her that though I was in my office my mind was very much present in that function. How true it was !!

- When one sees the very personification of Divinity standing before one, the experience is something which cannot be conveyed through mere words. Sathguru accepted an invitation of some devotees of Triplicane to halt in front of their houses, on her way to attend a discourse on the 10th. April 1976. When I offered Poomakumbam, in front of my house, she received it and touched the coconut. My hands shivered and I became nervous. I had a feeling of Divine power passing through me. When I sought the reason for my shivering, Sathguru told me that I could not withstand the power of Divine Vibrations.
- In May 1977 my wife and I and some devotees of Sri Peetam, after attending the marriage of Gurubhai Smt. Padmini Paliath at Chendamangalam, Kerala, were proceeding to Guruvayur in a private bus. The devotees were fully engaged in Bajans. I was sitting in front, behind the driver's seat. As there was a violent and heavy down pour,

I concentrated more on looking at it than on listening to the bajans in the bus.

I had not seen rain like that earlier. A sudden flash of lightning, accompanied by thunder, made me close my eyes in fear and I uttered Sathguru 's name. When I opened my eyes I had the vision of Sathguru passing in front of the bus. From the surroundings of downpour, lightning and thunder, a sudden calmness and tranquillity descended on me. True whenever and wherever devotees of Sathguru think of Her She presents Herself before them.

- **Motherly affection for children**

Rev. Sathguru was strolling in the verandah of Sri Peetam, just before the bhajan was to start in the adjacent hall. My son, Prasad, then four years old ran towards Sathguru. As I feared he might touch Sathguru, I dragged him. But Sathguru commanded me to go to the hall where the bhajan was to start. Sathguru's affection and love for children was seen when she started talking to my son in close proximity.

- Sathguru's decision never fails. On 23rd. August 1978 I was instructed by Sathguru to fix a music concert by Sri Thirasandur Srinivasa Chari, in the evening, for Gokulashtami at Sri Peetam. When I met him and conveyed Sathguru's instructions Sri Srinivasa charior was in a perplexed mood as he had to perform music concert at Sri Rama Temple, Tambaram, already fixed by the trustees for adorning Silver Kavacham for Sri Sita. But he wanted me to contact him the next day. I was confused and could not sleep that night, as I thought I would fail in my assignment of Sri Peetam. But I also knew that Sathguru's decision would never fail. I contacted him the next day. I was taken aback, as he said that the Silver Kavacham function was advanced to the morning and that he was pleased to give his concert at Sri Peetam, in the evening, as decided by Sathguru. (Then we were doing pranams to Sathguru in the form of Raja Rajeshwari. We could realize Sri Raja Rajeshwari, our Sathguru and Sri Sita were one). The music concert in the Sri Rama Temple and Sri Peetam went off well.

- **Sathguru's timely advice**

In 1989 when there was no darshan for a long time at Anna Nagar, I got permission of Sathguru through Sri Vishnu Mohan to go to Guruvayur. I went there and had darshan for three days. On the fourth day, after morning darshan, I took my lunch and came to the Rest house, when I had severe chest pain for three minutes. I thought of Sathguru and uttered Her name and prayed to Sathguru. Then I had a nap, when I heard Sathguru's voice saying "Vedagiri you had enough darshan. You leave Guruvayur for Chennai." Immediately, I checked out of the Rest House and as I could not get train reservation I went to Chennai from Guruvayur by bus and reached home by auto from beach. In the evening, I consulted my cardiologist at Vijaya Hospital as I was having a slight chest ache. After check up he asked me how I came to the hospital. I told him in detail. He wondered, " you have a massive attack. I don't know how you came by bus from Guruvayur, when even train journey is risky. It is really strange. God only saved you." It was a fact that Sathguru saved me through Her timely advice and instructions. I had two more attacks later. I had been taking treatment. In spite of that I could not take diet properly.

Rev. Sathguru deputed Sri Peetam Sevarthis (physicians) to my house, who gave me the necessary medical advice and came to my rescue. Then, my family physician wanted me

to take complete rest for a month or so. As advised, I was on leave, taking rest. The very next week, Sathguru started giving darshans. When my wife and son had three days darshan, at Anna Nagar, Sathguru wanted me to come for darshan. As instructed by Sathguru, I went to Sri Peetam and had darshan. Sathguru asked me about my health and wanted me to sit in front of Her, through out that day. Sathguru said, "Vedagiri don't worry. You think you have no heart!" I was looking straight at Sathguru, listening to Her advice and instructions. Sathguru's powerful vision illumined me, getting rid of my fear.

- I am happy to state that I had the rare privilege of performing my Shastiabtapoorthi in Sri Peetam. That was a non darshan day. Hence, I prayed for Sathguru's permission to visit Sri Peetam to do my pranams. Sathguru permitted me and all my family members to come to Sri Peetam. We were asked to wait in the special Pooja room. Sathguru blessed the Mangalsutram and sent it through Gurubhai Kamilini and I was asked to tie it to my wife in front of Sri Krishna idol in Standing posture, in the special pooja room. Thus, my Shastiabtapoorthi was performed in Sri Peetam, the Divine Venue with powerful Divine Vibrations.

- The tenth of December 1992 was a complete bandh. My wife told me that she had been to Sri Peetam, the previous bandh day, on foot. This time also she wanted to visit Sri Peetam on foot. After prayer, she prepared Milk Payasam and did deeparathi. To our surprise, Sathguru Herself came to Triplicane with sevarthis and gave darshan in my house. When we requested Sathguru to take Pal Payasam prasadam, She wanted to distribute it to all sevarthis and devotees ,who came with Her. Even though the Pal Payasam was very less in quantity, we could give it to all. It became "Akshaya Pathram" with Rev. Sathguru's grace.

- One day, after darshan was over at about 8.30 p.m. at Ramakrishnapuram, West Mambalam, I boarded the bus that was going to Mount Road that was immediately available, and got down at Mount Road stop near the Buckingham canal. From there, I proceeded to the near by bus stop to go to Triplicane. It was pitch dark as there were no street lights that day. When I was about to cross the canal road, a fat man came near me and tried to snatch the bag I was holding. As I resisted, he was not successful and he immediately cut the wrist portion of my right hand with a sharp knife. When I uttered loudly, "Sathguru," he ran away. Then I called for an auto driver who was passing by that side and asked him to go to Triplicane. On seeing the blood oozing on the ground profusely, he took out a piece of white cloth from the auto and arrested the flow of blood by tying it. He then asked me how it happened. I told him in detail what had happened. He immediately took me to D 2 Police station and after registering a complaint, the writer of the police station asked the auto driver to go to Royapettah Hospital. After the medical treatment, he dropped me at my residence. I thanked the auto driver for all the timely assistance. But for the timely assistance, my position would have been different. I came to the conclusion that Sathguru saved me through sending the auto driver on time.

I prostrate at the Lotus Feet of Sathguru Swami Gnanananda Sarasvathi for continued support and guidance and perpetual link with Sri Peetam.

- As I could not attend the Vidwat Sanyasa function of Sathguru at Kanchepuram in 1975 I was yearning to see Her and made it a point to visit Her for darshan there, on all Sundays. On one Sunday, I had the good fortune of having Her darshan the whole day and that too alone. At about 4 p.m., that day Sathguru asked me to go to the temples near by and come back. I did so, as advised. As I wanted to catch the last Express bus to Chennai at 7.30 p.m., I requested Her permission at 7.15 p.m. but She wanted me to remain there for some more time and I was given permission only at 7.45 p.m. I was worried whether I could get the bus then. Surprisingly, I saw the delayed last Express bus on the way. I stopped it and occupied the only vacant seat available comfortably. True, but for Sathguru's grace I would not have returned to Chennai that night.
- I was assisting Sri Vishnu Mohan, in all matters pertaining to the Voice Divine, the monthly magazine of Sri Peetam, as he was its Editor. When Sathguru was in Edward Elliots road, she accepted an invitation of the near by slum dwellers and gave them darshan there. The venue was well decorated and kolams drawn. A photo with a small write up was prepared by Sri Vishnu Mohan and I was asked to give it to all the dailies and Swadesamithran, the Tamil evening paper in particular. As the editor of Swadesamithran was not available, I met its proprietor Mr. Bakthavatsalam, former CM of Tamil Nadu. I told him the visit of a Gnani, Swami Sri Gnanananda Sarasvathi to a slum who blessed them, a unique incident. When he asked for more details, I gave him a photo with a small write up. He took the same and said, "we will see (parkalam)" That evening the daily published the photograph with a bold caption "No Gnani has ever visited a slum and blessed the dwellers". I could not go to Sri Peetam, after giving the news item on slums, due to pressure of work. I was surprised and pleased to hear one of the secretaries of Sri Peetam saying to me that Sathguru praised me, in the meeting that was held in Sri Peetam, regarding the publication in Swadesamithran and other matters.



Till my very last breath I want to remember Sri Sathguru

(Tamil article translated into English).

Hari Narayana

Om Sri Sathgururave namaha

- Our family had a darshan of Sathguru first in 1975. We are attending Sri Peetam from then onwards till now. We get darshans of Sri Sathguru through Her grace. We feel sad if we are unable, for some reason, to go to Sri Peetam even for a day. Even if we cannot or do not talk to Sri Sathguru, mere darshan is satisfying and makes us feel calm and peaceful. Once, when Sri Sathguru was in Anna Nagar, on a darshan day, there was a bandh. The darshan was in the evening. No auto or bus was plying because of the

bandh. My brother-in-law, my children, Padma and self, all decided, to walk from Triplicane (where we were staying) to Anna Nagar. We prayed to Sri Sathguru and started walking. When we were crossing the railway track at Chetpet, an old man saw us, said "Narayana" and went away. As soon as that old man uttered "Narayana," we felt as though our energy had increased manifold. We don't know from where he came, but we felt as if Sri Sathguru came there and uttered "Narayana." It is very clear that Sri Sathguru Gnanananda Sarasvathi is omnipresent and is always present near the devotees. When we reached Anna Nagar, the darshan had already commenced. Sri Sathguru saw us and welcomed us with a smile. Nothing can equal that smile. Sri Sathguru called us and said that it was becoming dark and enquired how we would be returning home. Sri Sathguru instructed us to start immediately. We left Sri Peetam and came via Arumbakkam to the bus stand. One van came and stopped in front of us. The conductor of the van enquired of our destination. When we replied, he said the van would go up to Central Station only. He asked us to get into the van and pay whatever sum we could. We traveled by van to Central and then walked to Triplicane, not far from Central Station. The van came only by the grace of Sri Sathguru, who looks after the devotees even if they do not ask. Later we heard that Sri Sathguru told Kamali many times that evening that we would have reached home safely. Sri Sathguru's grace is limitless !

- On another occasion, there was an eclipse and also a general bandh. My husband and others had gone to Sri Parthasarathy Swami temple, after bath. It was morning time and I was cooking after cleaning the house. From early morning I was very desirous of and keen to go to Sri Peetam to have darshan of Sri Sathguru. I told my son Prasad who said, "your health is not good, stay at home only." Prasad's friend was coming to have food with us and I was busy cooking. My mother was reading Sri Vishnu Sahasranamam. I played a tape of Murugadas and was working, feeling sad that I would not be able to go to Sri Peetam and have the darshan of Sathguru. Suddenly, somebody knocked on the front door. The song played on the tape was, "Swagatham Krishna." I opened the door to find the sevarthi, Dr. Mani. He said, "Our Sathguru is visiting your house." I told him to welcome Sri Sathguru ceremoniously with a Kumbam, since no male member was available in the house then. He replied, "simply welcome Sathguru, gesturing with your hands".

Very soon, there after, a car came and stopped in front of our house. Unexpected by anyone, Sri Sathguru opened the car door, got down and entered my house. As Sathguru entered he house, I could not think of anything else. I was very happy that Sri Sathguru (Sriman Narayana) had come to my house. Words cannot describe my happiness. As Sri Sathguru entered the house, Her Holiness was enquiring, "what happened to Kumari?" I replied, "Sriman Narayana" had come; nothing happened to me". My mother, who was reading Sri Vishnu Sahasranamam, asked, "Sathguru what happened?" Sri Sathguru replied, "I have come." I made Sri Sathguru sit on a plank. Sathguru had come that day, a Thursday, December 10th. At 9.45 a.m. Our Guru has come on a Guruvaram (Thursday). We cannot forget that day in our life. Sathguru came when I was yearning for Her darshan. Sathguru will come when we think of Her. Her grace is unequalled.

- Navarathri was celebrated very well, and all ten days in Minerva hall. The function was from 5 p.m. On the first day, Sri Sathguru had gone on foot to some places in Egmore,

before coming to the hall. She gave darshan after which there was Aarathi, followed by distribution of prasadam. Everyone could return home by 9 p.m. I requested Sathguru to assign me some duty. Sri Sathguru instructed me to stand at the entrance and welcome all those who came. On each day of Navarathri, Sri Sathguru visited a few streets in some locality, such as Egmore, Nungambakkam. T.Nagar, Sri Sathguru would visit in the evenings. In the morning, we would visit all the Houses in that street and explain to those residing there about our Sathguru. We would also instruct them about cleaning the area in front of the house, put Kolam there and keep rice, turmeric powder ready besides Aarathi. The residents acted accordingly. Sri Sathguru would accept Aarathi and then enter each and every house / flat, even if it was in the III floor, sprinkle Akshathai there and bless the inmates. After such visits, Sri Sathguru would attend the function in Minerva hall and finally distribute prasadam. Pada pooja was performed on Vijaya Dasami day.

- The Jayanthi celebration of Sri Sathguru was once held in the choultry in Nallathambi Street, Triplicane. That place was very near our house. Sri Sathguru was residing in Llyods Road then. Sri Peetam was functioning from there. Sri Sathguru came from Llyods Road, commenced Pada Yathra from a spot near our house, culminating in the choultry in Nallathabi Street. In front of each house, a big Kolam had been drawn and a lamp lit in the centre of that. Nadaswaram accompanied Sri Sathguru. Sri Sathguru blessed the inmates and gave Akshadhari. Sri Sathguru visited our street also and blessed us and all the other residents there. Everyone in our street received the grace and blessings of Sri Sathguru. A day before the Jayanthi I had been to Sri Peetam. Sri Sathguru and the Secretary informed us that the Choultry management had told them that the hall would be provided for Bhajans, speech, etc., but kitchen and dining hall would not be spared. Since my house was very close to the choultry, I offered to get the Prasadam cooked in my house and Sri Sathguru gave me permission. Our house was small but an independent one.

We engaged one cook, Narayanan by name. It was convenient to prepare the prasadam in our house. Puja was conducted and Bhajan songs sung in the morning on Jayanthi day. At noon, Prasadam (lunch) was served on plantain leaves to all who came. In the evening, a Magazine 'Gnana Malar' was released. Prasadam was distributed at 8.30 p.m. After the function my husband accompanied Sri Sathguru to Llyods Road residence and returned. Thus the Jayanthi was celebrated.

Every function would go off well with the blessings of Sri Sathguru. Before leaving my house for Sri Peetam, I would do Namaskaram in front of the picture of Sri Sathguru and say that I am on my way to see Sri Sathguru. When I reached the bus stop, for a particular route I preferred for that day, would come. If I thought that I should visit a particular relative that relative would soon visit my house. Sri Sathguru looks after me in all matters thus – big or small. Sri Gnanananda Sarasvathi is Omnipresent. Whenever I come to Sri Peetam and have darshan of Sri Sathguru I get Her grace and blessings and peace of mind. Till my very last breath I want to remember Sri Sathguru. and do whatever service I can. This is my prayer. It is not possible to get a Guru like our Sathguru!



Boundless benevolence

- When I was transferred to Chennai in the year 1986, Sri Sathguru was staying in Annanagar. Naturally we wished to stay in that area. I came to Chennai in advance and went to Annanagar with a prayer on my lips. Casually I went to a pan shop and bought a cool drink. While drinking it, I enquired of the shop owner whether he knew of any house available for rent. Overhearing this, another man came forward with the information that I needed and the next day the deal was concluded. Sri Sathguru made my house hunting a mere child's play.
- The year 1987 was one of excitement and exhilaration for us. There was continuous darshan on all weekends. Sri Sathguru used to allow individual bhajan singing. During the week we used to hunt for new songs on Krishna, learn them and be ready to sing them before Sri Sathguru on Saturday and Sunday. On Sundays, Ramayana and Mahabharata used to be telecast by Doordarshan. But we did not bother to view them. For us the quintessence of Ramayana and Mahabharata was before us at Annanagar.
- This refers to the time we were searching for a groom for our daughter. We used to tell Sri Sathguru about various proposals. One day, Sri Sathguru asked us whether we had not come across any party already known to either family. Sure enough, such a proposal came up for consideration within a short period. Such subtle hints from Sri Sathguru have always guided us.
- Sri Sathguru once asked us to go to Guruvayur and do bhajanam., My wife used to take some kashayam prepared at home and some special food at that time. Sri Sathguru told us that once you go to Guruvayur the Lord will take care of everything. We went there and stayed in a guest house. Sure enough the place had a kitchen and a cook and my wife's needs were taken care of.
- Sri Sathguru used to say that Sri Peetam devotees' end would always be peaceful. My mother who used to come to Sri Peetam with us died, aged ninety two. In her last days, she hardly needed any special nursing. Even in delirium she used to mutter the Lord's names. Such is Sri Sathguru's grace!
- When once my husband visited Sri Peetam from Bangalore, he went alone. On that day, badusha was distributed as prasadam. When he told me about it over phone I asked him to bring one badusha for me also. At that time there was no way he could have got one for me. But the next day, there was unscheduled darshan and Sri Sathguru personally distributed badusha as prasadam. When my husband's turn came, she offered him two badushas, asking him to give one to me! Sri Sathguru fulfilled my wish of the previous day.
- Once, we visited Sri Peetam from Bangalore, in peak summer. I could not stand the heat at Chennai and was praying to Sri Sathguru. In the afternoon, there was a sudden

downpour and all was cool. When we went for darshan, in the evening, Sri Sathguru smiled at me and asked, “so there was rain, is it not? Is that sufficient?”

- While on a visit to Sri Peetam at West Mambalam, I swept and cleaned the rooms. Then I thought, “it will be nice if Sri Sathguru comes down here.” After some time, the sevarthis announced that Sri Sathguru was coming down to see the newly installed computers. Sri Sathguru knows our every thought and if it is sincere it will fructify.
- It is marvelous that the mind becomes calm and serene in the presence of Sri Sathguru. It is as though a great deluge cleanses the mind of all noise and restlessness the moment Sri Sathguru enters the hall. It is also amazing how every message appears to be tailored, specifically for each devotee. Whether it is the spoken word in live lectures or in Her Upadesams, it is always as though Sri Sathguru had me in mind. Every word is full of meaning and continuously reveals new truths and insights every time I read it. When I speak to other devotees, they feel the same! It is truly a miracle.
- Once I travelled to Guruvayur for Sahasranamam recitation. For my return I had booked a ticket in the sleeper bus. The bus driver was driving very rashly. I dozed off. Sometime by midnight, I woke up for no apparent reason. Within minutes of my waking up there was a terrifying bang. The bus had hit a tipper truck from behind, lost control and climbed a high divider on the Coimbatore by-pass. For a few seconds the bus seemed unstable but came to a stable rest later. These sleeper buses are tall by structure and inherently unstable and it was by Sri Sathguru's grace that the bus remained stable. The front of the bus was completely smashed but by Sri Sathguru's grace no one was hurt. Above all, I was able to maintain my calm due to Sri Sathguru's grace, arrange for alternative transport for my return to Bangalore immediately after the accident, even though it was night time.
- I have read that if a shishya takes one step towards guru, the guru responds by multiple steps and draws the shishya into the orbit. My parents had been ardent devotees of Sri Peetam for over two decades now. Even though I had a great reverence for Sri Sathguru, I used to visit Sri Peetam merely as a visitor. Around three years ago, I went through a distressing situation for two weeks and inwardly I felt only Sri Sathguru could cure this condition. This drew me towards Sri Sathguru and Sri Peetam and I visited Sri Peetam with my parents. The moment I set my foot in Sri Peetam, the distressing condition disappeared. During darshan Sri Sathguru smiled at me meaningfully. I firmly believe that such distressing situations are really meant to draw the shishya towards the Sri Sathguru.

Even after this, I continued some 'spiritual practices' not sanctioned by Sri Sathguru. A couple of weeks ago I mentioned this to Sri Sathguru. Sri Sathguru gently reprimanded me, “you must do what your Guru says”. I realized then the importance of unquestioning obedience and surrender to Sri Sathguru.

- This incident relates to my first visit to Sri Peetam. I was in two minds whether to tell Sri Sathguru about all my problems or not. But the moment Sri Sathguru saw me Sri Sathguru said, “Do you know Kuchela did not ask Sri Krishna anything for himself but Krishna gave him everything. Narayana Bhattathiri was cured of his illness by

Guruvayurappan". Thus I got the answer to all my queries that all that is needed is unswerving bhakti for Sri Sathguru'

- By the grace of Sri Sathguru, my daughter's marriage was fixed to take place in August 1988. Two days before the marriage I was very much exhausted and tired as I had suffered sleeplessness continuously for a week. The whole night my daughter was sitting by my side chanting the Holy name. The next morning we received prasadam from Sri Peetam. Thereafter I felt much better. The marriage went off well without any problem. During all these years whenever I was distressed, I would fervently pray to Sri Sathguru and I always would get Sri Peetam prasadam through some means or the other and I would immediately feel much relieved. In the year 1989 we had to shift to Bangalore.
- Sri Sathguru is an ocean of compassion and divine love and knows what to give to whom and when. After my daughter's marriage, I enjoyed reasonably good health for 15 years. Consequently, I was able to look after my mother-in-law in her old age, which was only possible due to Sri Sathguru's Grace.
- We have been very fortunate to be coming to Sri Sathguru since 1986. But except for a period of 2.5 years we were living away from Madras. Whenever possible we used to visit Madras for the specific purpose of Sri Sathguru's darshan and on many occasions we used to take permission from Sri Sathguru to stay at Sri Peetam. Sri Sathguru was gracious enough to grant permission.
- I had no chance to witness the pada puja performed at Sri Peetam. I was always longing to witness the puja. On one occasion as usual we started for Chennai on a Friday so that we can get darshan on Saturday and Sunday. When we reached Chennai we came to know that in the evening there would be a special pada puja. We also came to know that it was meant for people suffering from ailments. Not expecting this, I was immeasurably delighted. This is an instance where Sri Sathguru knew about our innermost thoughts and graciously fulfilled them.
- Sri Sathguru used to ask me to write letters regularly. Due to my sleep disorders I used to struggle to complete a letter. Each letter used to take a week or ten days to complete. Still I used to write letters. Once at the time of taking leave, Sri Sathguru lovingly said that I should write a letter immediately after returning to Bangalore. After returning home, I was thinking about Sri Sathguru the whole day and my mind was filled with immense joy. I could see Sri Sathguru everywhere. When I sat down to write a letter, thoughts flooded my mind and there was an invisible power guiding my hand to put those thoughts on paper. I could finish a long letter in a day when in normal course I would have struggled for days. I could see that it was Sri Sathguru who guided me perfectly.
- I was having chronic and severe dental and gum problems. Despite this I could not ever gather courage to visit the dentist. On one occasion after the darshan, I developed swelling in my cheek. Next day, during darshan Sri Sathguru saw me and asked me to consult a dentist and go for total extraction. I went by Sri Sathguru's command and got relieved of my dental problems.
- Bhajans were being sung during a particular darshan day. Sri Sathguru told me to sit in the front row. When I did so, Sri Sathguru looked at me intently. Thereafter, I closed my

eyes and was visualizing Sri Sathguru's form in my mind. When we started singing 'chetti mandaram tulasi' I could see in mind Sri Sathguru wearing a tulasi garland. After a few minutes, when I opened my eyes, I was surprised to see Sri Sathguru actually wearing a beautiful green tulasi garland. I was pleasantly surprised.

- I had heard the song 'Ehi murare' on TV but had never learned it fully. Once during darshan Sri Sathguru mentioned about that song and from that time I had a great desire to learn it. I had not fully learnt the tune. Then one day when I tuned the TV on the song was being played unexpectedly thus helping me to learn tune. Then when I searched in an old hymn book of Gorakhpur Press I got the wording also. Thus I could sing the song correctly at Sri Peetam. This shows how Sri Sathguru inspires and guides us in her own ways!
- Once during darshan I was waiting in the queue for my turn to speak to Sri Sathguru. I could not help overhearing those in front talking to Sri Sathguru about their family quarrels. When my turn came I expressed to Sri Sathguru my feeling that those people should not have brought their quarrels before Sri Sathguru as if Sri Sathguru was a family counsellor! Sri Sathguru immediately remarked, "I have to do that also". Then I remembered that Sri Krishna also had assumed such a role to try to bring peaceful reconciliation between Pandavas and Kauravas. Sri Sathguru often compares her mission to that of Sri Krishna's!
- That day I had fever. Sri Sathguru was talking to devotees standing on both sides of her seating position. When my turn came I started my presentation. Suddenly, Sri Sathguru turned the other way and started talking to some ladies. After a few words Sri Sathguru again turned to listen to me. This alternating attention on both sides went on for nearly 15 minutes. All the time I was standing with folded hands in a bent position and the effort produced profuse perspiration in me. Then Sri Sathguru gave me permission to resume my seat. When I did so, I realized the fever had left me! I fully believe that Sri Sathguru was curing me in her own way.
- Once Sri Sathguru asked me whether I could write articles. I replied that if Sri Sathguru desired I would try. Promptly I wrote 3 or 4 articles and sent them to Sri Peetam. During my next visit I reported to Sri Sathguru about it and asked whether they were meant for publication. Sri Sathguru said "let us see". Then I said, "I have obeyed Sri Sathguru's commands and was not worried much about what happened to the articles". Then Sri Sathguru said, "yes, that should be the attitude". There have been a few more occasions for me to write something. But none of them has come out. Was Sri Sathguru teaching me to work without attachment? Most likely. Apart from that if I have lost a little of my ego that is really a gain.



Sathguru for every moment of our lives

Pranams at the Lotus Feet of Sri Sathguru.

Sri Sathguru has been guiding and blessing our family with Her grace everyday and every moment. My whole family is very thankful to Sri Sathguru. Here are some of the memorable incidents in our life, after coming under the protection of Sri Sathguru.

- I was brought to Sri Peetam by my friend, Nandhini . I felt very nice after the first darshan of Sri Sathguru. I started coming with Nandhini for darshans. Sri Sathguru told my husband and me many times to go to Guruvayur. I was doing catering and at that time we were not financially well off to afford the trip. I didn't tell anyone, but Sri Sathguru knew it and she told Venkatesh (Nandhini's husband) to book our tickets and take us to Guruvayur. After that trip, our position improved. I started getting orders regularly. My husband got his job back, in Sri Lanka. We are forever thankful to Sri Sathguru.
- I was always taking an active part in our Gujarathi Brahma Samaj. Once, we decided to have Ram Katha. While discussing the programme, I suggested that Sri Sathguru might be approached and invited to preside over the function and bless everyone. One day, I had a dream in which Sri Sathguru was sitting in a chariot and going round the world blessing everyone. I could see very bright light coming from Sathguru's hand. Committee members of the Samaj, Nandhini and self went and explained about Ram Katha and requested Sri Sathguru to inaugurate the function. Sathguru agreed. On that day, the procession started from Purasawalkam. Sri Peetam lady devotees and Samaj ladies all kept a copy of Ramayan on a new cloth, on their heads, and followed Sri Sathguru, who was seated in a chariot. I felt my dream coming true. All of us were singing bhajans and dancing, all the way to Arusuvai Kalyana Mandabam, near Dasaprakash. The function was a great success. Sri Sathguru gave a speech and blessed everyone.
- A devotee had given me a photo of a Sadhu Babha, which I had framed and hung in my house. After I started coming to Sri Sathguru, one day during Darshan Sri Sathguru blessed and gave me Anatha Rakshaka photo. The moment I entered my house with Sri Sathguru's photo the Sadhu Babha's photo glass cracked into pieces. I was told later that the evil was driven out through that incident. All good things started to happen to us after that.
- Once, I was in the kitchen preparing for a dinner order with my helper men. In the loft I had kept two huge (capacity to cook for 100 people) stainless steel vessels. Suddenly one of them was falling down and I could see the shadow and started shouting, "Sathguru, Sathguru". It fell down behind me, missing me by half an inch. Had it fallen on me, I would have had a very bad injury. Only Sri Sathguru saved me!
- My son Homi went abroad. There, he had a lot of problems, and he started to feel home sick, and might have gone to the extent of committing suicide. I went to Sri Peetam

and told Gurubhai, when Sri Sathguru called me inside and I told Sathguru everything Homi was going through. It was very, very, kind of Sri Sathguru that Sathguru spoke to him personally, consoled him and asked him to do his duty correctly and honestly. He needed not to worry about anything. After that, there was no trouble for him and he could complete his work successfully and came back to Chennai safely.

- Once, for two months I could not go to Sri Peetam for darshans because both my helper boys had left the job and I had to do everything for all the orders I got. I was feeling very sad and used to sit in front of Sri Sathguru's photo and kept thinking of Sathguru and sometimes even cried. One day, suddenly, Srikumar rang me up to say that Sri Sathguru was coming to my place. I was very happy, nervous and confused. Sri Sathguru sat in the car itself, outside my house. I did pranams and spoke to Sathguru for sometime. I was blessed by Sri Sathguru, who gave me lots of Prasadam. I felt very happy, as if my mother had come to see me.

- My husband was in Sri Lanka and I had gone out leaving my helper boys in the house. I had forgotten to take my mobile (costing Rs.15000) on the table in the hall. When I came home I couldn't find the mobile. On enquiry, the helper boys didn't see anyone coming into the house. I thought my son, Homi might have taken it. So I rang him up from the land line and asked him. He did not take it. I told Gurubhai about it. I was told by Sri Sathguru that I should check up at 10.30 p.m. with Gurubhai, for any message. In the meantime a devotee also had come to my house to help me. Later, I found out that my husband's company Scrap Dealer had come home when I was not there. We tried to contact him many times but he avoided our calls. When my number was rung it went on ringing. At 11 p.m. I checked with Gurubhai, but no message was there. I went off to sleep praying to Sathguru. I got up at 4 a.m. as I had to prepare for that day's order. I opened our front door and was about to go out to open the gate, when I found, in a plastic bag, the mobile that had been thrown from outside the gate as the battery had come out. I felt happy and thanked Sri Sathguru for the help and miracle.

No words can describe the grace and the blessings we continuously get from Sri Sathguru every moment of our life.
Narayana.



The Sathguru I see

My ananthakoti namaskarama at the Lotus Feet of Sri Sathguru.

I have attempted to write in this article how I came to Sri Sathguru, some of the experiences I have had and a few of Her upadesams.

I was 2^{1/2} years when I first met Sri Sathguru. Two days prior to Sanyasa Sweekaranam in 1975, my parents went to see Sri Sathguru at Kottivakkam near Thiruvanmiyur and took me along. Bhajan was going on there. I spent some time listening to the bhajan and some time in running around and doing mischief.

My parents had found it difficult to manage me since I was very mischievous. My father had told Sri Sathguru, before taking me there, "I have a son who is very mischievous. We are unable to manage or control him." Sri Sathguru asked my father, "What is his age?" My father replied "2 1/2 years." Sri Sathguru told my father with a smile "Only 2 1/2 years! Let him be mischievous. Bring him here." That is how I got to have darshan of Sri Sathguru who is the Jagadguru. I began to see Sri Sathguru through my parents since I was a small child then.

Since I used to play many a prank, my parents were afraid of leaving me in the house in the care of my sisters and therefore would take me with them to Sri Peetam for all darshans. Thus I got the opportunity to have many darshans of Sri Sathguru. During darshans. For the same reason, I got the opportunity to go to Kanchipuram also with my parents to witness the Sanyasa Sweekaranam of Sri Sathguru. I used to spend some time sitting in the Bhajans and some time standing next to "Mukhil Uncle" who was taking photographs of Sri Sathguru.

After Sri Sathguru took sanyasa, Sri Peetam functioned from Edward Elliots Road in Mylapore, Chennai. My mother used to take me daily to Sri Peetam then. Daily bhajans used to be organized. I would participate in Bhajans for a while, spend a little time in having darshan of Sri Sathguru and spend the rest of the time indulging in mischieves. If I was not taken on any day to Sri Peetam, Sri Sathguru would ask my mother why she had not taken me to Sri Peetam. My mother would reply that "He is very mischievous." Sri Sathguru would respond to that by saying "Do not hesitate to bring him here. Bring him to Sri Peetam with you." Thus I had the opportunity to visit Sri Peetam often.

Sri Peetam shifted to Lloyds Road later. I used to visit Sri Peetam there also daily. Bhajans were organized every Wednesday for gents. It is Sri Sathguru made me, who used to be running here and there always, to sit in one place in the gents Bhajan. I used to sit in the front row in the Bhajans. Even if I have to go somewhere for a short while, I would do namaskaram to Sri Sathguru both before leaving and when I returned to Bhajans. Thus did Sri Sathguru control me, who was uncontrollable, and taught me to lead a disciplined life.

Once while sitting in the front row in Bhajan, I was hitting the ants that were moving on the floor. Sri Sathguru called me and said, "Can you bear if someone beats you? Even as you experience the pain, so do the ants feel the pain. One should not hurt anyone."

Sri Sathguru taught the great principle of 'Ahimsa' in a simple way so that even a small child could easily understand that. Sri Sathguru bestows Her kindness on all living beings so that even a small insect does not get hurt. Sri Sathguru often repeats that there are four pillars supporting Sri Peetam and that 'Ahimsa' is one of them.

I would sleep only after listening to stories like "Kuchela" and "Pahlada" daily at bedtime from my grandmother. Next day I would relate that story to Sri Sathguru in Telugu. My mother would translate what I said into Tamil for the benefit of Sri Sathguru, thinking that Sri Sathguru does not understand Telugu. Sri Sathguru used to listen with great interest and also tell other devotees, "See how this child is nicely relating stories!" Sri Sathguru used to enjoy the story. Thus did Sri Sathguru enthuse me from my childhood.

Once, while describing the characteristics of Sri Rama, Sri Sathguru explained in Telugu that "Oka matta, oka banam, oka pathni." as His qualities. Upon hearing this exposition in Telugu, my mother realised that Sri Sathguru knows everything and felt very bad that she was explaining Telugu to Sri Sathguru all these days! All knowing and all understanding, yet Sri Sathguru, as if not knowing anything, listened to the stories with great attention and interest and pardoned the devotee, forgiving his / her ignorance. This is a Divine Quality of Sri Sathguru.

On every Deepavali day, all our family members would wear new clothes and go to Sri Peetam early in the morning. Only after coming to Sri Peetam and offering our Pranams to Sri Sathguru we would visit our relations and friends. Our day begins only after we do pranam to Sri Sathguru. Sri Sathguru also would be happy to see our feeling happy at wearing new dresses. When we take leave of Her, Sri Sathguru would show 'abhaya hastham' as if waving to us. In our ignorance, we used to think that Sri Sathguru is waving TA-TA to us! Sri Sathguru is protecting us from many ignorance such as this!

Once Sri Sathguru gave discourses for four successive days in the "Saibaba Temple" in Mylapore. I used to accompany my mother on those days in the afternoon to Pary's Corner to buy flowers for decoration and come to Mylaore. I was only eight years old then. In the evening during the discourse, Sri Peetam publications such as 'Voice Divine' were kept on sale. I used to the Sevathi there in writing the accounts very fast. Coming to know of this, Sri Sathguru was very happy. That was the first service of mine that I remember.

When Sri Peetam was functioning from Lloyds Road, I used to meet Sri Vishnu Mohan often in the office. He would not consider this as an interruption to his important works and would talk to me freely and informally. We were the recipients of affection and benevolence not only from Sri Sathguru, but from all Her Divine disciples too.

When Sri Peetam was functioning from Adyar, I was eight years old. My father prepared the 'Chicago speech' of Swami Vivekananda for my mono acting and taught me. I did the mono acting first in front of Sri Sathguru. Seeing that, Sri Sathguru was very happy and advised me, "You enacted the speech of Swami Vivekananda very well. What is important is that you should follow that in your life, too." Sri Sathguru used to stress that it is not enough to learn or know, but one must practice in life what has been learnt. Sri Sathguru emphasises that practical experience is very essential.

After enacting in front of Sri Sathguru, I got many chances to do mono acting of the Chicago Speech. I got many opportunities to perform the same in schools, sabhas and Doordarshan. That was the "International Year of the Child" and I won many awards also.

After this, I enacted the speech of Swami Ramatheertha in front of Sri Sathguru. Afterwards, I started enacting that in many places.

To dress up like Swami Vivekananda, the turban had to be tied. My mother one day mentioned to Sri Sathguru about this difficulty. Sri Sathguru said, "It is not a problem. You can do it if you push here and pull there." My mother found the suggestion very easy to adopt. Sri Sathguru helps us even in trivial matters like this.

Sri Peetam shifted to Chetpet later. I was anointed as a 'Sevarthi' there on Vinayaka Chaturthi day. I began to serve as a Sevarthi that day itself. I learnt from Sri Vishnu Mohan the rules for Sevarthis. Since there was no darshan at that time and since I was a small boy, I could not get involved fully in service as a Sevarthi.

Later Sri Peetam shifted to Anna Nagar. One day I had gone there with my family members for darshan. My eldest sister Sujata requested Sri Sathguru that, "Prasad keeps coming to Sri Peetam but does not do any service. Please give him some opportunity to serve." Sri Sathguru said, "I was waiting to see whether you will make this request on your own. Let him work here." Sri Sathguru made us realise that if one does not wholeheartedly yearn and pray for an opportunity to do this precious Divine service, he would not get a chance. I commenced attending to Sri Peetam work from that day.

I started visiting Sri Peetam daily by myself. One day I got delayed in Sri Peetam. My father was concerned and came to Sri Peetam. Sri Vishnu Mohan told him, "He has to come to Sri Peetam only. There is no need to fear. He will not incur any hardship or problem by coming here." From that day my parents would not worry if I went to Sri Peetam, because they began to accept that I was going to a well protected place.

I used to go daily to Sri Peetam, recite there Sri Vishnu Sahasranamam and other slokas and then go to Vivekananda College in Mylapore. If some classes were cancelled, I would again come to Sri Peetam. After that I would go to learn computer, violin, tabala, etc. at the end of all these classes, I would again return to Sri Peetam. After attending to some small chores there, me and other Sevarthis would sit with Sri Vishnu Mohan and discuss many topics. Those discussions gave me much knowledge. I used to return home after such discussions.

I would feel very happy to tell Sri Vishnu Mohan what all I learnt in my college, computer, violin and tabala classes. He was my guide in all matters. From making a deposit in a bank to sending letters by Speedpost, he would teach me. I have admired many times his knowledge about computers and music. He had a very high power of observation. For example, when he deputed me to Anna Nagar post office the first time, he explained beautifully and in detail the way and procedure: "The post office is at the end of the third street from here. In the house adjoining the post office, there is a big Doberman dog. After enter the post office, in third counter on the right hand side would be sitting an aged person. You have to give him only the letters to be sent by Speedpost."

Another example for his power of observation: Sitting on the steps inside Sri Peetam, he would identify a visitor without seeing him, by the way he opens the door, the sound made when he opens the water tap, the sound made when he walks, etc. he had such tremendous power of observation.

I used to get a feeling that I was reading a Sherlock Holmes story when I used to observe him like this. My life started revolving around Sri Peetam with the blessings of Sri Sathguru and the guidance of Sri Vishnu Mohan. That was a golden period in my life.

Seeing that I commute between college, Sri Peetam and other places, Sri Sathguru called me and said, "You are running around here and there daily. You buy a vehicle for yourself. It will be convenient." So saying, Sri Sathguru gave me the money as Her prasadam to buy a vehicle. How much of kindness does Sri Sathguru have! Knowing that I roam here and there, Sri Sathguru blessed me without my asking anything! My mother says often "Gnanananda Sarasvathi says without saying."

The experiences that me and my family people have had under the shade of Sri Sathguru is numerous. We should become worthy of it. Placing my ego at the Lotus Feet of Sri Sathguru, surrendering totally to Sri Sathguru, let me go in the path of complete surrender shown by Sri Vishnu Mohan. Praying Sri Sathguru who practices "Love for love's sake" to bless me with love that does not expect anything in return, I place this as an offering at the Lotus Feet of Her Holiness.

Sri Sathgurave namaha.



Great Acharya

The new divine location in New Giri Road was selected for dwelling by Sri Sathguru. The surrounding pathways were not so familiar to me as the paths and practice of Yoga. Still it was in my mind as my target of approach. It was so near as it is in my heart the draft of the place was drawn clearly in my mind, still was not capable to reach it physically. I was felicitating the sincere efforts and endurances of Sevathis, those who are reaching Peetam daily from far off places, even though they are intensely engaged with their other activities. Therefore, I was physically absent for several months to Sri Peetam. Anyway, I decided to satisfy myself simply by contacting over phone, Srihari. Immediately, with a great laugh, I heard the words of Srihari with wonder. "just now Sri Sathguru has ordered me to call Doctor (you). I was searching for your number. Sri Sathguru was telling me that you would contact me soon." I never felt it was a wonder but I experienced the power of the mind.

Once, it happened that my mind was instigating me to reach for darshan. When I reached, Sri Sathguru called me and told me: "You are forced to reach here, to deliver a lecture on the remembrance day of Sri Vishnu Mohan." This was the style that the great Acharyas followed. Such incidents I have studied from the actions done by Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Yukteswar Giri, etc.

I was so attached with the activities of a research centre. I wanted to develop it and make my impression by contributing something in the field of astronomy. This was one of my ambitions but Sri Sathguru's will was different. Emotionally I was so much attached that I could not cut my contacts with it, but the situation forced me to stop all my activities related to that institution. Mental prayers were sent to both Sri Sathguru and Lord Guruvayurappan. Anyway, the matter was not reported orally to Sri Sathguru. But on the subsequent Sunday, Sri Sathguru casually told me without my reporting anything, in a language which was graspable only by me, "Guruvayurappan has told Me that He would solve it by Himself. I have nothing more to do on it." It was true that problems were solved without any hurt. But so many doubts evolved in my mind. Whether Guruvayurappan is solving these small worldly matters also? I can't believe even now that the highest Supreme Power which dwells in Guruvayur will act in this way? The merciful Lord Krishna whether he has conveyed the message through the highest media, how it would be materialized – so many doubts are still in my mind. But it was the will of God that I should be free from the bondage of astronomy and research centre activities of that type.

After that I started delivering discourses on the line of devotion in Sri Peetam, as commanded by Sri Sathguru. It gives me more scope to search on devotion, on my life, on presentation to others and at last, the least, immediate benefits it provides to others.

I remember in the years, around 1975's, when I was led to Sri Sathguru by Parthasarathi, I was ordered to deliver Sanskrit lessons in the evenings to devotees. It gives a small but clear impression in my mind about Vishnu Mohan. It was the first lecture from me, an inexperienced aspirant. I am now called upon to convey something aesthetic, by the grace of Sri Sathguru. The vision and will of Sri Sathguru is clear in this. In short, Sri Sathguru entrusted upon me some trust and I hope to live up to that trust and be a part, somewhere in the service activities of Sri Peetam.



Let me surrender more and more

Om Sri Narayanaya Namaha

Om Sri Gnanananda Sarasvathyai Namaha

I came to Sri Peetam on 27th November 1977. Srimathi Hyma Sankaranarayanan brought me to Sri Peetam, as I was going through a rough time in life. Here I am listing only two of my experiences.

- My father, who was 98 years old in 1978, had a bad attack of Herpes on his face. The allopath gave him antibiotics and said that the Herpes would subside only after three weeks. My father could not even open his mouth to drink water, as the infection was very severe. One evening, I told Sathguru about my father's condition. Sathguru gave me lots of vibuti and told me to apply it on my father's face. My mother and I did as was instructed by our Guru. In three days time, the severe viral infection started subsiding and in about ten day's time, his face was almost clear. The allopath came to visit him and said that he had never seen such a miracle in his profession.
- My father used to ask me every time I went to the Sri Peetam to get permission from Sathguru, for him to meet Her. Finally, one day Sathguru asked me to bring my father. My father went on looking at Sathguru, with folded hands, and never asked for anything from Sathguru. Then Sathguru broke the silence: "Tell Me what you want."

My father, with tears in his eyes, said, "I don't want anything except an easy passage. Now that I have Thy darshan, that is enough for me; the rest will be looked after by my Guru." My mother and I shed tears of joy, with great reverence!

My father passed away at the age of 91, on 1st December 1978, without any difficulty. He got up in the morning, had a bath, did Sandhyavandanam and lay down. The Tulasi water kept next to him was given by me; that is all. Peace descended on his face. Even to this day, the memories of those days are still vivid.

Let me surrender more and more at Thy Lotus Feet.

Sathguru's humblest devotee



Sri Sathguru, my life force

- Silver vessel episode

Onam at Sri Peetam. Sri Sathguru had been asking me for some days to polish a small silver vessel. Finally it was done today and given during darshan. She asked me to cover it so others could not see it and give it. Then with a mischievous smile, She said “there is a devotee called” please call her, and laughed. It was given to my wife. Then She gave me a brown wonderful office diary, answering my mental prayers for a suitable diary for a new job. She said “When you have surrendered you don't need to ask”. So nice. Pranams to Sri Sathguru.

- Lord Anjaneya's joy at seeing Sri Sathguru

There was some confusion re keys to my house and finally Hyma mami helped sort it out. I recounted the trip that my wife and I had just made to Suchindram temple. She said that many years back, when Sri Sathguru had gone to the temple en route Kanya Kumari (Hyma mami herself did not go but heard about this from others who had), from Lord Anjaneya's eyes tears were flowing. There is a huge statue of Lord Anjaneya in standing pose in the Suchindram temple. Sri Sathguru said it was with joy at seeing Her, something that He had been waiting for so long. If the confusion regarding keys had not happened, then I would not have known this. So strange are Sri Sathguru ways ! Pranams to Sri Sathguru.

- Agre Pashyami Tejo said

Offered Sri Guruvayurappan some coconuts. After that, I got lovely darshan from kodimaram. I was able to say Agre Pashyami Tejo fully, standing there all the while and uninterrupted. Soon, since the 5pm Seeveli was about to start, no one was allowed into the Nalambalam, and also the crowd was stopped from walking in front of the office. So, I could see Him so very clearly as could a few others. Just did not feel like leaving. Such infinite grace and compassion by SS.

Even after coming outside, I could see Him for so long. I walked backward for a long time till I was parallel to the auditorium stage on East nada ! And yet He was absolutely clearly visible with no one coming in between. Lovely experience. Pranams again and again to Sri Sathguru.

- Curing us in many ways

I was on leave. About 915 am, sent an SMS to Shrihariprasad regarding agenda for the day, and asked when to come to Sri Peetam. He called at 10am to say “now is the best time to come”. So I went to Sri Peetam. It was wonderful to see Sri Sathguru : She was sitting in the study. We had darshan for a long time. She went inside after darshan. After a minute She came back, gave a coconut and said it had to be finished before my wife and I left for Guruvayur that night. At home, as she had a severe stomach disorder, my wife had only a bit of the coconut water and a few small pieces while I ate the rest. She was instantly cured of stomach disorder which was troubling her for 2 days. Such inexplicable and infinite grace as always. Pranams to Sri Sathguru.

- Helping us even for the smallest things

How wonderfully Sri Sathguru takes care. At 915 was a meeting in Sri Peetam. At 930, was a call scheduled with prospective employer regarding terms of their job offer. And there was also an important workshop meeting with my current employer for a project, which I would be forced to miss due to the above. And on top of that, I had not said morning prayers.

I didn't know how to manage all this, but came to Sri Peetam for the 915 meeting. This got over fast.

Then I got a call from office to say that the workshop was not starting today and I need only come at 11 for other meetings. So I had time to have the 930 call, then go home from Sri Peetam, say prayers, and reach for the 11am meeting.

Wonderful indeed are Sri Sathguru's ways.

- Sathguru knew when I had darshan

So much of delay and blocks were coming in the way of getting plan approval for the Darshan Hall in Guruvayur. I realized that for the past few trips, I had not gone into the temple and paid my respects to Him (Sri Guruvayurappan). That day, I felt that perhaps because of this disrespect, He would not allow things to proceed on plan approval submission till I did my sadhana. So I stood in queue and then had His darshan, and asked Him for forgiveness for not coming earlier, and prayed that things go well. After that it was brilliantly smooth. Sri Sathguru knew it. When I came back, She asked gently if I went for Darshan !! She has never asked me this question before !

- Working through many people

I was going to Guruvayur. Got such a nice sms from another Gurubhai "Leave the worries behind. U r on a divine mission." Truly, Sri Sathguru works through so many people. Pranams to Sri Sathguru.

- Even mosquitos are his instrument

I was staying in Sagar lodge in Guruvayur. Being rather tired, I had decided to see Him sometime during the day, next day. He had different plans. Starting at midnight, mosquitos mercilessly bit me till a short while after midnight I said to myself that I could not sleep, and may as well go to the temple. So I got ready, went to the temple, joined the queue and had wonderful darshan. All the while I was smiling at His leela. After having darshan, I sat within the Nalambalam, and was able to say my prayers peacefully, with no pushing and jostling. A really diving intervention, demonstrated by Sri Sathguru.

- Bag for kalabam storage

A few sevarthis and myself were driving from Guruvayur to Trissur. We had bought prasadam from Guruvayur temple. I was sitting on the rear seat in the Ambassador taxi, and was holding the bag of kalabam which had been specially ordered for Sri Sathguru. The last time this had been purchased, the kalabam had oozed from the bag, and remembering this, I wished there was an extra bag so the kalabam could be stored better, and would not leak. Instantly, a plastic bag came flying from the rear of the car (from the

space between the headrest and windshield in the rear), and landed on my lap. It was so amazing. It had been there all along, and could have flown anywhere at any time, and yet it was only when that precise thought came to mind as a seva to Sri Sathguru, that the bag flew, and what's more, landed on my lap.

- **Stopping the moped**

This was narrated by one of the devotees. He was going one early morning on his moped. It was quite dark at that hour in Chennai. Suddenly, it was as if Sri Sathguru was pulling him to a halt. The moped halted, and when the devotee got off, he noticed that just in front of him was a drain hole where the cover had been removed. Had he not stopped, he would have driven into it and had a severe accident. Who knows what would have happened.

- **Searching for papers**

My educational certificate, marriage certificate, and such other important papers were missing. My wife and I searched for them for almost 2 full days and could not find them. We had already reported this, and were updating Sri Peetam on the same. The next day was Saturday. We finished Sahasranama Archanai and almost immediately after, the documents were found ! Sri Sathguru's grace shows in so many ways.

- **Helping us help ourselves**

One devotee was rather forgetful of himself and his health. Sri Sathguru got a few other devotees to take him to the hospital, ensure he underwent the necessary treatment and became better. This included 2 eye operations. Encouraging the spirit of satsang, ensuring people take care of each other, and always supporting all people from the background : that is Sri Sathguru.

- **Sri Sathguru's visit to Sri Parthasarathy temple & then our home**

At 7 am on 12th Feb 2005, while getting ready for the day the servant came to tell there was a call from Sri Shrihariprasad. I called back in a few minutes. I was told Sri Sathguru was going to the Parthasarathy temple in Triplicane in my car and I would have to leave shortly. I would have to leave immediately. I had just then got a call from my wife that Sri Sathguru was going to the temple and could I come but not the above details. I told Shrihariprasad that the car had gone for repair but I would come immediately. My wife had arranged a taxi for me, which was very thoughtful. By 7.30 in Sri Peetam, I had called a few other devotees that day and conveyed the news of Sri Sathguru's visit to the temple and asking them to come. Sri Sathguru came to the darshan hall at 8 and left in Mr Sripathi's car. At the temple Sri Sathguru first sat facing South (opp the dvajasthambam) for 5 mins. Then darshan of Bhagawan. I was overcome then (and now as I remember). There as my Guru, Lord Incarnate and Infinity itself and in front of Her was the Lord who was incarnated as my Guru. What great and good fortune. What infinite Grace that one like me was awarded this bliss. Then to Mahalakshmi sannidhi. Prior to seeing Sri Parthasarathy Sri Sathguru had spent quite a few mins at Garudar sannidhi then sat. After Mahalakshmi darshan, Lord Varadarajar darshan, and then Sri Sathguru saw Garudar opp Sri Narasimha. After that darshan of Lord Narasimha where a carton of kalkand was

offered. (Much later, Sri Sathguru said She herself never knew She was going to the temple as prior to that, the Divine command was only to send the kalkand there). Then Andal sannidhi. Then for a few minutes Sri Sathguru sat in the same spot as earlier, and then left the temple. A number of devotees were present at Sri Peetam and the temple. Some went directly to the temple. Amazing incident but more amazing was what followed. Sri Sathguru came to our house and Blessed us with Her presence, saw the house, advised us and distributed prasadam.

It all started for my wife and myself when at the Parthasarathy temple Sri Shri Hari Prasad told me Sri Sathguru was coming. In a few seconds he went on to suggest my wife go home, prepare the place including actual items (purnakumbham and how to make it, etc). after leaving the temple Sri Sathguru graced the houses of 2 families then came home.

Going in the car in front at a junction we were told to take diversion, which was unusual. Much later we came to know there were many new traffic arrangements further on, which we were unaware of, which would have delayed us a lot. We took the diverted route. When we were near home, I jumped off the car, hurriedly put on the angavastram and stood waiting with purnakumbham. All the while, I had been in telephone contact with home where my wife assisted by her mother and servants had cleaned up the place and got things done (which were done very well).

Sri Sathguru stood outside the gate on the slope then came into the house where actual purnakumbham was offered with Sri Shri Hari Prasad and Mr Sripathi chanting the shlokas. Entering the house Sri Sathguru sat in the formal hall facing West. Flowers and fruits were offered. When kesari was offered Sri Sathguru by Her Lotus hands gave it to all present including the servants and security men. I myself did not get any but who can understand the thrill of having Sri Sathguru at our home. That is mahaprasada itself. Then Sri Sathguru saw the whole house including the puja room. At the puja room, She advised us that Lord Narayana picture had to be in the center of the puja mandapam with Sri Guruvayurappan on His left. Before this, both were next to each other, but neither was in the center of the mandapam.

We requested Sri Sathguru to forgive us for any errors and in Her grace She said She could see the faith and devotion so not at all to worry.

Next few days we were in a sort of happy trance. Words cannot describe this.



Every prayer is answered

- Sathguru helps even in the smallest of ways

This happened when Sripeetam was in West Mambalam. Darshan was going on. Sri Sathguru had asked me to distribute flowers. I distributed it and continued to stand. Very unusual but for some reason that day my legs were hurting very badly. Suddenly Sathguru looked in my direction and smiled. Then again Sri Sathguru looked at me and called me. I rushed to Her. Sri Sathguru smiled very sweetly at me and asked 'Are your legs paining?'. I was shocked. How did Sathguru know. I said yes and had tears in my eyes. Soon after that the pain disappeared. After darshan was over as Sri Sathguru was going down from the terrace Sathguru asked me how I was feeling. I had no words only tears.

- Bhajans

This happened when Sri Sathguru was staying in West Mambalam. Once Sathguru asked Aloka and me to sing together. Though we went to the same teacher to learn music at that point of time I was still a new student. I did not know many of the bhajans that Aloka knew. Other than the ones taught in class we knew a few others. But we had not practiced these songs together. We were quite nervous. We did not know what to sing. Soon that problem got resolved because it seemed like Sathguru had chosen what we should sing. We managed to list out a few bhajans we could sing together. When we sang that day we sang in unison without any confusion. It felt like we had practiced together. I still cannot comprehend how it happened. Even today I know it was not us singing but some force was helping us. We have sung together on a few occasions that. But never the same way. The singing experience was totally unique. We felt so happy and blissful. I am not alone in thinking and feeling this way. Aloka shares the same thought too. Every time Aloka and me discuss this incident it is with wonder and happiness. It was a special day in our lives. To be able to sing for Sathguru in Sathguru's presence is a Blessing. Its a way of surrendering to our Guru. It's a way of showing our devotion to our Guru. When Sathguru told us to sing there was a meaning in it.

- Guru came home

The day Sathguru came home was the best day in my life. It was during Navaratri. We were staying in Abiramapuram. We kept kolu with 7 steps and also scenes from the life of Andal. The idea also was given by Sathguru's devotee, Malathy mami. I got a lot of support from Srikumar. His mother and my mother also helped me a lot. Plus various other people helped me set it up. It was all possible due to the Grace of Sathguru. We invited Sri Sathguru to come home. Meanwhile the Sri Peetam devotees who had come home for navaratri also wanted so much that Sri Sathguru come home to see the kolu. All our prayers were answered when Sathguru agreed to come. It was a wonderful experience. Words cannot describe the joy and happiness I felt that day and even today when I think how my Guru, Sathguru. A feeling of bliss that is very hard to describe or write. Like Sri Krishna coming to Vidura's home

Shrihariprasad came along with Sri Sathguru. The sevarthis came. So many devotees came. Sri Sathguru asked us to sing bhajans. Sri Sathguru was there for a long time. The whole atmosphere was charged. All of us were happy. It felt like one big happy family. Vasudevakudumbam. Dr Mani's sisters who came to Sri Peetam to have Sathguru's darshan had no idea of Sathguru coming to our house. Sathguru told them to follow and come to our house.

There was so much happiness and joy amongst all of us. All of us were Blessed.

- **Saved from a traffic jam**

This happened when Sathguru was staying in West Mambalam.

Srikumar had called his team from office for a get together. They started coming in from 6 pm. At around 630 Srikumar got a call from Shrihariprasad saying Sri Sathguru had asked me to distribute kumkum that day in Sri Peetam. I left immediately. Darshan was going on.

I wanted to avoid the Doraiswamy bridge and took the Madley subway to get to Sri Peetam. Its peak traffic whichever route we take at that time. I was getting stuck in every possible traffic jam. 730 and I was still stuck in very bad traffic. There was no sign of any movement. We were not even inching along. This was around the T nagar bus terminus. I was getting tense and almost biting my fingers off. Sathguru was waiting and I was nowhere near Sri Peetam. Plus I was imagining that darshan would get over and I still would be stuck in traffic.

All I had to do was surrender and stop worrying.

At 730 Shrihari called to ask what the position was. I told him that it was unlikely that I would make it for in time. He said he would tell Sathguru. Soon after my update suddenly the traffic moved just a little; that submission to Sathguru was a turning point. A bylane came into view on the left. Getting into this bylane was better than being stuck in this traffic. We just took the decision to get in without knowing where it lead us. But that road led us to Sri Peetam in minutes. Had we been on the right side of the traffic we would have missed that road and been stuck for much longer.

I reached Sri Peetam in time to distribute kumkum. Shrihariprasad was just going upstairs to tell Sathguru that I wouldn't be able to come.

When I think of this incident I wonder at Sri Sathguru's lilas.

- **Sprained ankle**

This happened very recently in Jan 2010.

We were travelling to Chennai taking the night flight. That evening I twisted my ankle and spent the next two days limping about. The pain was getting worse. But as long as I walked slowly it was quite ok. We reached the airport just in time and I was a little worried that I should be able to walk reasonably fast to catch the flight. Normally we had to walk quite a bit to get to the departure gate.

But to my wonderment it was the first gate in sight. I did not have to walk much at all. It was a total surprise.

Even in a small thing like this I got help from Sri Sathguru.

- There is always a meaning in what Sathguru says

It was in the month of Jan 2009. 26th to be precise. I was to leave for Dubai from Chennai that morning. The flight was scheduled to leave at 9.40 am and I was planning to leave home by 6.30. At around 5.30 there was a call from Sri Peetam and Shrihari informed my mother that Sathguru wanted to know if I could postpone my trip.

First of all getting a call that early from Sri Peetam was not normal. And not Sri Sathguru was asking me to postpone my trip. I wondered because normally prior notice is needed to change the ticket dates.

The first thing I did was wake up Srikumar and inform him of the situation. Srikumar said I should just obey what Sathguru says and we should try and do everything possible to ensure that. I tried the airport but was informed the airlines staff would only come after 6.30. Srikumar said he would try from Dubai. He would try doing something online. I wondered if I should go to the airport. Srikumar said there was no need for that. I just a little helpless when Srikumar called once again and asked me to repeat the Ref no of the ticket. He found the details and then exclaimed 'anyway you cant travel today'. I was taken aback and a little confused and asked 'Why?'. 'Because you are booked for 26th Feb and not 26th Jan' was his reply.

A moment's silence. Then both of us burst out laughing.

What Sri Sathguru said made sense now.



Coincidence or grace?

Sathguru today asked me if I had written down my experience and since I was taking the day train to Bangalore tomorrow, Sathguru asked me to write down some incidents, while travelling.

We have known Sathguru since we were introduced to God by our mother and from then till now Sathguru has been the only God to whom we could write our every days incident whether be it some day in school were I got some bad remarks from a teacher or parents scolding me at home - all of it used to go in black and white to Sathguru and every time there use to be an acknowledgement in one way or the other.

Since then we have only had experiences of Sathguru through out our life Sathguru's picture used to be with us through out, whether it be in our bag, on the calendar, or in the pencil box it was always there to protect us. I still remember the rainy day when few seniors at school pulled the pencil box out of my bag and they were throwing it around without giving it back to me, as i had just moved into secondary school and had a new "Hero" pen along with another pen, pencil, scale and stuff. I was feeling very sad and almost in tears when one of the guys missed the catch and my pencil box fell into a small puddle full of water right in the middle of the main road and just then some vehicle ran over it and have no idea how many other vehicles ran over it as I sat on the footpath and started to cry.

The seniors took off from the scene as I started to cry. As I walked towards the ditch to retrieve my box I still was in tears cause I was sure that I would be scolded at by mummy and dad for sure would not get a replacement for all the broken pens and pencils But as I opened my box to my surprise nothing had happened to the pen or the scale or the pencil , only a small bit from the corner of the box were Sathgurus picture was there was chipped of rest everything was intact Its only after getting to be with Sathguru and spending more time at Sri Peetam that I realize that Sathguru takes care of such small things in our life's by taking all the burden on Sathguru's self. I am sure that if it was not for Sathguru's black and white picture in my pencil box , the whole box with all its content would have been shattered with vehicles running over it I still have the picture with me and always carry it in my wallet.

With Sathguru is a daily experience not a single day that has passed without some experience for me or my parents in fact even my grand parents, even yesterday when Sathguru asked me to write down my experience I didn't have to think much as just yesterday morning I had a photo shoot for a print advert for Apollo Hospital Even there at the studio I could feel the influence of Sathguru because of which from a role of a compounder, I was moved into the role of a Doctor and then into a surgeon.

Sathguru teaches us on a daily bases through so many experience right from having the right Doctor and finding known people at the hospital when you reach there with broken bones to the auto driver who comes to your rescue at the right time.

I only pray that through out our lives we should be able to feel Sathguru's blessings and be able to differentiate between coincidence and the grace of Sathguru.



My Guru is here

Goodbye darkness. My Guru is here.

Many a curious person has asked me, "Who is your Guru?" "Where does She live?"
"What does She teach?"

- Who is your Guru?

Sunshine
Gentle sea breeze
Eternal forgiver
Antaryami
Anadha Rakshaka
Sakshath Daivam
Gnani
Saranagati personified
Teacher across millions of janmas
Akshayapathram
Invisible friend
Omnipotent Guide
Bhagavan
Krishna
Narayana
Charioteer of the lokas

- Where does She live?

Everywhere
Nowhere
Bhuvana Treya
Across past, present and future
With Narayana
With me
With millions of souls traversing the ocean of samsara
In my Ishta Daivam
In my pooja room
In my waking hours
In my sleep
In this life
In the millions past and the millions to come
In my breath
In my eyes
On my forehead chastened by Her lessons
In my heart filled with the wisdom of the Sages
In everything I know

- What does She teach

Saranagati

Dasa Bhava

God is not your servant

Call Narayana like Draupadi, Gajendra and Prahalada did, He will come

Qualify first to be worthy of God's grace

When there is darkness hold on to His feet. When He says He will help, He will. She knows it.

Be self-critical

You are not a policeman to the world

Ahimsa

Live a clean, good life

Truth alone triumphs. Nothing else does.

Bhakthi and devotion

Humility marks the beginning of awakening.

He can fill your heart if He finds space in it.

We are all sparks emanating from one Divine spark.

Look after your parents. They come first.

Grahashtas can practice Vairagya. She did it. Right?

Sanyasa is not about mere physical renunciation. It is about the spirit of detachment.

Do parayanam

Say the Vishnu Sahasra Namam

Learn the loftiest ideals of Gurubhakthi from the life of Sri Vishnu Mohan.

Waste Not

Mahalakshmi is order

Remember every action of yours good or bad comes back to you.

Listen

Control anger

Give up your ego

God can find many people to do his work. You are but an instrument.

Do everything as an offering to His lotus feet.

That is my Guru, my Sri Sathguru. What anecdotes can I share. Where do I start, what do I write, many are they. After all in many countless ways my Guru shows the light.

Enough to say that the whole life after Sathguru's advent is one large, continuing anecdote.

May I always be worthy to receive Her grace. As worthy as the cows who grazed, blissfully touched by the divine flute of Sri Krishna...





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