

Today's Words Are Only The Works of Yesterday

During the Thretha Yuga, when Narada asked Sri Ramachandra about the nature and characteristics of His Dasas and of the Saadhakas or spiritual aspirants, He answered as below:

“Listen Oh Narada, men who are My Dasas are full of Love; they always stand by Dharma or righteousness. They speak the Truth. Their hearts melt with mercy. They are devoid of wrong. They avoid sin. Their nature is well-founded. They will renounce everything gladly, They eat in moderation. They are engaged in doing good to others. They have no selfishness. They are worried by no doubts. They will not lend their ears to flattery. They are eager to listen to the praise of the good nature of others. They have beautiful, strong and holy character. Saadhakas are those who endeavour to acquire such qualities and possess such a

43

character. Now, I shall tell you about those who are *priya* (dear) to Me. Anyone who is engaged in Japa (repetition of Holy Name), Thapas, and *Vratha* (observant of vows), who has *Samyama* or Self-control, *Niyama* or discipline, anyone who has faith, patience, comradeship, kindness, and joy as well as unalloyed prema towards Me, is *priya* to Me.

“Now, about My real *Bhakthas*. Whoever, with *viveka* and *vairagya*, and *vinaya* and *vijnana*, (with discrimination and renunciation, with humility and wisdom) are aware of the knowledge of Reality, whoever are always immersed in the contemplation of My *leela* (sport, play), whoever dwells on My name at all times and under all conditions, and who sheds tears of love whenever the Lord's name is heard from any lip, they are My genuine *Bhakthas*.”

Thus answered Sri Rama to Narada. So, the Lord will protect in all ways and at all times those who worship Him in complete and uncontaminated *Bhakthi*—just as a mother protects her infants, a cow saves her calf from danger, and the eyelids guard the eyes, effortlessly and automatically. When the infant grows up into an adult, the mother will not pay so much attention to its safety. So too, the Lord does not pay much attention to the *Jnani*. The *Saguna Bhaktha* is like an infant of the Lord. So, it has no strength except the strength of the Lord. For the *Jnani*, his own strength is enough. Therefore, until one can rely on one's own strength, one must be an infant in the Lord's Hands, as a *Saguna Bhaktha*, isn't it? No one can become a *Nirguna Bhaktha*,

without having been a Saguna Bhaktha. So, Bhakthas should grow up like infants in the lap of the mother and thereafter, become Jnanis who can rely on their “own” strength and be free. Still, both have the same source of strength, the Mother. Those indeed are really fortunate who grasp this secret of the path of Devotion, who develop one-pointed Bhakthi and straighten the traits of their character, who transform themselves into infants in the lap of the Lord and who get everything done by him as He wishes.

Therefore, those who yearn to be Dasas, Bhakthas, Priyas and *Ananya Bhakthas* should take up the corresponding path and name and act and live accordingly; the Bhaktha should develop the above-said characteristics of devotion. The Priya should follow the Prema of the Lord. The Ananya Bhaktha has to surrender completely to the Lord. Mere reading and rolling on the tongue are of no avail. Ananda is the result of action only. This Ananda is not dependent on castes or race or sex. Even in those days, when Sri Rama came to Sabari, she asked him in the following manner, while Sri Rama was gladly partaking of the feast of roots and fruits, selected and reserved by Sabari for him after herself tasting every individual item. “Lord! I am but a woman, in addition, I am of feeble intellect. Above all, I am low-born. How can I praise You? I do not know what to do or how!” Then, Sri Rama smiled and said, “Sabari! My mission is only the kinship of Bhakthi. I have no kinship of race or caste. Of what use is it to have status, wealth and character, without Bhakthi? Like the cloud that

does not bear rain, which wanders about in the sky, these people without devotion are at the mercy of the winds, however much of status in caste, wealth, power, and fame they may possess. Bhakthas reach me through nine paths. Any one of them takes them to Me.” Then, Sabari prayed Sri Rama to tell her about the nine paths, and Sri Rama responded:

Sravanam (Listening to stories of God),
Kirtanam (Singing Name of the Lord),
Vishnohsmaranam (Remembering God),
Padasevanam (Serving the Feet of the Lord),
Vandanam (Reverence toward nature and all life),
Archanam (Ritual Worship),
Dasyam (Path of dedication and surrender),
Sneham (Befriending),
Atmanivedanam (Path of surrender).

If the devotee sincerely practises any one of these paths, he can attain Me. I am bound by these nine forms of Bhakthi. That is why you have been able to so easily obtain this opportunity of seeing, touching and speaking with Me, an opportunity which even Yogis find too difficult to get. You have realised Life’s purpose today. See! Today’s Words are only the Words of Yesterday!