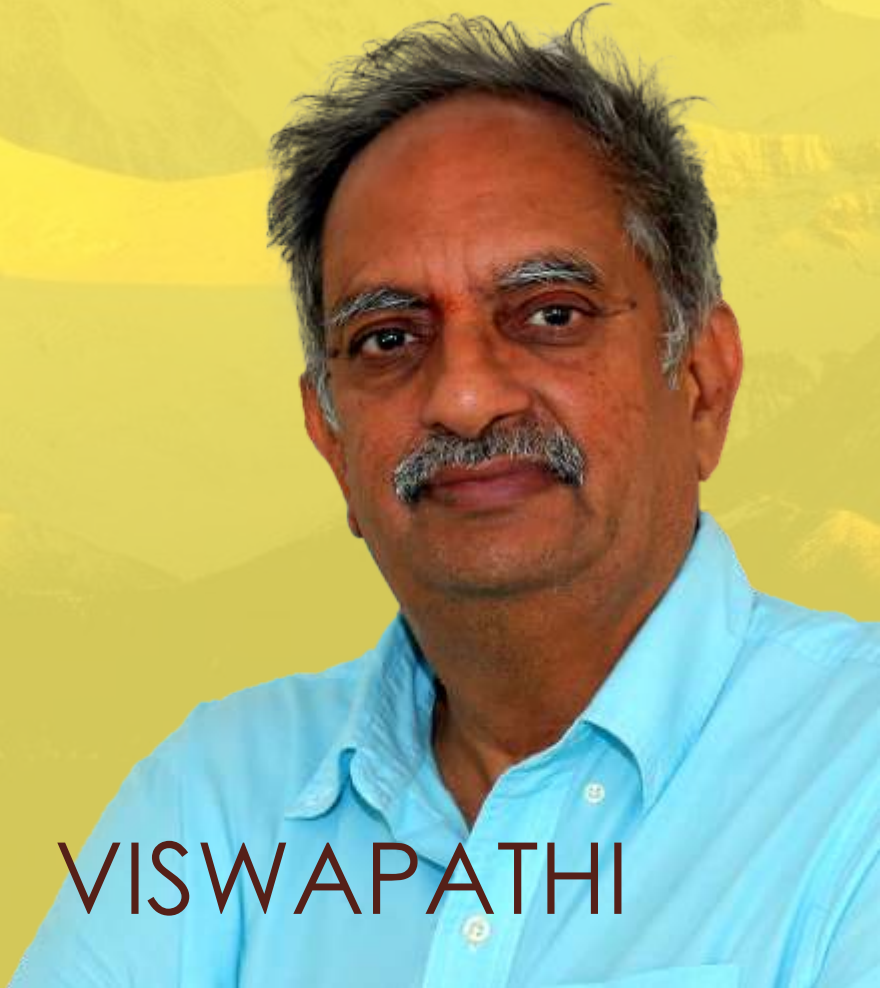


MET AGAIN

A Divine Voyage in to Past Lives

From Mystic to the material...From the infinite to the finite ...From the Himalayas to the plains...Viswapathi walks us through the fascinating journey of meeting several people from his previous lives again in the present birth...Met Again transports you to a different plane altogether



VISWAPATHI

MET AGAIN

MET AGAIN

(A Divine voyage into past lives)

VISWAPATHI

(Timmaraju Viswapathi Ramakrishna Murthy)



SHRI DESIGNS

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MET AGAIN

(A Divine voyage into past lives)

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I dedicate *Met Again* to the lotus feet of
Lord Sri Venkateswara in memory of
my late parents

Sri T.L. Narasimha Rao & Smt. T. Nagaratnamba

PREFACE

From times immemorial several questions have been bothering mankind. Who am I? Why am I here? What happens after we die? Is there life after death? How many times are we born? Are we born as human beings in every birth or as an animal in the wild? Am I born in the same country in every birth? Was I a king or a pauper in my earlier births? And why is it that I have to suffer so much when my neighbour lives so happily? Why is it that in spite of my best efforts I have to be content with only a small job whereas my college mate has risen to such high levels with lesser intelligence than me? Why is it that I am afraid of a cockroach but love to freely move around in an open jeep in an animal safari? Why is it that I am worried about small things in life even though I can take greatest pain or face major upsets in my plans?

Many such questions have always hovered in my mind...for that matter, at some time or the other in everyone's life. No one can firmly say that he has not been plagued by any of these questions at some point of time or other in their lives. One could be a king or a common man...an intellectual or an illiterate...but one would certainly be disturbed by such questions in one's mind in the course of one's life...anytime...either in childhood or as an adult... '*Met Again*' answers many such questions, many of your queries, doubts or even fears you have about your life... and of the Universe too.

I wrote '*Amrutha Darsanam*', a book in my mother tongue Telugu in 2019. It generated great interest in the readers and was read by lakhs of them in just about a month. And many told me it changed their perception of life. *Met Again* is an English translation of the book, '*Amrutha Darsanam*'. I have added some more chapters in the English edition, especially relating to my trips to the United States of America in the summers of 2018 and 2019 with various interesting experiences that I had while visiting several places during my stay.

To introduce myself, I am basically a post graduate in Electrical Engineering. I worked in the industry and teaching line until 1998. As a freelancer, I drew cartoons for the *Indian Express*, one of India's leading newspapers - in those days- from 1984-90. I recently brought out a collection of those cartoons in the form of a book. It received great public

response. In 1993 I developed interest towards *Vedic Sciences* and did lot of research into the application of *Vedic* principles to business organizations. It was then that I started selecting company names and designing logos based on *Vedic* principles which became my full time profession from 1998. Since 1998 I have designed logos for more than 6,000 organisations world-wide by applying the *Vedic* principles. By the grace of *Lord Srinivasa*, all the companies are running successfully.

I wrote my first book, '*Sri Srinivasa Mahatyam*' on *Lord Sri Venkateswara* of Tirupati in 2002. In 2005 by the grace of *Lord Sri Venkateswara*, I wrote '*Sri Venkateswara Vrata Kalpam*', a prayer book on *Lord Sri Venkateswara*. The Lord Himself appeared before me on the Tirumala Hills in His *Viswaroopam*, the all-encompassing form of the Supreme *Lord Sri Maha Vishnu*. The book has become very popular with the readers. It has been translated into 12 languages including French, German, Italian and Russian. Millions of people across the world have been reading it every Saturday irrespective of their religious beliefs. Miracles have been happening in people's lives after reading '*Sri Venkateswara Vrata Kalpam*.'

Since 2005, I have written 27 devotional books of which 16 are on *Lord Sri Venkateswara* alone. '*Srivari Darsan*', a book on Tirumala, written by me in 2018, has received international acclaim and is now kept in the libraries of the world's prestigious universities. '*Srivari Darsan*' is used as a

reference book by many professors in several universities across the world. I have also written many prayer books on many other *Hindu* Gods and Goddesses. All those books are simple to read and do not advocate the practise of any strict rituals. An interesting fact is that people of all religions have been reading those books.

I had several Divine experiences while writing those books. One day I had a Divine vision in which I saw where I lived in my earlier births. Not just that but also where I was born, what I did, whom I met, which places I moved etc. It was indeed a fascinating experience for me. Through that Divine vision I realised that I lived in the Himalayas in one of my earlier births. I also saw that a 108 people from different parts of the world came to me and spent few years in the Himalayan *Ashram* where I had lived in that birth.

Each one had met me in an interesting way in that birth. I also realised how and where they were born and how they came to the Himalayas and met me. And the most fascinating thing that I understood through that vision is that all the 108 people met me again in the present birth....yes, many of them have met me already and a few more are yet to get connected. I also understood where they took birth in the intervening period ...and how they lived in those births. Each one of them met me in the most fascinating of ways. They are now born into different religions and in different countries of the world. But they got connected to me again in the present birth because their soul remembered the

association they had with me while they met me in one of my earlier births in my Himalayan *Ashram* about 400 years ago.

In *Met Again* , you will read about how they met me...how we got connected even though we are born in different countries into different religions...it makes an interesting read ...it is surprising and unbelievable too...but it is true...and in fact... many out of the 108 met me and some more are going to meet me soon...and you could be one of them too! I have written not just about myself...but in general as well...how a person comes into our lives...someone becomes your husband or wife or brother or sister because they are connected to you in one of your earlier lives in some way...your soul knows the connection...but your mind does not...in *Met Again* , I have discussed about various incidents in people's lives from the perspective of earlier births...I am sure each of you, who reads the book, would have had similar experiences and similar thoughts at one time or the other in your lives.

I have also briefly discussed about the connection between human beings with the Cosmos and nature. We all feel very pleasant while on a vacation to a wild life sanctuary or even staying in a cabin deep in the forests. It is mainly because we all have lived in proximity to nature for millions of years. It is only in the last two thousand years to say so, that we distanced ourselves from nature and started living in modern buildings with modern facilities. But our soul still feels happy in the wild...why? It is because for millions of

years, in all our earlier births, we happily wandered in nature. It is just in the last 100 births or even less that we built the modern world and became an integral part of the same. *Met Again* discusses all those things and more...of course briefly and concisely.

I hope you will find the book interesting and thought provoking. You are most welcome to mail me your honest opinion on the book. I look forward to your esteemed opinion on how you felt reading it. You are most welcome to share your personal experiences too. Some of you might have had very interesting and fascinating experiences during the course of your lives. In fact some of you reading the book might know all these things and so much more.

I have changed the original names of the people and used fictitious names for privacy reasons. But the events and incidents mentioned are fully true. I thank each one of them for permitting me to write about them in the book. It is a blissful experience for me to get connected with all of them again in the present birth. It gives me great joy and happiness.

I thank my cousin Smt. Subha Sri for excellent translation of my original Telugu book '*Amrutha Darsanam*' into English and sister-in-law Smt. Radhika Dasu for helping me proof reading and suggesting wonderful captions for the chapters. I also thank Sri Sivaram for the excellent layout and Sri Satyanarayana, Vimal Printers for excellent printing of the book. I thank my wife

Smt.Rukmini and all family members for their support all through my life. I thank several noble friends for their continuous support to my activities.

It is nothing but the grace of *Lord Srinivasa* that I could write the book. I offer my sincere prayers to the Supreme Lord. I pray to *Lord Srinivasa* to shower His blessings on all of you. I pray to Him to bless you all with health and prosperity.

*Sri Lakshmi Srinivasa Kataksha Siddhirasthu
Sarvejana Sukhinobhavanthu
Samastha Kalyanani Bhavanthu*

VISWAPATHI
(T.V.R.K.Murthy)

Hyderabad
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AUTHOR'S NOTE

The names of individuals, their personal information, geographical location, their professions etc. have been changed to keep their privacy. But the events and incidents are true and factual. Any resemblance of these events or incidents in any others' or your's lives are purely coincidental and not intended.

Many anachronisms you find in *Met Again* should be understood from the angle that many of the events you read are in different time frames and in different planes too. They should not be seen through contemporary minds... I request you to read the book with a broader outlook so that you will grasp the essence of human life and it's association with the Cosmos and Nature and enjoy the book to the core. I also request you to read every chapter lest you miss the very chapter that reflects your life!

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Divine Vision

It was one of the most memorable days in my life...the most unforgettable day...the day the purpose of my present birth was revealed to me...to my soul...the day my soul got connected to the billions of planets and stars in the Universe...the day I received great Cosmic Energy from the Supreme Divine Force that is the very reason for the Universe to come into being...it was a pleasant morning ... like any other day...I sat in my office room in my apartment, on the ninth floor in an upcountry residential complex in the city of Hyderabad in India. ...as we stay in the corner most flat, the view of the sky was clear and perfect...I can see the sky from my chair itself as there is a big window across the opposite side...I was simply watching the early morning sky...blue and pleasant...and vibrant too...slowly it started drizzling a bit...a wonderful breeze swept across the

room...the window curtains were moving from left to right rhythmically... the wind was very pleasant... perhaps the perfect ambience for a Divine experience to unfold ...

The pleasant and wonderful wind brought a wave of Cosmic Energy in to the room...I was enjoying the beautiful weather, with small occasional drops of rain when suddenly my soul got connected to the Universe...it was an electrifying experience...a mesmerizing experience which cannot be described in words...instantly I got transported to a different plane altogether...I found myself in the Himalayas...beautiful snow around me...the window and the rain were no longer my focus...I was now on the Himalayan mountains...I could see great saints doing penance...some were walking slowly...they were glowing with the brightness of a thousand Suns...they had wonderful smiles on their faces...I was walking past them...with snow filled mountains and the great Nature around me...I could feel a great aura about the entire place...Cosmic waves engulfed the place...and then I saw a beautiful Divine *Ashram*...I went in and sat there...there was a mystic silence around me...I could see many saints and siddhas moving around in the *Asram*...some of them sat in meditation...some were discussing something in a low tone...everyone seemed to be filled with ultimate bliss...

I could see great saints of earlier *Yugas* there...*Maharshi Bharadwaja, Maharshi Viswamitra, Maharshi Vasishtha, Maharshi Atri*...I saw all of them...at one place; I also saw

the great *Vedavyas*...incarnation of *Lord Srimannarayana* Himself...And then suddenly a great Divine energy descended from the sky...it glowed with the energy of a million Suns...It stood before me for a while and again disappeared...I realized it to be none other than *Lord Siva* Himself...what a great Divine feeling!...the presence of several Saints and *Lord Maha Vishnu* and *Lord Siva per se* charged the surrounding air with great Cosmic Energy ...

I sat there and closed my eyes for a while...the moment I closed my eyes in that electrifying, most Divine atmosphere, I could see all my past births...where I lived in each birth, how I lived...what I did...who my parents and siblings were ...and who met me in those births...everything came as a flash to me ...in the Divine vision that I was blessed with by the Supreme Force, I could see all my earlier lives in sequence ...I was able to see and listen to conversations of people around me ...recognize the places...some of them were most beautiful and most serene ...I understood that in one such birth, I stayed in the same *Ashram* for several years...at that time 108 people from different parts of India and other countries came to my *Ashram* and met me...

I slowly visualized that all those 108 persons who met me then have been meeting me again in the present birth...many of them have already met me...in fascinating ways...some are yet to meet me...in the Divine vision I traversed several births...and saw several celestial happenings...I also saw many things that happened several centuries ago...I went

back several thousand years in time...the times of *Tretayuga* and *Dwaparayuga* as per the *Hindu* religion ... I saw many of them who lived then and were born again and again later, several times, in several geographical locations of the world...

The Divine vision continued for a long time... and suddenly I came back to the present physical world...the drizzle stopped...the morning sky was clear ...I looked at the time shown on my mobile...to understand how long I was on that Divine plane...I was transported into that plane for an hour...one hour in *our* time...but during that one hour on that plane, I travelled several millions of centuries...saw several civilizations...spanning several millions of years...the time on that plane was different...there was no time barrier...I could traverse the earlier *Yugas* that existed millions of years before...what a Divine experience indeed!...all of that did not go out of memory even after I came back in to the physical world...

I remember each and every bit of what I saw...they are all stored clearly in my mind...it was fascinating to see how those 108 people who came to me in the Himalayan *Ashram* took several births later and met me again in this birth...they were all born in different countries and different religions in different births...I saw how they lived in each birth...and many of them have met me over the last few years...and some are yet to meet me...but it is very interesting and unique in the ways they met me again in this birth...how those souls got connected to me again in the present birth is simply mindboggling...

Listen to your soul

Since then I travelled 'back in time' several times...and visualized the minute details of all those 108 persons... not only them...many others who met me in several earlier births too met me again...and some more are going to meet me in future...and you too could be one among them!... yes, why not...By the time you complete the last page of the book, you will realize that it could be possible that you too could be one among them...

in fact each and every person met me again in the most interesting of ways...in the present birth they all live in different states of India and in different countries of the world...some live in very, very far off countries ...there was no way they could get connected with me...still they all got connected... Because all their souls knew where I am

now...their souls know the connection each of them has with me-- when I was in the Himalaya *Ashram*... so their souls brought them into contact with me again...and they felt very happy...they were all surprised at the way they got connected again...

Sometimes, we meet a stranger at some place and we get connected to him/her immediately...it could be your fellow traveller in a flight or a waiter at a restaurant ...we somehow feel we know him/her previously even though the fact is that it is the first time we meet him/her...but we do not feel we met a stranger...we feel very comfortable talking to him/her...we feel very pleasant and like to spend couple of more hours with him/her than what we had thought initially...many times we wonder how could we feel so close to him/her...the reason is simple...we have definitely met him/her in one of our earlier births... in one of the last hundred or even two hundred births ...he/she could have been one of our parents in that birth...or our spouse or one of our siblings...or our close friend...or our college mate ...or the teacher we liked most at school...or the professor who helped to get our degree at the university...

The soul remembers that person...it immediately recognizes him/her...but our mind cannot recognize... the soul tries to tell the mind about that person...but the mind cannot understand it's message...the mind, however, gets the feeling at a very subtle level, that he/she is very familiar to us...it happens to many of us several times...Our soul in

its travel through millions of births remembers several of such people ...It knows where, in which places, we are born...but our mind cannot understand it...but it feels familiar when it meets a particular person whom we might have met in our previous births...

sometimes when we visit a new place too, we feel we were there once...it is true we were there in one of our earlier births...the soul recognizes the same...it feels the familiarity...but the mind cannot specifically say why it feels happy...our soul always tries to communicate with our mind...but the mind in the present physical body cannot understand the soul's communication...after acquiring *positive karma* in several thousand births one starts understanding the soul's communication with the mind...such people recognize the places and the people from previous births...some call it as *sadhana* ...or meditation...if we do *sadhana* or meditation in several hundreds of births, then we reach higher levels and start not only to understand and listen to our soul but also communicate with it...

The Supreme Force...
Divya Sakthi

At the very beginning, a Supreme Power existed...it was the Supreme Power alone and nothing else that existed...It is the Supreme Force and Supreme Source of infinite energy...let us call the Supreme Power as *Divya Sakthi* or *Maha Sakthi*...different religions and faiths call it by different names...for our understanding, I shall refer hereafter, to the Supreme Power as *Divya Sakthi*...*Divya Sakthi* has no form...it has the energy of a billion Suns... it existed at the beginning of the Universe...the *Divya Sakthi* has encompassed the whole of the Universe...Several thousands of Suns, Moons, several millions of planets and stars emerged from the Supreme Power...The *Hindu* Gods like *Brahma*, *Vishnu*, *Maheshwara* too emerged from the *Divya Sakthi* only...in fact, all Gods emerged from the Supreme Force only...all

the Gods too are forms of the great energy that which normal human beings cannot even imagine...they are of infinite energy...if the Gods are of infinite energy, think of the *Divya Sakthi* which is the origin of all the Gods...All religions came much later...in the beginning everyone lived peacefully...in *sanatana dharma*...as one beautiful and loving society...

It is the *Divya Sakthi*, the Supreme Force, that created all the 84 lakh species at the beginning...The Supreme Force was all alone in the beginning... in ultimate bliss...with infinite energy...infinite strength...then it thought why not share the happiness...then it created the beautiful nature...mountains, rivers etc...then 33 crores Gods revered by *Hindus* emerged from within the Supreme Force, at its own Will...the *Divya Sakthi* then created 84 lakhs species...human beings, several species of animals, birds, insects...all living and non-living things...all the billions of Suns, Moons, Planets, Stars; several celestial bodies emerged from the *Divya Sakthi*...

what we can see with our naked eye and that, which even the most powerful telescope, cannot see ...both are created from the *Divya Sakthi*...It is the *Divya Sakthi*, the Supreme Force that keeps the Universe going... and it is alone responsible for the perfect movement of all planets and controls all the celestial movements ...we have millions of Suns...and Moons...and Stars...each in their respective orbits...but none in collision with the other...it is the

Supreme power that keeps them in order...in fact, it is the *Divya Sakthi* that is the basic cause of all Creation...

Science knows only about a limited number of Suns, Moons, Planets and Stars...But our ancient civilizations knew much more than what present day Science knows...On some of the stars some great celestial bodies of higher energies exist...those very powerful celestial bodies take human birth once in few years...some to impart great wisdom to the mankind...some to give a good direction to mankind...and some to protect the Earth from some natural calamities...Some of the great spiritual personalities we know in the modern times like *Sri Ramana Maharshi* , *Sri Kabirdas*, *Sri Tulasidas*, *Sri Tukaram* , *Santh Gnaneswar* etc. in the *Hindu* Religion and some great thinkers and intellectuals born in different religions have descended on the Earth from some planets...they took human form for a particular cause and then went back to the planets from where they emerged...some call them *Mahapurusha*, some call them *Angels* ...

In fact, several such great people descended in earlier civilizations too...and in several religions and several faiths...each religion calls them by different names...they are born with great Cosmic Energy...they do only what they plan to do and thereafter leave the physical world...they can do many more bigger things that what they have done...but they only do particular things and live only for a particular pre-ordained period...which is why some of them leave the

physical world at a younger age too...the moment they complete their mission they leave the physical body...

In fact, some of those great celestial energies have been born in the present age as Scientists and have been giving the world a new dimension....or as doctors who serve thousands with great affection and human touch...or as great reformers...or as great preachers who change the society, to march forward in a new and positive direction...we find several such noble persons in the course of history...we knew them as ordinary men/women only...but it is not so...they are all from the celestial world coming here to be one among us...to shower great affection on all of us...that's why they are remembered and revered even after several hundreds of years that they left the world...

And one more thing which is to be understood here...even though they have all lived in different times in different geographical locations in different religions, they are all connected together by Cosmic communication. They talk among themselves in the mode of Cosmic communication of souls-it is difficult for ordinary human beings even to perceive the same-they discuss among themselves even today. They might be on different planets in different galaxies. Some take the form of planets and stars themselves... they are not visible to us. But if we are great *Sadhakas*, doing meditation at the highest level, leading a peaceful life with positive thoughts, then it is possible that we might get connected to some great soul one day...

It is only when we get connected to such great souls travelling across the galaxies that we see great changes in our mind set...our attitude...we suddenly start seeing life and things around us from a different perspective...in fact when you get the blessings of one such soul even for a few minutes, it changes your life completely...you emerge as a new person from then on instantly...I have seen several such persons located in different countries in the present times...many of them do not like to share their special experiences with everyone...they treat such experiences as utmost Divine and keep it to themselves...

One reason for such people not favouring the limelight is they believe that they may lose their serenity the moment people come to know about their powers...society was different about 100 years ago...such noble people used to be revered and were not disturbed...but in modern times it is difficult for such great souls to come out openly...thousands of people would be ready to oppose them...criticize them...that's why they prefer to keep a low profile and live happily...they silently pray for the upliftment of mankind...if we are blessed we might come to know about them...otherwise not...who knows, one such great soul could be living as an ordinary primary school teacher in your locality...or as a doctor in your neighbourhood...

*Sadhana...catalyst for
exhaustion of karma*

I want to tell you one more wonderful thing here... in order to get connected to such souls, it is not necessary for us to do great meditation, yoga etc.... we might have done great *sadhana* in several hundreds of previous lives...but we are now born as ordinary people in ordinary families...growing up in the religion we are born into...going to school...doing all routine things...we might not even know basics of meditation or prayer.. but we will be chosen by a great soul for a particular purpose, particular mission because we have done great *sadhana* in our previous births ...we will be chosen by a great soul to give something great to the world- that is ordained to happen through us...we may perhaps be very ordinary people in our present lives...but the great *positive karma* we acquired grants us with the blessing to be chosen by the great souls...when we

have many scientists at any given point of time, why is it that only a few invent remarkable things...why is it that a college dropout makes it so big in present times...how is it that some doctor at random invents a new medicine when more qualified or more experienced doctors are unable to...it is solely because some great soul picked them up to pass on some great knowledge to the society through them...

The person could be born into any religion and in any geographical location...for many of us it could be astonishing that a lesser mortal could do something big...but he'd be able to do it solely because he did some great *sadhana* in his previous births...or lived in the most simplest of lifestyle, doing good things in hundreds of births...that is his sole qualification...to be chosen by a great soul for a particular job... a particular mission...

A college dropout starts a firm and takes it to the level of a billion dollar company...whereas several hundreds of Ph.D.graduates of most reputed universities struggle to be successful in start-ups or in their profession...we often wonder how that college dropout could make it that big in contrast to a thousand brilliant post graduate engineers who could not...it is simply because he might have done great deeds in his earlier births and thus is well qualified to do something big in the present birth...what we see is only his present life...none of us including him knows of his earlier births...how he lived...where he lived...how pious a life he led...how great a service he did to the society in his earlier

births...all that we see is the present birth..... what he is now...and wonder how a college dropout without any formal schooling, without undertaking any special course in a particular field made it very big.....

It is so with several others who excel in various fields and get great awards and recognition in those fields...all those persons might have had done extraordinary service to society, and led the most pious lives in earlier births...therefore, they are blessed by some great souls in the present birth for all those great deeds done in several hundreds of previous births...

Let me tell you one important thing here...*sadhana* does not mean performing great rituals like *Yagnas* or *Yagas* as in Hinduism or some other rituals in other religions...*sadhana* means living a simple life, honestly, doing good to the society, thinking good of everyone around, being happy always, taking everything that happens in your life positively, living with positive emotions, never speaking ill of anyone, longing to serve more and more people always...if you follow all the things mentioned above, or many of them for several births, you are the real *sadhaka*...this is what is *sadhana* in the real sense ...you become qualified for becoming a great soul...your soul becomes enlightened...you get elevated to higher planes...and you do great things for society...actions and deeds that makes millions of people happy...

At the very beginning, the whole Universe was one...no geographical boundaries existed...no particular country existed...there were no religions at all ... everyone used to live harmoniously...and live happily in nature...along with nature...along with all beautiful things in nature...we lived on mountains, in the forests, by the side of the rivers, lakes surrounded by many beautiful animals and wonderful birds ...we lived for several millions of years happily in harmony with all kinds of species...then slowly greed started to enter the human being's mind...a thought struck him one day; 'why not own some of the beautiful things?'...man simply enjoyed all the beautiful things in nature till then...honey from the bees, milk from the cows, fruits from the trees, meat from other animals etc...

Thereafter, he started acquiring things...the desire to own became stronger and stronger...slowly he started to keep cattle...it gave rise to quarrels among fellow men... the one who had more cattle was considered stronger...and slowly the struggle for ownership started among people...and then after some time they started forming groups...over several years it led to the birth of many religions, many faiths , many sects...many Gods too...and then people started conquering land...making geographical boundaries...forming kingdoms...from small hamlets to empires...and in the modern era the kingdoms disappeared ...and then came several countries each with specific geographical boundaries... we all know the rest of the history...

What I am driving at is that, all those people took several births later...initially people were not born into a religion in course of the cycle of births...but in their later births, when religions came in to being, those souls were born into different religions by virtue of their repeated births millions of times...it is to be understood that we are not born always into a particular religion and in the same country...or the same gender ...always remember every soul is unique ... a soul takes different births in its journey...a person is born several millions of times in different places ...sometimes as an animal too...not necessarily as a human being...if you did several misdeeds for several hundreds of births, you would thus acquire bad *karma* and take birth in the animal kingdom for say 100 or 200 births, suffer in various ways and then perhaps obtain birth as a human being...

God gives you a chance again to use your discretion and do good things...He is kind enough to give not just one more birth to reform... Sometimes, He gives you a chance to reform yourself in a span of more than 500 births...if you still do not change, you will be born again as an animal or a bird or as an insect and remain forever in that form and will never come back to getting a birth as a human being...

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*Happiness is living...
not existing!*

We all have travelled through various civilizations... we were born in the times of the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* too...according to *Hindu* system we have four *Yugas*...namely *Krutha Yuga*, *Treta Yuga*, *Dwapara Yuga* and *KaliYuga*...all the four *Yugas* repeat themselves again and again...we are all born in all the *Yugas*...taking births repeatedly at some place in the Universe...who knows if you were in the Divine company of *Lord Sri Krishna* or *Lord Sri Rama* in your earlier births... in fact, who knows if you yourself were a great king in one of your earlier births...or a great personality like Abraham Lincoln or Winston Churchill or Sigmund Freud or Jean Paul Sartre or Charlie Chaplin...Yes, you could have been a famous person in your earlier births...if you closely analyse your thoughts, you note that sometimes the thoughts coming

up in your mind are associated with some renowned personality of yesteryears...It is because either you were the person himself/herself or closely associated with him/her in some way or the other in one of your earlier births ...

I had a friend who always wanted to watch movies relating to the World War...He used to completely get immersed in the movies while watching them...He had so much liking for the World War movies that anything related to the World Wars, fascinated him...If he accidentally came across a photo related to one of the World Wars, his face glowed with inexplicable joy...One day while in deep meditation, I found an answer to his behaviour...He was none other than an Air Force Commander in one of the World Wars !...even though he is born now in a different country into a different religion, his soul carries those memories in its sub conscious state...so he gets attracted to anything related to the World Wars... the soul thus carries the memories of a particular incident it had experienced earlier—could be even hundred births ago...

I found that some people who have a great fear for travel on sea, died in one of their earlier births, due to some water related peril...either drowned accidentally while swimming...or a vehicle that they were travelling in could have fallen into a river...the mind in the present birth does not know anything of that incident...but the soul remembers ...and in one's subconscious state, one develops a fear for journey on water... one cannot even see a movie related to seas...so deep is the impact of certain incidents on the soul.

Some great saints are doing penance for several hundreds of years on the Earth... some of them are in the Himalayas... some are in the mountains of California... some in the Alps mountains... some in the thick forests of India, USA, Canada, Germany etc...they are not visible to the naked eye...they are in Divine form...and sometimes they give *darsan* to *sadhakas* and pious people among us...they can take any form. They travel in the astral plane .They could be in the Himalayas now and the next second they could be in the caves of Shastha mountains, California. I met some of them when I travelled to another plane, while in deep meditation. All the great saints are always in contact with each other. The way they communicate with each other is beyond our comprehension.

There exists a great Cosmic Energy in the Universe. The Cosmic waves are so powerful that the modern science is yet to understand, even to the least possible extent, a millionth about them, leave alone inventing an instrument to measure or record the same...the *Vedas* in Hinduism are called *Sruthis*...Ancient *Rishis*, when in great meditation, heard the *Vedas* through the Cosmic waves of highest level, wrote whatever they heard- from the realms of the Universe-- on palm leaves...In fact, in the initial days, all the *Vedas* were given to the next generations in *Guru Sishya parampara*... from teacher to the student...and they were written on palm leaves much later...unfortunately we lost many of them over the years.

We should always try our best to do good deeds and live an honest life...there is no point in repenting at the end of our lives, while fighting to survive in the intensive care unit of a hospital. Nothing would reduce our suffering and pain at that stage except the great positive *karma* that we may have acquired in several earlier births...we might have lived in palatial bungalows...owned private jets...even possessed our own islands...we might have had a fleet of cars...and tens of workers at our beck and call...but would any of these things reduce our suffering...can we transfer our agony or pain to any one of our servants? Absolutely not...

We might be in the world's best hospital and in the hands of world's leading medical professionals...But it is we and only our body that undergoes the suffering...no good hospital or best doctor can transfer our pain to a medical device or another person...so what mitigates our suffering at that hour?...how can we reduce our suffering?...is there a way we could feel serene at such critical time in our lives?...yes, there is a way...perhaps several ways , to remain calm and composed even in such most distressing situations in your life...read the following chapter and you may find answers to some of these questions.

*Happiness lies not in standing
with the mighty but in sitting
with the miserables...*

A few years ago I went to see an elderly gentleman in an intensive care unit in a hospital...His situation was very pathetic...he was on nasal feeding...he was unable to talk properly...but one thing surprised me...there was not a drop of water in his eyes...he did not cry...The gentleman suffered all through his life...no proper job...no house of his own...with great difficulty, he raised his three children...there were many a time when he starved ...with no food for more than a couple of days...but when I went to see him there was no fear of death on his face...in fact, he tried to smile...I just spoke a few words of consolation and asked how he could smile even in the most pathetic situation with so many electrodes on his chest...he then requested the nurse to remove the nasal pipe for a while and narrated a small incident to me...

“Dear Sir, he said, “ Namasthe... an incident that happened about twenty years ago while I was about 35 years of age comes to my mind...I was in dire straits then...I did not have enough money even to eat ...one day with great difficulty I procured rupees ten...I went to a hotel to have some snack with the money...suddenly a beggar came to me and asked for money...he looked very weak ... looked dazed...did not even have the strength to talk ...I then asked him what he would do with the money...he told me it was a week since he had eaten anything...immediately I took him to a nearby hotel and ordered South Indian tiffin for him...he felt very happy and ate to his content...I saw that he had been really without food for a long time...Just then the hotel waiter asked me, “Sir...what about you? ...what will you eat? ...what do you want to order Sir? You also look hungry”...

I was a bit surprised at the waiter’s questions...I told him I was not hungry...he said emphatically, “Sir, please do not lie...you are also hungry...I know Sir”...then I frankly told him 'see my dear friend, I have only ten rupees with me...so I ordered tiffin worth that ten rupees for the beggar...I will have water for today...do not worry about me; thanks for your concern”...the waiter left without uttering a word...he came back with a plate of hot *Idlis*. “Sir, please eat the *Idlis*...do not worry about the payment...I will not include it in the bill...as the hotel is full of customers , my manager will not notice it...Please sir, kindly eat the idlis...I can give

you only this much”...tears rolled into my eyes Viswapathiji ! “I saluted the humaneness in him...the God in him.”...

“Dear Viswapathiji, from the time I have been admitted to the intensive care unit, I remembered only the beggar's face eating the tiffin...and the waiter's smiling face...whenever doctors pierce my nerve for giving an injection, I am simply reminded of those two faces...and I am able to forget all the pain...those two faces give great happiness to my mind...my mind feels so happy that it does not sense the suffering of the physical body.”

I was really moved by what he told me. ..I folded my hands into a *Namaskar* to the elderly gentleman and took leave of him...See how small things give great happiness forever...Happiness lies in giving and not in taking...and many times happiness lies in doing small things...buying an item worth just two dollars ...you find great bliss in eating a two dollar burger sometimes than a 500 dollar worth lunch at a five star hotel...just think of the day in your childhood when your father bought a pen for you...how happy you were!!...you were so happy with it as if you owned the whole world...today you may buy a branded pen worth 200 dollars...but it does not give you that joy... Always remember *happiness lies not in standing with the mighty but in sitting with the miserables...*

Ultimate happiness always comes with a human touch...after all, either you could be born as a billionaire or a housemaid... a *Hindu* or a Christian...your emotions are the

same; both of you laugh in the same way... both of you also cry in the same way ...both of you have the same number of limbs...whether you take a flight or a train, both of you reach your respective destinations on time.....happiness is a state of the mind...we cannot buy it even with million dollars in our pocket...always try to find happiness in small things...that which gives you the ultimate bliss...looking at a beautiful flower...enjoying a small walk as it drizzles, without an umbrella...eating your favourite snack at a roadside eatery...talking to the gardener at the national park...offering a seat to a fellow passenger...those things give you great happiness...donate a 50 dollar note to a beggar and give a 5,000 dollar hike to your manager...and see who would be happier for a longer time...the beggar would remember you for ever...whereas your manager could sulk the very next day with a feeling that he should have got at least 7,500 jump with respect to his salary, if not 10,000 as he had expected !...this is human weakness...human emotions...

*When the ‘Sage of Kanchi’
blessed me...*

In 2002, *MahaSwami Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati* of *Kanchi Math*, India, appeared to me in a Divine dream and reminded me of all the works I had to do henceforth in my life. He had also told me that the time had come to start working on them. Kanchi Swamiji is revered as the incarnation of *Lord Siva*...He had travelled across India and had led an austere life...he was very pious and simple... *Mahaswami Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati* of Kanchi is one of the greatest souls who lived and wandered on the soils of India. He is the glorious incarnation of a great otherworldly energy on the Earth.

Divine energies from other galaxies have incarnated on the Earth at different times as great human beings and have endeavoured to propel the human race towards the path of

Dharma (virtue). All the great souls came with great powers, of which we barely know anything. They performed only the work for which they descended and never spoke about where they came from or what powers they possessed. We have all heard of *Sri Adi Sankaracharya* who lived for a mere 32 years, but travelled all over India from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and gave us many Divine hymns (*Stotras*)!

What is not known is that He certainly possessed a thousand times more power than what He manifested. If He had so wished, He could have bestowed on us much more than the hymns and treatises He left us with. But as a Divine incarnation, He had His work spelt out. He lived on the Earth for only 32 years and returned to His galaxy thereafter. Thus, over thousands of years, many such great men and women have taken birth and lived amidst us for a period of time chosen by them, and then, having completed their chosen work, they returned to their own worlds.

As mentioned before, all the 33 million Gods of the world are creations of the Divine energy! Even the *Rishis* (sages) who lived in different ages have emerged from the same Divine energy! But each one was materialized from a different level of that energy. When such great saints themselves could not grasp the nature of the Divine source of Creation in its entirety, it is no wonder and no cause for sorrow that it is beyond our comprehension.

The Himalayas are one of the most sacred places on the Earth. Several Divine beings assume Divine forms and roam around in those mountain ranges. They are rarely visible to

the human eye. Some of those beings come to the Earth from other worlds and wander around in sacred places like the Himalayas, Varanasi, Tirumala, Srirangam, Vaishno Devi, Mathura, Brindavan etc. in their Divine forms and go back. We come across such great people in some form if we have earned a lot of good *karma* in our previous lives. Sometimes we may not even recognise them! But the moment they come into our life, all our troubles disappear for good. We interpret the sudden change in different ways, for instance, as coincidences or miracles.

Once when I was in *Shirdi*, I saw an old man roam in the market, selling toys for children. He moved amidst the devotees with toys in his hand, but did not approach anyone in particular. Meanwhile, a couple holding a child passed by, in front of me. They called out to the old man and asked him for a toy for the child. The child had been suffering from an unknown illness since many years. The parents had visited many holy places till then to pray that their child's illness be cured, and had finally landed in Shirdi. Saibaba intended to cure the child's illness. He, therefore, appeared in the form of the old man and handed the child a toy with his own hands.

The child's illness vanished as soon as Saibaba's hand touched him. In a few days, the child regained his full health. But the parents did not know that it was Saibaba Himself in the guise of the toy seller! They assumed that their innumerable trips to several holy places had finally yielded result and could not fathom that it was Saibaba Himself who

had met them that day and blessed the child. Many devotees go through such experiences in their lives every day.

Some time ago when I had been to Tirumala, I sat down on the steps in front of the temple. I was very restless that day for some unknown reason. A devotee who walked by, suddenly came up to me and gave me and my wife Rukmini some *Prasadam* (sweet offering to God). We accepted it with our eyes closed in reverence and put it in our mouth. That was it! In a few minutes, my mind was completely relaxed and peaceful. The devotee was none other than *Lord Srinivasa* Himself! In this way, the Lord Himself blesses many people on the Tirumala Hill by appearing to them in the guise of a normal devotee. In many other holy places too, the deity of that place blesses the people who come there with great faith and belief, by appearing to them in some form or the other.

When we meditate deeply with a peaceful mind, we see many wonderful sights. As we go deeper into the meditative state, we soon forget all that happens around us. We neither hear sounds, see objects, nor even smell anything. Our whole body experiences an inexplicable bliss. When we reach that level of meditation, a number of Divine experiences occur within. We come to know who we are and where we have come from. Our relationship with the world -with our friends and relatives becomes transparent to us. And once we are aware of the truth, no harm can befall upon us in the physical world.

Sri Venkateswara Vratha kalpam
A pooja book that has turned into a
popular scripture

I have penned 25 devotional books so far, of which, interestingly, 16 are on *Lord Venkateswara* of Tirumala alone. I wrote my first book, '*Srinivasa Mahatyam*' in 2002 which took me nearly 8 months to write. I took a vow and slept on the bare floor every day during that time. I did not travel anywhere during that period except for a week's visit to Tirumala where I wrote a portion of the book while staying on the sacred Hill. The Lord Himself appeared in my dream to guide me over the design of the cover page and the inside page- which photos of His could be used- The book is now being read daily by many of *Lord Srinivasa's* devotees.

After a few years, in 2005, *Lord Sri Venkateswara* blessed me in a dream in which He ordained me to pen down '*Sri Venkateswara Vrata Kalpam*', a puja book on the Lord. On

receiving His Divine order, I went to Tirumala and sat down in front of the temple, eyes closed in meditation. There, the temple's deity--- *Lord Sri Venkateswara*, graced me with His *Viswaroopam* (universal form of the Lord), His form transcending the heaven and the Earth behind the temple. The experience was so captivating that I forgot myself completely for a few moments. I had no inkling of where I was or what I was doing.

Even though devotees thronged all around me, I was not aware of their presence at all. I could hear no sounds. I felt a Divine energy coursing through my body. *Viswaroopam* is the Omni form of the Lord – all inclusive of the Gods and Goddesses of the world- that emanate from Him. I cannot say that it was the Cosmic manifestation of either *Sri Narayana or Parameswara or Durga Devi*. The Divine sight and experience that I was blessed with on that day is beyond words.

That day, I saw the multitude of Gods in the Creation and the Divine energy that is at the root of this very Creation . I saw in that Divine energy all the deities, oceans, hills and valleys, rivers, trees, human beings, birds and animals, planets and constellations and many more. With that vision, I was reminded of all the things I had to do in my future life. Thus, I was blessed on that day with the vision of the Divine energy to which the world owes its origin.

Ever since then, no matter where I am, when I close my

eyes and reach a deep meditative state, that Divine power appears to me in my heart in all its glory. Every time I am graced by that vision, several Gods and sages chant *stotras* (hymns) in His praise, which echoes in my body as Divine vibrations. It is the state in which we find everlasting bliss. The body feels lighter and wanders about on a different plane.

At that moment, the truth that the Divine energy and we are one and the same becomes crystal clear. The great energy and consciousness that pervades the entire world is also within us. This becomes amply evident if we are able to meditate deeply and leaves us with unbounded joy. It releases us completely from the cycle of birth and death or '*Samsaara*.'

Tirumala is such a powerful and sacred place because of the Divine energy pervading the *Ananda Nilayam* (main temple complex) on the Tirumala hills. In ancient times, when some great sages performed penance or '*Tapas*' there, they too had been blessed with the Divine sight. In *Treta Yuga*, when Rama came to Tirumala, traversing the *Sheshachala* Hills in search of Sita, the Divine energy was experienced by Him as well. Similarly, when some celestial beings came to know that the Divine energy, that which is at the heart of Creation resides in the Tirumala hills, they stayed there for a long time and performed penance to obtain a vision of the Divine power. The Divine energy prevalent at that place attracts lakhs of devotees to Tirumala every day.

Devotees from several countries all over the world are attracted to that power. As I said before, that power does not symbolise one God. It is the source of all Creation, even before the existence of *Brahma*, *Vishnu* and *Shiva*.

The Tirumala hill is awash with magical waves due to the presence of such miraculous energy in that region. Even today, many Gods wander here, in Tirumala, worshipping the Divine energy. The idol that we see inside the Tirumala temple is the same Divine force! As it is difficult for lay people to behold the great energy, it has manifested itself in the form of the stone idol. Since that Divine power encompasses all Gods and Goddesses, the idol has been worshipped as different Gods from time to time – as *Parameswara*, *Sri MahaVishnu*, *Shakti* and *Sri Subrahmanyeswara*.

Devotees belonging to different traditions identify the God of their faith as the idol in Tirumala. Although we currently worship the idol in *Ananda Nilayam* as the incarnation of *Sriman Narayana*, He appears to some devotees as *Parameswara*, *Shakti*, *Sri Narasimha* or *Sri Subrahmanyeswara*.

Many great saints and noble souls have been able to visualise the all-encompassing Divine energy in their inner vision. Thereafter, they accomplished many great tasks for the well-being of the world. However, many of them did not reveal their Divine experiences publicly because it is

something that an ordinary human being can barely comprehend. But it is definitely possible for anyone to visualise the Divine energy in their heart through the good *karma* earned over several births, by leading a life of purity, by associating with Gurus and by facing life with equanimity.

Thanks to the grace of the Divine power, in later days I went on to write several other books including '*Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Vratam*', '*Sri Ananda Anjaneya Vratam*', '*Sri Ramaraksha Vratam*', '*Sri Maheswara Vratam*', '*Sri Subrahmanya Vratam*', '*Sri Subha Durga Vratam*', '*Sri Sairaksha Vratam*', '*Sri Jnana Saraswati Vratam*' and '*Sri Krishna Vratam*'. This was possible only due to the blessings of all those Gods.

Aksharam parabrahma swaroopam... means the words we write or utter are a form of the Supreme Force ... When we utter a word; the sound vibrations carry powerful energy. Especially, some groups of letters are much more powerful. That is what is meant when we say that our *mantras* we chant are extremely powerful and are vibrant with great energy. The stories in the above-mentioned books that I have written also carry a similar power. Millions of people worldwide have been reading those books and have been going through many Divine experiences every day. They are leading prosperous and happy lives, getting their wishes fulfilled. Many people also read those books just to gain peace of mind and to stay peaceful and calm.

The notable thing here is that the book, “*Sri Venkateswara Vrata Kalpam*” has been translated not only into Indian languages like Hindi, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam, but also into French, German, Italian and Russian. People from those countries too are undergoing great experiences upon reading the stories in the book. The power of those stories and the letters that make up those stories is apparent from the fact that anybody, irrespective of religion or caste, who reads the book, “*Sri Venkateswara Vrata Kalpam*” is able to experience its Divinity and earn His blessings. It goes without saying that all this is nothing but the Grace of that Divine power. Another book that I wrote is “*Sri LakshmiNarasimha Vratam*.” That book also brought about wonders in many families. And so also the other Vratams.

Before I met with the 108 souls...

The *Ashram* in the Himalayas where I resided during one of my births that I mentioned at the very outset was a wonderful place. It was surrounded by beautiful and pristine nature. White swans meandered along in a beautiful pond in the middle of the *Ashram* and birds of many hues dwelled on the trees in the *Ashram*, singing mellifluous songs. The 108 people who arrived there used to be occupied with austere practices every day. Gods would appear in the sky at night in their radiant resplendence. Many Gods would also wander around the *Ashram* in their Divine forms. A number of great sages paid visits to the *Ashram* from time to time.

The 108 people who came to the *Ashram* had hitherto led pure lives and earned abundant merit; consequently,

acquired great amount of positive *karma*. Many of them led simple lives; they came from different parts of India and abroad and could come to the *Ashram* on account of the positive *karma* they had acquired in their previous lives. The *Ashram* was situated deep inside the Himalayas and was inaccessible to normal people. Many *Yogis* and *Siddhas* used to come there every day in their sublime bodies. As such, the environment in the *Ashram* was always calm and peaceful.

All those who came to the *Ashram* led a virtuous life and tried to realise God as long as they were there. A few people even maintained silence throughout their sojourn. People stayed there for varying periods of time – some lived there for ten years while others made the *Ashram* their home for over sixty years. However, all those 108 people had taken birth several million times before and led normal lives, committing acts of good and evil, due to which they are destined to take birth again a few more times. But, owing to the Divine grace they gained during their stay at the Himalayan *Ashram* and their tryst with several great persons there, they will not have many more rebirths in the physical world.

The *karma* that they have earned over many births will soon come to an end in just a few more lives. This is also why many of them have been facing numerous troubles in the present life. Some are facing several financial problems...some have severe health issues...some are suffering from different psychological disorders, some are

suffering from severe illnesses, some others are facing humility from close ones, some have been separated from their spouse and are living in dire situations...all the 108 people from the Himalayan *Ashram* are facing such severe problems in their present life only because their 'negative karma', accumulated in several hundreds of earlier births, is getting exhausted speedily...it is for this reason even though they are very honest and living a sincere life in the present birth, I have seen them undergo many difficulties...

They would have to face many more problems in their coming lives too, but most of them do not have many births left. They will be free of the birth-death-birth cycle in a few more lives. Those people have met me or will meet me again in this lifetime at different times, in many different situations. While some have been born as my kith and kin-my parents, in-laws, siblings, wife and children; others have taken birth in remote places in India and abroad, in different religions and castes as men and women with no familial relation to me. In this way, the 108 people who lived in the Himalayan *Ashram* in the past are meeting me again in the present life. One of them could be you too!

During my meditations, I realised that in my previous 24 births, I had taken birth once as a *Shehnai* player in the *Kasi Vishwanatha* temple (Varanasi), as a *Guru* in *Mathura* who preached the creed of *Sri Krishna* to people, as a teacher who spread *Sri Vaishnava* philosophy in South India, as a preceptor who conveyed the essence of *Sri Parameswara* in

very simple language and as the head of the most sacred *Hindu Math* in Karnataka state. I also came to know of all the places where I had been born, how long I lived, where I travelled and all the works I did in the past 24 lives. Many of the people I met in those lives have come into contact with me again in this life.

Every individual has been taking birth in various forms- as a bird, animal; not necessarily as a person since the beginning of Creation. But there is no certainty that every individual takes birth again immediately after death; depending on their *karma*, they might take birth after some time. Thus, every living being is born millions of times, performs good and bad deeds and takes birth over and over again only to reap the joys or sorrows of his/her residual *karma*, effectively getting caught in the web of life and death.

I met a number of people in my earlier lives when I took birth in various regions. Apart from the 108 people who met me at the Himalayan *Ashram* four lives prior, others who knew me in my other lives have also made contact with me in this life. Some of them have already led great lives and will be born again in future births as great personalities and do great things for the good of humanity.

The 108 people, of the Himalayan *Ashram*, have been born in various places in this life and are now getting back into touch with me. I have realised that the people who have

met me in this life by virtue of our relationship from the past lives have taken the form of either family members, relatives, childhood friends, college friends, colleagues or people who come to me for advice or even people who meet me for no apparent reason.

The phenomenal thing here is the way in which those people have been meeting me or coming into contact with me in this life. Even though they have been leading very different lives in far flung places, as soon as the time comes for us to meet in this life, they appear in my life in very strange ways. The same is true for every person.

Many people we meet in our life come into our lives only on account of their relationship with us from our past lives...they might be our siblings or our friends...who might have met us in some way in our earlier births...those who suffered at our hands could come close to us again in this life and bestow similar suffering on us in some way...as a son who does not listen to you in spite of your being most affectionate...or as a husband; in spite of your being very loyal...or as a wife of whom you take care so well...or as a friend on whom you repose so much confidence... they all make you suffer...only because you caused some suffering to them in one of your earlier births...

How many times you might have felt and cried within because your wife is most uncooperative in spite of your showing utmost love to her...how many times you might

have wept alone in your washroom because of your husband's ill treatment in spite of your being so loving...how many times you might have felt that the whole world understands you, respects you, loves you, praises you...but not your spouse or your children...it is mainly because of some aspects connected with your earlier lives...you might have treated them not so well in one of your earlier lives...so they are born again and do the same to you in the present birth....if you notice closely and impartially, they seem to be good to everyone else...why is it then that they act so rudely to you ...it is only because of your connection with them in your earlier births....their soul remembers past lives' experiences...and behaves accordingly....they are but helpless, at times...

And you might have definitely observed one more thing...someone who might have been always quarrelling with you might suddenly start behaving very nicely...it is because the soul has taken revenge against the 'actions' of the earlier births of some unhappy moments...once the soul is relieved of the past life's agony, it becomes happy and you will see a sudden change in the person from that day onwards...how many times you might have noticed such occurrences in your life? Isn't it true?

So remember when someone is not nice to you, it is because of some earlier birth's connections, that are still holding on to his or her soul...it could go away soon...just have patience...take everything in your stride...do not,

kindly do not argue or scold that person...because if you retaliate you are again acquiring bad *karma* and your connection with that soul would continue in the future births too...lying low is always the best thing to do...of course it's easier said than done...but if you act aggressively it will not only cause harm to you currently but the negativity will continue for several births...so try your best to remain calm even if you are irritated to the hilt; that could make you happy now and also in your future births...

It is difficult for each one of us to understand the past-life relationships. I am able to recount to you about the 108 people only because I realised who they were during my deep meditations. In those meditative states, I gained such insights about them in terms of where they were born in their earlier lives, how they had lived, how they are leading their lives presently, how many more times they are destined to be born, where they are going to be born in those lives and many more such details.

*At the break of dawn
...in the Himalayas*

In one of my earlier lives, when I was born in Uttar Pradesh, I saw a saint (*Sadhu*) while I played outside my house. He had a great glowing aura around him. At that very instant, I realised all the tasks I had to complete in that life and followed the saint. After walking for a few days, one night we slept under a tree in the forest. The surprising thing was that the saint never spoke to me; instead some Divine vibrations from him entered into me and reminded me of my duty. We both understood the great things that had to be accomplished in the future. And so, I travelled with the saint. We walked for a few days without eating anything. Sometimes we would stop by a pond on the way and drink some water. As I said before, we didn't say a word to each other, but since our souls were in complete communion, what need was there for us to speak verbally?

Thus, travelling through forests, one dark night both of us slept under a big tree. Many wild animals roamed all around us. Lions and tigers passed right in front of us. A herd of elephants also went their way. Huge venomous snakes crawled beside us. But none of them did us any harm, because they couldn't see us. They did not even know that we slept there. In many of the forests of the Himalayan regions, animals cannot see the great sages performing penance there.

I had, in this way, slept under a tree that night, but as soon as I got up, I found myself in the snowy mountains of the Himalayas, in the lap of the virgin nature, where peace and calm reigned. The saint who had accompanied me till then was nowhere to be seen. And this was exactly what had been destined! The saint was a Divine being who had come to Earth from another heavenly world to bring me to that place. Having done that, he simply left for another location.

But I'm still connected to that Divine figure even today. Not just the two of us...the souls of many Divine beings who lived in different times stay connected with each other all the time. This way, the celestial beings, which are ever-immersed in the great Supreme Power that is also the cause of the energy within them and the whole Creation, live in eternal bliss.

This is the reason why the great Saint of yester years- *Bhagawan Sri Ramana Maharshi* was always at peace! Even

though He went through extreme ill-health, He never thought about His physical body and remained blissful all the time. He was always connected with the sages in the Himalayas and other Divine beings who were born on the Earth in many different forms. His power was so great that all the people and animals that came into contact with Him became happy. The magical vibrations radiated by such great souls pervade the air, due to which those around them forget all their troubles and experience great happiness.

Those who spend some time in their presence see a great change in their lives. They get the strength and energy to overcome any difficulty. They learn about many wonderful things they had never known hitherto and acquire the power to accept happiness and sorrow equally. In fact, unless we have earned a great deal of merit in our earlier lives, it is not possible to see or meet such great people.

The entire region once inhabited by such great souls becomes a very powerful place. Even though it is several thousands of years since they have forsaken their physical bodies, such regions are pervaded by a sense of joy even today, because great souls walked upon that soil once upon a time. People who visit those places gain peace of mind and devotees who meditate there are blessed even today with a vision of the great soul Himself.

Let us come back to the Himalayan *Ashram* again. I started my penance once I reached there and continued it for

eight long years, renouncing food and sleep. The term penance, here, means to sit motionless in the same pose with complete focus, all day and night, paying no heed to time and remaining solely connected to the Divine energy source. Beginning at the age of 16, I spent 8 years in that way. One day, I opened my eyes and thought about all the things I had to do in life. I understood what I had to accomplish... to convey the highest purpose of life to human beings. I then realised that the 108 people who had been leading very pious lives previously after being born several thousand times, would come to me at my *Ashram* soon-in that very birth.

Every person goes through many troubles in life and seeks refuge in God or a *Guru* to overcome those troubles. Depending on the *karma* he brought with himself into the world, some of those troubles get mitigated. With that, he feels satisfied and drifts away, instead of trying to taking a few more steps forward to spirituality. He thinks that his difficulties have been resolved and that is enough.

After spending several thousands of lives in that way, he acquires a desire to reflect on God all the time and not just in times of trouble. Then, when he spends a few more lives with a strong resolve and contemplates on God with full faith in Him, he is ultimately released from the '*Samsaara*' and becomes one with the Supreme Spirit.

Thus, after imbibing a spiritual bent of mind over many births and wishing to gain further ground in their practice

and know and understand the secrets of Creation, some people reached my Divine *Ashram* in the Himalayas. They all came to the *Ashram* individually at different times from different regions. They did not know that the *Ashram* existed. They only knew that there were great *Yogis* and *Siddhas* in the Himalayas and that there was a *Siddhashrama* (a hermitage of spiritual practitioners) in the Himalayas which could not be seen by lay people.

As each soul assumed various forms, taking birth as a different being at a different place in each life and advancing spiritually, they reached my *Ashram* when the time for their *Liberation* from the cycle of existence neared. That was evident to me in each of them who came there. I realised that they might not have to take many more births. It could be 5 or 10 for some, 40 for others and 50 for some others, but not thousands of lives for any of them. The time has neared for the 108 people who visited me back then at my *Ashram* in the Himalayas, to return to the *Divya Sakthi*, from which all Creation springs forth.

However, all of them are leading ordinary lives in the present birth. Some of them living with jealousy, envy, desire, anger and greed in the present lives may not believe that they are going to be liberated from the cycle of existence in few more births. Looking at the way their lives are unfolding currently, it may seem unbelievable to them, but it is entirely true. They would lead pure and ethical lives in their coming births. Living with equanimity and restraint, they will definitely achieve *Liberation* or '*Mukti*' after a few more lives.

Kishan and Radha

When I was in my Himalayan *Ashram*, the 108 people who met me came to my *Ashram* from remote places. The ways in which they reached the *Ashram* are at once strange and surprising. One day, a man by name Kishan Yadav, aged about 40 years, came to the Divine *Ashram*. He had been born in a village near present-day Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh. The third of four brothers and religious by birth, he worked in the family business that he had inherited from his father.

More than any of his brothers, Kishan was very helpful to everyone in the village. Being very sensitive by nature, he would run to help anyone in distress. At any time of the day—be it, day or night, as soon as he knew of someone's problem, he would rush to their aid and do whatever he could. His

brothers did not like that, nor did his wife, who never cooperated with him. She never lost an opportunity to pick an argument with him and scold him for every small thing.

But Kishan would always answer with a smile, which would anger his wife more, who always looked for a chance to pick up a quarrel with him. He would never answer her back and instead, went about his work patiently.

There was a *Sri Krishna* temple in the village. Radha, the daughter of the temple's priest Gopalacharya, was a great devotee of *Lord Sri Krishna*. So much so, that she considered the Lord to be her husband, and refused to marry anyone else despite her parent's insistence. Kishan used to participate in the village festivities sometimes. What with his kind nature, he felt sad at Radha's condition. Though her devotion to *Lord Krishna* pleased him, it troubled him that she had remained unmarried. However, he always kept his thoughts to himself and never expressed them aloud.

Sometime later, he was overcome by a desire to visit the Himalayas. But he knew that neither his siblings nor his wife would agree to it. Even his father might not and might say, "How can you leave the business and go away?" Though Kishan had a strong desire to go away and spend one or two years in the Himalayas, he could not make up his mind. He had no children, and spent all his time looking after the business and thinking of God.

As life went on that way, one day Kishan told his father and wife that he was going away for a week's pilgrimage. He left home and travelled through many villages and forests for several days and reached the Himalayan region where he met *Sadhus* and *Yogis* and finally reached my Divine *Ashram* one day.

He felt a great joy within himself when he reached the *Ashram*. Initially, he thought he would stay there for a week and return to his village but stayed back for a month. He listened to me talk about spiritual matters and roamed around the *Ashram*. This way he stayed with me in the *Ashram* for a few years. Meanwhile, some more people joined the *Ashram*.

Back in the village, Kishan's father searched for him in the nearby villages and when he couldn't find him thought that he might have gone away with some *Sadhus*. Gopalacharya, the priest of the *Sri Krishna* temple also died in due course. His daughter Radha was then all alone. One day, Radha joined a band of *Sadhus* singing devotional songs and moved from place to place. They eventually reached the Himalayas where she was separated from the others. Roaming here and there, she reached my *Ashram*. There she found Kishan from her village. Radha stayed in the *Ashram* for the rest of her life singing devotional songs and discussing spiritual matters. Sometime later, both of them passed away.

In the next birth, Kishan was born in Madurai in South India in a traditional *Brahmin* family. He became a *Vedic* scholar and remained a bachelor in that life. In the next birth, Kishan was born in Mauritius in a *Hindu* family and worked as a teacher in a college. Owing to his past lives' association, he visited India many times and even went to Manasa Sarovar in the Himalayas. There, he was visited by *Lord Sri Krishna* Himself in the form of an old *Sadhu*.

Presently, he has been born in Hyderabad in India by the name of Surya. Radha, whom he had met in his earlier life- as Kishan- is now his wife in this life. Because of his attraction to Radha in that life, they got married in this life even though she is born in a different social caste. In her present life, on a visit to a pilgrimage place, Radha was blessed to meet *Lord Sri Anjaneya Swami* Himself in the form of an unknown devotee.

Around 15 years ago, I designed a logo for the business of a person called Sameer Kumar Reddy in Hyderabad. Thereafter, his business grew by leaps and bounds. Even though Surya was his close friend, he had never told Surya about me. About five years back, when the two were discussing about a new business, Sameer told Surya about me. As soon as he heard my name, Surya was charmed. His soul remembered our association from the *Ashram* days, where we had stayed together four lives ago. The very next day Surya came to meet me. I went on to coin the names for many of his businesses and designed logos for them- Surya

and Radha, a virtuous couple. They only have a few more lives to live before *Liberation*. In all the lives, Surya might do many great things for the welfare of the society. Thus, Kishan's connection with me during his stay in my Divine Himalayan *Ashram* made him come and meet me in the form of Surya in this life.

Let us go back to the Himalayan *Ashram*. One day a man called Vimalananda from Kashmir came to my *Ashram*. Vimalananda was a great scholar in Kashmir. But due to the sins of his past lives, he had lost all his wealth in that life and his wife had died in her middle age. The children deserted their father and the great scholar lost his mental balance at the ripe old age of seventy years. All due to the negative *karma* accumulated in his past lives!

He was politician in his previous life and had killed many people mercilessly. Even though he was born a Christian in that life, in his 56th year, he had got attracted to a famous *Shiva* temple in the Himalayas, in the region under his authority. For some reason, the *Shiva* temple appealed to him very much. Ever since, even though he was a Christian, he would come to the *Shiva* temple and bow to the Lord standing outside the temple. So, even though he earned a lot of bad *karma* while he was born as a politician, the merit earned from his daily visit to the *Shiva* temple made him a great scholar in his next life. He earned a great reputation as a scholar in the *Sankar Math* in Kashmir. But all the evil deeds he had committed in his past life resulted in his losing his

wife and children and his sanity. Wandering around aimlessly, he reached the Himalayas.

He met several *Sadhus* in the snow-clad mountains and finally reached my *Ashram*. As soon as he reached there, the Divine vibrations in the air restored him back to perfect health. Thereafter, he returned to his devotional practices and shared his knowledge of the *Vedas* with the other inmates and spent the rest of his days in the *Ashram* praying to God for enlightenment.

In his next life, he was born as a Christian lady in California in the USA; he got along well with others and performed many noble deeds in that birth. In later lives, he was born in the state of Maharashtra and then as a *Vaishnava* priest in the *Sri Govindaraja Swami* temple in Tirupati.

In his current life, he has taken birth as Gandhi Babu in a humble family near Vijayawada. By virtue of his past lives' connections, allure of Lord *SrimanNarayana* greatly captivated him.. A few years back, he received the book, “*Sri Venkateswara Vrata Kalpam*” written by me through some source. That book has led to great many changes in his current life. He has developed unswerving faith in *Lord Sri Venkateswara* and has made a strong commitment to spread the word about the book, “*Sri Venkateswara Vrata Kalpam*” as far and wide as possible.

For many years, I have been sending him two to three hundred books once in every two months which he distributes to as many people as he can. He visits many temples and gives the books to devotees there, asking them resolutely to perform the *Vratam*. In the midst of all this, unfortunately his son-in-law contracted a liver disease. But thanks to Gandhi Babu's abiding faith in *Lord Srinivasa*, he was attended to by a famous doctor who immediately performed an operation and saved his life since Gandhi Babu carries my books with him always wherever he goes. During the time that his son-in-law was in the hospital, he distributed the books to other patients in the hospital. Fate struck another blow when his wife died of cancer the very next year. This demoralised him a lot, but he never forsook his devotion towards *Lord Sri Venkateswara*.

He kept visiting many temples other than Tirupati whenever possible and soon recovered from his personal bereavement in a few months' time. He has simply discharged the debts of his past *karma* that way. He will be born as a great scholar in his next birth and become one with the Supreme Spirit after a few more lives. The strength of our bonding from the Himalayan *Ashram* brought that person born in a remote village near Vijayawada to me and made him a trusted friend. He is serving the purpose of his life by distributing those books and spreading *Sri Venkata Tatwa* throughout this birth of his.

*The fascinating tale of Princess
Uttama ...and Dr. Madhu*

Among the people who met me from my Himalayan *Ashram* is a couple by name, Dr. Madhu and Uttama Devi. Both of them were with me at the *Ashram* in one of their earlier lives. Uttama was also a man in that birth apart from Dr. Madhu. In the life after their stay at the *Ashram*, Madhu was born in Maharashtra and Uttama in Rajasthan. Madhu was a great devotee of *Lord Shiva* and got many *Shiva* temples built. In the next life, Madhu was a great devotee of *Lord Vishnu*. He would constantly chant *Sriman Narayana's* name and performed many great spiritual activities. He preached the greatness of *Sri Maha Vishnu* to many lay people and guided them towards the path of devotion.

In his next life, Madhu was born into an atheist family in Tamil Nadu. Although he had no belief in God, he was a great social worker. He preached to everyone that serving man was greater than serving God and practiced the same. One could be a strong believer of God in one life and in the next life one could be a strong advocate of Atheism. I reiterate it is not necessary that we are born into the same religion in every birth. You could be one of London's top businessmen in one birth and a tribal in far off Africa in the next birth!...you should not make light of anyone, because you could have been one of them in your earlier birth...All human beings should live in harmony . In fact this is the essence of all religions. It is the core of all religions that we should love everyone with equal affection.

Madhu was always in the fore front, as far as helping the needy is concerned. He never donated any money to temples, but aided several orphanages and old age homes financially. He got the poor children educated with his own money. If a worker at his home fell ill, he would take personal care of him and pay for all the medical treatment. That kind of service gave him great happiness.

Uttama, his wife in the present life, was born in a Royal family in Rajasthan, after the Himalayan *Ashram* sojourn. As the king was a pious man, *Sadhus* and *Yogis* visited his palace often. The princess would look after the *Yogis* and *Sadhus* with great devotion. They would be greatly surprised at the questions she constantly asked them.

As she was born into a royal family, she was not sent to school but was trained at home by her teachers. Though she did not study much, she gained a lot of knowledge. Whenever a great teacher visited them, she would eagerly question him/her on a variety of spiritual topics. Everyone would be surprised at her ability to ask such profound questions.

It is worth noting here that the spiritual knowledge we earn in a life is not lost. It remains with the soul even after taking several births. All other subjects that we study-- be it engineering or law, the knowledge pertaining to those fields, may be lost as soon as our life ends. Everything that we learn on such topics is limited to one lifetime. We won't remember any of those formulas or legal case studies in the next life! But that is not the case with spiritual knowledge. When we read any *Purana* or *Upanishad* or any religious book or something related to philosophy and human values with great devotion and dedication, it is absorbed not just by the mind but also permeates the soul.

What we must realise is that when we read any spiritual texts with utmost concentration on God and with single mindedness, that knowledge seeps even deeper into our soul. Knowledge which is earned this way is never lost in any number of lives. That is why we sometimes see people talking about great philosophical matters at a very young age. Even though they have not read any texts as such in their

present birth, they are able to explain *Slokas* and *Mantras* from the *Upanishads* and *Puranas* very clearly, because they had studied those subjects in their earlier lives with great devotion.

The power to grasp spiritual knowledge can be seen even more vividly in souls who not only read such texts but also lead a pure and unblemished life. Such people are considered to be great souls by normal people. They are adored and worshipped and bestowed with great titles. However, there is a small problem here. Some of those 'so-called' great souls initially accept the adulation happily, but slowly 'lose' their spirituality and Divinity completely over a period of time and return to the level of a lay person.

I noticed one such person very closely in my previous life who had earned a great spiritual treasure over many lives. He was born with the name Venkata Shastri around 1840 in East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh, India and was able to expound the *Vedas* at the mere age of 12. He had been a great scholar in Benaras (present-day Varanasi) in his previous life and a priest in the *Sri Padmanabha Temple* in Kerala before that. Thus, he had acquired a great deal of spiritual knowledge. However, when he was a scholar in Varanasi, all the respect he received from the society went to his head and also, no one dared say anything against him given his social status.

When he was born as Venkata Shastri in Amalapuram, he was able to become a great scholar owing to his knowledge from the past life and became an exponent of many subjects. He was also able to accurately describe the past and predict the future of anybody who went to him. After a few years, he developed a coterie of disciples around him who worshipped him as a man of miracles. Many people would sing his praises every day. Venkata Shastri was delighted as the adulation and flattery increased. The richest man in the village built an *Ashram* for him. His disciples stopped calling him Venkata Shastri and addressed him as *Swamiji*. Though he was outwardly happy, in his heart of hearts he did not like it. His spiritual knowledge was on the decline and slowly he came to realise it. But then things were not in his control. He was completely at the mercy of his disciples.

One day, when he was meditating in his *Ashram*, he was reminded of his past lives. He realised that his arrogance while living in *Varanasi*, was the reason for his downfall in the present life. But there was nothing he could do at that point of time. Overcome with sorrow, he breathed his last in a few days. How many thousands of lives would he have to go through again to regain such vast knowledge!

Let us come back to Madhu and Uttama. We learnt that she was born into a royal family two lives ago and was endowed with exceptional spiritual qualities. There were many parrots in the king's garden. Uttama spent a lot of time with the parrots every day and loved them immensely. She

was so attached to them that she played and talked to them all day and taught them small words and even taught them to utter *Lord Sri Rama's* name. The parrots would often say *Rama...Rama* with a sweet voice.

The parrots would start chanting *Rama, Rama* as soon as they saw Uttama. Delighted at hearing the same, she would think to herself “These parrots lead a happy life! They have neither relationships nor thoughts! They eat whatever fruits they get and live happily and die peacefully one day. They don't have feelings of jealousy, envy, anger or arrogance like humans! They spend all their time happily flying from one green tree to another!”

In her next life, Uttama was born as a priest by name Sri Krishnamacharya in the temple at Tirumala and was always dedicated to the service of *Lord Sri Venkateswara*. He would be beside the Lord with joy while participating in all the *Sevas* (form of worship) of *Srinivasa*. Every day he would bring a variety of flowers from the gardens of the sacred Tirumala hills and decorate the magnificent *Lord Srinivasa's* idol. The Lord even spoke to Sri Krishnamacharya many a time in that life! Indeed, until a few hundred years ago, *Lord Srinivasa* of Tirumala used to speak with His devotees who placed complete faith in Him! Thus, Uttama developed a wonderful Divine bond with *Lord Srinivasa* in that life.

When we develop a deep attachment with any person, region, animal or bird, we will definitely develop some kind of relationship with them in our future lives too. I know of one such person named Krishna Rao, who was very attached to his native place of Amalapuram. He lived there for seventy years, but had to move to his son's house in Hyderabad for the last five years of his life, due to unavoidable circumstances. Every day, he would think of Amalapuram. Although he wanted to return there, he could not, due to his ill-health and felt sorry about it. He passed away a few years later. Due to his deep affection for his native place, Krishna Rao was again born in the same place, Amalapuram, in a different family in his next life.

Coming back to Uttama, she was born as a great saint in her next life. Born as Ramayya into an agricultural family in a village near Nellore, she imbibed many great qualities from childhood. Ramayya earned a lot of knowledge moving around with *Sadhus* and *Yogis* since a young age. Owing to his past life impressions, he was able to absorb the essence of the *Upanishads* very easily.

The saint Ramayya took birth as Uttama in present times in Cuddapah district in this life. The good *karma* of all her past lives has given her a compassionate heart and a thoughtful mind since childhood.

She married Dr.Madhu, who is also a kind-hearted person and always tries to help those around him and takes care of

them in times of need. Even though he does not have much faith in God and rituals in this life, he believes that there is a Divine energy driving the Creation. He does not attach much importance to religious rituals, prayers and worship, but is always seeking to serve the society. Life has moved on for all of us; however, owing to our Himalayan *Ashram* connection in the past, the time for our meeting in this life neared. But we were in two different corners of the great metro city of Hyderabad, how could we meet? Our past life connection brought us together in a strange way four years ago, and ever since, they have been close family friends of ours.

Since childhood, I have been prone to toothaches now and then. I do not care much about my health, so whenever the tooth starts aching, I take a pain killer and tolerate the pain for a few days, after which it goes away. It has happened many times. Though my wife and children strongly advised me to visit a doctor, I never agreed. There are many doctors and dentists among my friends and acquaintances who regard me highly. But I rarely paid them a visit.

Once I developed a very severe toothache while one of my books was being typed for getting printed. All my books have been typed by Jagadish. I usually like to dictate to him in the morning hours when nature is calm and peaceful. One day, as he was typing, Jagadish noticed my pain and said, "Sir! There is a good doctor I know. I'll take you to him this evening." But I deferred it to the next day, and then put it off by two more days and that went on. When the pain did not

subside for many days, Jagadish forced me to go with him and I had to consent unwillingly. That day, he took me to Dr. Madhu and introduced him to me. Then, Madhu examined my teeth and told me that if I visited him once a week for two months, he could cure me of the toothache permanently. He asked me to visit once or twice a week whenever time permitted and I agreed.

Usually, whenever I go to meet a new person, I carry a few of my books to present to him or her. Thus, I gave some of my books to Madhu too that day. He smiled and said, “Sir! I don't read devotional books! But my wife is a great believer in God and likes to read such books. I'll definitely pass them on to her.” Thereafter, I returned to his clinic after two days, when he performed a root canal and asked me to visit again after a week and continue visiting for the next two months to complete the treatment.

But I have not gone back to his clinic after that day. I was asked to visit for two months, but I went there only twice. It is almost four years now. Even though the toothache recurred once or twice later, I did not visit Madhu or any other dentist. That day, Madhu went home and gave his wife Uttama Devi the books I had given him. Uttama was very pleased to receive those books by chance and immediately read them. When she found out from the book that I had written similar books, she called me and said she would visit me to collect them.

Sure enough, she dropped in one day, sat for a while and took my other books with her and derived great joy from reading all of them. Since then, she has been a regular visitor to our house. Now she is one of us and calls me and Rukmini as uncle and aunty affectionately. Why did I, who never went to a doctor, go to Madhu? Furthermore, to a clinic which is quite far from my place? Isn't it strange that I gave him the books and he passed them on to Uttama? The only reason that crosses my mind is our connection from the Himalayan *Ashram* which made them to meet me again in the present life.

Many people come to me for advice, for getting their logos designed and also for my books. I have written 25 books so far and have been distributing them for free to anyone who wants them. Some people who visited me only for my books became devoted friends of mine, later on. And among those friends, some happened to become close family friends and touched us with their affection. One such couple is Madhu and Uttama. Uttama is very fond of the book, '*Sri Venkateswara Vrata Kalpam*' that I have written. The book has been translated into 12 languages and devotees all over the world read the stories of that book every Saturday. It has made a positive impact on millions of lives and relieved many people of their troubles. People have been experiencing miracles in their lives after reading the book.

Almost every day, I receive a phone call or a message from someone in some corner of the world telling me that the *Vrata Kalpam* book has done them great good. In fact, it is read by people of all religions across the world. Many of them only read the five stories in the book. They say that everything goes on happily in their lives after regularly reading the book. Uttama came to know of this and wanted the book to reach many more people. Every 6 months I get 10,000 copies of the book printed. Some people take two or three hundred books from me to distribute to their friends and relatives during their children's weddings, house warming and on other auspicious occasions. All are unanimous in their opinion that they received the book due to the Divine grace and consider it a great blessing. They take the copies from me to present them to all their acquaintances so that many more people can benefit from the book. I give as many books as requested by anyone, without charging anything, not even the postal charges.

I have undertaken the task of printing the books and distributing them as a relentless offering of Divine service. Many of my friends have been contributing to the great service. The Lord Himself chooses those whom He wants to take part in the service. People of humble means and millionaires alike come to me to get their logos designed. I have designed logos for a small pharmacy as well as for a corporate hospital with an annual turnover of USD 100 Million. In my view, both are equal! As I mentioned earlier,

some people who came into touch with me in that way became close friends of mine.

Once, Uttama came to our house a week before *Vaikuntha Ekadasi*, a festival dedicated to *Lord Vishnu*. That year, we printed 20,000 copies to be distributed on the auspicious day of *Vaikuntha Ekadasi*. I told Uttama that the previous year, we had printed 10,000 copies to be distributed on that day in various temples, but they had not sufficed at all. Hence, we printed 20,000 copies that year with the help of some friends for exclusive distribution only on that one day.

Some devotees of *Lord Srinivasa*, known to me, came to my house a week before *Vaikuntha Ekadasi* and pick up about 1000 copies of the book each and draw up a plan to distribute the books on that day in various temples. Every year, they come back to me with the news that the 1000 copies they had taken with them were given out within minutes and every devotee who had received the book felt very happy and some devotees go on to say that they had been looking for the book for years and it was their good fortune to get the book on such an auspicious day.

That day, Uttama was witness to all that at my home and felt very happy. She said, “Uncle! Your book '*Sri Venkateswara Vrata Kalpam*' is filling joy in so many hearts! I got an idea just now. I will print 1,00,000 copies in a year's time before the next *Vaikuntha Ekadasi* for distribution.” I expressed my surprise and immediately said, “Uttama! You

need a lot of money to do it, do you know?" I said.

She replied, "Uncle! I will get it done some way or the other! What gives us more joy than spreading joy and happiness in other people's lives? Aren't we spending on so many things every day? A simple lunch with family at a restaurant costs us Rs.1000. We could print 100 books with those 1000 Rupees! *Lord Srinivasa* Himself will show me the way. I will definitely get one lakh *Vrata Kalpam* books printed this year by whatever means, even if it means taking a loan. I make dresses for children. This year I'll work harder and make more dresses or even take a loan and use that money for printing the books. Come what may, I will get one lakh books printed by the next *Vaikuntha Ekadasi*."

I said to her, "It is not an easy task, dear! Please think again." But she replied, "No, uncle, I'm determined to do this. Madhu will never object to a good thing like this. Even though he does not believe in God, he will not object to my resolve of printing so many copies of this book, which is doing so much good to so many people. In fact, he will be glad." Uttama's avocation is to design and stitch children's clothes for her acquaintances. Some people give orders for the same and she earns about 5,000 to 10,000 rupees at a time. But printing one lakh copies meant a cost of nearly 7 lakh rupees! Not a small amount at all!

Do you know what Uttama did? She opened a boutique and applied for a loan of five lakh rupees from a bank for it.

The loan was kept pending. The bank manager who went to have a look at the boutique, said, “There is nothing here to call it a boutique. How can I sanction a loan for 5 lakh rupees?” It had already been two months by then and fearing that the printing was getting delayed, Uttama took a small loan from her friends and gave it to the printer. Meanwhile, the bank manager was transferred and the whole loan process was almost stalled. Finally, after the loan was sanctioned one day. She gave the entire 5 lakh rupees to Sri Satyanarayana who prints my books and asked him to print 10,000 copies every month and send them to me.

Who takes so much pain these days? It was solely due to the Will of God. It was *Lord Srinivasa's* wish that the work be done by Uttama and so, she received the good fortune of taking up the task. She was simply chosen do His work.

After 4 months a tragedy occurred in her family. Unfortunately, Uttama's mother passed away. Uttama is the only child of her parents. Her mother had been taking treatment at Hyderabad for a year staying in her house. When *Dasara* festival approached, her parents wanted to spend the festival days in their native village and so, accompanied by Uttama, they went back to their village. By a stroke of bad luck, Uttama's father fell in the bathroom one day in the village and his condition turned serious. So he had to be brought to Hyderabad immediately in an ambulance.

Uttama and her mother brought him back to Hyderabad in

the ambulance. He was over 75 years old and was bed-ridden in the hospital. The doctors were unwilling to perform surgery due to his old age, but not doing the surgery could also be dangerous. He was kept in the ICU for some time.

Meanwhile, Uttama's mother's condition also deteriorated and she had to be admitted into the same ICU. Just imagine Uttama's state of mind at that point of time! Even in such conditions, she would call up the printer Sri Satyanarayana for updates about the printing of the book, '*Sri Venkateswara Vrata Kalpam*'. The doctors attending on her father finally decided to operate on him, as it was unavoidable. Before the operation, Uttama asked me for advice on whether or not to proceed with the surgery. "I'll do whatever you say, Uncle", she said. As his condition could worsen if the operation was not performed, I told Uttama to tell the doctors to go ahead with it and told her that her father would withstand the surgery.

The surgery was performed the very next day and was successful by the grace of *Lord Srinivasa*. But just two days later, before Uttama could take a breather, her mother's condition worsened and she expired. The doctors advised Uttama not to reveal that to her father as it would have a detrimental effect on his health. So, without informing her father that his wife had expired on another bed in the same ICU, Uttama and Madhu left for the village with her mother's mortal remains and performed the last rites there.

Uttama soon returned to Hyderabad and took care of her father. Imagine the distress she must have gone through at not being able to reveal her mother's death to her father! Every time her father asked her, she would digress from the topic and tell him that she had gone to the village. Two months passed that way. Even during such difficult times, she followed up on the printing of the books, “*Sri Venkateswara Vrata Kalpam*” and would say to me, “Uncle! God's work is God's work and worldly affairs are worldly affairs. The two should remain separate and to each its own!”

Our parents give us a name at the time of our birth, unaware at that time about what we will study in future or how our character will take shape! But Uttama (meaning excellent or elevated in *Telugu*) has lived up to the name her parents had given her at birth and is truly a noble and blessed lady!...A blessed soul indeed!

At last Uttama told her father about the demise of her mother. He grieved a lot for his wife and soon passed away. Just a few months later, Uttama also lost her father-in-law. All these tragedies happened during the one year she had decided to take up the printing of the one lakh copies of the '*Vrata Kalpam*'. But nothing deterred her from completing the task she had taken upon herself and when the auspicious day of *Vaikuntha Ekadasi* arrived, the one lakh copies had been printed and were ready for distribution!

Thousands and lakhs of people benefitted from that gesture. Every book that is distributed among the people is photocopied at least a hundred times. As the book is not available anywhere outside and is not for sale, the book is highly valued by those who get a copy of it.

Uttama's virtue is a result of the merit she had accumulated over many previous births. Madhu and Uttama's *karma* has diminished to a great extent owing to the many great things they accomplished in their previous lives and the virtuous lives they have led so far. They only have a few more lives left and the day is not far when they will be one with the Cosmic Energy. They went through so many troubles in this life in order to be completely rid of the *karma* of their past lives. After some more *janmas*, they will move closer to *Moksha* and then merge with the *Divya Sakthi*.

It is very rare to find such a noble couple in today's highly materialistic world. But such couples do exist in this world. All of us find such couples at one time or other in our lives. They look very ordinary for the outside world but they are highly elevated souls in their inner consciousness. They could be in midst of highly materialistic things, but still be detached internally. Infact, you could be one such couple! Such souls travel in pious paths, taking birth in several countries, several religions, work for the upliftment of the downtrodden, live an exemplary life all through and attain *moksha* after a few births.

Karma and Vasana

Every human being is born several million births and struggles to come out of the wheel of birth and death. In every life, we must purify ourselves further by using the wisdom and the power of discrimination given to us by God and walk on the path of *Salvation*.

There was a great Hindu exponent and teacher I knew of. In some of his earlier lives, he was born in India . In one of the births he was born into a Yadava family in North India and after studying amidst great adversities, he earned a doctorate in Economics and became a Professor in a prestigious University. He was also very interested in *Vedic* Sciences and enhanced his scholastic abilities by reading a number of books.

Due to his inclination towards Indian tradition and culture, in his next life, he was born as a priest in a famous *Vaishnava* town in South India. There he rose to even greater heights spiritually. Thereafter, he was born in Andhra Pradesh in an orthodox *Brahmin* family and studied many *Vedas* and other sciences and became a great scholar and an exponent. He even went to the USA many times and spoke on spirituality in many cities there.

In his next life, he was born into a Christian family in New York. Despite being born a Catholic, he took up *Hinduism* as a subject at the University, owing to the past life's associations of his soul. As mentioned earlier, spiritual knowledge stays on with one's soul across one's lives; it was precisely the reason for him to do a Ph.D. in *Hindutva*. He became the Director of a prominent organisation in the USA and conducted extensive research on *Hinduism*. He was born in America because he got attached to that country during his visits there.. But his association with *Hinduism* over many lives ensured that while he spent his Sundays speaking in Churches on Christianity, he also conducted a great deal of research on *Hindutva* and earned fame and fulfilled his life's purpose.

So, our past life associations weigh upon us and take us back to the same regions and the people from our earlier lives. Without any effort on our part and even without our knowledge, we are attracted to those regions and those people. Sometimes we don't even understand why we are doing what we are doing. We must recognise all of this as the

consequence of *karma* and the associations from our past lives.

Everyone's life is unique in itself...We should not have any attachments with people and places around us...we should do all our duties- as a husband, wife, son or daughter without having too much of attachment with our family...it is only because of some connection in the previous births that we are connected to each other in the present birth...the moment this birth is over, our soul would travel on its way forward...we would take birth again in some country; into some religion...we would not have any connection whatsoever with the present family...every soul travels on its own path...as defined by the good and bad *karmas* that it acquired over millions of earlier births...

If you are in a high position in society or in the government and take number of bad decisions affecting lives of several thousands or lakhs of people, you acquire a substantial amount of bad *karma*. We all know of several kings of yesteryear civilizations and several heads of states in the modern society who took some wrong decisions that made the lives of millions of ordinary people miserable...such kings and leaders suffer in several consecutive births as a result of negative *karma* that they considerably acquired. Because they and they alone were solely responsible for some very bad and cruel decisions that made millions of innocent people to suffer and die eventually...the negative *karma* thus acquired by those

kings or supreme people is gigantic...it will take them several births not only as human beings but also as animals, birds or insects to undergo the bad effects of the negative *karma* they acquired by their bad actions...the thing is they won't remember it at all in their later births...

While I was once riding in a car in India, I saw a beggar running towards me at the traffic signal, asking for a few rupees...he was in a bad state with torn clothes and a heavily grown beard...instantly I perceived his past lives...he was a monarch in one of his earlier lives...had thousands of people at his beck and call...lived in a big palace...with many queens...and great wealth...but he was very cruel to the people in that life...he unnecessarily waged wars and killed innocent people...the huge negative *karma* he thus acquired made him suffer in several later births...look at his present condition...begging on the streets for some food for the day...he might have lived in a grand manner in one of the births...yes... just one birth spanning 70-80 years...but see how badly he has been suffering in the following 100-200 births spanning several hundreds of years...how miserably he has lived in all the successive births...

If you see someone in power, doing wrong things...do not get angry...just pity him/her...your anger will only spoil your health...poor fellow...he/she is going to suffer badly ,very badly in several of his/her future lives due to his/her bad actions in the present birth...you should always do good to the people...even if you are born into a very rich family, or

occupy high positions, you should not forget the fact it is all due to the good *karma* that you might have acquired in several hundreds of earlier births...you should not misuse it ever...you should do better things and proceed further in your soul's advancement towards *Salvation*...towards a state of no more births...and finally merge with the Supreme Force...and never again fall in to the vicious cycle of birth, death and birth again...

Your life is a very short journey in the Universe...what is the 70-80 years of a life compared to several millions of years...and your identity too is very insignificant...what is your identity among billions of people in the world...except a few of your relatives and friends no one else bothers as to how you live...how you suffered...remember, your happiness is yours...and your sorrows too are yours...while on one hand you may be undergoing some pain or lying on a hospital bed ...on the other hand, millions of people across the world may be sipping their morning coffee seated in an easy chair...millions may be at office...millions seated in class rooms as students...millions of passengers may be travelling in flights...millions of others could be having a vacation...all of this goes on simultaneously...

Who is bothered about whom?.. always remember ...leave alone the world, even the local shuttle would not stop if we died one day...should we worry at all about such a short journey in this physical body?...should we develop anger, hatred , jealousy , miserliness in such a short span of

life?...let us all think this way and live happily...live every moment happily and help people around us to the best possible extent...the happiness it gives is enormous... it cannot be measured by any means...for the real happiness is in giving...is in sharing...rather than taking...or enjoying everything alone, all by ourselves...Always remember that sharing is caring, a great blessing indeed!

All of us go from one birth to the next birth doing both good deeds and bad deeds during our lifetime. Once we die and leave the physical body we forget all that happened in the present birth. The soul leaves the body and enters another body ...sometimes the soul remains on the subtle plane for several years before taking another birth...it enters the womb of a human being or an animal or a bird or an insect based on the *karma* it acquired in several thousands of previous births...

we undergo the effect of our positive and negative *karmas* and do some more of both the *karmas* in the present birth...and again take another birth to undergo the effects of the *karmas* acquired again in this birth and the old ones which are with us as backlog...thus we are all entangled in the cycle of birth and death time and again...

God's grand design of things

One more wonderful incident goes to show how special the bonds from our past lives are... I worked as an engineer in Allwyn in 1987 and used to also draw the front-page cartoon column in *Indian Express*- as it was my hobby. As television had not yet invaded the living rooms back then, people read newspapers with great interest especially, the front-page cartoon. Back in those days, *Indian Express* was a leading newspaper run by Ramnath Goenka, with Arun Shourie as the Chief Editor. One day, when I had a toothache, I went to the famous dentist Dr.Ramamurthy and was seated in his waiting room. Meanwhile, an elderly person came in and sat on the chair next to me. The person seated next to me was much older than me, but short in stature.

As there were many patients on that day, we waited for quite sometime for our turn. The man seated beside me did not make any effort at a conversation. He would just look at me from time to time and smile. Unable to remain silent for long, I introduced myself and asked him where he worked. He replied with a smile, “My name is K.K.Rao. I am a retired ICS officer.” I thought, “Oh my! He is from the ICS! Yet he seemed so humble.” Then I introduced myself to him... “Sir, my name is Timmaraju Viswapathi Ramakrishna Murthy. I studied M.Tech at Regional Engineering College, Warangal and am working in Allwyn.” ...“An engineer! And you studied in REC!”, he exclaimed happily. I continued the conversation and told him that I draw cartoons on the front page of *Indian Express*. He was pleasantly surprised and said, “I see your cartoon every day. They are very good and I like your cartoons a lot.” Meanwhile, he was called into the consulting room.

It happened 31 years ago ... I haven't met him again after that. A few months ago, a person by name Murali Krishna called me and said he would come to collect my books. I told him he was most welcome to come and collect the books. Almost everyday someone or the other visits our house to collect the devotional books. He visited me the following morning. He said to me, “Sir! I did not know who you were until yesterday. I am a book-lover and go to Abids every Sunday to buy old books sold on the pavements.”...

Abids area is one of the popular areas of Hyderabad. Every Sunday we find many vendors selling old and new books on the pavements. It is a good pastime for many of the elderly people to visit Abids and walk down the road...if you are lucky enough you might get the most precious title published in the 50s too at a throwaway price !

Mr. Murali Krishna continued, “Dear Viswapathi ji, yesterday, when I was riding across Lakdi-ka-pul on my bike, I saw an old book-seller on the roadside. I had never seen him there before, so I turned back and stopped there to see the books. I didn't find any interesting ones and was about to leave when a book suddenly caught my attention... It was a book titled “*Mathura Patham*” kept against the wall. I was greatly attracted to the book. I took it into my hands ... It had a sticker of Rs.125 on it; I bought the book and went home. When I reached home and opened the book, I noticed the author had autographed the book to someone in the following way--“*Sri Lakshmi Srinivasa Kataksha Siddhirastu!*” (May the blessings of *Sri Lakshmi Srinivasa* be showered on you!) So, you had personally presented it to someone with great affection! How it came to be on pavement we do not know...and it was my good luck that it came into my hands! I came to know a great many things about you after reading the book. I also came to know that you had written many more books. This is the result of the merit I have earned in my past lives. Can you please give me your other books as well” he concluded.

I gladly gave him all my other books. He received them with great reverence and touched them with reverence with his eyes closed. Then he said, “I will be very happy if you could take the trouble of visiting our home once.”

Many people invite me warmly to their homes. But I do not prefer going out. Out of great affection, many of those who have grown closer to me over the years ask me to visit them at least once...I like to keep a low profile...I am not a good socializer either... I have barely called on 5 to 6 people during the last 15 years. It pains me sometimes, but I am not comfortable with visiting people at their homes and later being praised or flattered.

For courtesy sake, I said I would try to visit his house and asked Mr. Murali Krishna where he lived. He replied, “I live in Srinagar colony, Sir. It is adjacent to the house of senior ICS officer, Mr. K.K.Rao!” The mention of his name gave me goosebumps. I was greatly surprised. I asked him to do me a favour. Giving him my book, “*Srivari Darsan*” and my cartoons book, I asked him to kindly deliver them to Mr. K. K. Rao. And if possible, take a photo while handing over the books to him and share the same with me on WhatsApp. He obliged readily.

The next day Mr. Murali Krishna rang me. He said, “Sir! As requested by you, I gave your books to Mr.K.K.Rao. He felt very happy. He was down with fever and was on the bed.

As he stretched his hands to take the books, I remembered that you had asked me to take a photo! But I have an ordinary phone without camera! I wondered what to do and came out of the house. I saw a young man going on a scooter. I bade him to stop and asked him if he had a WhatsApp phone. He replied in the affirmative. “Will you do me a small favour? Can you take a photo with your phone and send it to a particular person?” I urged him. Luckily, he consented and we went inside where he took a photo while I presented your books to Mr. K.K.Rao. I sent the photo to you from the young man's phone,” he said.

I thanked Mr. Murali Krishna for his great help. “It is nothing at all, Sir,” he said, “It is my good fortune to come into contact with a person like you and your books”. I felt very happy that my collection of cartoons had reached Mr. K.K. Rao who liked my cartoons a lot. After about 2 or 3 days, the news I read in the morning paper stupefied me – Former ICS Officer Mr. K.K. Rao had passed away! I was shocked to learn of his demise... He was 104 years old! He was the last ICS Officer from the British times! Born in 1914, he had joined the ICS in 1937. He had held several high positions in the government.

Just think of the extraordinary circumstances in which my books reached such a great personality! How strange that Mr. Murali Krishna had come across my book on the roadside. Isn't it even more intriguing that he lived just beside Mr. K.K. Rao's house...and sent me the photo taken

from a stranger's phone? How divine are God's ways and past-life relationships! It is such an uncanny coincidence that he received the books, “*Srivari Darsan*” (containing stories of Lord *Sri Venkateswara*) and the cartoons book just a day before he left the world.

If Mr. Murali Krishna had not taken that particular road on that day or if my book had been covered by a few other books- by the vendor- and remained unseen, and if he did not live in the house adjacent to Mr. K.K. Rao's, but elsewhere in the huge metro city of Hyderabad with a population of over 10 million, my books *would not* have reached Mr. Rao! It is what we call “God's grand design of things”. Mr. K.K.Rao had also visited me at the Himalayan *Ashram* in that past life and that bond of bygone times was the reason behind our meeting and him receiving my books at the very end of his life under strange circumstances.

Messengers of Gods in Himalayas

Going back to the Himalayan *Ashram* days, along with the 108 people who stayed there with me, some *Siddhas* and *Yogis* also used to visit the place often. Roaming in the Himalayas, they would visit me in their invisible form. Back then, I even saw sages from the *Dwapara Yuga* there, some of whom also visited my *Ashram*. They were nearly 18 to 24 feet tall and there was a celestial radiance around them. They had been wandering in the Himalayas in their Divine forms since many thousand years.

Many great people who lived in India in the past at different times and some who are around today are able to see them when they go to the Himalayas. When we rise to great heights through our meditation, those great sages

come to the place where we are and bless us with a glimpse of their holy vision. The Himalayas are one of the most sacred regions on the Earth. Even today, when I am in deep meditation, I visit the Himalayas and spend some time there. I come across many great sages there, whom I have met and talked to many times; in addition, at times, I even get a glimpse of the Gods there.

I was blessed to see many Gods during my visit to the Himalayas while meditating and have received many Divine messages from them. That is the reason why I have been able to write so many books on so many Gods. It is their words which have flowed onto the paper through my pen. Every word in those books has been blessed by them and that is why those books are very popular today all over the world, bringing about miracles in the lives of the readers.

Since those books are blessed by the Gods themselves, Divine radiations pass through the body of the reader while reading them. That is the power concealed in those words. It is that power which brings about good fortune in the lives of the readers. Many people have overcome sickness and regained health. Others have surmounted great difficulties in their life. As those books have been inspired by the Gods themselves, great waves of Divine light surround the persons reading them and protect them at all times.

Many sages wandering in the Himalayas are visible to the devotees even today. But many people are unaware that

sages, *Yogis* and *Siddhas* from the time of *Lord Krishna* still wander around the Himalayas and are visible to some devotees. In fact, it is difficult for lay men to understand or digest the same and it seems incredible. People who are blessed with those visions usually do not share their experiences with others.

I remained connected to all those great souls while writing this book and my sole purpose in writing the book is to convey those wonderful experiences not only to people of our times, but also to future generations. The chief objective of the book is to convey to the readers that great people with Divine powers lived on the Earth in different regions in different ages and are still living among us today. The sages believe that people would be glad to learn about those things and would be able to walk on the path towards *Moksha*.

Several *Siddhas* and *Yogis* in the Himalayas complete the tasks assigned to them by the Divine force of Creation and then return to the Himalayas again. A great *Shehnai* player born on the banks of the Ganga is one such great *Siddha* from the Himalayas! Similarly, another great sage was born as a *Mridanga* (Indian percussion instrument) player. Yet another rose to fame as a great musician. One seer was born in Maharashtra as a great musician who composed beautiful songs on the Lord, even as a child. All those people serve God in different ways through their work and also provide happiness to ordinary people, bringing them closer to God. They remain dedicated to a specific purpose as long as they live and once the purpose is served, they return to the Himalayan region to continue their penance.

As you sow, so shall you reap...

Returning to the Himalayan *Ashram* where I had lived prior to four lives, the 108 people who met me and spent a few years with me in the *Ashram* and some others who met me in later lives are all leading their lives presently with great values and exemplary conduct. But they have been facing innumerable difficulties and intolerable insults in their present life. Many aspects pertaining to their careers and everyday life are not working in their favour. Some of them are even facing several health problems. Their spouses and children have been facing many problems which have robbed them of their peace of mind. The sole reason for which is that their accumulated (*prarabdha*) *karma* is dwindling! That is why they have been experiencing the negative *karma* of their past lives in the form of various troubles since the last few births.

In a few more lives, they would exhaust their *karma* completely and would attain noble births in which they would perform deeds beneficial to mankind. Some of them could become great speakers and instil faith and devotion in many ordinary citizens. Some could establish good educational institutions. While some others would do great social service, a few could become wealthy and work for the welfare of the society.

So, they should not lose their peace of mind over the troubles they have been facing presently. After a few more lives, they would attain great births and subsequently merge into the Supreme Spirit. Let there be no doubt about it. You ought to know that your soul has taken birth in so many families with different forms only to experience all the *karma* accumulated in your past lives. You must understand that all the insults and ill-health you suffer is that, your bad *karma* gets exhausted completely. Be fully aware that you only have a few more lives left and always be happy.

I wish to make a point in the above context. There are many more people in the world who are also going through innumerable troubles and facing insult and injury in their present life, but they would take birth only a few more times in future as noble people and inch closer to *Mukti*. Over the past thousands of years, many great souls have realised God and achieved *Moksha*. Even today there are people in different countries practising different religions who will soon be relieved from the '*Samsaara*'.

Of the many people that I met in my past lives, I have written only about a few people in the book. I realised that not only those people, but some others among my friends and relatives too would be able to achieve *Liberation or Moksha* in a few lives from now. My point is that there are many such people leading pious lives who would soon find release from the *karmic* cycle and merge with the Supreme God. I have met such people occasionally in the past and told them about it. I shall be meeting some others soon and I intend to enlighten them on the above.

We have seen many great personalities over the generations who have broken free from the Cycle and merged into the great Divine energy. Some of them took human births several thousand times and through their good conduct and pious lifestyle were eventually born as a great man or woman before attaining salvation and merging with God. It is commonly observed that many great people- *in their last birth*- live in a state of abject poverty and face untold misery. We also see them spend their last days in great torment, afflicted by physical illnesses. But they bear the physical affliction with a smile and opine that the disease affects the body and not the soul. Only if we have earned a great deal of merit over several lives, can we spend a little time among such great people, in close proximity to them. Even a single meeting with such people could sanctify and shape our life for good.

Many ages have passed since the beginning of Creation – *Krita Yuga*, *Treta Yuga*, *Dvapara Yuga* and the *Kali Yuga* are the four *Yugas* which recur in that order. Several *Yugas* together form a *Mahayuga*. Unlike what people usually believe, every *Yuga* does not end with *pralaya*, the cosmic deluge. For instance, there was no deluge which drowned the entire Earth at the end of *Dvapara Yuga*. *Dvapara Yuga* ended with the *nirvana* of *Sri Krishna* and *Kali Yuga* began the very next moment. That is when *Dwaraka* was inundated by a giant tidal wave and swallowed up by the sea.

Many places on the coast were similarly flooded, but not the entire Earth. Another point to note here is that even though *Dvapara Yuga* had ended, all the people who had lived until then were again born in different countries in *Kali Yuga*, depending on their *karma*. Hence, it should not be assumed that all those who died in *Dvapara Yuga* became one with the Divine power.

All the soldiers and kings who died in the *Kurukshetra war* (in *Mahabharata*) were reborn again in *Kali Yuga* according to the fruits of their actions in their past lives and took birth several thousand times and might be still living among us today in various forms. The emperors, kings, scholars and laymen of those days have all taken rebirth thousands of times, and are unable to exit the cycle of births and deaths due to the good and bad deeds they have been committing again and again in each life. But some of them who have not forgotten their past impressions completely

can still be seen to possess those qualities. Qualities that have been imprinted deeply on the soul cannot be discarded without great effort spanning many lives.

However, some great men among them were reborn only a few times at the beginning of the *Kali Yuga* and performed several good deeds before uniting with the Divine power. As I said before, we must understand that one need not be born in the same region again and again. If you are born in India in this life, in your next life you may be born in America, Russia, Afghanistan or Pakistan or anywhere else. It is not the case that one will be born again in the same place in the same religion and caste. Only one in a million may again be born in the same family in the next life, and at the most, only a few times. After that, depending on the relationships one has formed over the previous lives, one would be born in different places in different families.

*There isn't a tree in the world
that the wind has not shaken*

Hundreds of years ago, there was a great scholar called Krishna Mohan in the holy city of Varanasi. Towards the end of his life, he performed austere penance for twenty years. He had only one desire – to become a leader. He wanted to earn a position in his next life where he could command or rule over others in the society. Thus, he offered penance to that end for twenty years and then passed away.

In his next life, he was born in an ordinary farmer's family and worked in the fields along with his father. Once a *Sadhu* (holy man) visited the village. As soon as he saw the *Sadhu*, memories of his past life rushed back into his mind. He could not express openly, but he felt a strong attraction towards the holy man.

He would sit beside the *Sadhu* and meditate along with him every morning. Disregarding his father's pleas to return to the fields, he stayed with the *Sadhu*. One day, the *Sadhu* left the village and went away to another place, but the farmer's son did not give up meditation. He built a small hermitage for himself and meditated for hours on end.

One day, as he attained the highest state in meditation, he became aware of his story in the previous life. He remembered that he had performed penance to reach a high position in the society, which would let him rule over others. He started meditating again with the same desire for several years.

He continued meditating with the same aspiration in his next two lives for several years. As a result, he attained a high position in his next life, in which he commanded several million people.

But his power led him to commit many evil deeds and injustices in that life, as a result of which he spent his next few lives in destitution and misery. Presently, he continues to live in poverty, unable to afford two square meals a day. All of this may sound unbelievable, but every word of it is true.

Today, many of those we see in high positions in our society, exercising great authority, had also performed sacrifices and rituals in their previous life, with the sole aim and ambition of reaching a high position in life. Even though

they may have temporarily earned a great status in their lives, many of them who misused their power will end up as ordinary human beings in their future lives. On the other hand, if they continue performing good deeds and do not give up on good conduct in spite of their powerful positions, they could lead happy and fulfilling lives in future.

Recently, I met a man by name Rama Rao, who works in a small-time job and has many problems in life. However, I observed that in spite of all his troubles, his arrogance has not let up one bit. The reason for that became apparent to me one day. In his previous birth, he was the Governor of a state in a prominent country and wielded great authority. He harassed many people using his influence and behaved inappropriately with women. In his later births, he was born in ordinary circumstances and faced several problems and is now born as Rama Rao. Despite the high position he had once held in a past life, the bad deeds he committed at that time resulted in the miseries that he is now experiencing.

*Meeting Shakespeare in
an American University !*

I visited the United States of America for the first time in August, 2018. My second daughter Amukta stays in Dallas and my son works with a multinational company in California. America is a land of opportunities...land of immigrants... a great country indeed...The land is highly fascinating...precisely the reason why people from several countries migrate to USA every year...I visited Dallas, California, New York and Boston in my first visit to the USA. I visited Harvard and Stanford Universities during that visit... unfortunately could not spend much time at both the places... Some of my books on *Lord Sri Venkateswara* have been kept in the libraries of South Asian Studies Departments in several prestigious universities across the world. Several professors at Harvard, Stanford, Cornell, Washington, Columbia, Chicago in USA and many such

prestigious universities in several countries read my books and have become good friends of mine...We continuously communicate through e-mails and on phone though we haven't still met in person. A staffer at Harvard became very close to me and invited me to visit Harvard. So we visited Harvard for a few hours during my first trip to the USA.

While I was in New Jersey, I stayed at my uncle's place .We drove to Boston. My cousin was kind enough to drive us all through. We drove for a few hours and stopped overnight at a hotel in Connecticut and resumed our journey again the next morning after our breakfast. As our car entered into the city where a prestigious university was located, it began to drizzle. The weather was very pleasant. As we drove nearer and nearer to the city, I felt a great Cosmic Energy in the area. As we neared the prestigious university campus, I felt a great Cosmic Energy in the sky around that place. It was present in the highest order. It was then that I understood why the place became so eminent...it is because of such great Cosmic Energy present in the area that the University draws towards it the best persons in every field...and they get great ideas while at that place...when we are in a Cosmic Energy field, our brains start working more effectively...they work in higher planes, on wider platforms...people get great ideas...it could be in any field...An Engineering professor gets a very innovative idea...A professor of medicine could get a simple idea of doing a surgery, which hitherto was very complicated...a business school professor could get a novel idea...an economist gets a new angle to an age old economics problem...

It is not the case with that particular University alone...I have observed Cosmic Energy to be present in very high levels in certain places in the Universe...they are located in different countries...it is at such places that any institution set up would become famous...a business, if set up there, would grow very well...if a hospital is set up there, the patients visiting it for their diseases would go home cured and happy...if a religious place like a temple or a church etc. comes up in such places of high Cosmic Energy, it might become very powerful and also considered to be having great healing powers...those institutions are actually set up in such places based on other parameters...it just coincided that those places have had a great Cosmic Energy flowing...I observed that Cosmic waves were present in abundance when I visited a very prominent college in India...those who meditate at the higher levels can easily feel the great Cosmic waves at such places...

Is it not true that some of you working in your respective professions get some brilliant idea suddenly...you cannot logically explain why you got it then...it is because of some celestial action, a positive wave of great Cosmic Energy that swept across your mind at that instant...and a brilliant idea flashed in your mind...in fact many inventions over the years were due to such great Cosmic Energy waves...

While I went around the library of a prestigious University in the USA, somehow Shakespeare appeared in

my mind...I saw interesting books in the library...but somehow the image of Shakespeare did not get erased from my mind...we then passed through the reading area of the library...there I saw a student reading a Shakespeare work...I instantly thought the student was none other than Shakespeare himself, in one of his earlier lives...why not?...which was why my intuition showed me a picture of Shakespeare the moment I entered the library...I went around glancing at some great memorabilia...but the image of Shakespeare would not go off my mind...after I saw the boy it suddenly disappeared...The great writers and poets of yesteryears like Shakespeare, Wordsworth, Robert Frost, O' Henry etc. are all amongst us today...in some country, into some religion...neither we nor they have the ability to recognise the former litterateurs in their present births...if we are in the highest level of meditation, at times, we might get to know some of them ...at least for a few minutes ...

I met Bro. Richard in a prominent American University. He and his wife are great souls. He was born in India in one of his earlier births and was a great scholar in Vedas. He has done great service to society in his earlier births. He met me in Himalayan Ahsram and was one of the 108 great souls that met me during that birth. Because of his earlier life's attachments he travelled to India and spent couple of months in *Arunachalam* in Tamilnadu. Our Himalayan connection was so strong that he is the first staffer of an overseas university I have ever met. Our souls were filled with great joy when we met each other. Our bonding is still continuing and we are in touch through e-mails.

Cord of attachment.....

A month after writing 'Amruta Darsanam', the telugu version of the book, "Met Again", I went to the USA on a three month vacation. I sent copies of my book to some of my close friends. As I didn't have enough time, I sent it to only a few of my close acquaintances.

I have been reading posts of Sri Murali Mohana Rao, a famous writer, once in a while on his Facebook page. Even though most of his posts are on political happenings, he also writes on subjects of general interest. I sent him a copy of my book though I haven't met him personally. He was very impressed with the book and wrote a review in appreciation and shared it on his Facebook page. One of his friends Mr. Buddhavarapu Kumar, who was away from Hyderabad on some business work at that time, happened to see the post.

He seemed to have noticed the post around 10 PM in the night. He was excited to read the book immediately. By then, I had already made my book available online, on my website.

Mr. Kumar read it around 10:30 PM the same night and was so moved by its contents that he went on reading and completed it around 2 AM! He was shocked to read a chapter in the book wherein I had written about a lady by name Mrs. Lata, whose husband's health condition had miraculously improved after reading one of my books- "Sri Lakshmi Nrisimha Vratam." He could not believe that my books are doing such miracles... Mrs. Lata's husband was none other than his cousin. Mr. Kumar called her the very next morning and asked her whether what was written in the book was true. Lata answered in the affirmative. Mr. Kumar was surprised; he called on the writer, Sri Murali Mohana Rao to thank him for sharing his review on my book and also forwarding the link to accessing the book.

Mr. Kumar called me the next morning and congratulated me for writing such a wonderful book and expressed his interest in meeting me. As I was leaving for the USA on the next day, I suggested we meet on my return. Eventually, we met after I returned from the USA in the month of November, 2019.

Mr. Buddhavarapu Kumar is an eminent industrialist, hailing from the East Godavari district from the state of Andhra Pradesh, India. He set up the Buddhavarapu

Charitable Trust under which 25,000 school children are being fed free lunch every day. He is doing a lot of service to the society. He also had met me in my Himalayan Asram in one of his earlier births.

He was born in a small village in Uttar Pradesh in that birth, travelled to the Himalayas at the age of 45 and had come to my Asram. In the next birth, Mr. Kumar was born in the East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh as a great scholar and worked as a priest in Draksharamam, a great Siva Temple of ancient times. I told him of his name in that birth. He enquired and came to know that a learned scholar by that name had in fact lived about a century ago in that village!

Mr. Kumar is the President of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Chapters of World Hindu Economic Forum, an organisation that has presence in more than 50 countries. WHEF is a forum that brings together various people of Hindu Scoceity such as indistrialists, business persons, traders, banket etc. It is working with the motto 'making society prosperous ' under the able leadership of Sri Sri Swamy Vigyanandji, the Founder President. A regional conference was held at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh in February 2020 for which I was invited by Mr. Kumar to speak on the application of Vedic Sciences in business logo design. Even though I shy away from making public appearances, I could not turn him down. Many people who attended the same wondered at my presence there. It is

indeed my association with him in my Himalayan Asram that connected both of us again and that which made me accept the invitation. If I had not sent a copy of my book- wherein I had mentioned about Mr. Kumar's cousin- to Sri Murali Mohana Rao and if he had not written about it on his Facebook page; we wouldn't have met at all... owing to our close association while in the Himalayan Asram, everything fell in place when the time came for us to get connected again and today we have become good friends all over again . Past lives' associations beckon you with sublime power to reunite with the parted souls... of the subsequent births...

Mr. Kumar was a saint in one of his earlier lives in Africa; precisely the reason why he started his business in Africa in the present birth. He would be born in the next life again in Andhra Pradesh and continue his services towards the upliftment of the downtrodden in the society. We often observe how many people from the upper strata of the society start and run Trusts on a big scale for the welfare of the people. Sometimes they wonder what would happen to the same after them... But let me tell you that I have seen many of them get connected to those Trusts in their successive births too...

Recently I met a young man who did his Masters in Management from a reputed university. He worked in various places as an intern and finally reached a famous town in South India. He was fascinated by the pioneering work taken up by a local Charitable Trust. He got closely involved

with its activities and did lot of service through the Trust. On seeing the young man's enthusiasm, the Chairman of the Trust asked him one day whether he was interested in joining it as one of the Directors... He readily accepted the offer and is now one of them! One day, I understood through my inner vision, why he was so attracted to the work of the Trust. He was actually the founder of the Trust who had lived in the early 1900s.He happens to be the father of the present Chairman... it was predestined that after working in a couple of places, the young man reached that town only to get connected with the Trust again in his present life... His soul knew about it though the mind - in the present birth- was ignorant...

There must be many among you who may have founded medical and educational Trusts and the like for the running of big hospitals and academic institutions for doing yeoman service to the distressed or the unfortunate or you may have started a voluntary organisation.... or even a music academy for the training of budding artists and you may have put all your resources into them with a deep sense of attachment with the same; Do not worry over the future and fate of such bodies as You would definitely be associated with the same in your coming births as you are emotionally tied to them... Mr. Kumar is a classic example of such individuals!

I met Mr.Krishna, an IT professional who lives in a city of USA, through a common friend during my first trip to the USA in 2018. We became very close in a short time. Krishna

is simple and honest; he talks very politely and mingles with everyone. Soon I understood that he is also one of the persons who met me in my Himalayan *Ashram*. He was born in India and worked as a marketing officer. He never thought of going to the USA. However he went there in 1998 in strange circumstances. He is presently working in the IT field. He is also associated with several voluntary organizations. In fact, he started his own voluntary organization. He did not stop at that and wanted to enter into some government organization and serve a wider cross section of the society. He contested a seat for a membership of the school district council and won the election with a comfortable margin surprising many. He won and made it to the school district council in spite of tough competition. His win surprised many of his close friends and himself ...but not me...because I knew he would win the election when he told me about six months ago itself that he would be a contestant ...

When we spent a couple of hours seated together several months ago, I could discern his past lives...and what I found astonished me...in one of his earlier births, Krishna was holdin a prominent post in Federal Government...he was very actively associated with the society...he was very popular and had done lot of welfare activities for the general public ...His soul continued to carry it's memories from that birth even though he is born presently in a small town in South India...His earlier life's deep attachment with the

USA and it's people pulled him back to that land even though he never tried for it seriously...

It just happened, as we say...past lives' attachments with places and people indicate the strong bonding of the soul...which explains why even after several births the soul carries a strong desire to see those places and meet those people...Krishna could have been a governor about three or four births ago...or even much earlier... he was deeply attached to the culture of the USA and also had a long and broad association with the public and took personal interest to initiate several welfare measures for the people of his state as he was deeply attached to the land...He could occupy bigger positions in the future...he too met me in my Himalayan *Divya Ashram* in one of his earlier births...as we are born several times, it is in a few births that we have such deep attachments...in majority of the births we just lead a routine and mechanical life...most of us are born into a lower middle class family...study something...do something for a living...get married...have children...and enjoy small things...a vacation or two in your life time...and then one day we leave the world without making a mark on the society...in fact 99 per cent of the people live in this way.

*Hey, I know him...
roared the Lion!*

Once I went to a zoological park with my family...we stood near the lion's enclosure... the lions were resting under a tree, almost asleep...there was water around them so that they would not jump out...Visitors were curious if any of the lions would get up and walk a bit...Children were very anxious to see them...some visitors in fact made some loud sounds to wake them up...they did not move a bit...The two lions simply relaxed...visitors were disappointed that the lions did not get up and move...just then a government official came with his subordinates to that place...suddenly one of the lions got up and roared loudly and started to walk ferociously...everyone present there were pleasantly surprised; what made the lion get up suddenly from its placidity and roar so loudly...I could see the reason in my inner vision...the lion

was none other than a government official in his earlier birth who was a colleague of the official who went there just then... he made very big money by getting involved in many scandals and was never kind to anyone...he died in an accident and took the birth of a lion as he had done lot of misdeeds since several births...it was the soul that recognized the person as his colleague in the previous birth...the soul is always conscious...even in our sleep...so even when the lion was relaxing the soul understood that it's previous life's friend came into the vicinity...it made the lion get up and roar loudly and ferociously...

None of the visitors understood the actual reason...they all felt happy on seeing the lion getting up from it's sleep-mode and roaring loudly...children were happy...many visitors including the government official took some photos of the lions...sometimes our earlier births' reminiscences are so strong that they might not leave the soul for several hundred births...the soul carries the memories and acts accordingly in some later birth...but it seems very peculiar to the person and persons around him as they cannot correlate the actions or behaviour with one's memories of the earlier births ...

One day I was designing a logo for a company, seated in my office...my mobile rang loudly...I took the call...the person from the other end did not even ask for my name...he just said 'when are you sending our packing material?...' ...I was a bit surprised and asked him what packing

material?...then he told me they were waiting for packing the cartons...I told him politely that we didn't supply any packing material for cartons...and that it was a wrong number...he put down the phone politely...after a while he called me again 'Sir, why is the despatch delayed /we are yet to get the cartons'...I told him, "Sir, you have called a wrong number"...and he disconnected the call...after a while he called me again...before I could say something he asked me... "Sir, this time it is not about the cartons...may I know what you do?...why is your number stored on my mobile?..." then I told him that I was basically an engineer and selected company names and designed logos by applying *Vedic* principles... he was so very interested in my work that he asked me if I could meet him that day evening itself...I said, 'welcome sir'...I did not tell him about my devotional books...

So he came to my house in the evening on the same day and spent an hour with me...he was fascinated by my logo designs...and told me ' Dear Viswapathi, we are in to dairy business...we have several other companies too...we get our logos designed by an advertising agency...never knew that business logos can be designed using *Vedic* principles...I will definitely approach you for our company's next logo...then he saw the book, "*Sri Venakteswara Vrata Kalpam*" on my table...he took it into his hands and glanced through a few pages and found it to be interesting...and then he told me, ' Sir! we grew up in Tirupathi looking at the sacred Tirumala

hills everyday in the morning...*Lord Sri Venkateswara* is our family deity...can you give me few copies?...I want to give them to my family members”...

I told him, “Sir...we don't sell them ...I print about 5,000 copies every six months and distribute them for free”...he was very happy and immediately said, 'Sir, bless us. We will help print 5,000 copies ...I will send Rs.25, 000 tomorrow morning with my son. Kindly get 5,000 copies of “*Sri Venkatswara Vrata Kalpam*” printed...give us about 200 copies... keep the rest with you and distribute them to the devotees”...He further said, ' Dear Viswapathi, I am very happy to meet you...from now onwards whenever we start a new company I will take the logo only from you”...saying so he left my house...true to his word, he sent Rs.25,000 through his son the next morning...and took about 200 copies of the book...

it happened exactly 12 years ago. Since then he did not meet me at all!. He was destined to meet me because of a previous life's connection...otherwise how would my number be saved on his mobile ? We never met earlier or later...see how our earlier lives pull us to a person in dramatic circumstances ? Is it not likely that your fellow passenger on a flight might become your best friend in later years?...or a stranger you meet at a Christmas party could become your spouse. All these are past lives' connections, which brings the two souls together again.Sometimes it could grow into a stronger relationship .nothing happens by chance in our life, even if it seems so. Everything has a reason...has a purpose... and has something to do with one of our past lives...

*How I came to be called
Viswapathi...*

Many people think that 'Viswapathi' is a title given to me. But it is very much a part of my name! There is a story behind how I came to be named Viswapathi. And the connection to Benaras (Varanasi) in my story is even more interesting. My mother had a sister called Sarada and a younger brother called Kasipathi. Since he was born after my great grandmother visited Benaras or Kasi (original name of the oldest city Varanasi, derived from the word 'Kasha' meaning brightness), he was named Kasipathi. My aunt Sarada was very attached to Kasipathi, but unfortunately, he died within a few months of his birth. Sadly, even aunt Sarada succumbed to typhoid some time later. I was born just a few months later. On the fifth day, I cried uncontrollably and did not stop even after everyone tried their best to make me stop crying. Meanwhile, my mother dozed off for a little while.

In her dream, she saw aunt Sarada, who said, “Sister! Will you call him Kasipathi?” My mother didn't reply. Even though Sarada asked her twice or thrice, my mother didn't reply. Then she said, “Fine! I think you don't want to name him Kasipathi because he died. Will you name him Viswapathi instead?” My mother agreed to that. Then, aunt Sarada asked my mother to utter the name Viswapathi thrice. As soon as my mother repeated the name thrice, my aunt disappeared and my mother woke up from her sleep. Surprisingly, I stopped crying immediately. My mother narrated her dream to all the elders who thus decided to name me 'Viswapathi.'

My father's name is Sri Timmaraju Lakshmi Narasimha Rao. He faced many problems in his childhood. His father, i.e. my grandfather Sri Timmaraju Krishna Rao, worked as a school teacher in those days. They moved from place to place and rarely stayed at one place for a long time. My father was my grandfather's eldest son. My mother Smt. Nagaratnamba was a very pious lady. She was very kind hearted.

My father got married when my grandfather was close to retirement. He joined the Accountant General's office in 1954. With great difficulty, he educated his younger brothers and sisters. The latter also worked hard and earned scholarships and did tutoring, besides pursuing their studies to fund their education.

My father was born in very ordinary circumstances and struggled a lot in his childhood to get an education. He was very devoted to *Lord Sri Venkateswara* since childhood. To rid himself of the *karma* accumulated over the last thousands of lives, he went through many trials and tribulations in his life and expired suddenly at the age of 56. I am blessed to have had him as my father, though it was only for a brief period! After a few more virtuous lives, he would soon merge into the Divine source of Creation.

My mother Nagaratnamba was a very gentle lady. She was born in her previous life in a great family near Delhi, but faced many health issues towards the end. Even in her present life, she faced many hurdles and struggled with ill-health before passing away. She might not have many more lives left. Presently, she has been born into a traditional *Brahmin* family in Madurai and spends her time chanting *slokas* and *mantras* and visits the temple daily. She will live for 72 years with good health.

*Two Professors
and an alsatian !*

I had a professor friend by name Mr Ram in India. One day my friend Prof. Ram went to Delhi to attend a conference. After the conference was over he went to the house of Prof.Sarma who had been his close friend for several years. The moment he entered Prof.Sarma's house, he saw Julie, an alsatian there. ... Ram was frightened. Sarma told him, 'do not worry...it will not harm you'...and to the utter anxiety of my friend, Julie came and sat beside the sofa Ram was seated. Moreover, Julie licked Ram's foot. Sarma was a bit shocked at its behaviour. It normally barked at all strangers...instead it kept quiet and snuggled close to Ram. Even Ram was surprised. He did not shout at all as was his usual way. He kept quiet and both professors exchanged some old memories...

Prof.Sarma requested Prof. Ram to stay for the night in their house. Though Ram was initially reluctant, eventually he agreed. Ram spent the night there; the next morning when

he had his breakfast,...surprisingly Julie inched very close to Ram...In fact it had slept in the same room where Ram slept the previous night...Both Sarma and Ram were surprised ...When Ram was about to leave Prof. Sarma's house, Julie would not let him go...it held on to his pants with its teeth...with great difficulty Sarma cajoled it. Ram left the house with great difficulty and a heavy heart.

Julie was not its usual self after Ram's visit. It was dull and sat often by the sofa where Ram had sat. Prof. Sarma somehow felt it wanted to see Ram; he called Ram one day and told him that he would be going to Hyderabad along with Julie to stay for a couple of days at Ram's house. And when they went to Hyderabad the following weekend, the moment Julie entered Ram's house its face glowed and it just jumped everywhere in joy. Those two days that Sarma was there Julie was the happiest. Ram's children too got very attached to it. When Sarma intended to leave, Julie was reluctant...It showed maximum resistance to go with Sarma. Everyone was surprised...Sarma then told Ram 'Dear friend, perhaps Julie wants to stay here permanently...Let it be happy'.... Saying so, he went back to Delhi.

One day I went to my friend Ram's house. He narrated to me how Julie became a member of his house...I looked at Julie for a while...and I got the answer- through my inner vision...Julie had had a long association with Ram...When Ram was born in the USA during his last birth as Stevenson, Julie was his pet dog...Julie was born as a dog and was called

by the name Prince...in its present birth it has been born in India...As it had deep attachment with Ram in the earlier birth, its soul recognized Ram the moment he entered Sarma's house...and it felt very happy to meet Ram again in the present birth...Some animals especially elephants, horses, cats, dogs, and monkeys have an extra sensory perception. Sometimes their souls carry the memories over several births...even though they can't communicate verbally with us they show their attachment to us through their body language...and through their behaviour... I found some horses becoming very close to their owners because of their past life's attachments...in fact many of us might have experienced the strange behaviour of dogs and might have heard very interesting experiences from our friends...Some dogs are even believed to see spirits in the air...they can communicate with our soul...some of them remember persons, places, events for several births...

*Narasimha...A great soul
from the Kruta Yuga*

One of the 108 people who met me in the Himalayan *Ashram* and has again met me in the present life is a car driver by name Narasimha who lives in Tirupati. He was born as Natesan in his previous life in a village in Tamil Nadu in a family of prominent doctors. The family was wealthy and owned many businesses.

Natesan used to visit Tirumala often to pray to *Lord Venkateswara*. He also visited other holy places and got many temples built with his wealth. Every time he visited Tirumala, he was blessed with a wonderful *Darsan* (view) of the Lord and was able to participate in all the *Sevas* (services offered to God). On every visit, he would see ordinary devotees taking great pains to just see the Lord from afar. “What troubles the poor devotees face for one Darsan of the

Lord! They don't know anything about the different Sevas! I must come and visit the Lord once as an ordinary devotee”, Natesan would think to himself. He always chanted *Lord Srinivasa's* name while doing his work.

Presently, Natesan has been born as Narasimha in a village near Tirupati. For some time, he took up sundry jobs. Later, he bought a car and started working as a driver. Owing to his past life's *karma*, he has been born near Tirupati and is in the business of dropping devotees every day to Tirumala. Along with them, he also visits other holy places like Tiruchanur, Sri Kalahasti, Kanipakam etc. It is the result of his good deeds in his previous life that he is able to stay very close to *Lord Srinivasa* all the time.

About 15 years ago, as soon as we disembarked at the Tirupati station, we hired his car for a ride up the hill. He stayed with us for all the three days that we were there and I gave him the two books that I had written at that time. After that, we did not meet for several years.

Once when my brother Srinivas went to Tirupati with his family, he coincidentally hired the same car to go up to Tirumala. As they conversed, Narasimha noticed my brother's resemblance to me and showed him my book which was in his car and asked him whether he was related to the author of the book. My brother was greatly surprised and told him that I was indeed his elder brother. Narasimha felt happy at the turn of events and that is how we came into contact once again.

Hundreds of car drivers wait outside the Tirupati railway station. Yet, it was Narasimha who met me the first time, then lost touch for a while and again came back into my life after a few years through my brother. All because of our Himalayan *Ashram* connection! Ever since, every time we go to Tirupati, he stays with us through out our stay. Narasimha is our constant companion from the time we get down at Tirupati station till the time we are back on the train to Hyderabad. Now Narasimha is almost like a member of our family.

He is a very gentle person and a man of noble ideals. He also attended our daughters' weddings. All our relatives visiting Tirupati also use only his services. Now they trust him so much that they say, “Narasimha! It is the Lord on the Hill and you –at the foot of the hill- who bring us to Tirupati. Else, we would have a hard time finding our way among so many people.” Narasimha takes care of his car passengers like his own family members. He has been through many ups and downs in his life. But his *karma* is going to deplete in a few more lives and then he would be united with the Divine energy. In his next life, he would be born at the holy place of *Arunachala* in a well-to-do family. He would perform many acts of charity and build many temples.

After that, he would be born again near Tirumala in a great *Sri Vaishnava* family. He would become a great exponent and scholar through tireless efforts and practice and go on to preach the essence of Divinity to people while

engaging himself in good deeds and constantly contemplating on God. A few more lives later, he would be delivered from the cycle of life and death.

Our relationship with a person lasts only until the time we owe a debt to him/her connected to our past lives. Once the debt is discharged, either that person departs from our life, or we move away from him/her. This explains why in certain phases of our life, some people come very close to us and befriend us, and yet leave after a time, never to be seen again. That is all the debt that we owed to them! We spend that brief time together only because of a relationship from a past life.

Two brothers Ramnadh and Satyadev met me in my Himalayana Asram. Both were very pious. In one of his earlier lives Ramnadh had darsan of Lord Sri Dattatreya blessed him with His darsan in the form of a Siddha. Similarly Satyadev had darsan of Sri Shirdi Saibaba in one of his earlier lives. Sri Sai Baba blessed Satyadev that he will live happily in his future lives and would come for His darsan several times. In the present life both came together as wife and husband and met me because of their connection with me in Himalayan Asram.

The soul connect
....with the French Philosopher

I have two daughters and a son. My eldest daughter Arpita lives in Hyderabad. My second daughter Amukta lives in Dallas in the USA. Aditya studied B.Tech at IIT Hyderabad and won a gold medal by the grace of *Lord Srinivasa* and studied M.S. in the prestigious Stanford University in America and is currently working in California.

In April 2018, Rukmini and I went to the USA. There I met some people who have been living normal lives presently but had stayed with me at my Himalayan *Ashram* in the past. I encountered an interesting incident in my second trip to the USA in 2019...I stayed with my daughter in Dallas...we used to go to a park close by on some of the evenings...on one such day, a French philosopher of the 16th

century appeared in my mind...his name flashed across my mind...and his photo too...I was a bit surprised as I was not thinking anything related to either France or the subject of philosophy ...but it continued for a while...that evening, we went to a different park...it was the first time I entered the park...

I sat on a bench watching our granddaughter on the swing...my son-in-law dashed into one of his friends and walked further away totally engrossed with talking to his friend. ...at that moment an old couple came there with their grandson... the grandma played with her grandson while the grandfather walked towards me and sat beside me...and I instantly felt that he was none other than the French Philosopher who had been in my thoughts since that morning...we both smiled at each other...after a while suddenly he took out a book from his bag and started reading it...OMG!It was nothing but a work of the great French Philosopher...even after several births his passion for philosophy continued...the soul carries its basic instincts...core likes...and in some later births suddenly the soul gets attracted to the same subjects...same objects...same fields and same places...he sat for half an hour and left with a smile... a smile which I cherish even today...perhaps his soul was communicating with me through the smile for recognizing him that he was the great French Philosopher of the 16th century...

How many of you suddenly search for some person on Google...it could be that you might have had some relationship with him/her in your earlier births...or it could be you yourself in one of the earlier births...sometimes you feel like visiting a place strongly...something pulls you towards the place...

How many of you have not quarrelled with your wives or husbands to go to a particular place for vacation...your strong feeling to go to that place arose because you were associated with it in some manner in one of your earlier lives...either you lived there...or you wanted to visit but could not in your earlier births...the urge remained with your soul even in this birth and you want to visit only that place ...or it could be that you visited it several times...or you were born in several births at that particular place...that could be drawing you to that place again in your present life...isn't it that you declared strongly saying you would go only there for vacation that year...

Few years ago I went on the highway with my friends to another town... We wanted to have a cup of tea ...but unable to find a tea stall to stop by...after driving for another half an hour, we found a small hut by the road side with a small sign board in Telugu that said tea was available...we stopped there but found no one ...when we shouted... 'Anyone there?' ...some lady came from inside...we told her we needed four cups of tea...she asked us to sit on a bench...and said she would get tea for us in 15 minutes time...

As we were about to sit on the bench she ran out from inside and wiped off the dust on the bench with her saree...we were a bit shocked...told her not to worry about it and asked her to prepare the tea instead....after five minutes a boy of about four years of age came out from inside the hut and started to draw on the mud wall outside the hut...he drew some picture with a piece of coal...I became a bit curious and wanted to see what he drew...and the picture shocked me...it was a sketch of the famous Ajantha Ellora caves...and I saw how intensely he was involved in drawing it...how could he draw...there was no way that either he or his parents knew about the paintings...they might not have even heard the name...

Meanwhile, his mother fetched four cups of tea...as I was about to ask her about the boy, she herself said... 'Sir, He draws some pictures every other day. Sir...we do not know what those pictures are ...he gets involved fully while drawing them...some crap Sir'...saying so she went inside the hut. I called my friends and showed them...they were shocked to see the beauty of the pictures...

We then sipped our tea...what I saw in my inner vision surprised me....it was the same person, who drew the paintings in the Ajantha Ellora caves, in one of his earlier births...the soul carried the memories and he was able to draw the same again...I gave him some money and we continued on our journey...

The Sentient Sequoias
...of Yosemite

As we all know man lived in the jungles in the earlier days...we lived for millions of years in the forests and in nature...we were close to nature then...man was happier living in nature...with the advent of civilizations, humans left the forests and slowly went further and further away from nature...and started living in concrete jungles ...it is only in the last few thousands of years that we are living in villages and towns...but as we lived for millions of years in the forests, our souls have had a deep attachment to nature...which is why we feel very happy when we go to a wildlife sanctuary or a bird sanctuary or a park...or nearer to trees and plants...we feel like spending several days in nature...but our modern life styles do not allow us such long stays...our soul cries when we leave that place and return to the concrete jungle...

When you are in stress, just stand by the window- of your room whether at your work place , home or any other place- and look at a nearby tree...you'd feel very relaxed...if possible go out and sit under a tree...or take a walk in a nearby park...and observe how refreshing you feel...your soul and mind relax largely after spending an hour in nature...your soul is so much attached to nature that you feel very happy and relaxed even if you see nature's image or even a painting...the pictures of trees and greenery makes your soul happier...and thereby your mind and the physical body feel relaxed...it is for this reason that visitors to national parks in several countries are increasing multi fold year after year...

In the year 2019 we visited California and spent two weeks with our son Aditya. On a long weekend, we visited Yosemite national park for a couple of days. About 12 of our family members went there and thoroughly enjoyed the stay. I had lot of interesting experiences while we toured the park... We visited Mariposa Grove with giant sequoias....they are all giant trees, hundreds of years old...It is one of the greatest places in the world with the oldest and largest giant trees in the world today. Some of the trees are as old as 1500 years. It was a great feeling to walk along the oldest trees of the world...oldest living species...yes, you read it right...oldest living species...Yes, the trees do have life...they draw Cosmic Energy from the Universe and survive for hundreds of years...

I have seen such giant and old trees in the *Seshachala* forests of India...it is on the mountain ranges of the *Seshachala* forests, that the famous temple of *Lord Sri Venkateswara*, more popularly called *Sri Balaji*, is situated...in the deep forests we find trees that communicate with the tourists... the only point to remember is we should be able to receive their messages sent in different languages, different planes and through different signs... I have visited the Tirupati temple several times and I have had the Divine experience of the trees communicating with me...some shared their feelings and emotions too...they told me stories from the past...for they are the ones who witnessed history for several centuries...they are the true witnesses to several civilizations...

Coming back to Yosemite, you get transported to a different plane , different dimension of time while you are among those giant angels ...In fact they recognize us...trees recognize human beings...they have emotions...and they communicate with each other in a way which we cannot perceive...and they receive Cosmic Energy from the Universe which gives them energy to live 200-300 years or even longer , say a 1,000 years as we saw at Yosemite...even though they seem to be separated physically, they are interconnected biologically, in infinite paths beneath the ground which ordinary human beings are yet to understand fully...it is for this reason that when you pull a tree out of the ground, the trees around and those at a distance, weep...

Sometimes a distant tree falls suddenly without human effort...it is because it is so moved by its 'fellow tree' being removed or cut by we human beings...the trees cry when we cut their branches...they feel happy if you simply stand near them or water them...in several faiths, there is a tradition of worshipping trees...and offering food and water to them...in fact very big festivals take place in some countries in which trees are treated as Gods during the festival...and in some others, some trees are treated always as Gods and Angels from above...

While moving around in the Mariposa Grove, I found them talking to one another...The weather was very pleasant on that day...tourists from several countries enjoyed the great sequoias...the mere sight of those giant sequoias sends wonderful feelings across our minds...while I looked at one of them, I saw some leaves falling on a tourist who stood next to me...it was an American family of four... father, mother with two kids...the leaves fell on the man...the family was a little amused...and after a couple of minutes again some more leaves fell only on him ...there was not much wind...the leaves from the same tree fell only on him twice...

I closed my eyes and meditated for a while...the actual reason surprised me and made me happy too...that particular tree felt very happy on seeing that particular tourist...the tree's soul recognized him...he had been there in his previous birth about 50 years ago...in fact, he had visited the

Grove four times in that birth and had stayed there for 3-4 days in every trip...he was fascinated by the giant trees...in my inner vision, I saw how he was connected to that place...he did not know it...but his soul knew it...and the tree's soul too...not just that...he had written a small book on the park with poems on the giant sequoias calling them great angels...that particular tree had recognized him...it showed its happiness by shedding some leaves on him...the family moved on with happiness on their faces ...

Some other trees too followed suit- after watching the happiness of their fellow tree-...they too shed some leaves on him...the family was quite amused...in fact their cute son of about four years old picked up a couple of those leaves and put them into his pocket...certainly a great souvenir for the family...what a wonderful way to reciprocate the warmth and affection shown by the giant trees?...the boy's soul knew that his father had come there in his earlier birth...but the soul cannot communicate with the mind... the mind cannot understand the soul...it simply acts once it gets a message from the soul... the soul understands the language of the nature...we do many things inadvertently, without intending to do most of the times...it is because our soul sends a message to our mind...our mind then acts in accordance with it...but it cannot explain the reason...

As we all have lived for millions of years in nature, our soul is always connected to nature...it tells our mind to go back to nature as and when we can...as many times as we

can...we all have lived along with beautiful trees, beautiful animals , beautiful birds and beautiful insects...and we all communicated with each other...at that time, we knew their feelings...their emotions...as we drifted away and away from nature, we are unable to understand the feelings of other species...we are unable to communicate with other species... try to go in to the wild and stay for a week in a serene place...you'd see how trees, plants, animals, birds etc., communicate with each other ...when a tiger is on the prowl, it can be seen how all animals around respond...how they communicate with each other...not just animals...you can see how trees and plants also communicate with the animals and birds...it is a wonderful world in itself wherein we are strangers.

While climbing the Tirumala Hills on foot several times, I noticed how the trees on either side of the path communicate with the birds and other species...how happy they are to see all of us...as we miss them, they too miss us...just grow a plant in your backyard ...and as it grows you'll see its glow...it shows its affection and love towards you in many ways...we may not be able to understand its soul...its communication with us...but we might certainly feel its happiness...

Meeting SVR...Again

When Amukta stayed in a different city in the US, I did not get to go to America. But since some of the people from the Himalayan *Ashram* are at present in Dallas, it so happened that I visited America in the same period. First I met my friend SVR, my classmate in M.Tech at the Regional Engineering College during 1980-82. We met in the US unexpectedly after 36 years in 2018 after bidding farewell to each other way back in 1982. SVR is also one of those at the Himalayan *Ashram*!

Every day for the last 15 years, I have been sending my books to many people. Some of the people who read these books have become very close friends of mine. One such dear friend is a retired headmaster from Kakinada, Mr. Jagannatha Rao. One of his sons, Mr. Krishna Sharma

has been living in Dallas for a long time. Once when Mr. Jagannatha Rao visited his son in America, he took many copies of the book, “*Sri Venkateswara Vrata Kalpam*” with him and distributed them to the Telugu people that he knew there.

Krishna Sharma, being a friend of SVR, gave a book to him once when SVR visited the former's house. When he saw my name on the book, he asked Mr. Jagannatha Rao, how he had known me. To which, the latter recounted in detail, how I had sent him my books and how he had been distributing them to many people over the years. SVR was very happy to hear that. That is how we got back in touch once again. Krishna Sharma was also happy at the turn of events. Mr. Jagannatha Rao is so fond of our family that he came all the way from Kakinada along with his wife to attend the marriage of my eldest daughter Arpita.

In one of his previous lives, SVR was born in Germany and rose to be a famous doctor. He established a big hospital and provided free medical services to the needy and also won many awards. His service is still remembered by the people of that town. When one is born repeatedly as a good human being, and one works for the benefit of the society, it indicates that one's soul is on a virtuous journey, towards *Salvation*.

In his next life, SVR was born near Anantapur and was well-educated. He helped many poor people not only

financially for pursuing their academics but also to get married. In his present life, SVR has been born again in Andhra Pradesh, where he worked for some time before moving to America. He continues to perform good deeds and is always willing to help others.

As a sign of the depletion of his past *karma*, he has faced many hardships in life and has also suffered from ill-health for some time. He does not have many more lives to expend. After a few births, he will be born into a family with great ideals and perform many great deeds, finally depleting his *karma* and emerging victorious by doing away with the worldly ties, his soul would achieve the Ultimate!

When I was in America, I also met a friend of SVR, Mr. Vajpayee, who was also with me in the Himalayan *Ashram*. It was quite an extraordinary meeting! He was born at Varanasi, during that period, as a scholar by name, Mishra. He wrote several exquisite grammar books in Sanskrit and moulded many students. When he was 72 years old, he met *Sadhus* and *Yogis* for spiritual advancement and came to know many Divine secrets from them. One day, he joined a band of *Sadhus* on their way to the Himalayas. There, he was blessed with a vision of *Sri Dattatreya* at one place. Thereafter, he made his way to my *Ashram* and lived there in an exemplary manner.

In the next life, he was born in today's East Godavari district in a great village of *Brahmins* as a very spiritually

advanced person. He enlightened many people on religious matters and *Yogic* secrets. His discourses were in an extremely simple language and attracted lay people as well.

Owing to his past *karma*, once he fell ill for two years, but he cured himself through his *Yogic* powers. Family members and friends were very distressed by his sickness, but he would always smile, unmindful of the debilitating illness and tell them that sickness affected the body and not the soul. He is very gentle by nature in his present life too. In his next life, he would be born into a wealthy family in a holy town of Tamil Nadu and would build several temples and educational institutions and lead an exemplary life. He might have to take very few births thereafter.

*When Sarika's heart melted
for baby Amukta...*

Let me share an interesting incident from my life relating to how a soul recognizes its biological or genetic relationships even after several births. It was the year 1987. Our second daughter Amukta had suffered from severe diarrhoea and was hospitalized. Even after four days there was no respite. It worsened further with blood appearing in her stools. As she was only a year old, her situation deteriorated very fast. She was continuously kept on IV fluids.

One evening, the duty nurse noticed that the fluid was not flowing into the veins and that Amukta's hand was swollen ...vasofix had to be removed immediately and put in another vein...the duty nurse Sarika tried her best to find a vein....but her efforts were in vain... the baby was

dehydrated a lot as they were unable to find a vein to administer the IV fluid...Sarika tried for a couple of hours...her duty time was over and the next shift commenced with the nurse Aparna, who took over from Sarika...Aparna also tried...but it was already past two hours and the baby had been without IV fluid...her situation deteriorated by the minute...

They only had half an hour to find a vein else the consequences would be disastrous...we were terribly worried...Even though Sarika's duty was over, she did not go home...Aparna told her to go home as it was getting late in the night, for, she stayed quite far...but she did not leave baby Amukta...as Aparna could not succeed in finding the vein, Sarika tried her best all over again...she was tensed...but she was very determined to save Amukta...and God answered our prayers...she finally located a fresh vein and the fluid flowed smoothly into the veins...everyone heaved a sigh of relief...

Sarika was very happy...I saw tears of joy in her eyes...why did she not leave even after her duty time was over? Why did she worry so much for baby Amukta?...now I know the answer...that which I got one day, through my inner vision...Sarika was none other than Amukta's mother in one of the earlier births...her soul knew it...would any mother leave her daughter in that state and go away? certainly not...it is because her soul knew the previous birth's association, Sarika could not leave Amukta...she

wanted to save her at any cost...I still remember the happiness on her face once she found the vein in Amukta's little wrist...

We come across similar situations in our daily lives...a stranger helping us in the most dire consequences...and in the most dramatic of ways...A student might have a special affection for another student...sometimes we feel a special bonding with a few fellow travellers on a flight...or someone sitting next to us in a theatre...in many of the cases we cannot attribute any logical reason why we like the person so much... however, it is because our soul knows who that person was and how we knew him/her in our earlier births... the soul thus, recognizes the person and acts accordingly... it's the mind in our physical body that does not know ...

*Tirupathi...the abode of
immense Cosmic Energy*

In the sacred hills of Tirupathi, Cosmic Energy has been felt in great strength from the point of Creation of the Universe. It has further been enhanced over millions of years by continuous chanting of *Vedic* hymns by *Vedic* scholars. For the last hundreds of years, everyday several pujas have been going on, all through the day in the temple. And many *slokas* and *stotras* are read every day in the temple of *Lord Sri Venkateswara*. So the energy waves from the chanting over several hundreds of years have greatly enhanced the naturally present Cosmic Energy in the sacred Hills. Even an ordinary person can feel the presence of Cosmic Energy in Tirumala.

Such great Cosmic Energy is also present in some other sacred places in India like Srirangam, Mathura, Guruvayur,

Brindavan, Sri Vaishno Devi, Kedarnath, Badrinath, Dwaraka, Udipi, Srisailam, Gokarnam, Madurai, Varanasi, Ujjain etc. In such places while the ordinary people who do not do any sort of meditation or even regular prayers, feel the presence of the great Cosmic Energy; it goes without saying that the elevated souls and those who have attained the highest level in meditation, feel the Cosmic Energy very easily. They also experience several spiritual experiences in those places. Some of them even come into contact with great souls of yesteryears and some Gods in those places. The experience has to be felt personally and cannot be explained in words. Such is the blissful feeling one gets in such great sacred places.

Similarly Cosmic Energy is present in great strengths in some mountains ranges and forests in several countries like America, France, Germany, Switzerland etc. As we all know, several civilizations thrived on the Earth and disappeared in course of time. In some civilizations pious people lived in certain places...those places attracted lot of Cosmic Energy...even today in such places we find Cosmic Energy in great strengths...We often see some people with the most in disciplined life style, living healthily...we cannot understand how he/she is so healthy in spite of all his/her bad habits...it is because the place where his/her house is situated, is a place where lot of Cosmic Energy is concentrated...in some earlier civilizations it might have been a very sacred place...so unknowingly, unintentionally

he/she happens to be staying now at that place...because of such great Cosmic Energy, he/she is very healthy in spite of his/her many vices...

Ordinary human beings cannot feel the presence of the Cosmic Energy...great *sadhakas*, while in meditation, can find places of Cosmic Energy...in fact, great *sadhakas* immediately feel the Cosmic Energy the moment they enter a place...they tell their disciples to build a temple or some *Vedic* school or some service organization as the institution would flourish well because of wonderful Cosmic Energy present there...

The idol of *Lord Sri Venkateswara* in the Tirumala temple dates back to millions of years. The Tirumala region holds great importance for all of us. We believe that *Sriman Narayana* of *Sri Vaikuntha* manifested Himself here at Tirumala in the form of an idol many millions of years ago. Every day several million devotees from all across the world travel to Tirumala overcoming many challenges, to see the Lord. But all they get is a second's worth of viewing time! Yet they feel satisfied and return home with great happiness. Once they see the Lord and come out of the temple complex, they forget all the hardships they had faced in the bargain and start planning their next visit to Tirumala. Such is the power of *Lord Sri Venkateswara* who resides there.

But how did the place get so much power? In fact, what is this power that is pulling us? What power is that which attracts devotees from remote regions of the world? It is only

when we understand all of this that the next time we go to Tirumala, we feel more thrilled .

The world is dotted with powerful regions soaked in strong vibrations permeating the entire land. The temples built in such places and the deities who reside there are considered to have miraculous powers. Tirumala, Srirangam, Madurai, Kanchi, Varanasi, Haridwar, Kedarnath, Badarinath, Vaishnodevi in Kashmir, Pashupatinath temple in Nepal are all examples of such powerful regions in the world. For instance, take Tirumala. Truth be told, the deity we worship in the form of *Sri Maha Vishnu* in the *Ananda Nilayam* of the Tirumala temple is the same Divine energy from which all Creation emanates!

Since it is difficult for ordinary people to imagine the shapeless and formless Divine energy and worship it, it has assumed the form of *Lord Sri Venkateswara* at Tirumala, *Parameswara* in Varanasi, *Kamakshi* in Kanchi, *Sri Krishna* in Brindavan, *Sri Vaishno Devi* in Kashmir, *Shaankari Devi* in Sri Lanka and so on. But when we reflect deeply on the same, it is apparent to us that the deities at all those holy places are but the forms of the Divine power of Creation. The Divine energy itself has taken several forms in different places to bless us with its presence.

As mentioned earlier, all those deities are visible to human eye in the form of idols. When spiritual practitioners meditate in those regions, they feel the Divine vibrations in

the air and realise that the residing deity is not just *Sri Maha Vishnu or Maheswara*, but the Divine energy itself that powers all Creation.

In ancient times, many *Yogis* and sages visited those places and were able to perceive the infinite power lodged in those regions. Because those holy places are seats of such power, we derive peace of mind when we visit those places and experience Divine feelings that cannot be expressed in words.

Tirumala is one such region possessing immense power. The waves of the Divine energy that created the world flow from across the planetary constellations directly to the areas in the vicinity of the Lord's temple on the Tirumala hills every day. Though we revere the idol as *Sri Maha Vishnu*, many Gods, *Siddhas*, *Yogis* and great men descend even today to Tirumala in invisible forms to worship the great Divine force. They don't regard the idol as simply *Sri Maha Vishnu*, but they worship Him, knowing that He is the genesis of all Creation. However, as the exalted thinking of great people is beyond the grasp of lay people like us, we consider the main deity to be *Sriman Narayana* and worship Him as an incarnation of *Sriman Narayana*.

Due to the presence of the Divine power, the Tirumala region is charged with Divine vibrations all the time. That is why we never feel fatigued while climbing the Hill. When the Divine vibrations pass through our bodies, we gain a lot

of strength and our minds are filled with peace. Even now, some people who come with me to the temple at Tirumala tell me that the idol appeared to them as *Lord Shiva*. Some devotees from Tamil Nadu still worship the temple's deity as *Sri Subrahmanya*. To other devotees, the Lord looks like other Gods and Goddesses.

Every time I visit Tirumala, I notice many wonderful things. Once, when I went into the temple, I saw the trinity of *Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva* standing near the temple's *dhwajasthambam* in their Divine forms. Another time, as soon as we crossed the silver porch (*VendiVakili*) into the temple in the early morning hours, I saw *Sri Saraswati, Sri Mahalakshmi* and *Sri Parvati Devi* there. Yet another time at Tirumala, when I stopped near *Narayanagiri SrivariPadalu* to sit down and meditate in the forest, *Lord Hanuman* Himself appeared to me there. Even today, *Lord Hanuman* roams on the Tirumala Hills in His Divine form and blesses many great people with His vision!

Once, when four of us with our families, went to Tirumala, try as we might, we could not get tickets for *Darsan* (to enter the temple and view the deity) for the next day. Then I came out of the cottage and stood in front of a tree with my eyes closed. That tree was not a mere tree but a great sage, who had been performing '*tapas*' since many thousands of years. He looked at me for a moment and smiled. Meanwhile, a family member came out and handed me my phone which was ringing. The person at the other end told

me that he had arranged for *Darsan* tickets for all of us for the following morning. Isn't it amazing? The sage understood my deepest thoughts and made the Lord's *Darsan* possible instantly. Many devotees undergo such wonderful experiences everyday at Tirumala.

Sacred places like Tirumala, Srirangam, Varanasi and Madurai have one more remarkable thing in common. As those places are all abodes of the power that is at the heart of the Universe, no matter which of those shrines we visit, we are accorded the punya of visiting all the pilgrimage places in the world. Those places are endowed with so much power that if we enter into a deep meditation at any of those places, we could get a vision of all other shrines on the spot.

That means if we meditate at Tirumala with single-mindedness, we could also see Varanasi, Prayag, Haridwar, Kedarnath, Muktinath etc. What's more, the Hills there might all of a sudden seem to us like the Himalayas. In olden days, some great people who stayed in a single place all their life visited all the sacred shrines through their Divine vision. For instance, even though *Ramana Maharshi* lived in Arunachalam, he visited all the pilgrimages in the world from there itself. So also, *Annamacharya*, whom we associate only with Tirumala, had visited all the sacred places in the world through his *Yogic* powers and that is precisely why he was able to compose such wonderful poetry about the Divine energy that drives all Creation.

Elina, the nurse in WW II
....now my wife Rukmini

Coming back to the Divine Himalayan *Ashram*, as I said earlier, the people who met me there were born in different countries and religions in their later lives! Rukmini, who is my wife in the present life, was born as Elena in America in one of her previous lives. She liked to help others since childhood in that birth. If any of the neighbours was not well, she would visit them and talk to them affectionately and offer them solace.

During the war, she joined the American Armed Forces as a nurse and looked after the soldiers injured in the war. Every day, injured soldiers were brought in planes to a hospital for treatment. The roar of the planes was heard all through the day and night. One never knew when a plane landed, bringing with it, untold number of injured personnel. Elena

would wake up immediately, dress the wounds of the soldiers and give them medicines even if it was in the middle of the night!

Despite hearing the terrible cries of the injured all the while, Elena's courage never wavered. She nursed and treated the soldiers with a calm mind and a smile on her face. The atmosphere in the hospital was dreadful to say the least; there were soldiers with broken limbs and open wounds on the chest and stomach and blood flowed everywhere. But Elena remained composed and continued with her duties – applying ointments to their wounds, giving them medicines, talking to them gently and soothing them with her loving words, all the while.

One of the soldiers she nursed was an old Major. His name was Robinson and he suffered great injuries in the war. Elena cared for him like she did for her own father and nursed him, bringing him back to health. Robinson was indeed her father in one of their earlier births. When the war ended, he gave her many gifts before leaving the hospital.

He treated her like his own daughter as she was nearly 20 years younger than him. In one of his previous lives, Robinson had been born in Uttar Pradesh in India. He had been a school teacher and was a great patriot. He inculcated good morals in the students and imbibed the patriotic spirit in them. After reading some old texts, he then decided to spend some time in the Himalayas and so, he came to my *Ashram* and spent a few years there.

In one of her past lives, Rukmini was born as a great scholar by name Ramnath Mishra in Bihar. Mishra wrote a great treatise on *Srimad Bhagavatam*. He was a devotee of *Lord Sri Krishna* and would expound the essence of *Sri Krishna* to all in great detail. One day when he was narrating some stories of *Sri Krishna* from the *Bhagavatam* animatedly in a *Sri Krishna* temple, the Lord Himself came in the form of a simple *Yadava* devotee and sat in the first row and listened to him with great excitement.

After the discourse, He came to Ramnath Mishra and told him that his sermon on the *Bhagavatam* was wonderful and that He had enjoyed it immensely. Thus, Mishra was blessed with the vision of *Sri Krishna* in that life. After only a few days, Mishra came to the Himalayas to further His spiritual practice and while looking for an appropriate place, stumbled upon my *Ashram*. Our relationship from those Himalayan days is what brought Rukmini to me again in this life.

Owing to her past life associations, she is still a great devotee of *Sri Krishna* and is always willing to take care of sick people. When she was born in Bihar as Mishra, she had a sister named Rukmini Bai, who also accompanied Mishra to the *Ashram* and met me there. Rukmini Bai was born in her next life in a village near Aurangabad, Maharashtra as Devaki Bai in a large joint family. She served her elders well.

She was very fond of the *Hanuman* temple in the village. Every year, *Hanuman Jayanti* (birthday) was celebrated with great pomp and splendour in that temple. Devika Bai and her family would participate with great zeal in the festivities and arrange for meals for the devotees and distribute the *Prasadam*.

On one of the evenings, a tired Devaki Bai sat leaning on one of the pillars of the shed erected for the festival. At that moment, Lord *Hanuman* Himself came to her in the form of an old devotee and offered her some water to drink. Within 5 minutes of drinking that water, she breathed her last. Everybody was amazed at that development and grieved for her. It was the good *karma* she had amassed in her previous lives which bestowed upon her a vision of Lord *Hanuman* and a quick and painless death immediately afterwards. Devaki Bai was born in her next life as my wife Rukmini's mother SriVani. Thus, it is the bonding that developed in the Himalayan *Ashram* back then, which brought us all together again in this life.

*When Lord Ram gave Darsan in
California Condominium*

While in California, we went to a distant relative's house. I have always confessed that I am not a good socialiser... and a bit shy too... I haven't been even to my closest kin for years... However I accepted Mrs. Sarada's lunch invite. Unfortunately, she had lost her husband a few years ago... Our association with our closed ones continues only until a destined date and time. The moment it expires they leave us and that is the end of the connection... Their soul, however, goes on in its travel finding another body to go through its accumulated Karma. It goes without saying that we all love our parents very much. But we all must remember that the parental bond exists only in the present birth.... That too because of some previous connection with them several births ago...some kind of a bonding and some association with them... Which is why we

are born as their sons/ daughters in the present birth...once the bonding period terminates, they leave the world... death for them could be sudden or after a prolonged illness again depending on the respective soul's previous birth's karmas... and our own karma too... we moan their departure because of our emotional attachment with them as our parents in this birth, especially if they exit too very early from our lives...The soul however, advances further...on its journey...

It could be the same with respect to losing your spouse or children... You should remember that the moment the previously destined bonding period is over, the person leaves you... and is born again in another country in another womb... which the soul chooses depending on its previous births' attachments...

Mrs. Sarada is a good singer. In fact she was a great singer in one of her earlier births too and had been a great devotee of Lord SriRama. She had sung songs in Lord Rama's palace in the Treta Yuga that He had intently listened to. The Vasana (impression)- her music skills- of that birth continued in her present birth too; so she sang in family get-togethers and in temples during festivals. But she stopped singing after her husband's death... I requested her to sing a Keertana when we visited her over lunch. At first she refused saying that it had been a while and that she had stopped singing after the passing away of her husband. I repeatedly requested her and she relented. She took out a book from the almirah for the lyrics and presented a mesmerising song that soon filled the

air around with great cosmic waves. She obliged us with more songs in praise of Lord SriRama on being asked to do so. She was transported to a different plane while presenting the Keertanas.

I sensed an increase in the Cosmic vibrations across the room. When I opened my eyes, I saw Lord SriRama with Goddess Sita standing behind her, listening to her songs with a majestic and Divine smile... They were elated with her renditions and recalled her association with them in the Treta Yuga. They desired to listen to her again and bless her!

Mrs. Sarada was a great soul in her earlier births. Her Prarabdha Karma is getting exhausted very fast. which is why she underwent great misery in the present birth. She is inching closer to Salvation as she has very few births left...

*Are you born in the same Religion
in every birth ?*

Our lives, spanning a mere 70 to 80 years, are not even a speck in the eternal Universe. We inhabit a tiny region of a planet called Earth in one of the many solar systems of the Universe. There are many more suns out there which are a million times brighter than the Sun we see everyday. Millions of solar systems together make a constellation. And many such constellations together are smaller than even a thousandth part of the Supreme Force that is at the core of the Universe. How inconsequential is human life when compared to all of this? Indeed, there is no comparison. How significant is our lifetime of 70 to 80 years compared to the voyage of time stretching to millions of years? Yet, in the brief instant of time, we foster so many passions, egos, hatreds, jealousies...if we just sit back and think for a second, we will understand how foolishly we behave in some situations.

At this juncture, it would do good to remember one key point. All the present day religions and castes etc. did not exist at the beginning of Creation. It is our own creation! And come to think of it...we may have been born in this life as a *Hindu*. But we might have been a Christian or a Muslim in our previous birth! It is not mandatory that if you are born into a particular religion in a particular sect, you would be born in the same religion and sect in each of your lives. A person's character, the good and evil deeds he commits, the attachments he develops and the intense desires he craves for in a life decide in which country and religion he might be born in his next life.

Thus, each person is born in different regions, in different sects, in different families in course of hundreds of births. Your Muslim neighbour, in this life whom you admire very much, may have been your father in your past life when you were born in a *Hindu* family. So also, the Christian girl whom you consider your sister at present may have been your daughter 10 lives prior, when you were born as a Muslim. That is how it is! If each one of us contemplates on this truth whole-heartedly, the whole world will be one big loving family.

We have all seen or heard of inter-religious marriages where a *Hindu* boy marries a Muslim or Christian girl or a Christian boy marries a *Hindu* or Muslim girl. More often than not, they love each other deeply and get married with great difficulty against the wishes of their parents. If one tries

to think deeply about why they took such a step, much against their parents' consent, one thing becomes clear; they might have met at some point in their past lives and might have been parents or siblings or close friends.

That is why when they happened to meet again in the present life; their strong bond from the past life creates mutual love and affection between them. Though they cannot explain why they are so attracted to each other, their past life relationship is so strong that they are willing to go against their own families, and do not hesitate to even cut ties with their parents. The close relationship that developed between them at some point during their past lives again reunites them in a different relationship after many lives.

I have an acquaintance by name Ramakrishna. He was born into a traditional *Brahmin* family and studied engineering. Neither he nor his parents entertained the thought of him going to America. Although many of his friends went to the USA for higher studies, he never attempted to do so. One day, one of his close friends told Ramakrishna that he had applied for the MS course in the USA and asked him to apply too. Ramakrishna, who had until then refused to go to America under any circumstances, suddenly changed his mind and wished to visit America. He did not understand why he was suddenly attracted to the USA. However, he applied for the MS course and went to America in the face of strong resistance from his family, finished the course and even got a job there.

Meanwhile, his parents wanted him to get married, but Ramakrishna refused and said he would wait for a few years. Two years into the job, he became acquainted with a girl called Christina in his office and they fell in love. And sure enough, they entered into wedlock. Ramakrishna's parents and relatives in India were very distressed that he had married an American girl. But no matter how much they resented, nothing could be done. Why did it happen? In their past lives, both of them had been Americans! What's more, they were father and son! They were very close to each other, but unfortunately, both of them had died in a road accident.

In the next life, the father was born as Christina in America and the son was born in India. Their relationship in the previous life was so strong that even though Ramakrishna was totally opposed to the idea of going to America, he landed there and both of them ended up in the same office in the same city. How far our past life connections can take us! If we reflect carefully, we can find answers to everything that happens around us. In fact, we can find answers to all our questions from nature itself. Once we understand it well, we will not be worried or beset by anxiety about anything and instead stay calm and attain peace of mind.

Sakuni, the uncle of *Duryodhana*, was reborn many times and about 200 years back, even became the king of a small kingdom in India. Due to the evil deeds that he performed even in that life, he is still amidst us leading an ordinary life.

Similarly, another great king of those times was later born in Tamil Nadu in South India and became famous as a warrior in a kingdom.

A great scholar of those times was reborn as *Srinatha* (a great poet of Andhra Pradesh). Even though *Srinatha* made many wonderful poetic compositions, some of his unfulfilled desires caused him to take rebirth many times and even today, he lives in a village of *Brahmins* in the east Godavari district.

Many of the *Kauravas* were later born in India, Afghanistan, Russian and Iran and are still living amidst us today. Some of the great sages of those times were reborn as ideal men and lived exemplary lives, earning great fame as scholars and intellectuals in various regions of India.

Some of the *Ashtadiggajas* (eight scholarly 'gems') in the emperor, Sri Krishnadevaraya's, court were people reborn from the *Mahabharata* time! I noticed that some of them became famous in their later lives as great literary personalities and musicians. Some of them met me in my Himalayan *Ashram* and after a few lives have again come into contact with me in the present life.

Once when I visited the holy place of Draksharamam in Andhra Pradesh, I noticed a great *Saivite* of the *Mahabharata* times, who, after several rebirths, took birth as the priest of a temple in his present life. In spite of being a

great scholar in *Vedic* sciences, he lived in poverty because of certain misdeeds that he had committed in previous lives. Thus, many great people of yore continue to live amidst us today. Many warriors like *Drishtadyumna* and *Drupada* of *Mahabharata* fame are still wandering in our world, taking rebirth again and again in different countries, unable to achieve *Liberation*.

Two of the eight *Ashtadiggajas* were reborn several times and met me when I was in the *Ashram* in the Himalayas. They took birth several times in different regions and countries and are now serving as professors in American universities. One of them holds a high post in a prestigious American University while the other works in another equally prominent university. Despite being born as Christians, their past life associations have drawn them towards *Hindu* traditions and they are now carrying out research on *Hinduism*. They became acquainted with me in surprising circumstances and even though we have not met personally, they hold me in high regard and communicate with me through emails. Likewise, many other great personalities took birth in India many centuries ago and now hold esteemed positions in international institutions. Some of them had also met me in the Himalayan *Ashram*! Those archival relations between us have re-introduced them to me in this life and some of them are now close friends too!

A great sage from the age of *Mahabharata* was later reborn as a prominent scientist. He took birth once as a

famous scientist in India. Another such example is of a sage who meditated in the Himalayan regions in those times, was reborn as *Sri Bammera Potanamatyulu* and composed the “*Andhra Maha Bhagavatam*”.

The poet *Dhurjati* who lived during the reign of Sri Krishnadevaraya was later born in Kashmir as a great scholar and then achieved prominence during our times as a great lyricist. Another poet from the *Ashtadiggajas* who was born several times has now been born near Kakinada with the name Suryanarayana Murthy. About four lives prior, he was born as a scholar in Uttar Pradesh and met me in the Himalayan *Ashram*. We met in this life through a surprising twist of events.

Though an engineer by profession, by virtue of the good *karma* from his past lives, he is able to compose wonderful poetry. He is a senior official in a company whose chairman is not a believer of God at all. When he established a new company in another country, he wanted to consult me to design the logo for the success of the company.

Even though the company's management had no belief in *Vedic* sciences, they decided on a whim, to send Mr. Suryanarayana Murthy to me to get the logo designed. If this is not Divine providence, then what is?

The company's chairman who had no faith in God sent Mr. Murthy to me solely because of God's design to connect

us. Thus, Mr. Murthy who came into touch with me for a logo, became a dear family friend. His father-in-law is a great scholar. Mr. Murthy has been facing many hardships only to do away with his *karma*. In a few more lives, he will be absolved of all his *karma* and attain *Liberation*.

*You could have been famous
...in your earlier birth*

Prominent personalities of the earlier centuries are also reborn several times and are still living among us today. Some of them became big politicians again in their successive lives and rose to high positions such as Governors and Chief Ministers. Due to their intense political ambitions, they occupied high offices.

But because of the many evil deeds they committed, they are living in penury in the present life. I have witnessed such people in my life. Once when I visited someone, I saw the photo of a great public figure of over 400 years ago, pasted on the wall. I asked him whose photo it was and why he had kept it, he was however, unable to proffer any satisfactory reply.

He was not a well-educated man and eked out his living on a small job, earning a pittance. Let alone the leaders of other countries, he could not even name the leaders of his own country properly. In that context, I wondered why then would he keep the photo of the great leader.

At that moment, I realised to my great surprise, that the person I visited was the same leader whose photo he had kept! After many lives, he was born in Hyderabad and was leading an ordinary life presently. He had found the photo in an old newspaper and was greatly attracted to it. He does not know whose photo it is...neither know how he got attracted to it...But something flashed in his mind the moment he saw the photo. So, he cut it out and pasted it on the wall of his house and would look at it everyday. Now do you see? Sometime stares at the photo continuously for half an hour at a stretch standing all through...His soul tries to tell his mind something...but his mind in the present state can not understand it ! How strong are the associations of past lives!

We come across such people very often in our everyday lives. When we are flipping through the pages of a magazine or browsing the internet, we see the photo or video of an unknown person and for some unknown reason, stay on that page for sometime or watch the full video even though it is not very interesting. This it self hints at some past life association between us and that person! Our soul is aware of it, but our mind does not know. It is a past life impression which draws us to that person for a moment and then we move on after looking at him or her for some time.

Accordingly, I have been noticing many great authors, movie stars, scientists, sportsmen and prominent personalities from different fields who are now born in various countries and have taken up different occupations.

One of my friends Krishna Rao studied engineering and took up a job in a good company. He suddenly developed an urge to learn French and went on to learn not only the language but also read all the great literature in French and even translated some of it into Telugu! Many of his friends were greatly surprised and wondered why he had suddenly developed an affinity for French.

There could be only one reason for that! He was born in France in one of his past lives, and not just that, he was the famous author of one of the French books that he has translated into Telugu in the present life! In his previous life, he was greatly interested in India and was, therefore, born here in this life. But owing to the impressions of his past life, he was drawn to the French language and culture. Thus, he not only learnt but mastered the language and ultimately translated his own book, the book he had written in his previous life, into Telugu in his present life.

Though he was born in India as a *Hindu*, he converted to Christianity at the age of 25 and became a great evangelist. His sermons attract lakhs of people and even the American and British people who are born Christians, have been surprised by his preachings.

He has been able to preach so well on Christianity only due to one reason. In his past four lives, he was born in different countries as a Christian. He was a preacher in each of those lives and developed a strong belief in Christianity. His sermons were heard with rapt attention by many people in those lives. It is interesting to note here that he fell in love with a *Hindu* girl when he took birth in America earlier. But owing to his high status in the society as a preacher of Christianity, he could not express his love for her and had to repress it. But it made such a strong impression on his soul, that in his present life, he took birth as a *Hindu* in a village close to the place where the girl was born in India and married her. Isn't it surprising! How far our past life impressions take us!

Deja Vu
...already seen

I will now tell you about a wonderful persons that I got connected with from my earlier births. She is born in France and certainly there was no way that I could get to know about her , leave alone meeting her personally. However, I have already met the other great soul ,who met me in my Himalayan *Ashram* in my earlier birth. Past lives' associations make us meet the persons again in strange and many times most unbelievable ways.

While I was in Dallas, in the summer of 2019, I met a friend Sriram through another friend of mine. I had met Sriram in my earlier trip to USA in 2018. As he was also with me in the Himalayan *Ashram*- one of the 108-, we met again in the present life. A few years ago, he worked in a French multinational company in the USA. While he worked there,

Mr. Sriram met Marie, a French lady, who was his colleague. Maries' parents had given her a French name at the time of her birth. But in the later years, she had got attracted to *Hinduism, Yoga, Vedic* studies, *Hindu* Philosophy and had changed her name to Amulya, meaning priceless. She is really 'dear' in the sense that she has great compassion for everyone around. She has had incomparable qualities. She worked for sometime with Sriram and went back to France.

But she is still in contact with Sriram. A spiritual bonding grew between them in no time. So when Sriram met me and got to know about my works and philosophy, he told her about me. Her soul immediately got connected to the past lives and she wanted to meet me personally. So she came to Dallas one day and met me along with Sriram in Dallas. The moment she sat in front of me, my soul recognised her soul and started communicating with her soul. We talked about general things, about my works, about her interests in *Yoga*, how she got attracted to *Vedic* Systems etc. While, on one hand, our conversation went on in the present physical world, our souls, on the other hand, communicated on a different plane. This is what happens when we meet a person from our previous lives. We talk very mundane things. But both the souls talk to each other on a different plane. They share wonderful memories of the past life's association.

So also, on that day, did my soul get connected to Amulya's soul. Amulya had met me in my Himalayan *Ashram*. She had been born in the present day Varanasi in

India in that birth. She was born as Sri Viswanatha Sastry, a great *Vedic* scholar in that birth. He had mastered *Vedic* astrology. He predicted many things with absolute perfection. Viswanatha Sastry had thought of visiting Manasa Sarovar and came to the Himalayas with his students. After staying in Manasa Sarovar for a couple of days, he visited my *Ashram* in the return journey. He had found tremendous Cosmic waves in the *Ashram* and decided to stay in the *Ashram* for the rest of his life. So he sent back his students and stayed with me in the *Ashram*. Amulya is none other than Sri Sastry.

Her soul still carries the great spiritual knowledge it acquired while she was born as Viswanatha Sastry. To that end she has intuitive powers even in her present birth. She can understand the inner feelings of a person sitting in front of her. She did not get these qualities by practice. She was born with them because of her noble deeds and great scholarly qualities in her earlier births. The past lives' bond pulled her again to me and we met in such a fascinating way. If she was not the colleague of Sriram, she would not have known about me at all. But as she is destined to get connected with me in the present life, she came from France and worked for sometime in a company where Sriram worked.

After all, we meet so many colleagues at work. But how many of them come close to us? As Sriram was also in the Himalayan *Ashram*, she joined the same company and got connected to Sriram. And as Sriram got connected to me

through a friend in Dallas, Amulya came to know about me through him. A strong urge grew in her to meet me. Once her soul got connected to me, it was restless, until our meeting happened.

Sometimes all of us feel like going to a particular place or meeting a particular person. We put great effort to go to that place or meet that person. Haven't you faced such situations in your life? haven't you suddenly thought of visting a place...sometimes very far off ...in a different country...it is because of past life's connections...sometimes while you are in conversation with your friend, he might tell you about another person who was his/her friend about whom you neither heard nor met earlier ... but on hearing his/her name, you suddenly feel like meeting him/her...when you express your desire to your friend, he might be surprised at your curiosity...because it could be the first time that he mentioned about him/her...and there might be nothing very charming about him/her...but the moment you heard his/her name, a strong feeling arises in your mind that you should go and meet him/her..

The reason is that your soul recognised him/her...that person might have been your acquaintance in one of your earlier births...and you feel like seeing him/her again...and you would finally do it too...you request and even force your friend to take you to him/her...on meeting him/her, you may talk something very casual...but your soul becomes happy on meeting him/her again...many of us undergo such

experiences in our day to day life...only thing is that we do not have time to deeply analyse those things...we just move on mechanically...not giving it a serious thought...we do not realise the deeper meaning...and the underlying purpose too, at times...

In fact, everyday the moment you get up from bed until the time you go back to bed, all moments are pre-destined. You have some connection with earlier births in all the moments of the day...all your activities...the places you visit...the persons you meet...the thoughts that come to your mind...the actions you do...you may get a thought about what you could study...you may get a thought about which universities to apply....you may get a thought on when to marry ...whom to marry...anything...and everything... our thoughts are nurtured based on our previous births' actions...and from the positive and negative *karma* that we have acquired over millions of births...

Coming back to Amulya, she travelled all the way from France and met me in Dallas. And her soul is very happy now. Moreover, she visited India and not only met me in Hyderabad, but also visited Tirupathi to have *Darsan* of *Lord Sri Venkateswara*. In one of her earlier births, she had lived in Tirupathi for a few years. She was a great *Vaishnavite* in that birth. So the reminiscences from that birth pulled her again to *Lord Sri Venkateswara*.

The Murthy brothers

Coming back to the Himalayan *Ashram*, there was a scholar from Andhra Pradesh, by name Krishna Shastri, who had also stayed there. Krishna Shastri was a renowned scholar in the then state of Madras. He was born in Injaram village in East Godavari district and had earned great scholarship in Sanskrit language. Both his sons followed his footsteps and became scholars too. Krishna Shastri was bestowed with many titles and earned many accolades; the topmost among them were the *Gajarahana satkaram* (to be felicitated and taken around on an elephant) and *Gandapindera sanmanam* (to be awarded a golden bracelet worn around the ankle). He reached my *Ashram* in the Himalayas when he was around 65 years old and became a close friend of mine. In his next life, he was born in Varanasi and thereafter as a preacher in France. Though he

was born a Christian, he respected all religions and preached tolerance and harmony.

In his present life, he is working in a prestigious University as James. The surprising fact is that his past life associations even brought him to India for a few months. He stayed in the renowned pilgrimage place of *Arunachala* for a month and was fortunate to climb the sacred hill on a full-moon day to have a sight of the Lord! Even though he is a Christian preacher, his impressions from the past life brought him willingly to India to spend a full month in the presence of *Lord Arunachaleswara* in *Arunachalam*. His wife is also a gentle soul of noble qualities and works in the same University. It is that bond- established in the *Ashram*- which made us connect again.

Another person who was in the Himalayan *Ashram* and met me again in this life is Mr Ramanamurthy. He came to me in 2001 along with one of his relatives, seeking advice. His relative had a fabrication company which was in losses at that time. Hence, they came to consult me, regarding a logo for the company. Surprisingly, his relative hasn't met me ever again after that. But Mr. Ramanamurthy became a close confidante and a family friend, thanks to our Himalayan connection!

When I was at the *Ashram*, Ramanamurthy was born in a village near Delhi in a wealthy Marwadi family as KeshavchandGupta. The family ran a number of businesses

and was well-connected to people from surrounding places. Though they ran some businesses honestly, they also resorted to cheating in other businesses.

Keshavchand was resolute by nature and tolerated no nonsense when it came to business. And coming from an affluent background, he also spoke rather arrogantly and condescendingly with others. He was blunt and outspoken and did not care about the opposite person's feelings. Such qualities earned him many enemies in the village.

One day, Keshavchand scolded one of the accountants working under him rather harshly for a mistake. The accountant who had been working there for a long time was very saddened by that and unable to bear the pain of humiliation, committed suicide. As a result, his family slipped into poverty and went through great hardships. The accountant's wife cursed Keshavchand for all their misery. Even the people of the village denounced him for his behaviour.

Unable to tolerate all that, one night, Keshav left the village for good. Losing his peace of mind, he travelled for many days and finally reached the Himalayas. On the way, he met some sages and saints and repented a lot for what he had done. Wandering around, he arrived at my Himalayan *Ashram* one day. He was very cordial with everyone in the *Ashram*. One day, when he went into the garden to get flowers for the *Puja* (worship). He was visited by Lord

Sri Hanuman in the form of a *Sadhu* and was thus, blessed by God's *vision* in that life.

In his next life Keshavchand Gupta was born in a village near Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu by name Velu Pillai. He was a businessman in that life too, albeit a very honest one. He had two sons, but they did not show any interest in studies nor did they help their father in his business. Those children were none other than the children of the accountant in the previous life that had died, unable to bear Keshavchand's taunts!

They took birth as his sons in his next life and extracted revenge by abusing their father and disobeying him. Their pent-up anger towards Keshavchand in the previous life caused them to be born as his sons in the following life. We must understand quite clearly here that the evil deeds we commit in our previous lives will accost us and torment us in our future lives.

Sometimes, even though we love our sons and daughters a lot and look after them affectionately, they tend to irritate and trouble us and even revile us. They argue with us for every small thing. The strange part is that even they can't tell why they are so angry with their mother or father. They can't control themselves, but they could repent later for the things they say. It is the result of one's past *karma!* During a former life in which we had some kind of relationship with that

person, the various incidents and feelings of sorrow, anger etc. which arose between us, continue to remain with the soul and are exhibited in the following life.

Similarly, sometimes even parents get very angry with their children whom they otherwise love very much. It can even lead to extreme situations where the son or daughter leaves the house and stays aloof for many years. Although the parents as well as the son or daughter are pained by the development, they feel incapable of resolving the situation. Even if two or more people are born in the same family due to past life connections and are very loving towards each other, some incidents that might have happened in some of their previous lives could lead to some kind of intense conflicts between them, the root cause being their ego; we are witness to incidents that we could never have imagined. At this point, we must realise that it is the result of past life connections and we should not be completely demoralized by such events.

In his previous life, Ramanamurthy was born at AmudalaValasa village in Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh as Rama Rao and served as a school teacher. In that life, he was a gentle and noble soul and moulded many students into model citizens and spurred many others onto the path of righteousness. He lived till the age of 72 years, but remained childless in that birth. He visited many holy places, performed his religious rites daily and visited the *Sri Sitaramachandra* temple in the village everyday without

fail. Rama Rao's father, who was very fond of him in that life, is born as his brother Srinivas, in his present life.

Ramanamurthy has faced many difficulties in the present life. He lost his father at an early age and has had to look after all the affairs of the family as the eldest son. He had to overcome financial issues and face great insult from near and dear ones. But it's all a sign of his depleting *karma*! His *karma* could be completely exhausted in a few more lives to come. In his next life, Ramanamurthy would be born in a well-to-do business family in America. He might establish a huge foundation which would provide help to people of all religions. Many needy students would be educated and many diseased people would be treated through his foundation. He might spend his whole life in the service of the society. In his later lives, he might be born in Andhra Pradesh and go through some challenges again before merging into the Divine force ultimately.

As for his brother Srinivas, he has a peculiar nature. Though he has a good knowledge of things, prays everyday and visits holy places regularly and meets great Gurus, yet his mind is always restless due to the past life *karma*. Srinivas is unable to complete any work with determination. He had also reached my Himalayan *Ashram* in the bygone days in a strange way.

He was born in present-day Yugoslavia a few lives back as a woman and had worked as a school teacher. Then, he

was born in Varanasi in India and studied many great subjects. After that, he was born near Delhi in a big business family. Though he was a man of good habits, he moved with bad company; he and his friends would hunt birds relentlessly. In his next life, he was born as a parrot, but owing to some good deeds he had done in his earlier lives, he was born in the holy place of Haridwar.

One day, a *Sadhu* who was captivated by the parrot, took it as a pet and taught it to say a few words as well. In due course, the *Sadhu* came to the Himalayas to perform penance and then came to my Himalayan *Ashram*, carrying the parrot with him. The *Sadhu* stayed in my *Ashram* until the parrot lived. As the parrot had lived amidst *Sadhus* and *Yogis* in the *Ashram* for a few years, it was born in an orthodox *Brahmin* family in Kanchi thereafter. In another life, he was born in a village near Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh. It is that ancient Himalayan connection which has again brought him to me.

Srinivas has faced many struggles in the present life, but he might be born again in better circumstances in the future with a good character. He does not have many lives left. The debts he had incurred in many of his past lives are being repaid in the form of money presently; apart from which, he is also donating his good *karma* from the past to many people. In future lives, he would be born with good qualities and perform virtuous deeds and eventually attain *Mukti*.

The transient existence

Returning to the topic of the Himalayan *Ashram*- in 2006, a person, by name Ashok, came to work as a car driver for us. He was young and unmarried, but with a pleasant nature and was introduced to us through one of his friends when we stayed in Motinagar. He has been working sincerely for us ever since. He comes from a small village near Gulbarga that does not even have electricity. In course of time, he got married and has two daughters now.

We usually do not go out much. Though Ashok is our driver, so as to say, most of the work he does is related to my books! He is the one who packs the books and takes them to the post office and the courier shop for mailing. He must have mailed a few million books in this way in the last 15 years! Ashok is another one of those who met me in the

Himalayan *Ashram*! That is why, despite being born in a small village near Gulbarga, he eventually landed at my place after wandering here and there for a while. Ashok was born in Bengal in a big landlord's family in his previous life. Due to the arrogance that came with wealth, he committed many evil deeds, which are haunting him in the guise of hardships today. It is only thanks to some virtuous deeds in his past lives that he does not have to struggle for food, clothes and shelter. In future, he might lead many good lives.

One of the 108 persons from my Himalayan *Ashram* is my eldest son-in-law Suresh. In one of his past lives, he had been a great philosopher in France around the 17th century. Though he had lived merely for 45 years in that life, he became famous as a great thinker and his fame spread not only in France but throughout the world. He is remembered in France even today as his philosophy had influenced many people. In the next life, Suresh was born in a *Brahmin* family in Madurai as Ramakrishnan. He studied the *Vedas* and *Puranas* and earned name and fame as a great *Vaishnava* scholar.

Thereafter, he was born in Uttar Pradesh in a big business family. He undertook many good works and established a school and an orphanage. In his 62nd year, he reached my Himalayan *Ashram*. Wandering through the Himalayas, he came across many great sages. One day he was blessed to see *Lord Parameswara* himself in the form of a sage. In the next life, he took birth in Maharashtra. Though he was humiliated

and cheated by his siblings in the family business, owing to his philosophical bent of mind, he was able to face all the troubles bravely. Suresh will lead many good lives hereafter.

Every human being has to endure ill-health at one time or the other in his/her life. Sometimes, we also see people with no bad habits contracting diseases. Why does it happen? We feel sorry for them and wonder why they fell so ill despite their healthy habits! The sole reason for it is the evil deeds they committed in their past lives. It only indicates that we are paying back for the wrongs we had committed in some other life.

Whenever we fall sick, we should make a strong resolve that the illness affects only the body and not the soul. If we start thinking on those lines, we will forget the pain that comes with the illness to a large extent and get much relief. The nature around us is filled with infinite power. Close your eyes and imagine that the power is flowing from the sky to the site of your ailment like a stream. The more focussed your imagination is, the more power you will receive.

It may sound very strange and unbelievable to you, but it is definitely possible. Many great *Yogis* and *Siddhas* make Cosmic Energy flow into their body in this way when they are afflicted by any malady and alleviate their pain thus. We can do it too! All we need is strong faith and belief.

The whole world is filled with that kind of Divine energy.

But the energy is much more abundant in some holy places, some old temples and in houses where good people reside and where God is worshipped daily. Our illness will be healed faster, if we rest in such places and channelize the Divine energy.

That is why, when we are unwell and seek counsel from some people, they advise us to visit a holy place and spend three nights or stay there for 21 days and so on. Now you know the real reason behind the advice! The Divine energy of that place produces very powerful vibrations. So, when we spend a few days in that region, the energy flows into our body which will help us to recover faster from our illnesses.

Such places exist in several countries around the world...and we are not aware of the presence of many of them...those places could be in the middle of the cities or in small villages or in forests or on mountains...those places have become powerful and full of Cosmic Energy due to one or more of the above mentioned reasons...a pious person would have lived at that place thousands of years ago...he might have been so pious that his aura is still present in that place...or Cosmic Energy from the Universe flows to that place directly from the Cosmos...or a great *yagna* could have been conducted by Gods in that place about thousands of years ago...or a group of celestial beings of high energy could have stayed there for few days long, long ago...due to many such reasons, the place will have great aura even today...many civilizations could have passed ...but the place is the same....

Let us take the example of a big building in New York or New Delhi or Sydney or Saki ...we only see a building today ...but what about 500 years ago ?...we do not know for certainty what existed there in those times...and think of it 1,000 years ago...we certainly do not know the name of the city leave alone what existed at that particular place...and now think of it 2,000 years ago...we definitely do not know what existed at that particular place where we see a huge building of a multinational corporation...we went only 2,000 years back in time...but as we all know Creation started billions of years ago...so there are lakhs of possibilities of what might have been there in that particular place where we see a building today...may be a great palace existed...may be it was a great lake that dried over 500 years...may be there was a great *Ashram* with saints...may be a great monument was there...may be it was part of a thick forest...may be it was a lion's den...or a tiger's paradise...who knows what all things existed in the very same place....

What I am trying to drive as my point is that in some places across countries, in certain places of just 500 square yards to 5,000 square yard areas, some great things might have existed ...and that too for a long period...the Cosmic Energy it attracted then is felt even today after thousands of years...we, the ordinary people, will not be able to feel it...you just go to a restaurant at that place and have your burger...we need not necessarily think about what could have been there long ago...but you might certainly notice one

point...when you go to a particular place...could be a restaurant or could be an office...or just your friend's house...you feel very pleasant there...you can not express in as many words why you feel so pleasant ...so serene...where with an intention of spending only half an hour... you end up staying far beyond two hours without looking at your watch (ofcourse now a mobile!) in between...it is solely because there is some thing that is very powerful, full of Divine energy that might have existed long long ago there...so Cosmic Energy is still present, may be to a lesser extent, but all the same makes your soul feel serene at that place...you feel pleasant and happier...

If you explore nature, you will find great things... unfortunately in the present world no one has time to relax and think of things around you...small things around you...you are always lost amidst the giant concrete structures forgetting to enjoy that ultimate happiness--sitting in your easy chair and sipping a cup of coffee...when did you last sip a cup of coffee reading the daily news paper?...or doing a cross word puzzle in your favourite news paper...what is the point in running, running and earning millions of rupees when you do not have time to have a cup of coffee worth a dollar leisurely?...if you are finally fortunate to find time for such a thing at the fag end of your life, your physician could say coffee could cause acidity and not to take it...and these are not ironies of life...these are hard realities...isn't it so?...kindly give it a thought ...for your sake...not my sake...

*Are you inching closer to
Salvation ?*

Several billion people have taken birth and died in the world so far and all of them might have suffered from a range of health issues! But can we tell what disease had afflicted us in our previous life! Not long ago, a friend named Chandrasekhar came to me. He was very upset that he had developed diabetes and hypertension and behaved as if he was carrying the entire world's burden on his head. I tried to tell him that millions of people in the world had the same problem and it was a common condition these days and he should not worry so much about it, but he did not listen.

Once when he visited me, I went into a meditative state for about 10 minutes, during which his past lives were revealed to me. I said to him, “Chandrasekhar! Two lives hitherto, you were born in Aurangabad. Back then, you went

through much pain and suffering from cancer for 12 years before you died. In your previous life, you were born as Subba Rao in Kankipadu village near Vijayawada in an agricultural family. In that life also, you were bed-ridden due to paralysis for 14 years.

You experienced terrible ill-health and trauma in both these lives because of some negative *karma* you had incurred in the previous 20 lives. Owing to a few good deeds you committed in a few lives thereafter, your *karma* has slightly depleted in the present life and you are suffering only from common ailments such as diabetes and hypertension. Just think! Compared to the hell that you went through in your past two lives, how great is your misery now? Can you call it as misery at all?"

On hearing my strong words, he seemed to grasp what I was getting at. He sat silently in front of me for half an hour. When I asked him why he was silent, he replied that he was trying to imagine what agony he must have gone through in those two lives. The very thought of it made him shudder. Never again did Chandrasekhar talk to me about his diabetes or hypertension.

As we discussed earlier, even the health problems we get in our present life are a result of the *karma* of our past lives! And the types of health problems we develop depend on our wrongdoings in the previous lives. For instance, if we tormented someone who worked under us, we could develop

nerve-related problems in the next life. Similarly, a person who might be infatuated by women other than his lawful partner, he could be paralysed and unable to speak in the lives to come. If one took a big loan from someone and did not return it in spite of being able to, he or she might contract heart disease. Cheating one's partner in business might cause one to lose his/her mind during the last days in one of the future births, and he or she might be abandoned by the family and face several difficulties towards the end of life.

Another remarkable thing is that if we commit a wrong deed during a specific planetary movement in our horoscope, we will experience its effects when the same planetary movement occurs in a different birth. That is why we see some people suffering from diseases at a very young age for no reason.

One of my friends' wife developed cancer when she was 40 years old. She had been in very good health until then. She was a kind lady who was affectionate and helpful to everyone. But she was diagnosed with cancer all of a sudden and suffered a lot. All of us know of such people in our circles, who are very good people and try to help others as much as they can. When such good people develop a serious illness like cancer, we are greatly disturbed. One day, I thought about my friend and his wife while meditating and came to realise the truth. I understood why my friend's wife had developed cancer. She had done many good deeds in her past lives, but had also committed some wrongs in some of

her previous births. I realised that the *karma* arising from the evil deeds that my friend's wife had committed in about 120 lives, had been destroyed in one go in the form of cancer. Thus, she is closer now, to attaining *Salvation* and will merge in Divinity shortly.

As mentioned before, visiting holy Gurus, possessing great power at holy places can definitely relieve sickness. Gurus understand our pain and difficulty and can mitigate our suffering to some extent. That will give us some relief, but no one is exempted from experiencing the fruits of their *karma*. We have seen even great *Yogis* in human form, who suffered from many diseases in their last days. They could have reduced their suffering with their power or got rid of the disease completely, if they had so wished. But they did not do so and accepted the physical pain with a smile.

Amazingly, though such great people personally undergo lot of pain, using their powers, they help relieve the sickness of those who seek refuge in them. Gurus do it in many ways.

The 12 *Alvars* born in Tamil Nadu, *Srimad Ramanujacharya* who singlehandedly revived the *Vaishnava* tradition, *Tulasidas* who wrote *Ramacharitamanas*, *Kabir Das*, *Tukaram* born in Maharashtra, *Sri Annamayya* who worshipped *Lord Sri Venkateswara* through his *Kirtanas* (songs), *Sri TarigondaVengamamba*...and many more such Divine luminaries...were all people who were born on the Earth for

a specific purpose; they initiated people into the path of devotion (*Bhakti*) and worked in different ways for the good of the society!

They came from different solar systems and Universes and took birth on the Earth during different ages, in different countries and races as men and women! Even though they were born in different ages and were not contemporaries, they always remain connected with each other, because ultimately, they all came from the same Divine source of energy.

Many of them were born into different castes and were not even educated from the worldly point of view, nor possessed any scholarship. Yet, they were able to convey the essence of all the sacred precepts in a wonderful manner. As I said earlier, they are all different facets of the Divine power and assumed human forms only to pass on some special knowledge required for the upliftment of humanity! Even though they knew everything that there is to be known, they performed only the work they were meant to do.

Tulasi Das composed only the *Ramayana*, but the great man certainly knew the *Mahabharata* and the *Bhagavatam* too, didn't he? By the same token, *Potanamatyulu* composed the *Bhagavatam* in Telugu, but he was also a scholar of the *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana*. They, however, performed only that one major task in their lifetime since they were born as humans only for that purpose.

All such great people have knowledge of all the *Vedas* and historical accounts. All the sciences are reposed in them. They have no inclination towards worldly riches or any form of recognition and are always immersed in their work for which they descended upon the Earth. They have neither a house to live in nor are they worried about the survival of their families. All their attention is directed towards that one thing which they have come to do.

We can find many such *Yogis* not only in the Himalayas but also in other regions too, where they lead ordinary lives. How then do we recognise them? Nature gave us some signs to show that such people live in our city or town or close to our house. Great people always have a smile on their faces and look like ordinary people. No one who lives in their vicinity will have any long-term illnesses. There will be no famines or droughts where they live and people live in harmony like brothers and sisters. Similarly, animals in the surrounding areas forget their natural enmity and are gentle. If you notice a cat and a dog playing like friends, it means there is a man of such nobility somewhere in the vicinity. You may not be able to recognise who he or she is, but there is definitely a great person around, who has amazing powers.

*Renewed skills ...&...
replayed talent-
of Narayana Rao and Kalyani*

Coming back to my days at the Himalayan *Ashram*, one of my friends in this life, Narayana Rao, was also with me in the *Ashram*. He was born as Ramakrishnan in his former life in the town of Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu and worked in a private company. Some people cheated him out of the house that he was to rightfully inherit from his father. Not having a place to call his own and unable to meet his needs with his meagre salary, he went through great hardships.

When some of his friends earned government jobs and were well-settled in life, he would rue that he did not have a government job and had to make do with a small job and a small rented house. However, being a God-fearing man, he never gave up hope and visited the *Shiva* temple everyday to pray.

He filed cases in the court for the house that was rightfully his and made several rounds of the court for years, until the house finally came into his possession when he was 62 years old. As he did not have children in that life and was tired of running around the court for years for the house, Ramakrishnan sold the house and donated it to an old age home, where he and his wife spent the rest of their life.

Strangely, his pining for a government job in his previous life resulted in him working in a government job for the most part in his present life. Moreover, in his previous life, he struggled greatly with the legal process, running around courts and unable to understand the matters related to the case or what the lawyers said. Surprisingly, those impressions were so strongly printed on his soul that in the present life, after working in a government job for long, he then studied law and is at present holding a high position in an esteemed private company. Isn't it fascinating how past life associations work?

Narayana Rao's wife, Kalyani was born near Pune in Maharashtra before two lives. She learnt music since childhood and later became a famous singer. She earned much name and fame and won accolades and recognition. Music is a Divine art and singers are connected to God at all times. A melodious voice is a gift of the good merit earned over many lives.

Thereafter, Kalyani was born in a village near Palghat in

Kerala. By virtue of the past life influences, she could sing well in that life too. She would visit the *Sri Krishna* temple in the village everyday and sing songs in praise of *Sri Krishna*. One day, as she was singing in the temple in the evening hours, *Sri Krishna* Himself appeared to her as a small boy and sat beside her, listening to her two songs with great interest.

It was a coincidence that her name in that life was Radha and she was also able to see *Sri Krishna* Himself. In the present life too, Kalyani is a good singer. In two births from now, she will be born in France and earn fame nationwide as a popular singer. Besides, she will also work in a famous university as a music professor and lead her whole life in the world of music. Narayana Rao and Kalyani had both visited my Himalayan *Ashram* and that connection of bygone days made them my dear friends again after so many lives.

While I was in my Himalayan *Ashram*, a big diamond merchant from Gujarat called Keshavbhai also visited me. Having suffered many losses in his business, he had come to the Himalayas seeking peace of mind. Wandering around, he made his way to my *Ashram*. Though he had built many temples for *Sri MahaVishnu* and many free guest houses in that life, his sins from past lives gave him much grief before he came to my *Ashram*. Keshavbhai stayed there for a long time and was later blessed with good lives.

He was born as Sivan in Rameswaram in his former life. Sivan was a great devotee of *Shiva*. He prayed at the *Shiva* temple everyday and composed many great songs in the Lord's praise. He also helped the devotees who visited the temple. *Lord Parameswara* was very fond of his devotee Sivan and even appeared to him once as an unknown devotee. Sivan from that life is now born as Pramod in Guntur in Andhra Pradesh in a well-to-do family. Sivan's wife Radhika has been born as Amruta in the present life in Vijayawada and became his wife again. It is rare that a couple is again born as man and wife in the very next life. But I have noticed some couples who have visited me were couples in some former life and became couples again in their present lives, despite being born in remote places.

Amruta also met me when I was in the Himalayan *Ashram*. Back then, she was born in Russia and came to India to climb the Himalayas as part of a trekking expedition. Roaming around with the others, she reached my *Ashram* and was greatly drawn to the *Sadhus* and the spiritual atmosphere in the *Ashram*. She spent a few years in the *Ashram* and then returned to Russia. Thereafter, she was born in Srirangam by name Radhika and she married Sivan of Rameswaram in that life. That couple, now born as Pramod and Amruta, entered wedlock with each other again and became my dear friends owing to the Himalayan connection.

One day, I got an email from France from a person called

Albert. He owned a consultancy and asked me to design a logo for him. I was very surprised and wondered how somebody living in France knew that I designed logos. When I asked him about it, his reply astounded me. He replied that he was the one who had translated the book, '*Sri Venkateswara Vrata Kalpam*' into French two years earlier.

He had come to know about the book, '*Sri Venkateswara Vrata Kalpam*', through a friend and had then translated it into French. Not just that, he also reads the stories in it every Saturday. Albert was also a member of my Himalayan *Ashram* and that bond brought us into touch again. In that life, Albert was a great *Vedic* scholar in India who came to the Himalayas and met me at the *Ashram*. Do you see, how strong the bonds of past lives are! Even though he was born in France presently, he learnt *Vastu* and *Vedic* astrology and made it his profession and asked me to design a logo for the same. I was more than happy to make a logo for his consultancy.

To understand how strong past life associations can be, consider my friend Krishna Mohan who used to be an oil businessman in Sri Lanka four lives ago. He was so involved and interested in his oil business that in his next life, he was born as Moolchand in a Marwadi family in Gujarat which was also into the business of oil. He had two good friends Kishanchand and Kishan Sharma and they used to meet everyday. Though Kishanchand belonged to the same place, Kishan Sharma hailed from a Punjabi family that had settled there.

Kishan Sharma was a very devout person and was always engrossed in singing *bhajans* (prayer songs) and worshipping *Goddess Durga* in particular. Once when Kishan Sharma participated in the *Navaratri* festivities at the *Sri Durga Mata* temple, he sang mellifluously in praise of the Goddess. The Goddess was so happy that she came in the form of a small girl and sat beside him. Thus, Kishan Sharma was able to obtain a vision of *Sri Durga Mata* in that life.

Though Moolchand made profits in the oil business initially, later he incurred losses and lost a lot of money. In his present life, Moolchand has been well-educated and works in the software field. But his past life impressions are so strong that the first thing he does everyday on waking up is to apply a lot of oil on his head! He has not yet lost his fondness for oil even after two lives. His friend from the former life, Kishan Sharma, is now born as his wife. Kishanchand will be born in a wealthy family in his next life and perform many charitable actions for the benefit of the society.

*Some great souls are among us
... even now!*

Coming back to the Himalayan *Ashram*, a great scholar, by name Ramaprakash Shastri, came to my *Ashram* in his 44th year. Well-versed in *Vedic* sciences, the great scholar suddenly gave up worldly life and came to the Himalayan region to practice spirituality and made his way to my *Ashram*, spending the rest of his life there. In his next life, he was born in Srirangam as a great Guru and endeavoured all his life to spread the light of *Vaishnavism*. He is still spoken of in glorious terms in those places.

In the present life, he has been born as Sheshagiri. Once when he visited his friend, he came across my books in the most unexpected fashion. His friend's wife is a distant relative of mine. Though I had never met her until then, my

books had somehow reached them by then. On seeing my books, the seed of meeting me was planted in Sheshagiri's mind and he visited me at my house one day. Currently, he holds a high position in a prominent temple administration.

All the good deeds done by him in his former lives have brought him so close to *Lord Sri Venkateswara* in the present life that he is able to serve the Lord everyday. If he had not seen my books that day in his friend's house, he would not have met me, but our association from the *Ashram* days brought us together again!

He would be born into pious families in future lives and serve the society. The world is yet to receive some amazing works through him, some of which will be written in the present life and some in the next. Those books would be written in simple language and would impart much knowledge to the society and influence many lives.

Krishna Sharma and Radha, a couple from Uttar Pradesh, were also visitors to my Himalayan *Ashram*. Krishna Sharma was a scholar and Radha was a pious lady and they often went on pilgrimages. Once while moving around in Varanasi, *Lord Parameswara* Himself appeared in front of them as a *Sadhu*. If we have earned a lot of merit and have been leading lives of good conduct for a long time, God will definitely bless us with His vision in some or the other form.

But it so happens that many times, people are unaware

that they have been in the Lord's presence. It is because God comes into our lives in the form of an ordinary human being or even as a bird or an animal. Not only God, but also *Siddhas* and *Yogis* who have been around for thousands of years appear to those who possess great merit.

Like I said, many people do not realise that they have encountered God Himself. Only the Guru that they follow can tell them when and in what form they have been privy to the Lord's manifestation. He can also tell them when and where they will be able to get a glimpse of the Lord in future. It is a matter of great fortune to come upon such a Guru who would explain those things clearly. The company of such great Gurus is a result of the virtue imbibed over many past lives.

Krishna Sharma and Radha were also unable to grasp that *Lord Parameswara* Himself had visited them. But their lives changed in wonderful ways after their encounter with the *Sadhu*. However, they regarded their good fortune only as God's grace and their good *karma* and did not comprehend that it was the result of *Parameswara's* manifestation.

After some time, the couple developed a desire to see the Himalayas and meet the *Yogis* and *Siddhas* there. Thereafter, in the snow-clad mountains, they chanced upon my *Ashram* and spent their remaining life there.

Subsequently, Krishna Sharma was born in Britain in a

good family and joined the military. He earned fame as a great Commander in the World War I. Radha was born in a Punjabi family near the Sindhu River as a man and performed many good deeds. He built many schools and a big orphanage as well.

In her next life, Radha was born in Madurai as Padmaja, daughter of Sri Krishnamacharya and Srimati Andal. She was very devout since childhood and became renowned as a Bharatanatyam dancer. She visited the Meenakshi temple everyday to see the Mother Goddess and gave stellar dance performances during temple festivities. She loved her mother a lot, a pious lady who always sang hymns and loved to help others. Her parents always accompanied Padmaja wherever she went to give dance performances.

Padmaja of Madurai has been born as my daughter Amukta and Krishna Sharma who met me in the Himalayan *Ashram* has been born as Dheeraj in the present life and became Amukta's husband. Padmaja's mother in Madurai has been born as Dheeraj and Amukta's daughter Parnika. Our relationship from the Himalayan days has brought us back together again in this life.

In times of yore, there were many ascetics (*Avadhoota*) in India who had renounced all worldly affairs. Some of them possessed great *Yogic* powers. In fact, people could not even understand them completely. A few who were able to comprehend their greatness worshipped them everyday and

moved closer to *Salvation*. Such ascetics do not care for food or sleep. They are always sunk deep in meditation for the welfare of the society. Apparently, it seems as if they are absent-minded and sometimes are even looked down upon as mad by the society, in fact, they are always deeply connected to God.

Such great souls are still among us, but it is difficult to recognise them as such, unless one has earned a great deal of merit in the past lives. All great souls do not necessarily obtain *Salvation* immediately. Many of them take rebirth again as human beings to work for the benefit of the society and the world at large.

Some of the people who met me in the Himalayan *Ashram* had been noble people in their previous lives. They were later born as ordinary humans and performed good deeds and have met me again in the present life.

One such person who came to my *Ashram* was *Sraddhanand Swami*. He was born near Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh and worked as a school teacher. Having worked all his life for the betterment of his students, he became an ascetic after retirement and came to the Himalayas and met many *Sadhus* and *Yogis* before reaching my *Ashram*. In his next life, he was born near Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh in a *Brahmin* family and became a renowned exponent of the *Vedas*.

Thereafter, he was born into a fisherman family in

Srikakulam and was endowed with a good nature. He went fishing in the high seas with his father Naganna. On every *Sriramanavami* (Rama's birthday), *Sitaramakalyanam* (symbolic wedding of Rama and Sita) was celebrated with great aplomb in the *Sri Sitaramachandra* temple near their village. All the fishermen families from nearby villages participated in it with great fervour; sang and danced throughout the night.

Straddhananda, who was born as Appanna in that life, also participated happily in the festivities. Whenever he went into the seas with his father, he would ask his father what was beyond the seas. His father would reply that there are Gods beyond the seas.

Appanna always desired to see the Gods. But his father would get irritated and say it was not easy to cross the seas and that humans could not go beyond the seas. Appanna has been born as Prasad in Guntur presently. After his studies, he left for Australia for employment. His strong past life impressions finally made him cross the seas. Once, he came upon my books in the internet and downloaded them and has been performing the '*Sri Venkateswara Vrata Kalpam*' since last four years. He also takes print outs of the book and distributes them to people in Sydney. Last year, I was very glad to talk to him on the phone. Our bond from the Himalayan *Ashram* days helped us to meet again.

In his former life, when Appanna was out fishing with his

father in the seas, a huge fish jumped out of the water beside their boat and went back into the water again. His father tried hard to catch it, but it was nowhere to be seen. They went around in their boat and looked for it, but to no avail. Surprisingly, it appeared to them for a moment and disappeared again. That fish was none other than *Sriman Narayana* Himself! He appeared to the father-son duo of Naganna and Appanna as a fish in that life. Prasad's father in that life, Naganna had also met me at the Himalayan *Ashram*! He has met me in the present life again as Krishna Dev after leading many good lives earlier.

Qualities like anger and pride stay with the soul for thousands of years and cannot be overcome without humungous effort on one's part. It is those two qualities which come in the way of humans aspiring for good lives. We see those qualities, which leads to hatred and jealousy, aplenty in people around us. A lot of practice is required if good qualities have to live on in the soul over many lives, whereas bad qualities like anger and pride stick to us for millions of lives, unless we consciously try to get rid of them. Man is swept away in the waters of life and death only because of those qualities.

Mr. Raghunandan Mishra, who served Indian Army for a few years was a good man, but his anger caused him great harm in life. He had come to the Himalayan *Ashram* in a former life when he was born as Rakesh in Bengal. Once when a *Sadhu* called *Dharmananda* expounded on the

Bhagavatam in a fascinating manner, Rakesh followed him to the Himalayas and the duo remained in the *Ashram* for the rest of their lives.

In spite of learning a lot many things, Rakesh was not satisfied. A few births later, Rakesh was born in a village near Sri Kalahasti in Andhra Pradesh as Srirama Shetty. He operated a few small businesses and worshipped *Sri Kalahasteeswara* everyday. Early in the morning, he would complete his ablutions, buy flowers from a woman named Parvatamma outside the temple and then go to the temple to pray to *Sri Kalahasteeswara* and the Mother Goddess.

He followed that routine for several years and continued to buy flowers from Parvatamma everyday. She greeted all her customers with a smile, enquired after their well-being, and blessed them to have a great *Darsan* of the Lord and wished them a good day.

One day, Srirama Shetty did not find Parvatamma outside the temple. Not only did he buy flowers from her everyday, but he also shared his joys and sorrows with her, as she was over twenty years older than him. When he enquired in the neighbouring shops about her, he was told that she had expired all of a sudden the previous day. Srirama Shetty was devastated at the news. Shortly, he transferred all his businesses to his son and moved to the *Ashram* where he spent his remaining life.

Srirama Shetty in that life is now born as my friend Vishwanatham in the present life. Parvatamma, who sold flowers in that life, is now Vishwanatham's wife Kasturi. She was also in the Himalayan *Ashram* in an earlier life. In the successive birth, she was a priest in the *Sri Kaalahasteeswara* temple. Parvatamma who sat outside the temple chanting the Lord's name and selling flowers everyday was, in that life blessed to stay close to the Lord as His priest and serve Him everyday. Due to her close relationship with God, she was a very devout person. Owing to that quality which stuck to her soul, she performs several *Pujas* (worship) everyday even today.

Another person who met me in the Himalayan *Ashram* is Madhusudhan, a friend's friend who studied engineering and went to the USA. He is a very cultured man. Four lives ago, he was born in a business family in Chennai and earned great wealth from various businesses. He also performed a lot of charity. About ten lives before that, Madhusudhan was born in what is now Afghanistan. He committed some sinful acts during that life, due to which he has been going through many difficulties in the present life. Madhusudhan also had the good fortune to see *Lord Sri Krishna* in the *DwaparaYugam*. Presently, he owns a business in America and was unwell for a long time. The time has come for his past life *karma* to be nullified; that is why he has been facing so many financial and health issues in his present life. He has only few more births and attain *Moksha* soon.

*Why do our children turn out
the way they do?*

We should not harbour the opinion that we are responsible for the good and bad in our children's lives. Their life might proceed according to the fruits of their actions in their past lives and one cannot change the pace of their life, no matter how hard one tries. We should realise that we have no control over how well our son or daughter might study, how wealthy they might become or which positions they would occupy or how long they would live. Many parents hold themselves responsible if their children are not well-educated, but it is not at all true.

One should remember that the sole reason for one's son or daughter not studying well is his/her own past *karma* and not one. Many people feel that they pampered their kids too

much and hence they did not study well or took the wrong path. But we observe around us children who were pampered and yet did well at studies or children who were educated with great care but did not flourish in studies. The reason is the child's own merit or demerit from past lives! Parents must realise that they had no part to play in that. One should clearly understand that the way a person's life turns out is only a matter of his or her fruits of actions in former lives.

We do not know how and when our past actions (*karma*) - good and bad- would determine the quality of lives or bear fruits that we lead in our numerous births. It is God who decides everything. A person may have spent ten of his/her past hundred lives as an ordinary man/woman, but may be a great singer or author in one life. But the person who earned great fame owing to his/her past merit may again lead a normal life in his/her next birth.

When I was in America last, I saw a waiter Anderson at a restaurant. He had been a great author in the US two hundred years ago, but some of the wrongs he had committed in that life led him to living ordinary lives in future and in the present life, he has been working as a waiter at a restaurant. Likewise, I saw a great Hindi actor of the olden days living like a lay man in Hyderabad in the present life. Due to his past life impressions, he watches every Hindi movie that is released. Even Anderson in Dallas reads every little scrap of paper with great excitement.

Hence, we should not envy people around us who occupy high places in society and enjoy the good things in life in their present birth. Also, if we happen to be in a high position or enjoy affluent status, we should not treat our relatives or those working under us with contempt, because we ourselves might have been such ordinary people in our earlier life! You could also be born in the next life as a normal person. And why only the next birth! You could be born as a common man in the next hundred lives! We ought to realise that and view the people around us in that perspective. Then and only then, can we and the people around us be happy.

What is happiness in the first place? Can anybody give a proper definition for it? To one person, happiness is watching a certain movie...to another, it is earning well... yet another is happy in not spending anything, even though he earns a lot. Some people are so miserly, they think a thousand times before spending a pie if a family member is ill...because their happiness lies in not spending the money. Another person is happy when he spends all that he has earned. Some people are happy while travelling, some like to go on pilgrimages, yet others are happy not to step out of the house.

Just think! Does happiness come in so many forms? Or are we deluding ourselves that all of this is happiness? We cannot measure happiness. The joy that a big businessman feels on earning a million rupees may be equal to what a person feels, sitting on a small bench at a tea stall, near the office, and sipping a cup of tea for five rupees!

Happiness is whatever gives joy to our body, mind and soul. When the mind and soul are happy, the body will also be happy. Knowing that everything in the world is temporary, not cultivating attachment to anything and not falling prey to hatred and jealousy will give happiness to the body, mind and soul. This is what is known as equanimity. Those who do good to others in their everyday life, but do not expect even good merit in return for their actions are the ones who are always happy and content.

This is not as difficult as everyone believes it to be. It is only a matter of striving hard for it. But nobody tries to be like that. And in fact, they do not even want to try it out! Because, many people believe that they will lose their happiness by being equanimous. They do not realise that being equanimous does not mean forfeiting happiness. Rather equanimity is where real lasting happiness lies. Instead of imagining small things as happiness and running after them, we should all realise that there is an everlasting happiness which is pure and forever.

It is the power of the Divine force from which the Creation originated, which is making all the planets revolve in their given trajectories without altering their course since several million years. Just imagine how great that Divine power must be! Those who imagine the Divine power in their mind all the time and pray to it are blessed with wonderful joy. They perform every good deed as an offering to God and never think of the fruits of their actions. Their

soul does not gather any impressions. They consider themselves only as instruments of God and do the work they have to do with a smile and are able to view all matters and incidents equally.

But since it is difficult not just for laymen but also for men of intelligence to concentrate on the formless and shapeless Divine power in deep meditation and worship it, that power itself created the multitude of Gods. *Brahma*, the Creator, *Vishnu*, the Preserver and *Shiva*, the Destroyer, and their wives, *Sri Saraswati*, *Sri Maha Lakshmi* and *Sri Parvati Devi* respectively, *Sri Dattatreya*, *Sri Subrahmanya*, *Sri Vighneswara*, *Indra* and the *Ashtadikpalakas* (Gods of the 8 directions), the Sun God *Aditya* and the 33 million Gods that we speak of have all emerged from that Divine power!

But some pontiffs of monasteries and religious scholars preach that the deity they worship is the God who is the source of creation of this universe. In their opinion, all the other deities are forms of that God alone. Thus, each one of them claims that the God they believe in is the Divine energy behind the whole Creation. Some even go as far as not worshipping other Gods! It leads to unnecessary animosities among people. It is the duty of people in high positions in society- such as religious heads and evangelists to impress upon people that no matter whom they worship, all the Gods are one and in that way, eliminate ill-will among people. Everyone already knows that the power that created the Universe has no form!

Radheshyam had ‘ come alive ‘ !

Of the 108 people who stayed with me in the Himalayan *Ashram*, there was a *Sadhu* by name Vishwanatha. He was always calm and greeted everyone with a smile. He was not at all arrogant despite his great knowledge of the *Vedas*. He had come to the *Ashram* in that life after living many a great life. He took birth as an American woman in his next birth. She was very loving and affectionate towards everyone even as a child. She would be very upset if anyone fell ill and did all that she could to make them feel better. World War II started soon after she joined a hospital as a nurse and she became a nurse in the military. She joined a camp for wounded soldiers near Philippines during World War II and nursed them back to health. One day, enemy planes dropped many bombs on the camp, due to which many of the recuperating soldiers were wounded

again. That night was a dreadful night for everyone in the camp.

Luckily, the nurse hid under a bed during the raid and was saved from injury. After the war, all the nurses were sent to Australia, where she served for some more time as a nurse and finally died there.

In her next birth, she was born as Sakkubai near Gulbarga and performed many good deeds. As she came from a wealthy background, she got a big orphanage- built for children- as well as an old age home, which still stand in that place till date. In the present life, she has been born as my daughter Arpita who reunited with me because of our Himalayan *Ashram* connection.

She will perform many great deeds in this life too. She would take birth in Kerala in her next life and become famous as a great doctor and treat thousands of patients for free. Thereafter, she would be born in America and work as a professor in a famous University and shape the wonderful future of many students. Arpita would have some more fruitful lives before achieving *Salvation* and merging with the Divine power. Suresh and Arpita's daughter Tanvi is their mother in different earlier births.

Past life impressions have strange consequences. Once a friend of mine, aged about 40 years, went into deep depression. No doctor was able to cure his condition. He

offered many prayers. His relatives also took him on a pilgrimage to many holy places, but nothing helped. He was always sad and bogged down, but doctors could not diagnose the reason behind it. He himself was unable to point out the cause of his feelings.

As days went by, one of his relatives came to me and poured his heart out and asked me if he would ever be cured or if he was destined to suffer like that all his life. I thought for some time and told him, “He will start getting better in two months, and will be completely fine in four to five months time. By the sixth month, your boy will be active and enthusiastic.” The relative was astounded and said, “So many medicines have not cured him, how would he get better in two months?” But I reaffirmed that he would certainly get better and that the family members themselves would come and relay the good news to me. He went away happy and satisfied.

My friend used to stay near Safilguda. Two months later, the family in their next-door apartment moved to another place on transfer, and a new family moved in. They were four members – a couple with two small children. The younger boy Kishore would always come to my friend's house and play there. He would speak to my friend all the time, but the latter, in his depressed state, would not talk much. However, Kishore did not stop and kept talking to him everyday.

As days passed, Shyam underwent a change and slowly

regained his enthusiasm. In two month's time, he was almost cured of his depression and became healthy again. He was back to his normal, active and smart personality. The family was overjoyed and came to me to express their gratitude.

So, do you know why my friend Shyam's depression, which was not cured by any medicines, went away suddenly in just two months time? Four lives ago, Shyam had been born as Ghanshyam in Uttar Pradesh in a business family. He lived in a small village and owned 4 acres of land. After 12 years of marriage, a son Radheshyam was born to him. The parents doted on Radheshyam and especially, for Ghanshyam, he was the apple of his eye.

As days went by, one day, Radheshyam was killed in an accident while playing on the road. The parents were shocked at the sudden development and lamented the death of their dear son who had gone away too soon. That incident affected Ghanshyam so deeply that within a month of his son's death, he too passed away.

The same Ghanshyam has been born in the present life as my friend Shyamsundar. The effect of that accident on his soul was so deep that, for no reason, he went into depression in this life and always grieved. His son Radheshyam in the past life has been born as Kishore, in the same family that moved into their neighbouring apartment! When Radheshyam came into my friend's life as Kishore, my friend's condition changed for the good because his soul realised that his son from the previous life had again come close to him and so he felt happy.

Without realising the above, Shyam became more enthusiastic and came out of his depression after meeting Kishore. I had foreseen the same when I told Shyamsundar's relatives two months prior to that, that he would be completely cured in two months time. But I had not disclosed the details to them. Today Shyamsundar is a happy and healthy man. What more can I ask for?

Sometimes, we notice that some people, who have developed diseases which are irrevocable even with all medicines and cures, suddenly start improving! It is generally due to the above discussed reasons or because of some important incident in their previous lives. Past life relationships are difficult to understand. But if you do try and understand them, they will amaze you. What's more, sometimes, we also manage to realise the real reason for some of our everyday problems and come out of that suffering and live happily!

All Gurus are the same Divine

A king who lived in the *Mahabharata* times was very ambitious and desirous of power. In order to hold on to his throne when he was the king, he performed many yagnas. Thereafter, he was born as a commoner in the following lives. But owing to the positive karma he earned in that life due to his sacrificial offerings, after hundreds of rebirths, he holds a high position in the present life. Back when he was the king, he had tormented many innocent people in many ways. Those people have been reborn after several lives as his acquaintances, in the present life.

Even after numerous births, his soul has been burning with repentance, knowing that he had tortured them many lives ago. So, to make up for it and help them in some way, in

this life, he has offered them high offices, and without knowing the reason, has patronized and cared for them. Even the acquaintances have been surprised that he offered them such good positions. All of them got together again because of the past life relationship binding them.

Rama Sharma was one of the inmates of my Himalayan *Ashram*. After taking several rebirths, he was born in a priest's family in a village near Anantapur in his previous life and became the priest of the local *Sri Venugopala Swami* temple. One day, during a storm, the boundary wall of the temple was struck by lightning and collapsed, and the *dhwajasthambham* (flag pole) angled to a side. Rama Sharma was in the temple premises at that time and his hand got badly burnt on one side. He was very anguished by the incident and with the help of the villagers, restored the temple's flag pole and built a new boundary wall. In the present life, Rama Sharma has been born as Sriramachandra Murthy in the Rayalaseema region again and has studied environmental engineering. He is a very gentle soul.

He visited our house in 2001 with some friends. Back then, he worked for a private company. During our conversation, I said to him, “Mr. Murthy! You will soon start a consultancy of your own.” To that he said, “Sir! I do not have the courage to take such a huge step. If ever I do so, I'll certainly get my logo designed by you.”

Within two years, he started his own consultancy as I had

said, and I even designed the logo for it! Ever since, Mr. Murthy is a close family friend and has lent a lot of support in the publication of my books. However, we lost touch with each other for a few years in between, as I had moved houses and did not possess a mobile phone at that time. Hence, he was unable to contact me.

As he was also with me in my Himalayan *Ashram*, ours is a long-lived relationship. One day in 2007, not having much to do in office, he picked up *The Hindu* newspaper and started re-reading it page by page. He found an advertisement on a page, where I had mentioned my mobile number for those who had been unable to contact me for so many years because of my moving to a new place. He called me up immediately on seeing it and thus, we met again.

Our relationship has continued since then. If he had not seen the paper that evening, he would not have met me again. But as providence would have it, due to our connection at the Himalayan *Ashram*, he opened the very page where it was published. Thus, our past life connection reunited us. Mr. Murthy would lead many great lives in future. In his next life, he would work as a professor in a big university and strive towards spreading *Hindu Dharma* in the world. After a few lives, he would be liberated and merge with the Divine power.

Every human being goes through ups and downs in life. One must worship a deity and seek refuge in a Guru to be

able to withstand the highs and lows. Then, God will protect us through the Guru. Only a select few personages have the good fortune of being instructed by God Himself. For the rest of us, God conveys to us whatever He wishes to tell us, through the Guru we follow. There is no bigger good fortune than the company of a good Guru. One finds a Guru only if he or she has earned a great amount of *punya* in past lives. Every person should seek out a Guru in their life and meet them whenever possible.

Here, one must remember that no Guru would boast of himself. Many great Gurus do not exhibit publicly any of the miraculous powers they possess. A Guru is always calm and smiling and never uses harsh language. And most of all, he protects every one who comes to him for advise.

However, many of us take time to develop complete faith and belief in a Guru. Once a man called Ramakrishna came to me. He became a good friend very soon. He used to go to a Guru all the time that he revered and respected. He would tell me great things about his Guru whenever he visited me. But once during a conversation, he said to me, “Viswapathiji! I have placed a lot of faith in my Guru. But he has not done anything for me. I have been visiting him every month for the past so many years to spend at least an hour with him. He talks to me politely with a smile, but has not done anything for me specifically. I am on my current job for the last five years, without a promotion or a salary raise. What has my Guru done for me, whom I have trusted so much?”

Many people who come to me have already gone to two or three Gurus! Some people even consider me a Guru! That is all fine! When it is difficult for a person to find a single Guru in his life, it should indeed be considered a blessing that he/she has the blessings of four or five Gurus! But many of them do not realise how those Gurus protect them. Followers usually come up with worldly desires and then go after Gurus to fulfil those desires. First, they go to one Guru, then, when they feel their desires are not fulfilled, they go to another one, and then another one and so on. But they never realise that no matter how many Gurus they follow, one must place complete faith in the Guru.

In fact, one Guru is enough, if one is able to repose total faith and trust in him. Some people, on the other hand, boast that they have four or five Gurus. Following Gurus is not for the purpose of flaunting one's connections. One must be able to comprehend the real purpose behind seeking a Guru's company. When you are in the Guru's presence, you ought to forget all your troubles and even after getting back from there, you should retain the experience and the trust as it is.

Moreover, one should never talk condescendingly about one Guru in front of another. You may think that the two Gurus do not know each other and have never met each other, as one of them lives in one state and the other in a different state and speaks a different language. That is where you commit a big mistake. The technology available to you

is incapable of understanding the way Gurus communicate with each other. No matter where they are in the world, all Gurus are always connected to each other. One may be in Haridwar and the other in Amalapuram and may never have met before, yet their souls are always linked with each other.

Thus, all *Siddhas*, *Yogis*, great personages and Gurus are always connected to each other, irrespective of which religion, race or sect they were born in, which language they speak or which country or region they reside in. They may be thousands of kilometres apart, but their souls always communicate with each other. This is known to some disciples of great Gurus like *Sri Ramana Maharshi*, *Sri Chandrasekhara Saraswati* and others. People who have been in close proximity to such great people have also had many Divine experiences. Such great Gurus have taken birth only to propel the world towards the path of *Dharma* (righteousness).

Let us come back to my friend Ramakrishna. He had told me that his Guru had not done anything for him! Then I closed my eyes for a moment and went into meditation. I could have answered him immediately. But he did not trust me as much! I knew him only too well; he would think, “Oh! He came to know the answer after meditating upon it, and so I can trust his answer.” I have noticed such a quality in many people who come to me. But there are also others, who simply place their trust in me and come to me from time to time to talk of this and that and then leave. They do not ask

for anything specifically, because they know that they do not need to ask for anything.

I replied to Ramakrishna thus, “Dear Ramakrishna! You said that the Guru you have been following for so many years has not protected you nor is he taking care of your welfare! Tell me one thing. Wasn't there a big financial scam in your office recently, in which many people were trapped?” Ramakrishna replied, “Yes Viswapathi *ji!* What you said is correct. There was a big scam sir! Even some innocent people were booked. Though they did not have anything to do with it, they were also jailed and are still in jail.”

Then, I told him, “Ramakrishna! Do you know that your name was also in the list and you were also supposed to be jailed! But, unexpectedly the last two names on the list were ignored at the last minute, and yours was one of them. Else, you too could have been in jail today like the others. How do you think it happened? Only because of your Guru's grace! You were not arrested, only because your Guru protected you. Your Guru knows everything. It is only his blessing that in spite of your name being on the list, you did not get a notice and were left untouched. Since your Guru is a great man, he did not tell you about it. No Guru would. We should just repose trust in them, that's all! Now do you understand how kind he has been to you?”

On hearing this, Ramakrishna wept and fell at my feet suddenly and said, “*Gurujji!* You opened my eyes! I will

never leave both of you - neither you nor him!” He never complained about his Guru thereafter. I have seen many such people in my life. They do not try to understand their Gurus completely. Our lives would go by peacefully only if we place complete trust in the Guru we follow. No troubles will come to us and even if a problem raises its head, it will be brushed away like a feather without causing us any harm, due to the Guru's grace.

Great Gurus with miraculous powers never reveal anything to anyone in detail. *Sri Ramana Maharshi* used to preach philosophy to those who came to Him and never talked about their personal matters. But He did take care of the welfare of all those around Him. Those who work for the betterment of the society neither desire flattery by anyone nor seek any gifts in return!

The Injaram Temple

In the olden days, about two hundred years ago, there was a great scholar by name Sri Subbaraya Shastri in the East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh. He was well-versed in Sanskrit and Telugu and earned much fame. It was said that he also possessed *tantric* powers. He would visit the Himalayas in his spiritual form and meet many Gods and *Siddhas* there, before returning to his physical body. Many Gods appeared to him during his meditation everyday. But he lived like a very ordinary person and those around him barely knew of his powers. People believed that he was born with the *amsa* of of *Lord Sri Subrahmanyeswara*. He had a brother named Venkata Shastri who was very naïve and could not learn anything. For that reason, he could not even get married and stayed with his elder brother Sri Subbaraya Shastri. His brother and sister-in-law looked after him well.

Sri Subbaraya Shastri was later born in the same region with the name Venkataraya Shastri. He became a great scholar and wrote a commentary on the *Sri Mahabhagavatam*. He practiced spirituality to a great extent and moulded many students in the *Vedic* sciences. Once when he was in the Himalayas, he came to my *Ashram* and stayed there for a few months, before returning home. He was a great devotee of *Sriman Narayana* and composed many wonderful songs and verses in praise of the omniscient or all-knowing *Sriman Narayana*. He harboured a desire to build a temple for *Sri Maha Vishnu*, but it did not come to be in his lifetime. Thereafter, he was reborn many times and led good lives and performed many righteous deeds.

In the present life, he has been born as Sri Kakaraparti Subrahmanyam in Injaram village in East Godavari district. His past life associations have bestowed upon him much knowledge and scholarship. Venkata Shastri, who was his brother in the former life when he was Subbaraya Shastri, has been born as his wife. Ever since they received my book of '*Sri Venkateswara Vrata Kalpam*', his wife has been performing the *Vratam* every Saturday and also on holy days such as every *Ekadasi* and *Purnima*, *Toli Ekadasi*, *Vaikuntha Ekadasi* etc. The couple live amicably together and have never left their town. But just once, they visited us in Hyderabad. We were very happy to receive the virtuous couple, clad in traditional attire. They invited us wholeheartedly to their place and we gladly accepted their invite.

Meanwhile, one day my phone rang very early in the morning. It was Subrahmanyam *ji*. He said to me, “Viswapathiji! This morning I got a dream in which *Lord Sri Venkateswara* appeared to me and asked me to build a temple for Him. I do not have much property and I am a father of two girls. So, I wavered for a second and wondered how I could do it. The Lord guessed my thoughts and said, “Subrahmanyam! Start the process. You will definitely be successful”. Saying so, He disappeared.

I woke up immediately and without telling anyone, I went to the backyard and took a bath with the water from the well. Then, with my vessels for worship and a mat in hand, I went to my field. I sat there and reciting the *Sri Suktam* and *Purusha Suktam*, I made a vow to build a temple for *Lord Sri Venkateswara* at that place. To that end, I gave away a part of my coconut tree orchard to *Sriman Narayana*. Then, I felt greatly relieved and was convinced that the Lord Himself would look after the rest. You are the first person with whom I share the news, after I returned home. Viswapathi ji! With your books of '*Sri Venkateswara Vrata Kalpam*', finding their way into our house and my wife doing the *puja* every day; I believe the Lord has blessed me and my family in this way. I offer a hundred million salutations to the Lord for being so kind to us. And we are very grateful to you for being our inspiration.”

Thus, the *Sri Maha Vishnu* temple that he had wanted to build in his previous life has been realised in this life as

Lord Sri Venkateswara temple. Sri Subrahmanyam's life's purpose has been fulfilled. A beautiful temple of *Lord Sri Venkateswara* has now come up in the village.

We visited the place and sat in the temple for a while. When I meditated there on that day, I experienced amazing Divine vibrations at that place. About four hundred years back, a great *Yagna* had taken place there and scholars from the four corners of Andhra Pradesh had participated in it. Many Gods and sages came in their Divine forms to that *Yagna* which was conducted with great dedication and austerity, as dictated by the *Sastras*, by officiating *Vedic* priests. That is how the place acquired sanctity and also the reason for *Lord Srinivasa* to get His temple built there by Sri Subrahmanyam.

Sri Sri Bhoosameta Venkateswara Swami temple would rise to great fame in the future and the deity there would be heralded as the fulfiller of the devotees' desires. Those who perform '*Sri Venkateswara Vratam*' in the temple would be blessed with an auspicious life and will be able to realise all their plans successfully. Any *puja* performed there would bestow prosperity upon the devotees and fulfil all their desires. Sri Kakaraparti Subrahmanyam would be reborn a few more times and would live virtuous lives wherein he would perform many great deeds before becoming one with the Divinity.

From Russia ...with affection

Around 1800 AD, there used to be a great doctor at Siberia in Russia. He was a good doctor and saved many people from many diseases and offered free medical services to the poor. He gained such a good name among the populace, that his contemporaries became jealous of him and envied his fame. Also, since he offered free services to many people, patients flocked to him.

He was born in Uttar Pradesh in India in his next life. His service-minded nature of the previous life still clung to his soul. Despite being born in abject poverty, he educated himself with great difficulty and became a lecturer in the local college.

He used to help others to the extent possible with his meagre earnings and did not even marry, thinking it might impede his social service. He participated in social service

programs whenever possible. Once, a big festival took place in the temple near his place, and many *Siddhas* and *Yogis* came to participate in it from remote places. The lecturer was greatly drawn to one of the *Siddhas* and for the next three days of the festival, he followed the *Siddha* and begged him to take him as his disciple. The *Siddha* agreed and after the festival, both of them went away to the Himalayas. One day, when the *Siddha* went to a different *Ashram* to perform penance for a few days, Kishan, the lecturer, moved about in the mountains, appreciating the beautiful nature and finally reached my *Ashram*. He looked at the people around him and introduced himself to some of the great spiritual practitioners, soon becoming a close friend to them.

In his next two lives, Kishan was born in the USA and in Britain. In the present life, Kishan has been born as Irene in Moscow. Coming from a humble background, Irene studied at Stanford University. Owing to her past life associations, she was greatly drawn to *Hindu* traditions, especially astrology and *Vastu* and acquired great expertise in the two subjects. She established a school to teach *Vedic* astrology, where many Russian youth come to learn.

Irene came into touch with a Whatsapp group in Hyderabad, whose members were all inclined towards *Hindu* traditions. The members are also learning Sanskrit now. Irene got acquainted with one of the members of the group and came to Hyderabad from Moscow to meet her. She also wished to bring some of her school students to

Hyderabad. One of the Whatsapp group members had heard about me and my books, but had never met me. During a conversation with Irene, the member happened to tell her about me and the work that I was doing. Irene was fascinated and asked her to take her to me.

One day, Irene came to my house with one of the group's members. She was very interested in all that I was doing and told me that she would translate the book, '*Sri VenkateswaraVrataKalpam*' into Russian. Two months later, she brought the students of the *Vedic* school from Moscow to Hyderabad and also brought the Russian translation of '*Sri VenkateswaraVrataKalpam*' with her, as promised. The book was inaugurated at a small function in the conference hall of the apartment we live in. The distance between Moscow and Hyderabad itself is baffling. Yet, the Himalayan *Ashram* connection of a past life brought Irene so far, in the present life, to meet me. I was really happy to see the book; '*Sri VenkateswaraVrataKalpam*' translated into Russian. Irene told me that they would perform the '*Sri Venkateswara Vratam*' in Moscow too. The philosophy of *Lord Sri Venkateswara* is spreading its wings by leaps and bounds across the world!

We have to go the extra mile...

As I stated time and again, we are born in various races and various religions. One should not have any hatred for a particular religion or a particular country. If you develop such hatred, you are bound to be born in that religion or in that country for hundred or more consecutive births. God does not tolerate anything that implies negativity. If you are cruel to animals, you would be born in the animal world and undergo suffering for several births.

Many people think animals do not have emotions...which is not true...when thousands of animals are killed in slaughter houses, they weep silently...and the negative energy that comes from their distress...sends most depressing waves across several thousands of

kilometres...similarly,when trees are cut, they weep silently...they too send waves of distress across several hundreds of square kilometres...and it is those distressing waves that cause all the natural calamities like cyclones, tsunami, earthquakes, wildfires etc...in addition, it is those waves that cause ill health of humans...as modern man has been cutting down trees in thousands everyday, we have all fallen victims to hitherto unknown diseases ...and the incidence of cancer has been increasing at an alarming rate...the reason precisely being, destruction of the Cosmic Energy...by cutting trees, by killing animals...the distress waves disturb the positive Cosmic Energy and cause immense loss to mankind...

Some of the people who met me in my Himalayan *Ashram* are now born in different countries in different religions. Some of them work in some of the world's prestigious universities as professors, some are top most doctors in their countries, some are eminent technologists, some are great academicians, some others are in the highest positions in the government, some are great singers, some are great musicians, and many more are simple men and women, leading simple and ordinary lives...all those people lived in different countries in earlier births and are now in all these positions and are getting connected to me...

One such person David Ferguson is in the highest position in the government in a country...he met me at the Himalayan *Ashram* as Swamy Sacchidananda...He was a

British citizen in that birth and came to the Himalayas and met me...The way he came to my *Ashram* is quite interesting...he was wandering in the Himalayas in quest for peace...He met several *Sadhus*...spent weeks together with them...but somehow he did not find what he wanted...so he moved from place to place...He loved *Sri Krishna Tatwam*...He simply loved *Lord Krishna*...He read *Bhagavatham* and was deeply moved by the love of the *Gopikas* for *Krishna*...he thus developed a fascination for flute...

One day he left a place where he had stayed with some *sadhus* and walked extensively...he walked for three nights and three days... then, he sat under a tree and relaxed...suddenly he heard the sound of someone playing on the flute...it was mystifying...he walked in the direction from where he had heard the flute...but he could not locate the person...it was simply mesmerising...and very Divine...he thought some celestial beings must have been playing on the flute...he was curious to see and meet the person who played with such great Divinity...somehow the person had evaded him...he became more and more curious...after he walked in that direction a few meters further, the sound reduced...and then he saw my *Ashram*...

The moment he entered the *Ashram* the sound of the flute completely stopped...he was overwhelmed with joy by the great Cosmic Energy in the *Ashram*...he met me and narrated everything...and how he reached the *Ashram*...then he

understood that it was none other than *Lord Sri Krishna* who had pulled him to my *Ashram*...He became very close to me...and he felt very happy that his beloved *Sri Krishna* had finally shown him the way...the place where he got Ultimate Bliss...

He was a very pious man and led a humble life...in his next life he was born in a different country and did lot of social service...he worked towards the upliftment of the downtrodden in the society...in the next birth he was born in to a middle class family in the USA and studied medicine and became a very prominent doctor...in his present life he has been born as David Ferguson in another country and is now in a high position in the government...he is working towards bringing great development in his country...He will get connected with me again in this birth soon...

Why is it that some people lose their spouses very early in life? I saw some wonderful women lose their beloved husbands at young ages. It is really very tragic. Such things happen because their past lives' connection with their spouses was limited to only that period...once the connection ends, the soul leaves the body and the physical body is dead...the soul takes another body...disease is only a reason for death...reason for separation...someone could die of a disease or by an accident... the way in which our past lives' connection is cut depends on our *prarabdha karma*...the *karma* we acquire over several lives...

You loved your husband so much...it could be a severe loss to you...and your family would be shattered...all your dreams would be shattered... you feel why your children have to face such misery for no fault of theirs ?...yes, you were quite reasonable in feeling so...the thing is you should understand that each individual is unique...it's their souls' travel...because the children have an attachment with both of you, they are born into your family, as your son or daughter...their *karma* is theirs ...you cannot alter it...they would undergo their *karma* in their life...it is only because of your emotional bonding with them that you feel sorry for them...you feel you are responsible for their growth and prosperity...you feel you are responsible for all their misdeeds or miseries...but in reality it is not so....you are in *no way* responsible for their fate...for their way of life...

They took birth in the family because of some past lives' association with both of you ...if they are destined to lose their father at the age of 24 they would take birth in such a family where the wife would lose her husband and the son loses his father at that particular time in life...for how long you are entitled to enjoy your parenthood, is solely determined by your past lives' *karma*...so in no way you are responsible for your son losing his father...he took birth in your family only because he would have his father till a certain period...and your husband too was indebted to you in one of your earlier lives only to that extent. Once the debt is redeemed, he'd leave the world...it is the same case with those who lose their wives too...

But you should remember one thing...it happens because of two reasons...you might have done some bad deeds in your past lives and you bear the fruits of it later...another reason is that you are an elevated soul after living several lives...not just in the present birth alone...but almost for the last hundred births, you have been doing good deeds and living a simple and honest life...so you are nearing *Salvation..Liberation* ...and finally merge with the Supreme Force... All your *prarabdha karma* should deplete fast.

You should not have any more attachments from your previous lives...in order to clear off the balance *karma*, you will come in contact with the people- to whom you are indebted in some way or the other- in your previous lives and clear off that debt (not in financial terms)...suppose you had a very good friend in one of your earlier lives...you had lot of attachment with him...but both of you got separated suddenly...so the attachment will not leave your soul... unless you leave all such attachments you would not qualify for *Salvation*...so all the people with whom you have had attachments and had that relationship would appear in your present life and get connected to you in several ways...as your spouse, your siblings... your close friends...or even as your parents too...

And all of them would leave you once their association with you ended...your 'balance of attachment' with them is completely exhausted...it is for this reason that we see some lose their parents early in life...and then undergo a lot of

trauma too...added to it, they lose their spouse too sometimes...and some of their friends too may go to far away places and get disconnected...some may even lose their son or daughter too...kindly remember you undergo all these tragic incidents in just one life as you are close to *Salvation*; you are clearing off all past lives' 'dues' faster.

People appear in your life and go away very soon...just to clear off that debt of *karma*...you undergo suffering on so many fronts...the Supreme Lord's ways of providing succour to you by depleting your past lives' *karma* faster and faster. I have seen some people facing such difficulties in successive births (4 or 5 births in a row)...even though they are simple, honest and very kind hearted...and do many noble acts...it is solely because they are close to *Salvation*...Lord is preparing you to get out of the '*Samsaara*.'

But kindly remember that it is not necessary that those who are happy in every way are not nearing *Salvation*...perhaps they have gone through all those miseries in their past lives and are just about to attain what we also call '*Moksha*'...but it again depends on how they live in their present births...if they do any misdeeds or develop anger or hatred, they would again fall in to the pit and again go in to the cycle of birth-death-rebirth...

Kindly remember never feel proud of your good deeds...do good things without any attachment...otherwise the attachment becomes positive *karma* ...suppose you help

your servant's son for his education...do not feel proud or even happy that you helped him...the moment you feel so , you will have to take another birth to take help from him in return for what you did... you have to take another birth to undergo the positive *karma*...so do everthing without any attachment...so that the *karma* in your account doesn't get multiplied- positive or negative...after leading several hundreds of births in this way , you would get *Salvation* and merge with the Supreme Force...

I know it is easier said than done...but you could make a beginning...and the Lord would certainly help you if you made some effort ...for, He hardly finds such people in present times...He is only too willing to help such people who make a little beginning in the direction of living positively...with a pure heart...devoid of all negative thoughts...or negative emotions...and I am sure you can make that small beginning now...yes, now and today itself...for there is no auspicious day for starting good things...it is right here...right now...

Let's make a beginning...

We experience the fruits of the good and evil deeds of our past lives separately in the lives to come. Sometimes, we notice that the offspring of a wealthy couple is unable to speak or is disabled since birth. Due to his or her past merit, the child is born into a wealthy family, but of what use is the wealth, when one has to spend one's entire life in sickness due to bad *karma* from the past! In the same way, though the millionaire was fortunate to beget a child, his past *karma* saw to it that the child was born unhealthy. We should take precautions to avoid suffering in our forthcoming births, and the only precaution is to live in a righteous manner. We should do as many good things as we can and consider every good act as an offering to God. But if we become conceited, as a result, then the bad *karma* will stay with our soul and we will have to take birth again and again to experience that *karma* too.

Apart from the 108 persons who met me in the Himalayan *Ashram*, there are others who met me in many other lives and have met me again in the present life. Some of them have already lived virtuously over many lives and will be reborn as great people in future to perform great actions for the welfare of the world.

I have noticed that another group of 108 people, who had met me in one of my births when I was born as a *Pundit* (scholar) in Varanasi, are meeting me now again. They were all great scholars in that life who came from afar to attend a great conference of experts and intellectuals that took place in Varanasi back then. The meeting went on wonderfully for a week with all the scholars expounding their views on various subjects and everyone learning a great many new things.

An inseparable bond was formed among the 108 persons. In later lives, they were all born in different regions and have met me again in the present life. I am yet to meet some of them. Though they are born as great scholars, writers, scientists, engineers, judges, journalists and even as ordinary people in this life, they are leading extremely virtuous lives. Many of them have faced unexpected adversities in their life and have been through much physical and mental strain, but by the grace of the Divine power and their own good *karma*, they have not lost courage and continue to live with undying faith.

In another birth , I was born at Madurai in Tamil Nadu, where a further 108 people become closely associated with me. In those times, there used to be a big *Vaishnava* association there, which had 108 great *Vaishnava* scholars as its members. Although steeped in *Vaishnava* tradition, they were all broad-minded and respected people of all faiths and lived with great virtue.

I was the chief advisor of that *Vaishnava* association and all the members had great affinity towards me. That relationship continued, and after being born in different countries, states, religions and sects in later lives, they met me again in this life.

In the present birth, they have come into my life either as relatives, childhood friends, engineering friends, or as colleagues from office (back when I was employed in a job), or as people who came to get their logos designed or to get advice for some problems in their life. Some of them came across my books by chance and came to meet me personally and collected more copies of the book. Our past life relationship ensured that all of them are good friends of mine in this life too.

In another life, when I was born at *Sringeri* in Karnataka, a great meeting of scholars took place in the *Sri Sarada Math*. A group of 108 great scholars from all across the country attended the meeting, for which I functioned as the chief coordinator. All the scholars stayed together at the *Sri*

Sringeri Math for a month which gave rise to a great bond of friendship and affection among us. They all led many virtuous lives in the past and have reunited with me again in this life and have become dear to me. Some of them have also developed close links among themselves.

When I go into deep states of meditation, I see where they were born in their earlier lives and how they lived. Another interesting fact is that some of them have had past life relationships among themselves. Those who were parents, spouses or siblings in their earlier lives are now born in different regions and families and have met me separately. Thus, I am also able to perceive the past life relationships of those who come to meet me.

Every human being goes through hard times in his or her life. Sometimes, people get angry with their family members or close friends and lose their peace of mind. We should have broader look at life during such difficult times. That is due to the past life relationships, although I know it is easier said than done.

Losing near and dear ones, incurring financial losses, falling sick unexpectedly or family members being afflicted by severe diseases – all such misfortunes cause us great pain. But we should realise that those are the fruits of the bad *karma* of many of our past lives and must restrain our thoughts.

As I said earlier, it is easier to say than do in real life. We are all covered by the veil of illusion-'*Maya*'- all the time. That is why, even though thousands of great men, since the time of *Adi Shankaracharya*- centuries ago- to *Sri Chaganti Koteswara Rao* today, have been preaching to us many great ideals for noble living over and over again, how many people have been able to change?

We are at peace as long as we read their books or listen to their discourses. Once we are done with, we are shrouded by illusion and return to the temporal world. The power of illusion is such that we do not remember anything of what we have read or heard, and even if we do remember, we cannot gather the determination to act upon the same. But with sustained effort, it is definitely possible to overcome the cover of illusion or *Maya*...

If the effort is evident on our part, then God will definitely help us to change the course of our mind towards good. Although it is said that the mind follows *karma*, if we are able to use the discriminatory power bestowed on us by God to adhere to a virtuous way of life, the intensity of our past life *karma* will definitely decrease. Such practice over thousands of lives will eventually free us from the cycle of births and deaths and lead us towards *Salvation*.

Do make the utmost effort to follow that path and you will all live your lives virtuously and be born in good circumstances in future. Realise that all your troubles have

the sole purpose of expending your past *karma*. Understand that God helps those who help themselves. His blessings and assistance are always with those who try whole heartedly. I believe that all of you will exhaust all your past lives' *karma* in a few more lives that will follow. And I sincerely pray to the Divine power to bless you and grant you liberation in a few more lives from now.

Sri Lakshmi Srinivasa Kataksha Siddhirastu
Sarvejana Sukhino Bhavantu
Samasta Kalyanani Bhavantu

May the Grace of Sri Lakshmi Srinivasa be on You!
May all people be happy!
May all good things happen!

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Mr.T.V.R.K.Murthy, more popularly known as '*Viswapathi*' is an Electrical Engineer. He worked in teaching and industry till 1998. He has keen interest in Vedic Sciences and has done extensive research on the application of Vedic Principles to Business organizations. He has so far selected names and designed logos for more than 6,000 organisations worldwide all of which are running successfully.

Mr.Viswapathi has so far written 27 books of which 17 are on Lord *Sri Venkateswara* alone. His books on Tirupathi are internationally acclaimed. His latest book *Met Again* received great acclaim from the international community. It takes you to a fascinating journey of human life and offers great insights into life after life. *Met again* gives a different perspective to our association with Cosmos and Nature.

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