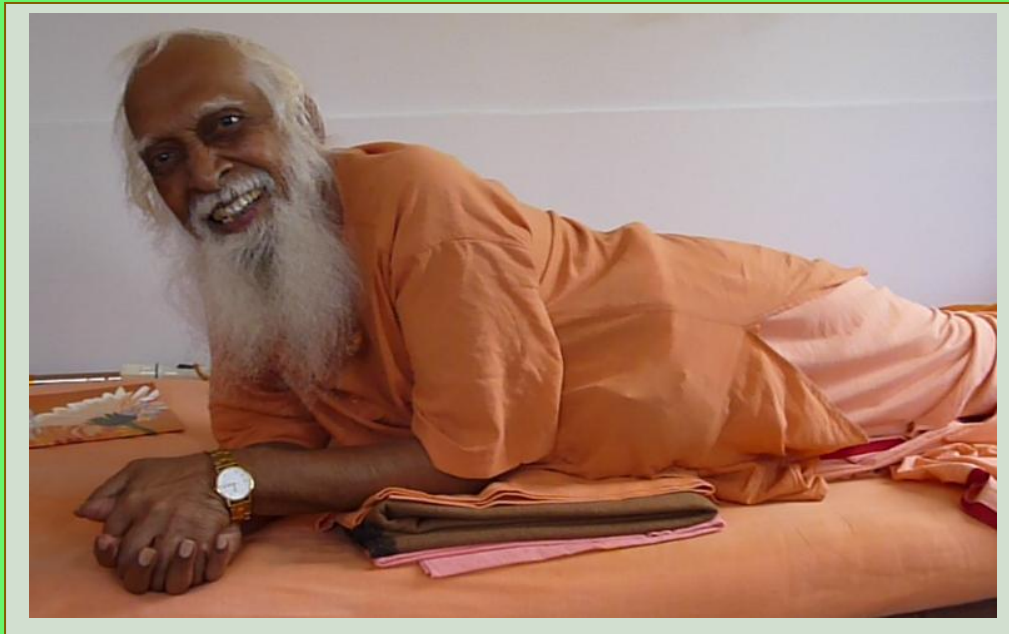


The unseen Hand of Grace

*Anecdote on Krishna Prem Maharaj
Narrated by Swami Shantananda Puri Maharaj*



The unseen Hand of Grace

I had the privilege of staying for a couple of days with Krishna Prem Maharaj known in earlier days as Ronald Nixon. This was during my inspection to areas surrounding Almora. He was a bomb pilot in World War I when he had to make several journeys into the German territory, release bombs and come back. Each such visit was known as a sortie. He did not have any special leanings to any religion or spirituality.

One day, he had to make more than 4 sorties and he was extremely tired while returning. He did not feel like returning to his base in England as it was too far. Luckily, he found a big airstrip on the way where there were a number of planes carrying flags with designs of Stars and Stripes which was a symbol of the Americans. Nixon was highly delighted as he could now go towards the air strip and take rest. He turned his aeroplane towards the airstrip and had gone but after a little distance, the wheel of the aircraft suddenly was wrenched away from his hands and the aircraft turned back to its original track by some unseen hands. It took him some time to recover from the shock and by that time the aircrafts had travelled a good distance towards the base. When he reached the base, he found all the officials standing with anxiety writ large on their faces. All the officials came to congratulate him on his clever escape from being foxed by the Germans who had camouflaged their own strip of land to look like perhaps an American base. Only then did Mr. Nixon realise from what a

great calamity the unseen hands had saved him by wrenching away the wheel from his hands.

Soon after the war was over, he resigned his job and came to India and became a professor in Lucknow University when one Mr. Chakravarty was the vice chancellor. The latter's wife known eventually as Yashoda Ma renounced her family and became a Sanyasini. In the meantime, Mr. Nixon began to take interest in Buddhism and developed some yogic feats like levitation. One day while he was passing through the streets of Lucknow, he met Yashoda Ma along with her entourage but did not know who she was. Yashoda Ma called him and reprimanded him that Buddhism can only take him to some extent while he should become a monk and practise in order to realise the Supreme Being. After a few days, Mr. Ronald Nixon went to Yashoda Ma for further guidance and at last became her sishya (disciple) and later a monk with the name Krishna Prem.

**** Hari Om****

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