

Gurudev, the Divine King, transforms a king

Anecdote on Swami Purushottamananda Maharaj

Narrated by Swami Shantananda Puri Maharaj



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One Mr. M who was then the commissioner for all the railways in India placed at Shimla in the ex-vice-roy's house, used to visit Swami Purushottamananda Maharaj, our Gurudev often in the cave [Vashishta Guha]. I remember him very well because whenever he came he used to sing a nice song:

“Oh Lord, you are by my side during the last days of my body, playing beautifully on the flute and attracting the hearts of all. At that time, I shall only be singing the names of the Lord, ‘O Govinda, O Damodara, O Madhav, etc.

Dehanta kale tu samne ho vanshi bajate man ko lubhate

Gaata yehi main tava naath gaaon, Govinda, Damodar, Madhaveti”

Mr. M used to plead before Gurudev that he should once come to Shimla and stay with him and that when once Gurudev decided upon the date, he would himself come and take him to Shimla. Gurudev would smile and leave it at that.

Mr. M used to have daily morning walks in Shimla. On one such day, when he was walking, he found a Government bus coming and stopping just before him. My Gurudev was seen getting down alone from the bus. Mr. M was surprised and asked him, “Swamiji, why didn't you intimate me earlier? I would have come and brought you myself.” Gurudev only

laughed. He took him to the house which had been occupied by the ex-vice-roy earlier and showed all the rooms. My Guruji asked him about the houses outside the main building at a little distance. He expressed his wish to see them. They were all outhouses meant for the servants, cooks, etc. of the vice-roy's entourage.

They walked over to the outhouses and Gurudev selected one house and told him, "I shall stay here." The path from the main building to this outhouse was full of mud in which the feet would go in deep. It was a difficult task to reach the outhouse. A couple of days later, Mr. M came to Gurudev and informed him, "The King of Solan has come. Would you like to come to the main building to meet him?" Gurudev asked him, "Has he come to meet you or has he come to meet me?" Mr. M confirmed that he had come to meet Swamiji specifically. Gurudev told him, "If so, let him come here." The King was a well-built man with a fairly big paunch and so with great difficulty, came to the outhouse. During the conversation, he told Gurudev, "Swamiji, I have been studying for years the Bhagavad Gita and also the Upanishads. But I was not able to keep the mind firm on the Supreme Lord."

My Gurudev told him, "Have you read this verse in the second chapter of Gita? It states, Bhogaishwarya prasaktanam taya apa hruta cheta sam Vyavasatmica buddhi samadhava vidhiate

[The one who is engaged in wealth and in the enjoyment of worldly objects and whose mind is completely attracted by that, they will never be able to get the concentration of mind and their minds can never be firm on the Supreme object.] Now you think over it and this is the answer."

The King quietly went away.

**** Hari Om ****

Website: <http://www.swamishantanandapurimaharaj.org/>