

“SAI” DECLARES

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“Come just one step forward, I shall take a hundred towards you’. Shed just one tear, I shall wipe hundreds from your eyes. If you look to ME, I look at you”.

These are not mere statements and empty promises. They are declarations and assertions of the Avatar of the Age. There is a catch in these declarations. It is ‘you’ first and ‘I’ next. The effort is from the man and then HE will act. What HE wants us is to discharge our duty with discipline and devotion. God is not ‘Karma daata’ (giver of action but only ‘Karma phala pradaata’ (bestower or witness to the fruits of action) as is said, ‘Shad bhagenca manushyanaam saptame daiva chinta yeth’ (if man performs sixth-seventh part, the seventh part will be completed by God).

Let us take the declaration, ‘If you look to ME I look at you’. Whatever we ask HE will give, provided the desire is pure, it is not for selfish ends. The motive is desirable and the object is to benefit the man, as service to man is service to God. One cannot look to God straight if the motive is impure. Everyone of us must have had this experience.

Those were the days in early 1982 when responsibility was thrust on me as a Managing Trustee of Andhra Association Building Trust, Calcutta, to build a four-storied building at a cost of approximately Rs. 12 lakhs to house the social and cultural activities of Andhra Association and its high school and junior college.

The unwritten understanding was that the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Tirupati Tirumalai Devasthanam (TTD) and Trust were to share the cost equally. Accordingly, Government TTD and the Trust initially contributed Rs. 1 lakh each. One Minister further announced a grant of Rs. 3 lakhs. The first instalment of Rs. 1.2 lakhs was obtained after great lot of difficulty and effort. The construction of the building was commenced. Meanwhile Government by legislation put an embargo that TTD cannot and should not make any contributions outside, The State Government did not release the balance grant. Trust was raising its share of funds. Other sources had almost dried us. However, the construction could not be stopped midway and the Trust had to resort to large bank borrowing with high rates of interest.

The questions and the problems were how to solve completion of the building as housing the school and junior college was the urgent need of the hour, payment to contractors,

getting the balance grant from the Government and repayment of interest and principal to the bank.

In the meanwhile Ministries changed. No one was keen to hear and help since everyone of the ministries was trying for its survival. However, after a great lot of persuasion, perseverance, effort and activity, the balance grant of Rs. 1.8 lakhs was sanctioned and the department concerned made out a demand draft in the Trustees' name. Before despatch, some interested person put a spoke in the wheel and tried his best to cancel this sanction. At that time the Ministry changed. For months the demand draft was not despatched to Trust. The new Chief Minister, in view of the urgency to house the school and college, agreed to inaugurate the building.

Daily I used to sit in prayer before Baba, look to HIM and cry "Swami, what mistake I did. I cannot do any further as what all I could do, I did. It is beyond me. Why the plate full of delicacies served to me is snatched away. It is your responsibility to see that the amount is paid to me. As this is too much for me to bear and shoulder".

And this went on for sometime when a couple of days before inauguration of the building came a telegram "Mr... is coming to Calcutta. He will deliver the demand draft for Rs. 1.8 lakhs at the function before the Chief Minister".

Not only this was delivered but Baba as Lord Venkateswara made the (dichards) to mend and bend their decision and Chief Minister announced that legal obstacles would be cleared and TTD would be asked to pay their promised amount, a windfall and boon. The cheque for Rs. 3 lakhs was delivered in my house by the Executive Officer of TTD as if remind to the instance that Lord Rama took the amount to Nizam and said that "as your debt was repaid release Ramdas forthwith from jail". Forthwith I was also released of the responsibility of the heavy loan borrowed by the Trust.

Swami only requires, sincere, genuine devotion. One must of course perform one's duty, then only His Grace starts showering.

As it is said, "in the Lord's Durbar there is 'Dai' (delay) but there is no 'Andhera' (darkness)".

Let us, therefore, follow HIS prescriptions the four Fs (Follow the master, Face the Devil, Fight to the end and Finish at the Goal) with three Ds (Discipline, Duty and Devotion) to get HIS Grace; as SAI HIMSELF has declared, "I shall ever be with you, wherever you are, guarding you, guiding you, march on have no fear".

JAI SAI RAM