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Today is celebrated as Sri Raghavendra Swami's Brindavan entry date. Jiva Samadhi implies entering into the Samadhi state when the body is very much alive. It is referred to as Brindavan. Sri Raghavendra Swami's native village is Kumbhakonam in Tamilnadu. It is both Shiva as well as Vishnu related pilgrim center. Raghavendra Swami initially led a householder's life and later accepted Sannyasa. Raghavendra Swami is referred to as Mantralaya Guru. Mantralaya is the place where Prahlada conducted yagnas in the past. It was under the muslim regime. Raghavendra Swami cured the diseases of the Nawab in whose kingdom Mantralaya existed. The Nawab said: 'You have cured me of my diseases and restored back my health. I would like to offer something at your feet. Please let me know what do you want?' Raghavendra Swami said: 'I have no external desires. Gift me the village of Mantralaya'. Mantralaya was a small village. Raghavendra Swami attained Jiva Samadhi in Mantralaya. Raghavendra Swami Himself prepared the Samadhi when He was alive. Before entering the Samadhi, Raghavendra Swami said: 'I will stay here in the state of Samadhi for a period of 700 years fulfilling everyone's desires'. The devotees of Raghavendra Swami refer to Him as Kalpataru as well as Kamadhenu. Kalpataru means wish fulfilling tree. As a tree gives shelter, it is said that Raghavendra Swami also gives shelter to those inflicted by worldly troubles, hardships and losses. Hence He is referred to as Kalpataru. Kamadhenu gives you everything that you desire for. As Raghavendra Swami fulfills all your desires, He is referred to as Kamadhenu. Shiva is adored in the form of Linga. The Vaishnavites adore Vishnu in the form of Saligrama. It is said that Raghavendra Swami Himself established more than 800 Lakshmi Narayana idols over the Samadhi and then

entered Brindavan. From then onwards, it became famous as the wish fulfilling Brindavan and became a famous pilgrim center.

🌸 God is remembered only when you are disturbed and sorrowful and is forgotten during other periods of time. God is not needed when the body and mind are healthy and when the family situations are alright. You pray God for the fulfillment of desires or for being cured of a disease and for some reason or the other but don't have true love, devotion and faith towards Him. God is aware of all this. God doesn't bestow liberation when you are like this. Then who will get liberated? Those who toil hard to perform spiritual practices and secure sense control and self control, they alone become recipients of God's Grace. God bestows such people with Self Realization.

🌸 When the tendencies within the heart shoot out into the brain, you become aware of their existence. Those who kill ten people cannot be termed as brave and courageous. Rather they can be termed as brave and courageous who are able to identify their tendencies and get rid of them courageously, peacefully and tolerantly.

🌸 Once Swami Chinmayananda was asked to describe the entire Vedanta in two words. Swamiji said: 'Close that which has to be closed and get rid of that which has to be lost'. The senses are always related to sensory objects. Therefore close the relationship that senses have with the sensory objects. Separate them as you separate the things building a wall. Everyone identify themselves with their body and limit their existence to it. Get rid of this thought: 'I am the body'. This is only the essence of Vedanta.

- ❖ Without sense control and self control, any amount of wealth, scholarship and honour in the society are of no use. All these are zeroes without one (one the left hand side) ie they are all insignificant.
- ❖ Suppose there is a marriage function at home to be conducted within 4 days then your entire mind, words and deeds are concentrated upon marriage related tasks only and nothing else. The hands perform marriage related tasks only. The mind thinks about marriage related things only. Everyone at home would talk about marriage related things only and nothing else. Everyone thus concentrate upon marriage related tasks only. Even if they are told about some other things, they would say: 'Let's see later. Let's see later. For time being, please move aside'. The scriptures state: 'When there is a marriage at home, the thought, word and deed are concentrated upon marriage. Unless the spiritual practices are performed with the same amount of intensity with which the marriage related tasks are performed, God Realization cannot be secured'.
- ❖ Though the task performed is trivial and small, don't do it for the sake of recognition. Do it out of love.
- ❖ You may worship God or do Japa but the required love and devotion towards Him that is needed is missing. You do them mechanically for the sake of doing. The God existing as the indweller keeps observing all this.
- ❖ Guru's Heart should be as wide as the sky. The disciple should have intense faith in the Guru. Guru alone should be the disciple's goal.

- ❁ The physical body becomes subject to death but there is a deathless Self inside us. The deathless Self should be brought into experience even before the physical body is subject to death. They alone are blessed indeed who get released from death when the body is alive and secure the Immortal state. But how is it possible? The Lord said: 'Perform my task, Remember Me, have faith in Me, perform the tasks that I like, Salute Me, Pray to Me. If your mind rotates around Me throughout the life, you will transcend the death and march towards the Immortal state'.
- ❁ Don't consider these physical bodies to be true. They are as good as a shirt that you wear. As a shirt is thrown out when it is torn, even the physical body is thrown out when it is worn out ie on being subject to death.
- ❁ Very often the following two are referred to: Jivaatma (individual soul) and Paramaatma (Supreme God). Every Jiva has certain attributes. When the Jiva loses its nature related attributes, it will secure the Paramaatma here and now.
- ❁ Ravana had a son called Indrajith. He got that name as Lord Indra was defeated by him. The scriptures state: 'Indrajith is not great. Rather Indriyajith is great ie one who has conquered his senses is great. He attains the eligibility to secure liberation'.
- ❁ One day, Mahendranath Gupta entered the room of Sri Ramakrishna and sat down. Sri Ramakrishna was then seated on his bed covered by a mosquito net. Then Sri Ramakrishna said: 'Mahendranath Gupta, enter

the mosquito net and sit beside me on my bed'. They were so intimate. There was no separateness between them. Mahendranth Gupta initially got frightened in sitting equivalent to the Guru. But on being called twice by Sri Ramakrishna, he obeyed His Guru's order. Sri Ramakrishna said: 'You are my Mahendranath and I am your Ramakrishna. We need not differentiate between each other. You can sit beside me'. When two hearts get merged, except sweetness there is no more body consciousness.

 Infants lack body consciousness. Infants are given bath nakedly without any clothes. They don't feel ashamed in thinking that they are being watched by someone or the other. They don't have any differentiating faculty. They are eligible to secure the Kingdom of Heaven. Later they grow big and become surrounded by the society. The deceptive ways of the world are then learnt from the society. Therefore one should not excessively get involved with the society. Also you cannot completely isolate yourselves from the society. Hence be in your limits while handling the society. Don't get excessively involved with your friends, relatives and the society. By doing so, the delusion cannot be transcended. You will get carried away by the nature.

 Adi Shankara said: 'Don't put aside the mind and search for the Maya. The entire Maya lies in the mind. Maya is not separate from the mind. If the mind is conquered, then the Maya also is conquered. You presume that Maya is somewhere else separate from the mind and again fall back into the clutches of Maya'.

- 🌸 Everyone has to perform their own work. Don't be in a delusion that if you give up the domestic household tasks and get habituated to laziness, Self Realization can be secured. If the work is given up, you cannot secure Self Realization but rather get habituated to laziness. On giving up work, your physical needs cannot be fulfilled. Therefore everyone has to stand on their own feet and enhance their self confidence.
- 🌸 Everyone has to perform their own work and if possible help others. If you really have love towards the mankind, don't hurt others. You may preach the subject. But it has to be preached in a manner that it won't hurt others. It doesn't imply that you should stop preaching subject. It infers that operation has to be done but pain should not be experienced.
- 🌸 The Lord said: 'As a giant wheel operator rotates the dolls in a giant wheel, even I drive the dolls called physical bodies as per their destiny'.
- 🌸 Many people feel: 'I have done this or I have done that'. They think so as they identify themselves with their body. It is all foolishness. Do you really exist to achieve this or that? Whatever God has achieved, you think that you have done it. You are not even able to grasp this small thing. Accept God's resolve and God's will. Nothing can be done different from God's will. God's resolve is most powerful. What happens to the sheep and goat that hinder the path of a road roller? They get crushed. Even your position will be the same if you go against Gods' will. One who accepts God's resolve and God's will become the recipient of God's Grace.

🌸 Though everybody may perform different tasks according to their body's destiny, mental contact with God must be developed. Perform your duty and don't worry about anything else. Don't get worried in any circumstances. Rather than worrying, it is better to pray God to redress the situation. Perform your duty devotedly. Carelessness is forbidden in that aspect. God doesn't forgive if you stop performing your duty. Perform the task in hand whole-heartedly and with full concentration. Reverence is developed towards God's words only when His power, omniscience and glory are understood. Without understanding His glory, no reverence can be developed towards God's words.

🌸 God likes most the hands that work compared to the mouth that prays.

🌸 If you develop cruelty, jealousy and hatred towards others, it is because you don't understand their situation and lack the faculty to forgive them. There might be a problem in understanding them also. When love for others gets reduced, there is a danger of developing jealousy towards them.

🌸 If you crave for God, never imitate the society. Whatever may be the work in hand, it should be done in order to please God. The society doesn't bestow you with liberation. It is God who bestows you with liberation. God always observes the intention behind every thought, word and deed.

🌸 When Lord Rama came to Shabari, Shabari first tasted the fruits and then offered them to Rama only if they tasted sweet. She threw them

out if they tasted bitter. Though the fruits were first tasted by Shabari, Rama never considered them to be Shabari's left over. Rama was concerned with Shabari's heart (her love and devotion). Having finished eating, Rama started preaching Shabari about pure devotion. While Rama talked, Shabari listened to Him intently. In that process, Shabari gave up her body and mind and merged within Rama. Such is the glory of Shabari. Such was her concentration and purity of mind. You think in 90 different ways. But Shabari had no other thought other than securing God. Only 5% of your mind possesses devotion and the remaining 95% of the mind is diverted towards the world. Shabari was not like that. She offered 100% of her mind to Lord Rama. Except Rama, no one else had a place within her mind. Shabari and Buddha gave up their home not to dispel their own sorrow but to get rid of other's sorrow and disturbance and to reform this society.

- 🌸 Your entire lust must get converted into love. It is only a true spiritual practice. Lust asks for something or the other. Love expects nothing in return. Love the work only for the sake of work. Love a person only for the sake of loving him. Don't love expecting something in return.
- 🌸 Currently you are identified with the body and mind. If you have the same amount of identification with the Self inside, only then you will secure liberation. Liberation cannot be secured by giving up work.
- 🌸 You may think that Tukaram has experienced manifold hardships in the family life. But Tukaram said: 'Oh! Lord, you have sent me all the possible hardships. You have no additional hardships left over to send. Though you sent me innumerable hardships, I never lost love for you. I

never got distorted. Oh! Vittal, you got defeated in my hands'. Your devotion should be like that. Tukaram did not secure liberation in the usual manner. As Lord Vishnu sent an aeroplane, Tukaram reached the Lord along with his body. Such is the glory of Tukaram.

🌸 Don't dispute with God on a daily basis questioning Him: 'Why did you do like this or why did you do like that?' Accept God's will. Compromise with it. You don't know what is good or what is bad. God, who has created you, knows well what is good for you. Therefore don't have any disputes with God. Then your mind will get clarity. Jesus said: 'Blessed are those who have clarity of mind for they will secure freedom'.

🌸 If possible, teach the work else learn from others if they know anything better than you. Your ego need not become an obstacle here. Teach as well as Learn. Even this is Yoga. You don't feel happy if Parvathyamma is praised for cooking better curries. You don't feel like learning it from her. You get angered with Parvathyamma as well as the one who praised her. Such is your thinking faculty. Then how can you secure liberation? When you cannot cross small pits of water, how can you cross the ocean of worldliness (samsara)?

🌸 However evil one may be, there is something inside unrelated to that evil. In every sinner, there is a sinless Self. Rather than looking at the sinner, it is better to look at that sinless Self. How much ever sinner one may be, if the mind is diverted towards God, all the sins get burnt.

- 🌸 You can never understand a person's adverse circumstances if you have hatred for him. Your thinking faculty cannot grasp it. Your mind cannot accept it. All these things must be understood.
- 🌸 You love your family members to a certain extent. Don't limit your love to your family alone. Expand your love. As you try to convert the 2 acres of land into 4 acres of land, try to expand your love. If Shankara or Ramanuja left their home, it is not because they were angry with their family members. They gave up their home to distribute their Universal love to this entire world and hug this entire creation. One cannot secure Self Knowledge if they abandon their house out of anger and hatred. Devotion and Love for God should originate from inside. It will then remain permanent. Like Prahlada, devotion should emerge from inside.
- 🌸 In spite of being faultless, if you are being subject to hardship by anyone, you may feel bad about it. God keeps observing all these things. There is no possibility of bestowing you with liberation without purifying you. God Himself designates such people in order to test whether or not you are able to treat alike both the people whom you love and those you hate. But you are unable to grasp this. All such people resemble worms. God ensures that you are bitten by such worms. He examines whether you get hatred towards those worms. If you get hatred for them, you are granted rebirth again. On being criticized, don't get anxious. Don't lose your self confidence. On doing so, it will reflect your weakness. Jealousy is the root cause of most of the criticisms in society. Not knowing this, you get perturbed.

- 🌸 Don't run away leaving aside the God allocated work. Take up that work willingly and lovingly. Do it in such a manner that it will make you recipient of God's Grace. As you make effort to earn money and honour, likewise make effort to earn God's Grace. It is only referred to as spiritual practice.
- 🌸 Whether it is yoga abhyasa or food regulation or God's Grace or mental penance- the sole purpose of all these is purification of mind. Self exists within. It is revealed only to the purest of the pure.
- 🌸 Don't forget the example of marriage. If the marriage is to be held within 4 days, your thoughts, words and deeds are entirely concentrated on marriage. All the three (thought, word and deed) are synchronized in order to make the marriage a success. Similarly if your thoughts, words and deeds are entirely concentrated on God Realization, here and now you will secure God Realization when you are very much alive.
- 🌸 Irrespective of whether you are being chased by good luck or ill luck, if you understand the subject very well, if you are able to listen intently and grasp it, you will experience unworldly Peace, Bliss and Happiness.