

CALM AS A SEA

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The vast expanse of the sea looks calm from up above. It remains calm even when water gushes to join it from swollen monsoon rivers or when no water trickles in during summer. In the depth of this calmness is hidden the real treasure. The sea is a shelter to innumerable living beings, a bed to precious stones and many more. And yet it remains quiet making no efforts to show its treasure.

Just like the sea, a Sadguru is also calm. He laughs, talks and listens to you making no effort to show His knowledge. He is always alert and is working in tandem with you to make you realise the goal of life.

Sadguru Nannagaru is calm as a sea. He is one of the rarest gems that we are fortunate to see and listen to. He has experienced the Infinite Bliss, and yet He makes no noise about it. In the depth of His silence lies the treasure for us to grasp.

His silence is deafening. It has the power to remove all thoughts and make the mind calm. His compassionate look soothes troubled minds. With just one glance He knows your past and future. No secrets can be hidden. For his eyes can read everything.

Rich or poor are all the same before Him. Many come to seek advice on business, education, marriage and jobs. He has an advice for all. None goes back empty-handed. Despite all this, His equilibrium is least disturbed.

Fortunate are those who have taken refuge in him. His method to make one realise the goal of life is simple. He does not prescribe any fasts (abstaining from food), meditation or rituals. Instead, in simple words he advises to watch all thoughts in the mind and check them.

Nannagaru was blessed by Ramana Bhagawan in a dream. Born in 1934 in Kommara village in West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh, Sri Bhupathiraju Venkata Lakshmi Narasimharaju is affectionately called Nannagaru. Making Jinnur village his permanent abode, he has been propagating the teachings of Sri Ramana Maharshi for more than 50 years. Nannagaru has endeared himself to the masses with his gentleness, simplicity and silence.

The call "Nannagaru" is enough to generate a longing bond between his devotees and Him. In Telugu, "Nanna" means Father. Always clad in whites, Nannagaru is the right person that a tired mind and body would like to meet. For this meeting can change the perception of life altogether. Nannagaru is easily accessible to all. He clearly mentions in His talks that our present is a result of our actions in the past. Though we have no control over our past actions, the present and future is definitely going to be better with His guidance. His language is simple and His advices are pearls of wisdom.

When He talks about Sri Ramakrishna or Swami Vivekananda, He verily becomes them. The songs, incidences and teachings of Sri Ramakrishna are laid out in vivid detail and devotees are taken back into that era, where one feels Sri Ramakrishna Himself is seated and speaking there. And he becomes Vivekananda when he brings forth the inspiring teachings of the young monk who took Vedanta to the West.

Nannagaru becomes Gautama Buddha when he narrates incidences about Buddha. Buddha's life itself is his teachings. Nannagaru recreates the simple life of Buddha through various conversations that Gautama Buddha had with his disciple Ananda.

According to Nannagaru, a real guru never craves for recognition. He works in a manner that brings about internal changes in a person. The guru will turn all thoughts towards him. A guru

never uses any actions when he works. A guru laughs, eats, behaves and walks just like an ordinary person. In the process, the real guru is making efforts to bring about a great change within you, showing you by example how one should lead life. This is how a real guru works.

He often repeats in various speeches that one must never crave for recognition. Do not crave for recognition. People lose focus as they aspire for recognition even from a small piece of work they do. The work must be done with complete dedication. Concentrate on the process of completing the work, rather than thinking about the benefits. A task completed with perfection will automatically earn you the recognition.

Nannagaru states money can never give happiness, whereas a pure heart results in unlimited happiness. Never flaunt your wealth. Money does not make a man rich. Humility and pure heart are the characters that make a man rich. A basket of juicy mangoes look delicious from outside. But if they are rotten from inside they are of no use. Mangoes are delicious only if they are sweet and juicy from inside.

Helping someone must never be regarded as a favour, says Nannagaru. The mind immediately thinks that the little help extended is a great service. While extending help do it to the best of your ability. Do it with humility and not pride. Always remember God has given you a chance to make your heart pure. We are not aware of God's actions. When you help someone you are giving it back to yourself. This is like giving with the right hand and taking back with the left hand. So, where is the question of doing a favour, as both the hands are your very own?

In the path of the spiritual journey, attachment to the world is the biggest obstacle. Nannagaru advises to train the mind to make itself devoid of this attachment. Gradually pull it inside and let it taste the huge ocean of peace inside. This requires immense efforts as the mind has brought with it our impressions from the past. A change in attitude is required to sustain one on the path of discovering the supreme self. So, first bring about a change in yourself, he avers.

According to Nannagaru, without knowledge, humility and spirit of service, you can never bring about a change in anyone. You can give ample opportunities for others to develop, but you can never force them to change. The urge for a change has to come from within. And yes, even the urge to know about the supreme self has to come from within.

Nannagaru's Words of Nectar

- The main aim of life is to realise the truth within your heart.
- Delusion keeps haunting you until you get self realisation.
- The real happiness cannot be got from outside. It is well within you. Once you are convinced about that happiness is well within you, then that is the path towards supreme knowledge.
- Along with money even the intellectual capacity of a person has to increase. But only if money increases it is very dangerous.
- Surrendering oneself completely to god or guru is known as total surrender. This total surrender is the real prayer.
- In whatever field we are, one should never aspire for recognition. If this recognition comes on its own then it will not limit us. If you aspire to be famous then it will bind you.

