

Sri Nannagaru's speech about Lakshmi garu at Jinnuru on July 29, 2012

"Lakshmi was the walking Ramana Kendra in Hyderabad"

*Om Namō Bhagavathe Ramakrishnaayya, Om namō
Bhagavathe Ramanayya, Shivayya Namaha*

Lakshmi (ardent devotee who passed away on July 27, 2012) was the Ramana Kendra in Hyderabad. She was in fact a walking Ramana Kendra.

There is a Ramana Kendra at Hyderabad. It has a proper building and other facilities. However, this center is currently being run by old and retired people. They meet for a few hours to discuss about a topic or read a book. There is a library that contains many books on Bhagawan. However, their efforts to spread the message of Bhagawan did not reach the people of the city.



Smt. Lakshmi garu

They meet between 9 and 10.30 am on Sunday mornings to discuss and then disperse. In fact, the major work to reach out to many people in twin cities (Hyderabad and Secunderabad) was done by Lakshmi.

I remember Lakshmi came to meet me at Jinnuru in 1991 or 92. She came along with her grandmother. She is the granddaughter of Vijayanarashima Raju garu. Lakshmi came as her grandmother died of cancer. Her grandfather's sister asked her meet Nannagaru instead of just sitting and brooding over in the house. A few from Bhimavaram had also come along with Lakshmi. A few relatives from Hyderabad had also come. They sat for half an hour and left the place.

Not many are uniform in their behavior. A "friend in need is a friend in deed." There are many friends who will not like to be associated with us once their work is finished. As long as we are happy friends stay with us but desert us in the hour of need.

Why am I discussing all this is because Lakshmi remained uniform throughout her association with me. She remained the same even during tiring circumstances. She died on Friday, which was unexpected. She could have lived for more time. Lakshmi and Savithri garu are the two persons in Hyderabad who have always looked after the welfare of others. They were ready to help anyone in distress. I have seen Savithri garu wiping tears from people.

Ramakrishna Paramahansa did not like the highly educated and people with money. He said the rich become very selfish. They are of no use to others even if they help it is just pretence. They are interested in making more money. Many highly educated scholars and very rich people used to come to Him. But he never criticized them and never really gave them much importance.

At the time of death, Lakshmi was about 45 years old. She had a history of low blood pressure. She may have had some business tensions too. But I have never interfered in any personal matters. In the recent

past she was in touch with Naga Lakshmi. She called Naga Lakshmi four times on Friday as one of her relative was in the hospital. Lakshmi visited the relative admitted in the hospital. On Friday evening Lakshmi died and the next day the relative died.

She died as she collapsed in her bathroom. Low or high blood pressure can make a person lose balance and lead to a fall. A variation in blood pressure (high or low) and blood sugar levels are not good for the body. They slowly kill the major organs in the body. Lakshmi had informed Vijayalaskmi that they would visit the doctor on Monday. On Friday night she died.

Lakshmi considered devotees to be her immediate family. She took care of all their needs. "It is glorious to help even one man." Lakshmi gave more importance to the welfare of devotees. Lakshmi's death was an unexpected death.

Recently, she visited Arunachalam along with her friends. When she called me to inform of her travel plans, I never prevented her from coming to Arunachalam. She did not face any discomfort during travel as she came by flight until Chennai and from there hired a car to Arunachalam.

In so many years of our association, I never knew Lakshmi had knowledge about the functioning of Ramana Ashram in Arunachalam. She informed me about the issues there. I advised her against showing interest in the functioning of the ashram. " We are coming here for the old man (Ramana Bhagawan). Let us offers our respects to His Samadhi and listen to his great teachings. But do not go beyond this." Blinds prevent a horse from looking at the sides. The blinds make the horse just concentrate on the path ahead. Similarly, Lakshmi we have to be trained like the horse, and have our goal very clear. Why are you telling me about the functioning of Ramana Ashram?

Lakshmi's concern was that if the functioning of the Ramana Ashram is efficient then the message of Bhagawan will reach many more. She had a good intention. Even people at the Ashram liked her. In that visit I told Lakshmi that she must learn the art of dying. Just as one masters the art of cooking and writing, one must learn to die. A person who takes care of his body or one who is happy has to die. Man is not immortal. He has to leave this body here. There are many ups and downs in everyone's life. This is because of one's past actions and deeds.

Each one of you link or associate with the body. We link ourselves with what is not ours. This body and mind are not ours. Bhagawan (in Gita) always said I am in all as *Chaitanyam* that which is mindless, world less, body less and godless.

But just before death, if one delinks from the attachment to the body and world attaches to the real truth or soul then one becomes immortal. Body will die, no matter the care given to it. But there is one thing inside all that does not die. One must be able to realize that the dying body is not you for the real you is that which does not have life nor death. All this is dream stuff. Once that is realized then one need not come down to the earth. We must learn dying. Other skills such as education are secondary. All think that when the body dies they will also die, and are therefore unhappy with death. All of them do not like dying. But one must realize each one has to associate with that real thing within you, which has no death. Then man becomes immortal.

Idol worship is to make one pure and get steadfastness of faith. All of you want to be alive. But the Kingdom of Heaven is within you. This you cannot realize with your intelligence. Associate "I" with the real immortal thing inside you. You must identify completely with that real "I". You have to identify with

it as you associate yourselves with the ego and the body. Here both ego and the body are not real. This is the art of dying. I asked Lakshmi to learn this.

I even prevented her from coming to railway stations and airport due to her low blood pressure issue. Lakshmi's death is a loss for Ramana devotees, especially Hyderabad devotees. Not many have a heart to help others. Money and education can be earned but not a person. In the journey of knowing the real thing a person evolves. A refined soul evolves itself in the journey. None can take the place of Lakshmi. There is only one Lal Bahadur Sastri. He had 10 sons but none entered politics. He is unlike Nehru. Sastri's wife did not have money to live and the government organized some funds for her. Lal Bahadur Sastri until the end lived just on the salary he earned. This is despite the fact that he held many ministerial positions.

When Ramana Bhagawan learnt of Kavya Kantha Ganapathi Sastri's death he said "people like Ganapathi Sastri are rare to take birth on this planet." Dr Radhakrishna invited Ganapathy Sastri to become a Sanskrit professor at Andhra University. But he declined the offer as people of his caliber cannot contain themselves to any particular post or place.

Lakshmi had unwavering faith in Ramana Bhagawan. Her love and faith for Bhagawan was always uniform and never wavered. It is a loss for Hyderabad devotees as a person who was ready to help and love is no more. I pray to Bhagawan Ramana and believe that she will become one with Bhagawan.

Courtesy: Ambica Udaynarayan