



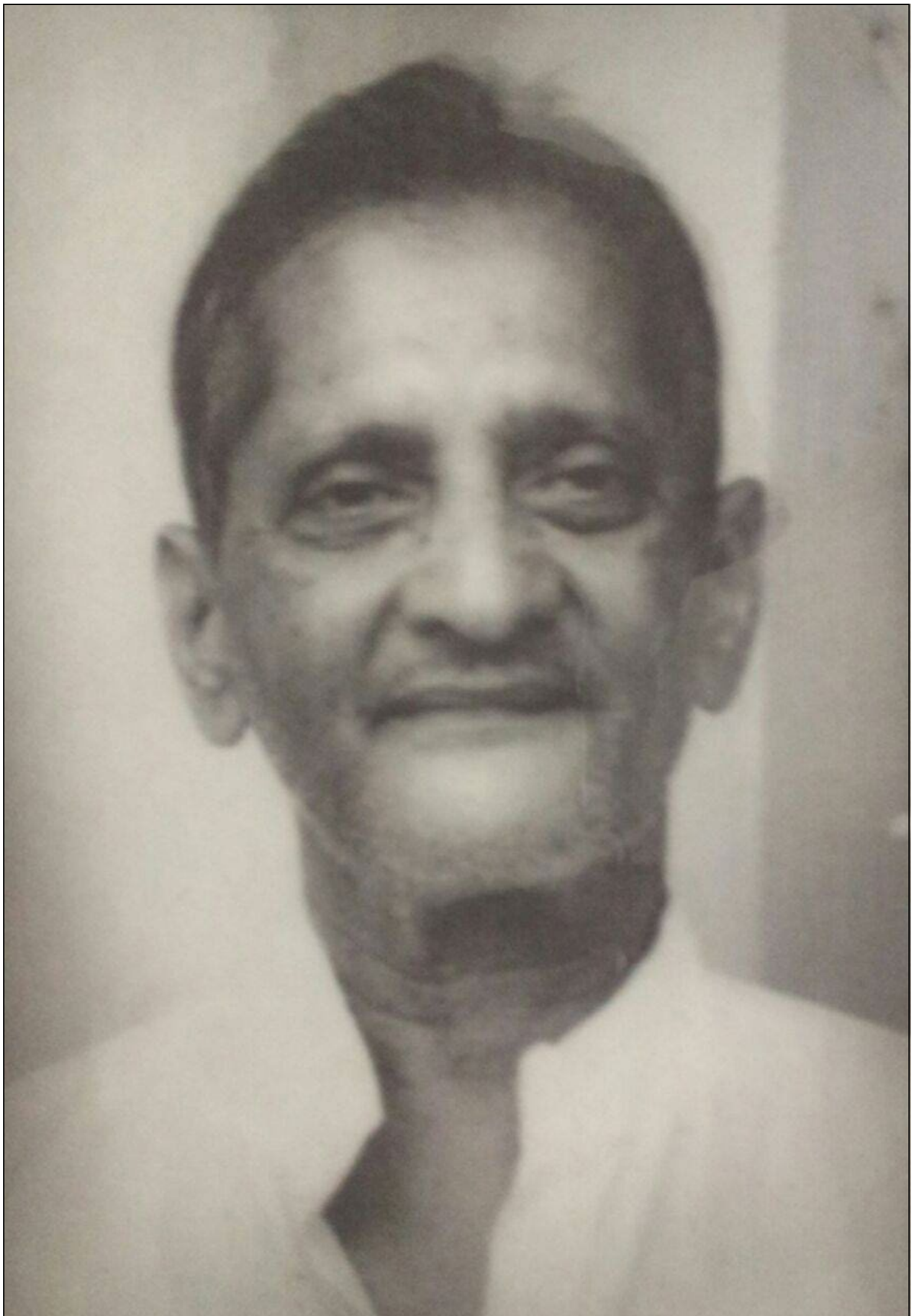
**Bhagavan's
Short and Sweet
Teachings**

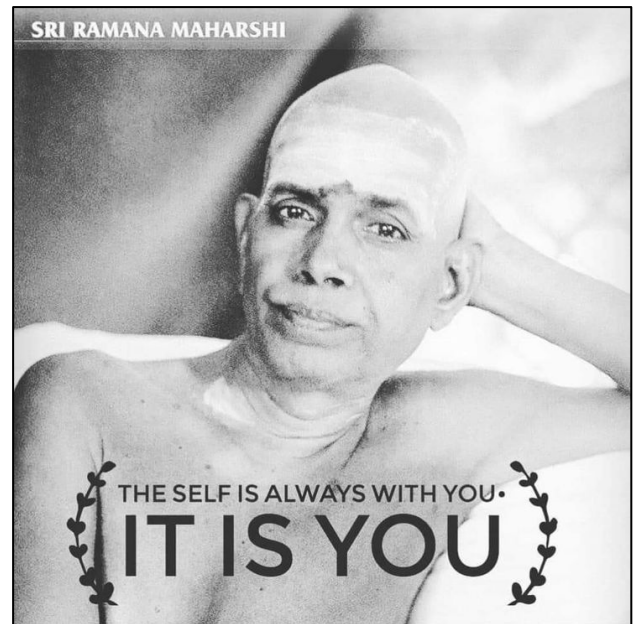
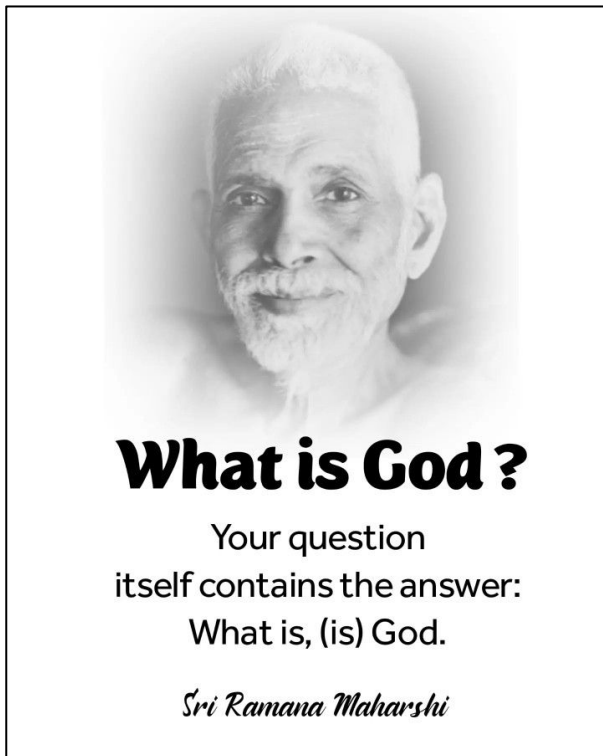
**Compiled from the Speeches of
Sadguru Sri Nannagaru**

FOREWORD

Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi reflected a combination of Dakshina Murthy and Adi Shankaracharya. Most of the time, Ramana remained silent. Based on necessity, he spoke few words. Bhagavan's short teachings are very sweet and have a deep essence. They pierce through the seeker's Heart, conveying a profound message. Sadguru Sri Nanna Garu has often quoted these short teachings in his spiritual sermons. This book is a compilation of a few such short teachings of Bhagavan. Bhagavan's words emanated from his direct experience of the Self. So, they are no less than any of the scriptures. In several instances, Bhagavan juggled with the questioner's words to give his answer. These short teachings also reflect Bhagavan's deep sense of humour.







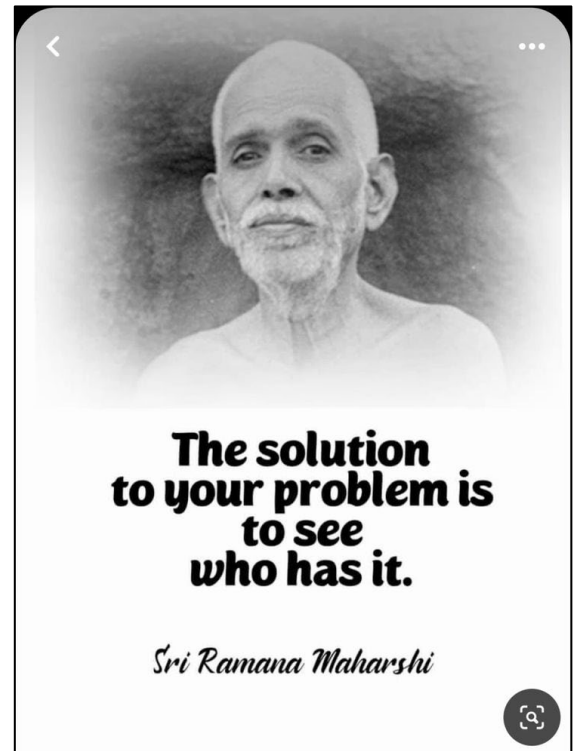
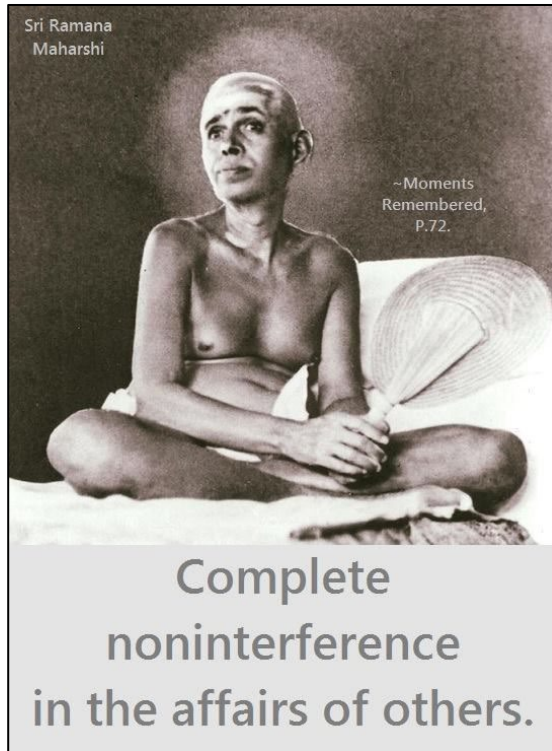
- ❖ **Devotee:** Does Self Exist?
Bhagavan: Self alone exists.

- ❖ **Devotee:** If everything happens according to law, what is the necessity of having God?
Bhagavan: There should also be a lawmaker when there is a law.

- ❖ **Devotee:** I got operated to have no more children...Is it O.K?
Bhagavan: When will you get operated to have no more births?

- ❖ **Devotee:** What is your opinion about birth control?
Bhagavan: Do you know about death control?

- ❖ **Devotee:** Does rebirth exist?
Bhagavan: The dead taking rebirth is as natural as the born ones dying someday.



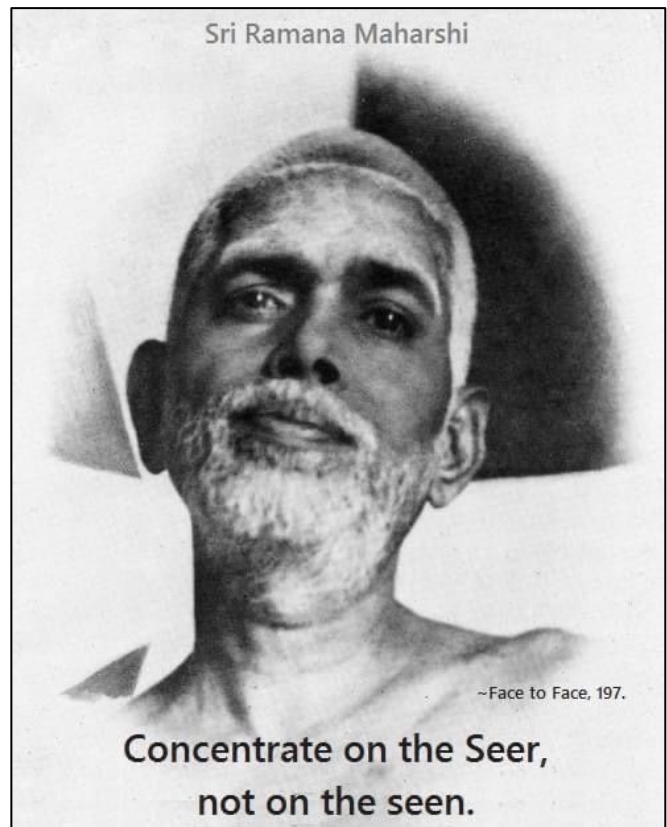
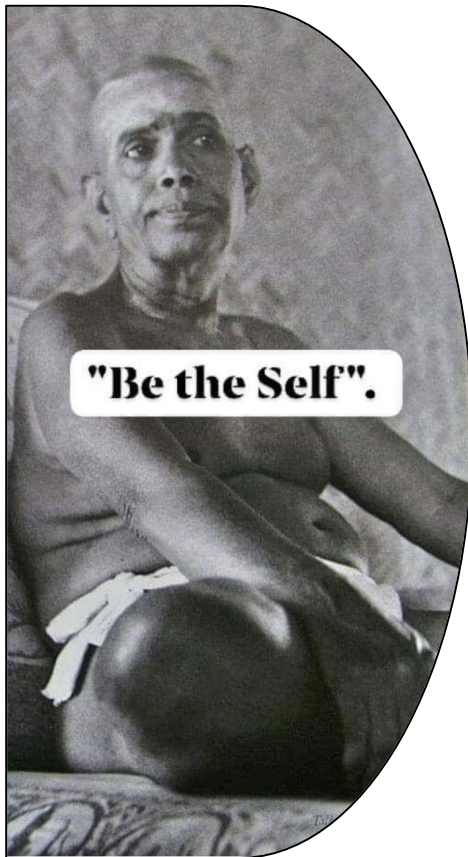
- ❖ **Devotee:** Is Rama a Jnani?
Bhagavan: How can He be devoid of Jnana by chanting whose name one becomes a Jnani?

- ❖ **Devotee:** Why don't you go on pilgrimages?
Bhagavan: When the seer itself is false, how can the seen be true?

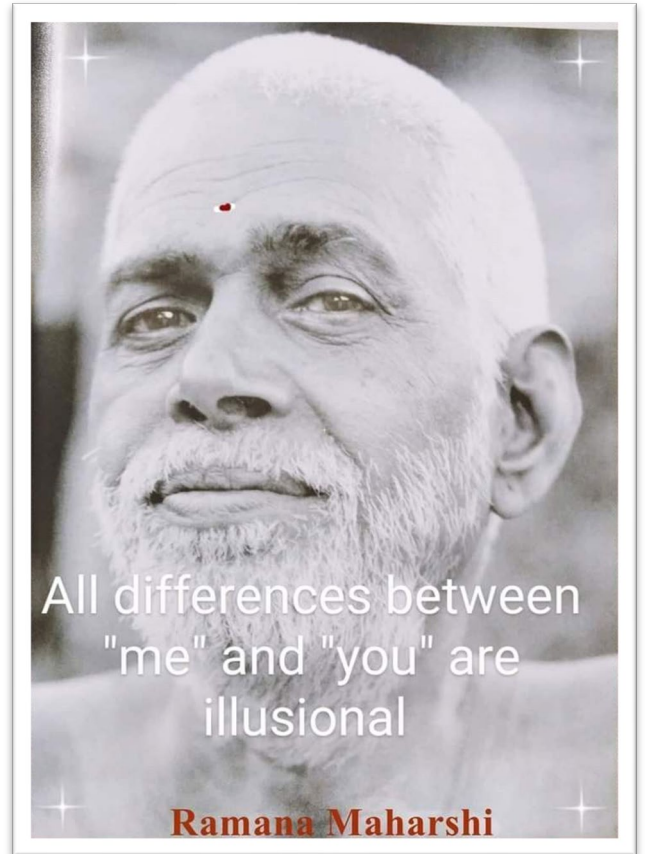
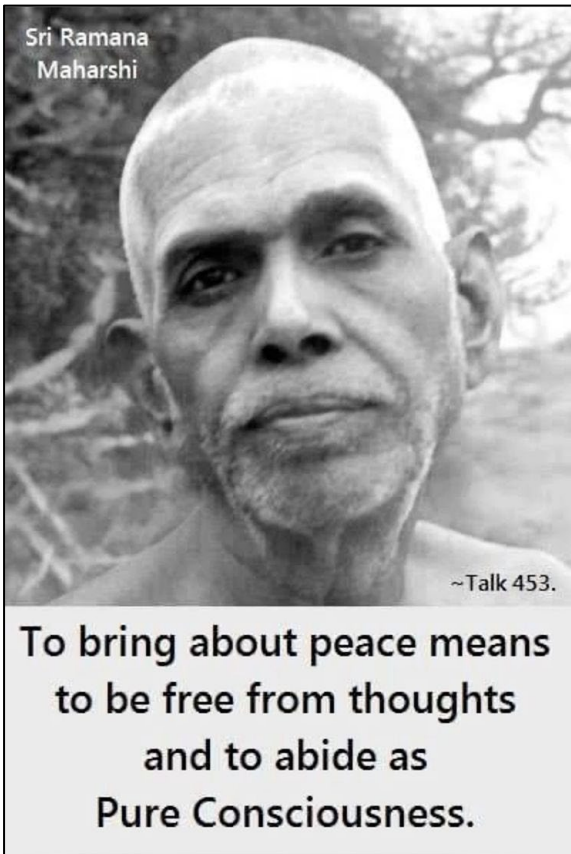
- ❖ **Devotee:** I have stopped coming here for many days and regret doing that...
Bhagavan: Though you did not understand the benefit of coming here, you at least understood the loss of not coming here.

- ❖ **Devotee:** Is every small thing, including the switching on of a fan, predetermined?
Bhagavan: Certainly.

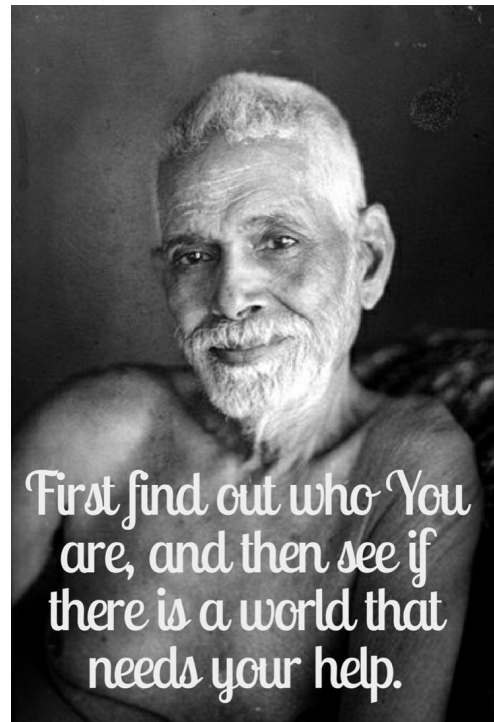
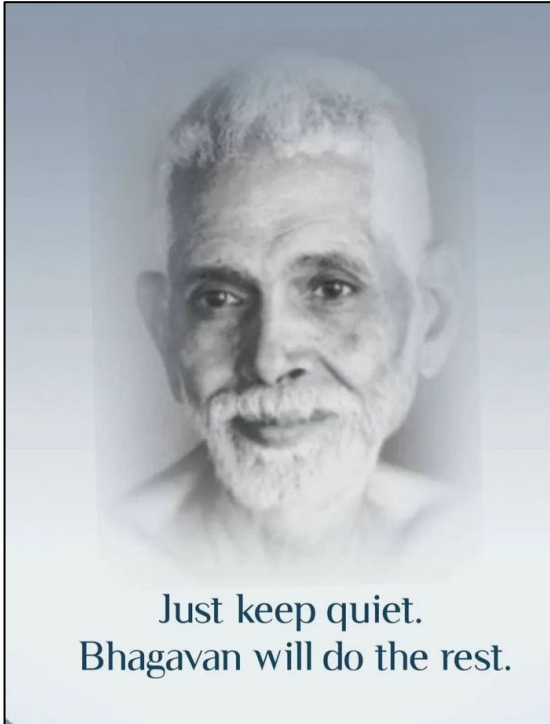
- ❖ **Devotee:** There is a saying that mere remembrance of Arunachala leads to liberation. Is it so easy to get liberated?
Bhagavan: This is God's ORDER. It is a Supreme Court judgment. Who are you to question?



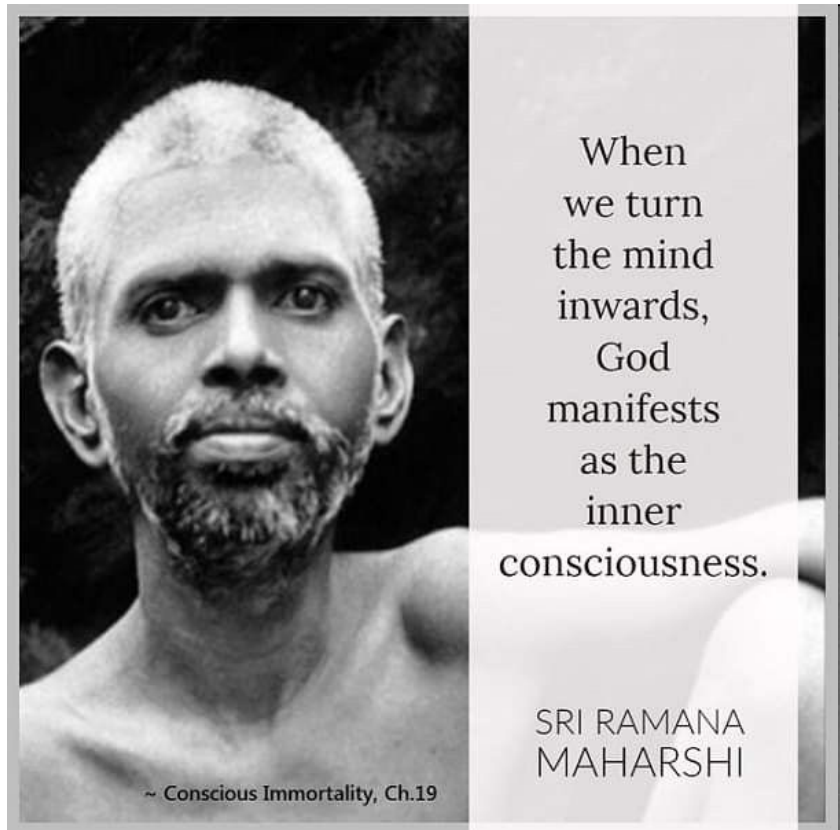
- ❖ **Context:** When anyone prostrated to Bhagavan...
Bhagavan: Why so much? Why so much? God cannot be deceived by physical exercises.
- ❖ **Devotee:** Bhagavan, you went very High! (Achieved an exemplary spiritual state).
Bhagavan: I did not go high but went deep (within).
- ❖ **Devotee:** Despite surrendering, why can't I feel the Grace?
Bhagavan: If your surrender is true, you will not have any questions.
- ❖ **Devotee:** Is Sacrifice a pre-requisite for Self-realization?
Bhagavan: First, the one who sacrifices needs to be sacrificed, i.e., the false feeling of 'I am sacrificing' needs to be sacrificed.
- ❖ **Devotee:** My father expired. Should I perform the death ceremony?
Bhagavan: As long as you say 'My' Father, it is inevitable that you will perform the death ceremony.



- ❖ **Devotee:** What is meant by Nirvana?
Bhagavan: Destruction of the Mind.
- ❖ **Devotee:** Is this world real or a mere delusion?
Bhagavan: If you look upon the world as the Self, it is real, but if you look at it apart from the Self, it's a delusion.
- ❖ **Devotee:** Does God possess a form, OR Is God formless?
Bhagavan: If you think you have a body, God, too, has a form. If you don't, then God is formless.
- ❖ **Devotee:** What is the difference between Karma and Akarma?
Bhagavan: Actions done with the ego constitute Karma. Actions done after the annihilation of ego constitute Akarma.
- ❖ **Devotee:** Is Sannyasa (renouncing household and becoming a monk) a prerequisite for Spiritual progress?
Bhagavan: Sacrificing the ego is true Sannyasa.



- ❖ **Devotee:** How do we feel when we attain Self-Realization?
Bhagavan: Before Self-realization, you feel that you reside in this world. After Self-realization, you understand that the world resides within you.
- ❖ **Devotee:** What is the difference between Aham and Ahamkara?
Bhagavan: 'I AM' implies Aham, the Self. 'I am so and so' implies Ahamkara, the ego.
- ❖ **Context:** When a gramophone company tried to record Bhagavan's voice...
Bhagavan: Silence is my voice. If you are capable enough, you can record the same.
- ❖ **Devotee:** I desire nothing but salvation...
Bhagavan: If you desire nothing else, then what is left is only salvation.
- ❖ **Devotee:** Can you show me God?
Bhagavan: Instead, can make you God.



❖ **Devotee:** Do you possess devotion?

Bhagavan: When there is no separation (vibhakti), what is the necessity of possessing devotion (bhakti)? When there is no disunion (viyoga), what is the necessity of possessing union (yoga)?

❖ **Devotee:** How does Truth exist?

Bhagavan: Truth doesn't exist as you imagine. It exists as Truth only.

❖ **Devotee:** Do you sleep?

Bhagavan: Only the one who sleeps wakes up, and the one who wakes up goes to sleep.

❖ **Devotee:** Is it enough if we read the Bhagavad Gita occasionally?

Bhagavan: Not occasionally, but always read the Bhagavad Gita.

❖ **Devotee:** I am unable to control my Mind...

Bhagavan: Your mind doesn't stop wavering despite your effort to stop it, and my mind remains still despite my attempts to move it.

To perform
one's duty
carefully
is the
greatest
service
to God.

~Talk 227.



Sri Ramana Maharshi

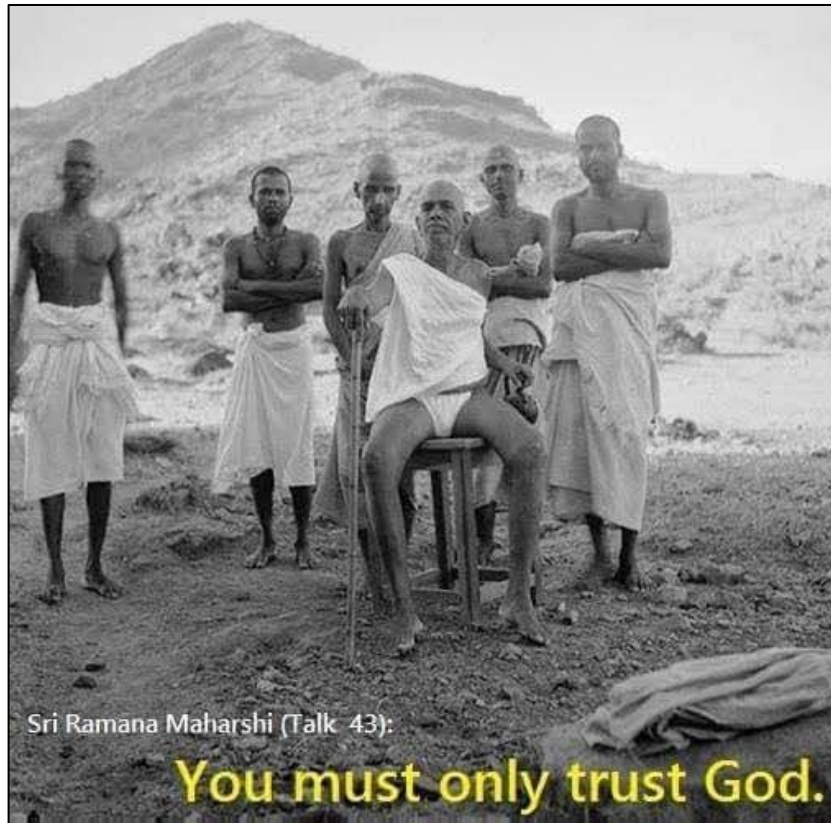
- ❖ **Devotee:** Do you like money?
Bhagavan: I neither like nor dislike money.

- ❖ **Devotee:** Why didn't you mention in your poetry that you have sacrificed so and so things?
Bhagavan: I can sacrifice only if there is something related to Me.

- ❖ **Devotee:** Do you intend to say that our goal should be merging the ego into the Self?
Bhagavan: First, examine whether the ego exists. If it does, then you can merge it.

- ❖ **Devotee:** Is sorrow also a thought?
Bhagavan: All thoughts are sorrowful.

- ❖ **Devotee:** Were you frightened at any time?
Bhagavan: What on earth can frighten Me?



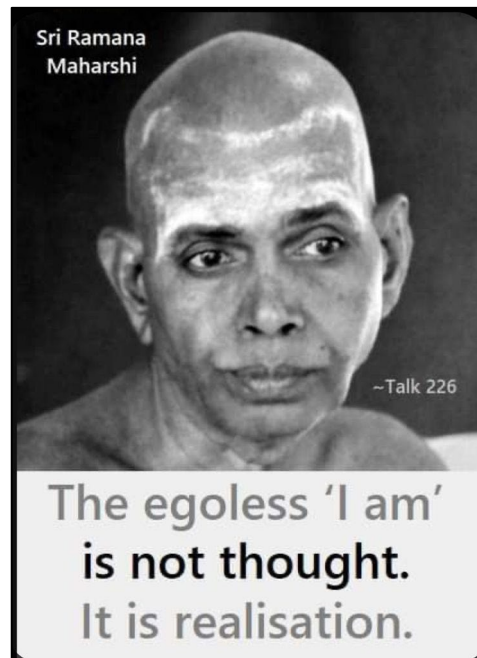
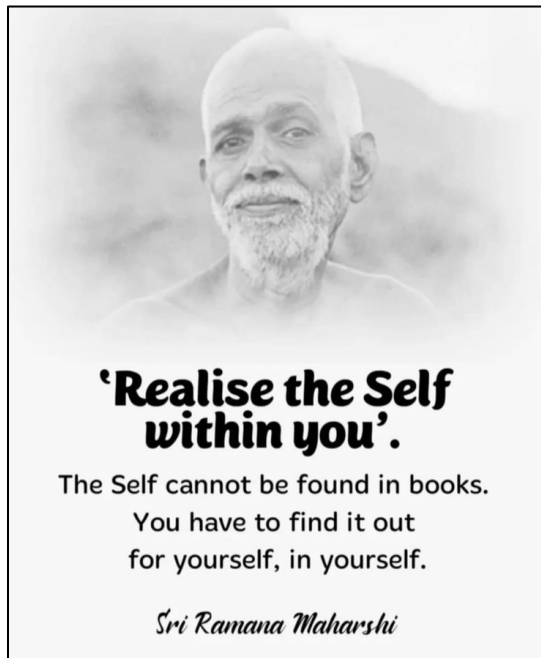
- ❖ **Devotee:** As per Jiddu Krishnamurthy, having a Guru is not a prerequisite for Self-Realization. What is your opinion about the same?
Bhagavan: J.K. may not need a Guru, but how can he conclude that others don't need a Guru to attain Self-Realization?

- ❖ **Devotee:** Is it easy to attain Self-realization?
Bhagavan: It is both easy and not easy. Easy to attain through Grace and not so through effort.

- ❖ **Devotee:** How to overcome anger?
Bhagavan: Don't get enraged with a particular person. Get enraged with your anger.

- ❖ **Devotee:** Is Guru aware of everything?
Bhagavan: Guru is aware of everything worthy of knowing.

- ❖ **Devotee:** Where is the abode of God?
Bhagavan: God is where there isn't an iota of ego.



❖ **Devotee:** Did Ramayana really happen, or was it merely Valmiki's imaginary story?

Bhagavan: It doesn't matter if Ramayana didn't happen. Even if it happened, it's only a relative truth, not an absolute truth.

❖ **Devotee:** How long should we perform spiritual practices?

Bhagavan: Perform the spiritual practices until you understand their futility (i.e., everything happens due to Grace).

❖ **Devotee:** Several politicians are serving the nation. Do they all secure liberation?

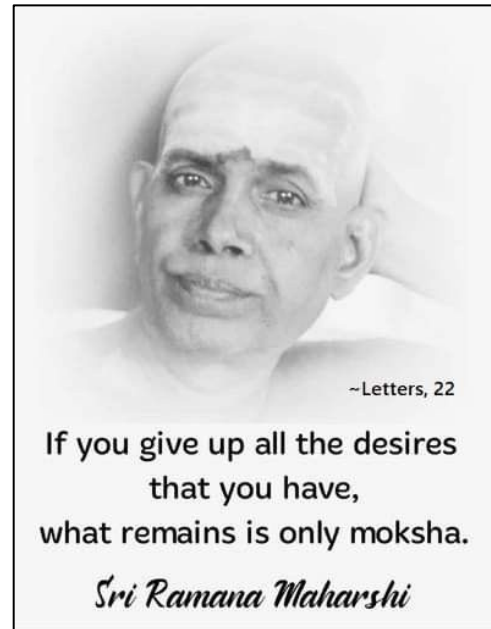
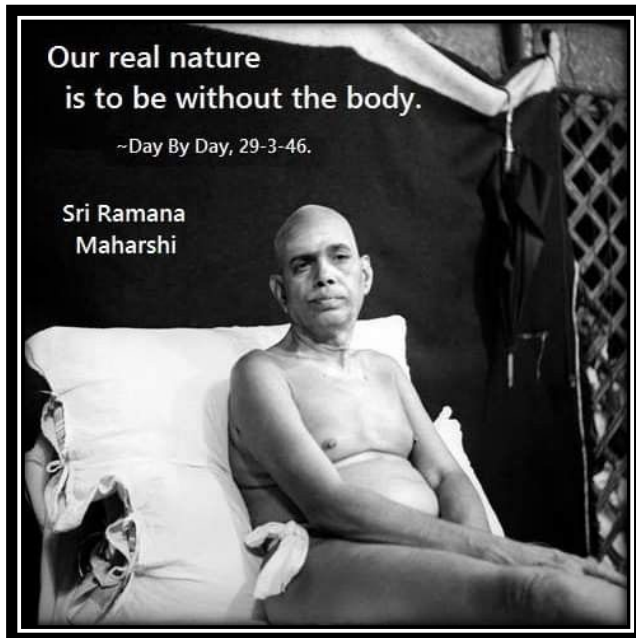
Bhagavan: Yes, but only if their service is genuine and selfless.

❖ **Devotee:** The book reader himself doesn't understand the content of the book that he reads out for all...

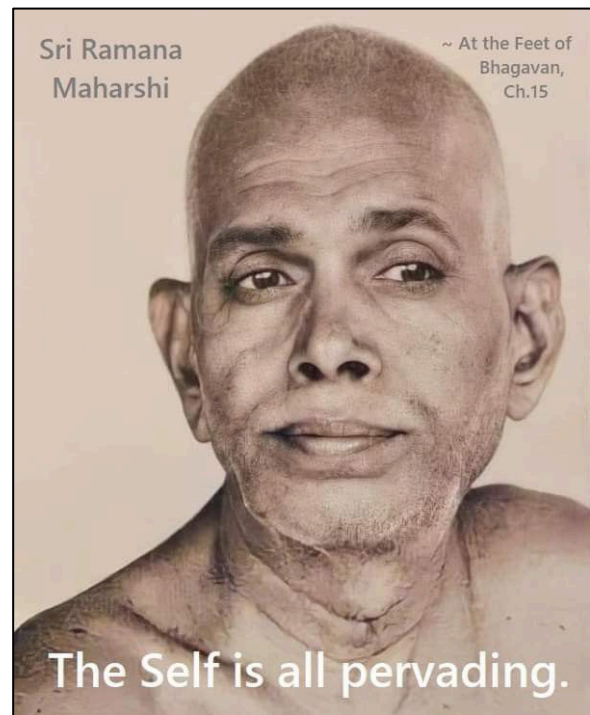
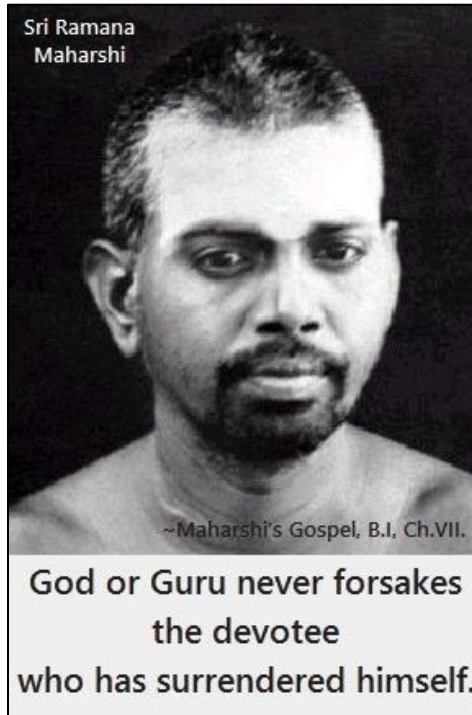
Bhagavan: He is doing the task of reading. You perform the task of understanding.

❖ **Context:** When a devotee wrote several verses praising Bhagavan, such as describing Him as a God incarnation, etc.,

Bhagavan: How does it benefit you if I am called great? Find a way out for your reformation.



- ❖ **Context:** Referring to newcomers if anyone asks about their details...
Bhagavan: All of them belong to us. Otherwise, why would they come here?
- ❖ **Devotee:** I have uttered those words by mistake. Please don't get offended.
Bhagavan: If I have a mind, I cannot stop getting offended even if forbidden.
- ❖ **Context:** When a childhood friend reminded Bhagavan of their childhood memories...
Bhagavan: The Venkatraman you are referring to died long ago. Even if I tell you who is here, you will not understand.
- ❖ **Context:** When a devotee posed some question or the other daily...
Bhagavan: Rather than fostering doubts and questioning, learn to place your burdens upon God. If you take refuge in God, most of your doubts get clarified.
- ❖ **Context:** When informed about someone's death...
Bhagavan: Those who die rest in peace, but the leftover ones grieve for the deceased.



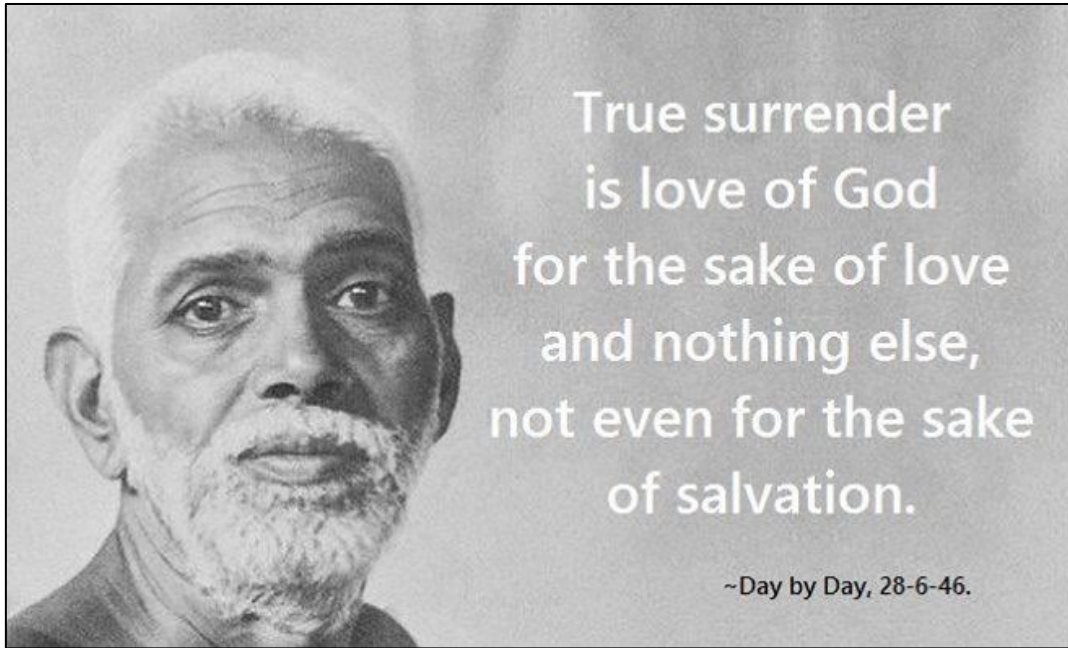
- ❖ **Devotee:** Is there any hope?
Bhagavan: Yes, there is hope. Yes, there is hope.

- ❖ **Devotee:** I have prayed to God to ensure a particular task yields favourable results, but it hasn't happened. Why?
Bhagavan: Perhaps you will get much more ruined if your desire is fulfilled. Hence, God didn't answer your prayers.

- ❖ **Devotee:** Are you fond of your brother?
Bhagavan: I like my brother as I like anyone else. He is one among all.

- ❖ **Devotee:** You ask us to 'Know Thyself'. Whom are you referring to here?
Bhagavan: Know Thyself implies Knowing that which you are (i.e., Self).

- ❖ **Devotee:** What is the difference between dvaita and advaita?
Bhagavan: Identifying yourselves with the Non-Self (that which you are not) is dvaita, and identifying yourselves with the Self (that which you are) is advaita.



True surrender
is love of God
for the sake of love
and nothing else,
not even for the sake
of salvation.

~Day by Day, 28-6-46.

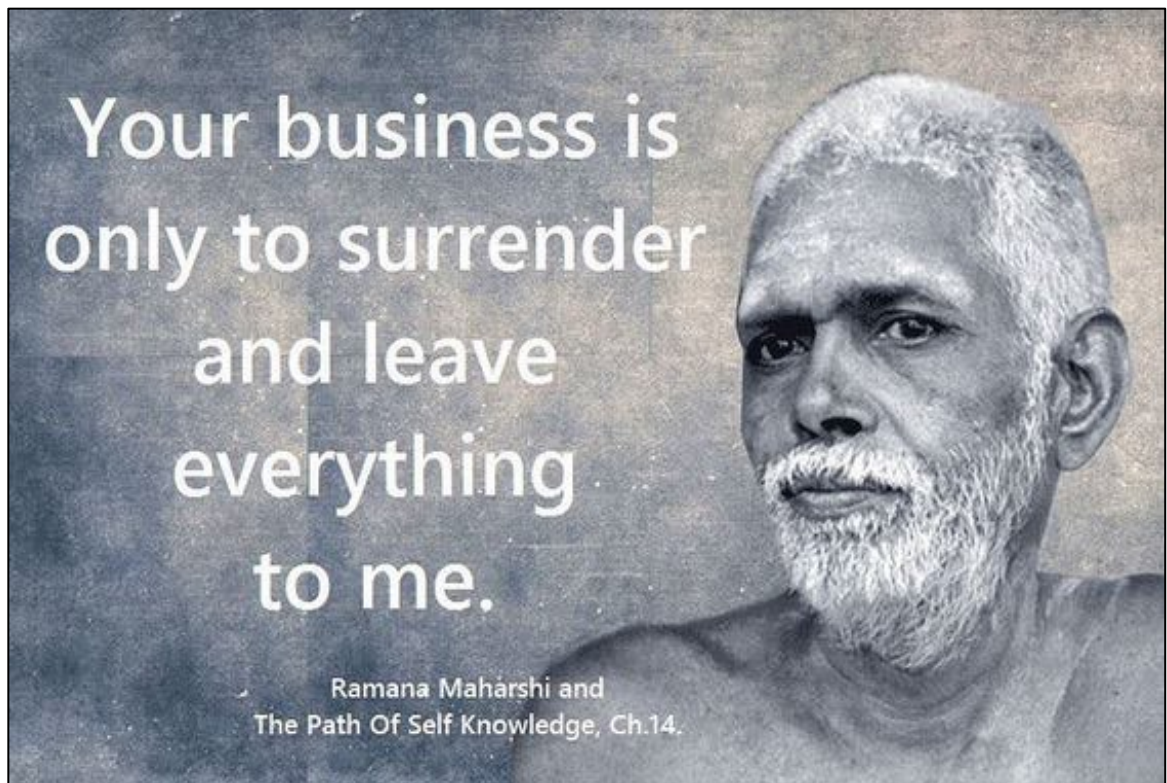
- ❖ **Devotee:** Scholars call you an incarnation of Lord Subrahmanya. Do you accept it?
Bhagavan: A stone may be carved into an idol of Lord Subrahmanya and receive adorations. As the stone accepts the worship, I, too, accept the same.

- ❖ **Devotee:** Why do you give the same instruction, i.e., 'Know Thyself,' both to the literate and the illiterate?
Bhagavan: Do you want me to preach the Truth to the literates and the false to the illiterates?

- ❖ **Devotee:** When will I get liberated?
Bhagavan: Whenever your Karmic tendencies get annihilated.

- ❖ **Devotee:** You tell me, 'Go within, Go within.' How far should I traverse internally?
Bhagavan: Until you realize that the 'i' thought doesn't exist, continue traversing internally.

- ❖ **Devotee:** You said: 'Where there are no thoughts and words, I exist there.' Then why are you talking to me?
Bhagavan: Out of Grace, Out of Love, Out of Compassion.



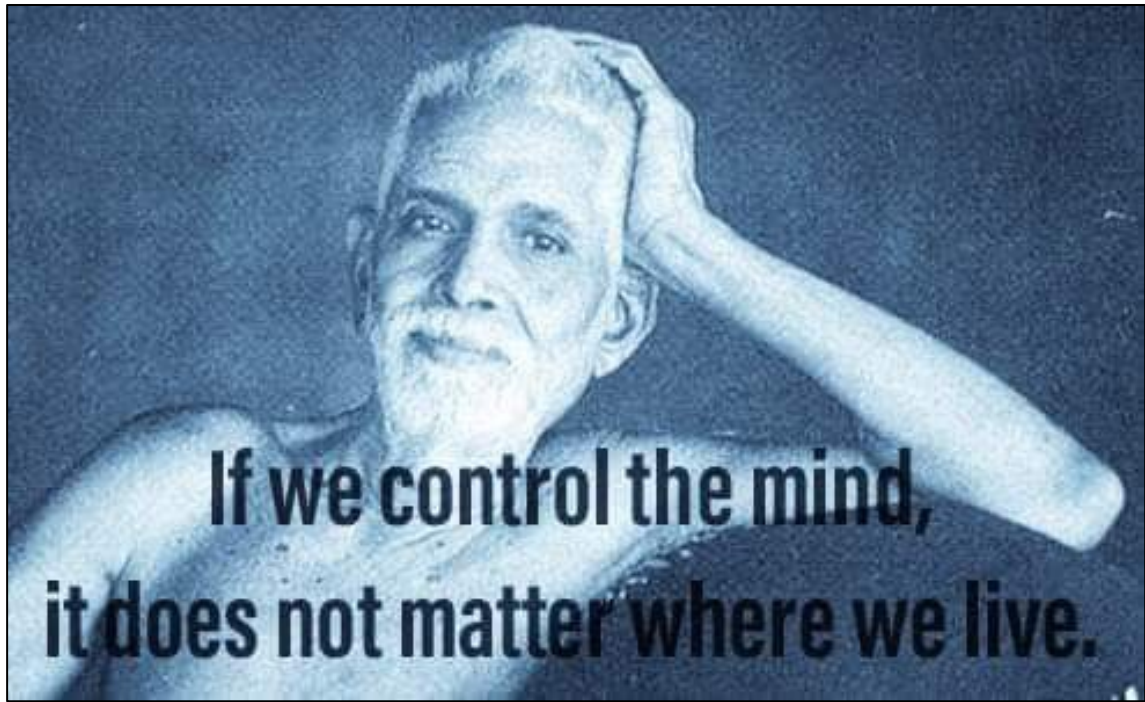
- ❖ **Devotee:** Do I have the next birth?
Bhagavan: The cause of your current birth would be the reason for your next birth. What is so special about it?

- ❖ **Devotee:** Is destiny inescapable? Is suffering inevitable?
Bhagavan: If so, then what is the purpose of having devotion?

- ❖ **Devotee:** Is devotion a prerequisite for Jnana?
Bhagavan: Bhakti is the mother of Jnana. How can a child arise without its mother? Jnana is 100% devotion.

- ❖ **Devotee:** You always preach about the Ultimate Truth. You hardly tell us any stories. Why?
Bhagavan: Stories beget miseries.

- ❖ **Context:** When someone praised saint Thyagaraja's songs...
Bhagavan: Thyagaraja was not liberated by his singing. Instead, he was liberated first and then sang out of devotional fervour.



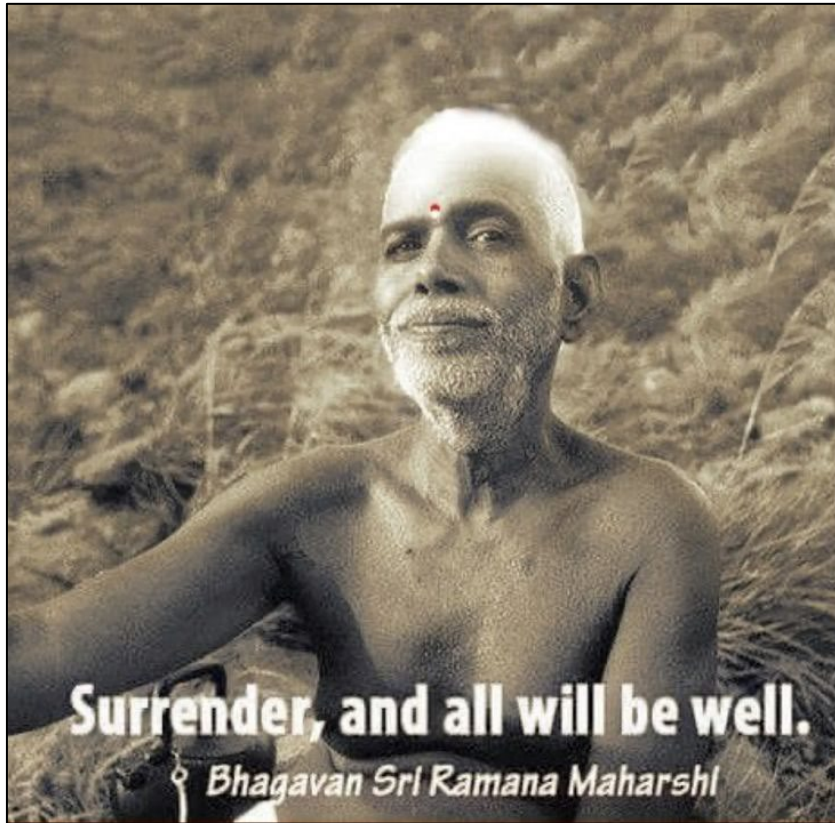
- ❖ **Devotee:** Is your Grace limited only to the people around you?
Bhagavan: No. Every noble-hearted person in this creation is eligible for My Grace.

- ❖ **Devotee:** Adi Shankara raised his hand and blessed the devotees. Why don't you bless us similarly?
Bhagavan: Is it the hand that blesses you? Is it the hand that showers Grace? No.

- ❖ **Devotee:** What happens if I don't contemplate upon Self?
Bhagavan: You will start contemplating sensory objects.

- ❖ **Context:** When anyone gets irritated with the animals that visited Bhagavan...
Bhagavan: They are realized souls in disguise who come here not for my darshan but to give me their darshan.

- ❖ **Devotee:** What is Karma Yoga?
Bhagavan: Work done without doership constitutes true Karma Yoga.



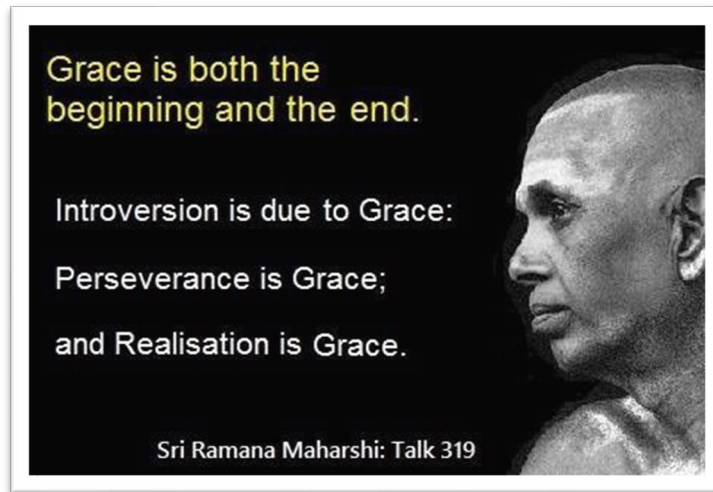
- ❖ **Devotee:** Can you please tell us about our previous births?
Bhagavan: When you don't have the strength to tolerate the sorrow of your current birth, why are you interested in knowing about the burdens of your previous birth?

- ❖ **Devotee:** Don't you think surrendering to God is difficult?
Bhagavan: Surrender may initially seem difficult, but continuous practice makes it possible. Partial surrender ultimately leads to total surrender.

- ❖ **Devotee:** On which name and form of God should I contemplate?
Bhagavan: Be as you are.

- ❖ **Devotee:** Why do you look at the Holy Hill?
Bhagavan: I am not looking at the Holy Hill but seeing myself. The Holy Hill is not different from me. The One and Only One Self exists.

- ❖ **Devotee:** Why should the mind be introverted?
Bhagavan: The causes of rebirth reduce when the mind is introverted and increase when the mind is extroverted.



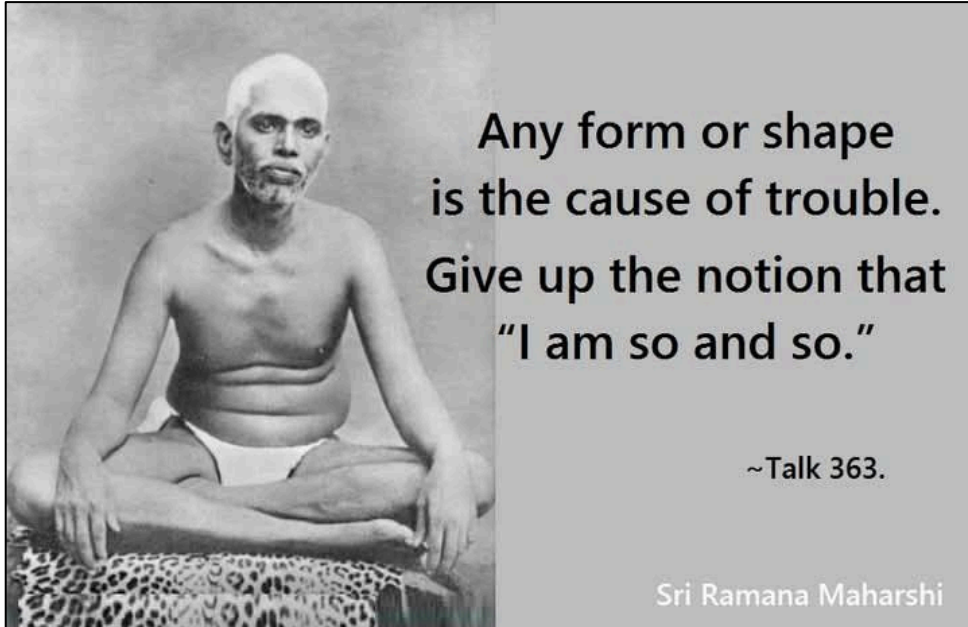
- ❖ **Devotee:** Why didn't Lord Krishna help Draupadi instantly when Dushyasana was disrobing her?
Bhagavan: While calling for help, Draupadi referred to the Lord as Dwarakavasi Krishna and not Hridayavasi Krishna. Hence, it took time for Lord Krishna to come all the way from Dwaraka.

- ❖ **Devotee:** When did the ignorance arise?
Bhagavan: There is no existence for ignorance. Not knowing who you are is only called ignorance. It cannot be lost even through spiritual practices if it has a separate existence.

- ❖ **Devotee:** Most of the time, you are Silent. Why don't you preach?
Bhagavan: If I am a Jnani, I don't have others to preach. If I am an Ajnani, I don't have anything to preach.

- ❖ **Devotee:** You stay with us all the time. Why don't you go in and meditate for a while?
Bhagavan: The person inside will come out, and the person who has come out will go in. A Jnani has neither interiority nor exteriority. He is omnipresent.

- ❖ **Devotee:** Though you say that the Guru resides within the Heart, I need you as an external Guru ...
Bhagavan: Acknowledge that your external Guru only says, 'The true Guru is within your Heart.'



- ❖ **Devotee:** For how many hours should I meditate in a day?
Bhagavan: Why do you need to meditate specially? Your very nature is meditation. Internally, the meditation happens forever. Catch hold of that continuous flow of meditation.


- ❖ **Devotee:** I have seen Lord Vishnu or Lord Shiva...
Bhagavan: It is also merely a vision. Does such a vision destroy your ignorance? No. The mind only gets suppressed here. It doesn't get destroyed.

- ❖ **Devotee:** You are getting delayed for your lunch...
Bhagavan: Though there is no work to perform, eating food is unavoidable. (Ye paatu leka poina Saapatu tappadu)

- ❖ **Context:** When Bhagavan asked a child what he wanted, the child replied that he desired nothing...
Bhagavan: Oh! It took so long to find someone like Me!

- ❖ **Context:** Bhagavan's Mother, Alagamma, intensely disliked onions...
Bhagavan: Oh! Onion, although you seem to look very small and worthless, you are powerful as you can stop my mother from reaching heaven!


**It is by God's Grace
that you
think
of God.**



~Talk 29. Sri Ramana Maharshi

**The
elimination
of thoughts
is wisdom.

It is the
Absolute
Existence.**



~Talk 232.

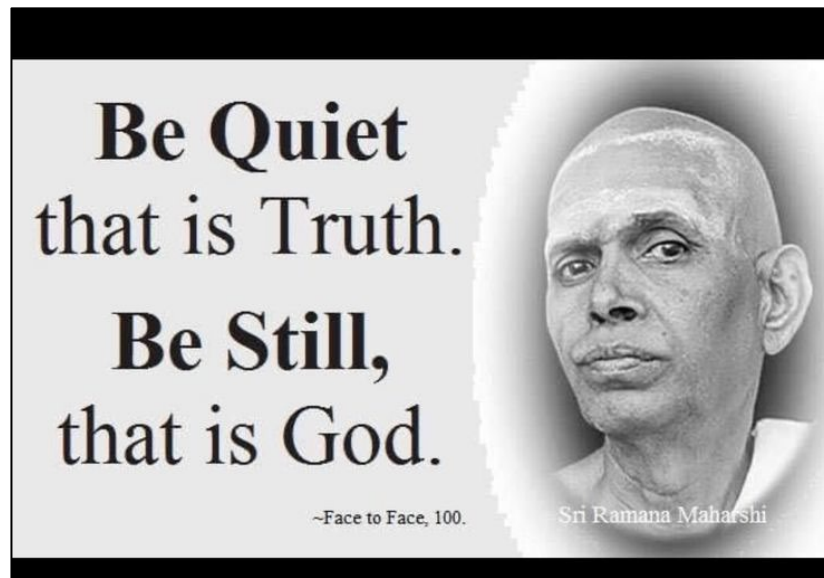
- ❖ **Context:** During the last days of Bhagavan, a devotee uttered a prayer saying: Prostrations to the sun who is about to arise...
Bhagavan: This prayer doesn't suit the current context at all. Here, the sun is about to set.

- ❖ **Devotee:** You must give your darshan like this forever...
Bhagavan: Is it because you can continue asking desires forever, and I shall fulfill them in return forever?

- ❖ **Devotee:** I have trusted my servant enormously, but he has stolen valuable things. How gratitude less he is!
Bhagavan: The place of a broomstick is in the corner of the house, but you gave it a place in the inner chambers. What else will happen?

- ❖ **Context:** As the doctor cleansed Bhagavan's cancerous abscess, the spirit (medicine used to cleanse a wound) spilled over Bhagavan's entire body...
Bhagavan: Currently, I am bathing in spirit (medicine), but everyone must bathe in spirit (Self). Isn't it?

- ❖ **Context:** A devotee expressed his grief to Bhagavan of missing his deceased wife. That very night he saw her in a dream. He came to Bhagavan and cried for having seen her...
Bhagavan: Irrespective of whether your spouse is visible or invisible, you don't stop crying. How are you able to bear these attributes of a Jiva?



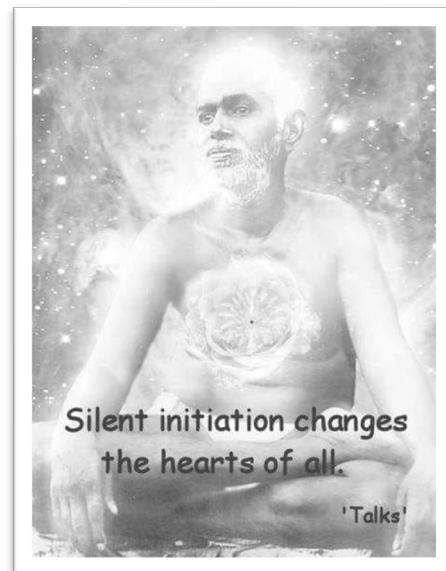
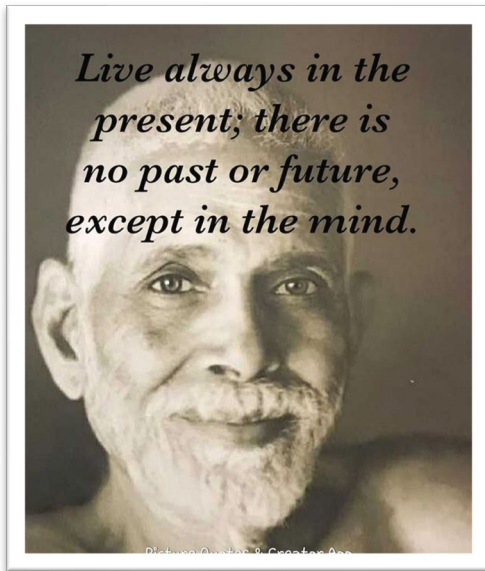
- ❖ **Devotee:** Please grant me the state of fearlessness (abhayam)...
- Bhagavan:** Yes, I grant you the state of fearlessness. Your fear will vanish as naturally as it originated.

- ❖ **Devotee:** Is the sambar tasty or not?
- Bhagavan:** It is irrelevant to think about taste. The taste related to the tongue has been assigned to that eatable. You then eat it and call it tasty!

- ❖ **Devotee:** I can read their thoughts. Now I clearly understand their intentions...
- Bhagavan:** It implies that there is no difference between you and them.

- ❖ **Context:** A Krishna's devotee said: 'Sarvam Vasudevamayam Jagat'...
- Bhagavan:** The omnipresent Vasudeva exists within you too. Why don't you recognize Him? You want to consider everything as Vasudeva but not yourself as Vasudeva!

- ❖ **Devotee:** I got trapped in this vicious cycle of Karma. Is there any way out for me?
- Bhagavan:** Where is the question of Karma (destiny) without Karta (doer)? Enquire about the Karta. Then, the Karma disappears automatically.



❖ **Context:** A devotee observing a vow of Silence came to Bhagavan with a long letter...

Bhagavan: Is this true Silence? True Silence refers to mental Silence.

❖ **Devotee:** I have a desire to touch your feet...

Bhagavan: Why do you have such a desire? My feet are always on your head.

❖ **Context:** A Brahmin devotee wanted to sit and eat with the non-brahmins, but the ashramites did not permit him, which led to a big dispute...

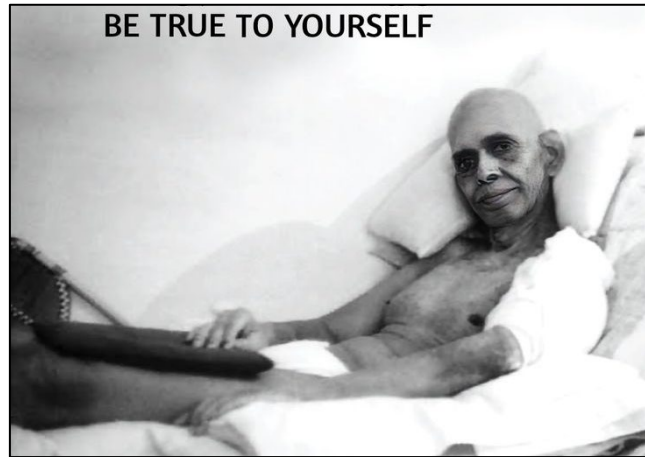
Bhagavan: I am the only person here who doesn't differentiate between Brahmins and non-brahmins. Why don't you sit beside me and eat?

❖ **Context:** A devotee gifted Bhagavan a valuable watch, which was stolen within four days. The devotee felt very disappointed...

Bhagavan: The thief has allowed us to see the watch for at least four days. You must feel happy about it.

❖ **Context:** During the last days of illness, a devotee sent an ayurvedic doctor to Bhagavan...

Bhagavan: Will anyone try to preserve a banyan leaf already used for meals and is ready to be thrown out?



❖ **Devotee:** Why should we perform the death ceremony of parents?

Bhagavan: It is because they are your very own parents you must perform their death ceremony. Why will you perform the death ceremony of someone else's parents?

❖ **Devotee:** I have been coming here for several years but don't see any spiritual progress...

Bhagavan: There are no milestones in this journey. How can you measure the distance travelled? You are all first-class passengers. It is enough if the guard is kept informed. He will wake you up when the station arrives.

❖ **Context:** When Bhagavan could not consume porridge due to ill-health, his sister broke down looking at his pathetic condition. Then tears rolled down from Bhagavan's eyes.

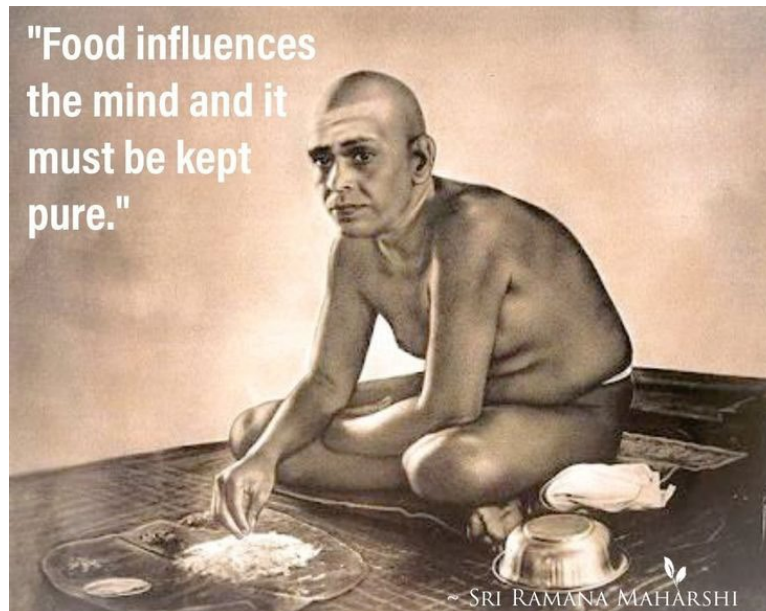
Bhagavan: You are crying because I cannot eat porridge, and I am crying because you cannot consume Vignana porridge.

❖ **Devotee:** Sometimes I feel breathless during meditation, which results in restlessness, hindering my meditation...

Bhagavan: If that breathing stops completely, there will be no other problem.

❖ **Context:** In his intense urge to see Bhagavan, a devotee jumped out of a running train and came to the ashram bleeding profusely...

Bhagavan: Seeing is unimportant; the longing to see is more important.



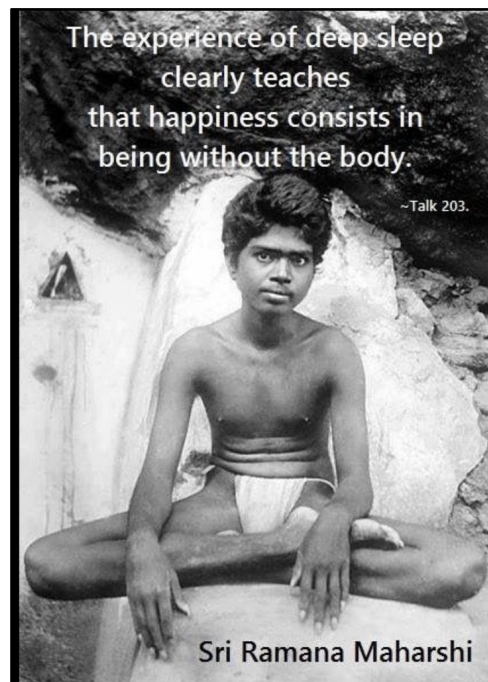
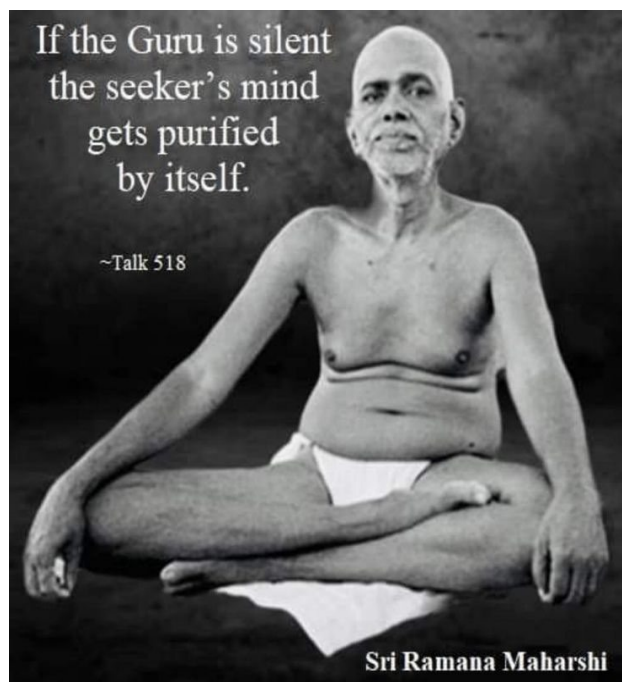
- ❖ **Question:** In your Holy presence, the devotee's ego must be reduced. But contrarily it is increasing. Why?
Bhagavan: To lose the inner foreign matter, you must first vomit it. When water is boiled on a stove, it initially becomes hot, later overflows, and then evaporates.

- ❖ **Question:** Which vritti (profession) suits me the best?
Bhagavan: Any vritti (profession) is alright. But don't be in aham vritti (don't have ego-sense).

- ❖ **Question:** My friend's Guru has not attained the Supreme state...
Bhagavan: The Guru's eligibility is not so significant. The disciple's devotion is much more critical. When served with great devotion, even a stone becomes God.

- ❖ **Question:** When an intimate devotee of Bhagavan wanted to become a Sannyasi...
Bhagavan: Family life is very painful, but it is very easy to become a Jnani out of it.

- ❖ **Question:** By a mere touch, Sri Ramakrishna blessed Swami Vivekananda with Samadhi. Why don't you bless me similarly?
Bhagavan: Is it Vivekananda who is posing this question? Do you have the stature of Vivekananda to receive such Grace?



❖ **Devotee:** So many people prostrate to you, but you don't even see them. Why are you so indifferent to them?

Bhagavan: How can you say that? I bow down to them even before they bow to me. Abidance in Heart is true namaskara.

❖ **Context:** Referring to the cancerous abscess on his hand, if anyone unknowingly asked Bhagavan about it ...

Bhagavan: It is a Linga, a swayambhoo linga that emerged on its own.

❖ **Devotee:** Why don't you eat healthy food?

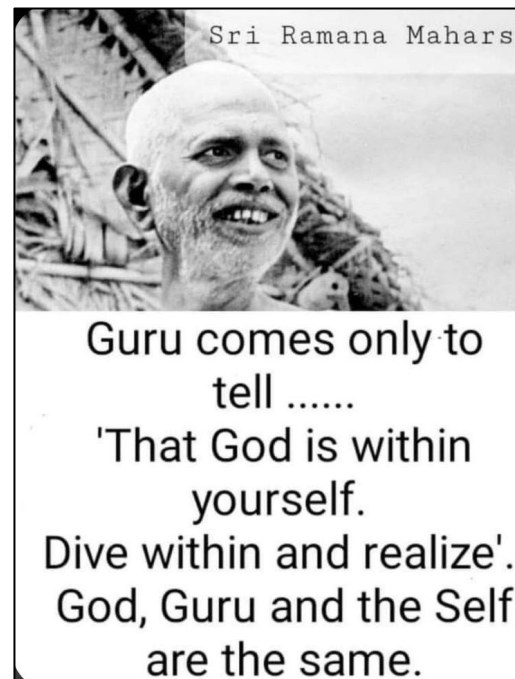
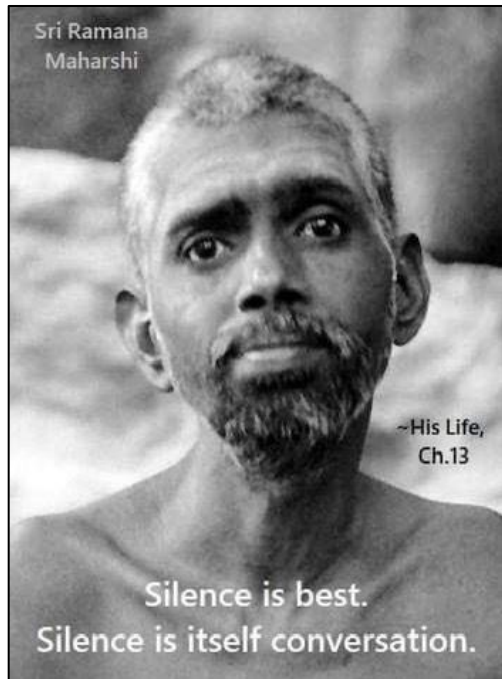
Bhagavan: The body itself is a disease that requires a remedy. Why search for a remedy to the disease's disease?

❖ **Devotee:** Being a great Jnani, why did you display utmost devotion in Aksharamanamala? Is it for the sake of others?

Bhagavan: Yes, that is right.

❖ **Devotee:** I cannot chant the entire Panchakshari Mantra, i.e., Om Namah Shivaya...

Bhagavan: Chant Shiva, Shiva, the two-letter mantra. That is enough.



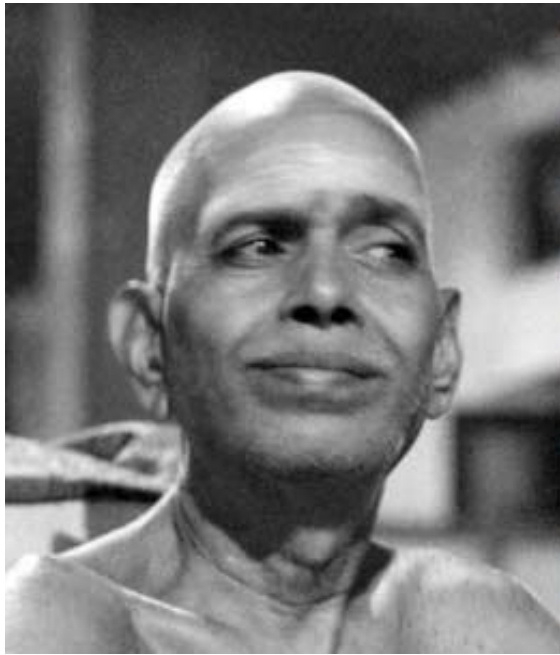
- ❖ **Devotee:** In the past, several demons have performed intense penance and secured boons. Will this imply that they have overpowered destiny?
Bhagavan: No. Though God said, 'I grant you the desired boon, ' the demons asked only what they could get per their destiny.

- ❖ **Devotee:** Which asana (posture) did you adopt?
Bhagavan: It is Hridayasana, the most blissful asana. If you can adopt hridayasana (abiding in the Heart), no other asana is needed.

- ❖ **Devotee:** Please suggest to me the liberation path...
Bhagavan: Get back and pursue the path you came from. (Mind originates from Heart. Hence, it must get back into the Heart in the same manner as it originated from the Heart).

- ❖ **Context:** When someone prostrated to Bhagavan repeatedly...
Bhagavan: Why this exercise? Is this a gym? If you have so much devotion, express it silently.

- ❖ **Devotee:** What is the loss in identifying myself with the body?
Bhagavan: The body is the cause of every delusion. Therefore, go back home (i.e., into the Heart).



**"You need not
aspire for or get
any new state.
Get rid of your
present thoughts,
that is all."**

Ramana Maharshi

❖ **Context:** A devotee got frustrated when he heard a dog barking just before posing his question to Bhagavan...

Bhagavan: It is not the dog that barks; it is your mind that barks.

❖ **Context:** When a doctor suggested amputating the hand inflicted with cancer...

Bhagavan: Will you amputate the head if this cancer arises on the head?

❖ **Devotee:** Several devotees are chanting the Mahamrutyunjaya mantra so that you will get cured of your disease...

Bhagavan: Is the author of the Mahamrutyunjaya mantra still alive?

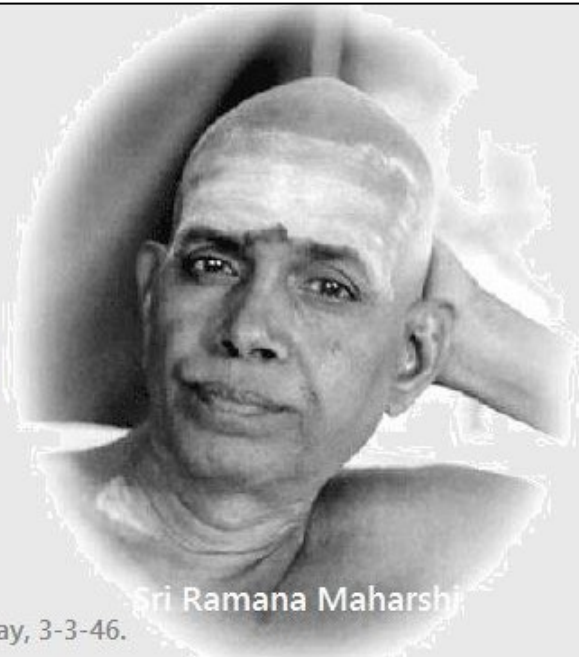
❖ **Devotee:** Your stone-made idol is getting ready...

Bhagavan: The stone-made hearts need stone-made idols.

❖ **Devotee:** The craving to visit Arunachala is also a desire. So, shouldn't we overcome it?

Bhagavan: Before calling it a desire, tell me one thing: Don't you have any worldly desires apart from the desire to visit Arunachala?

Who is it
that
undergoes
sleep, dream
and waking
states?



Sri Ramana Maharshi

~Day by Day, 3-3-46.

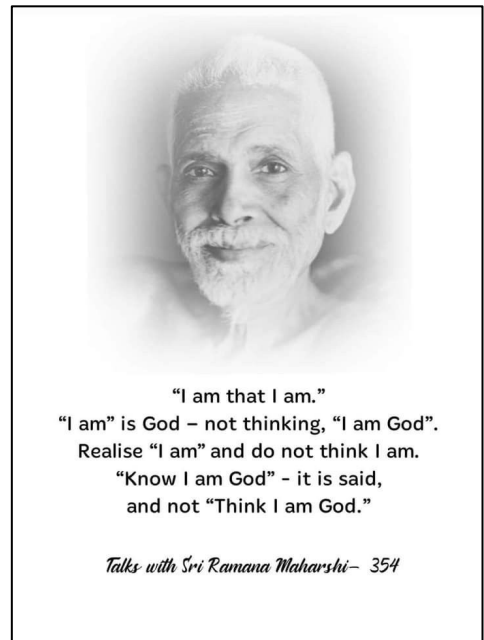
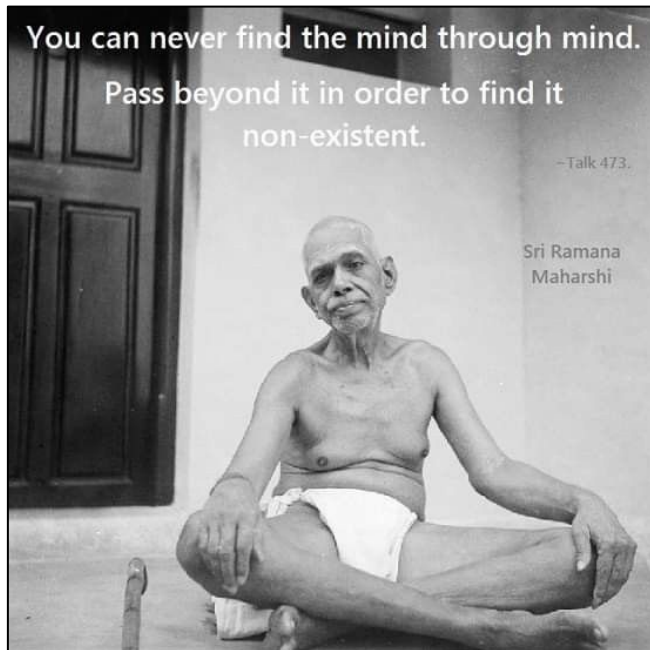
- ❖ **Devotee:** Isn't it true that God is an ocean of Compassion?
Bhagavan: Even an ocean has limits, but God is limitless. Hence, God is an endless ocean of Compassion.

- ❖ **Devotee:** I have incurred several sins towards you. Hence, I will go to hell...
Bhagavan: I will accompany you even if you go to hell. But don't ever do anything that places you in hell.

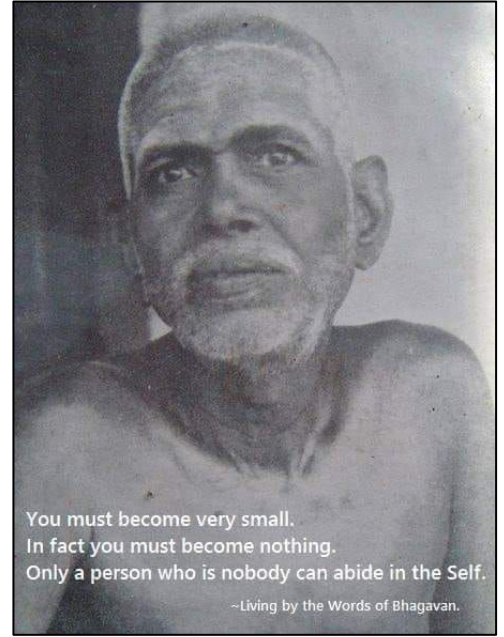
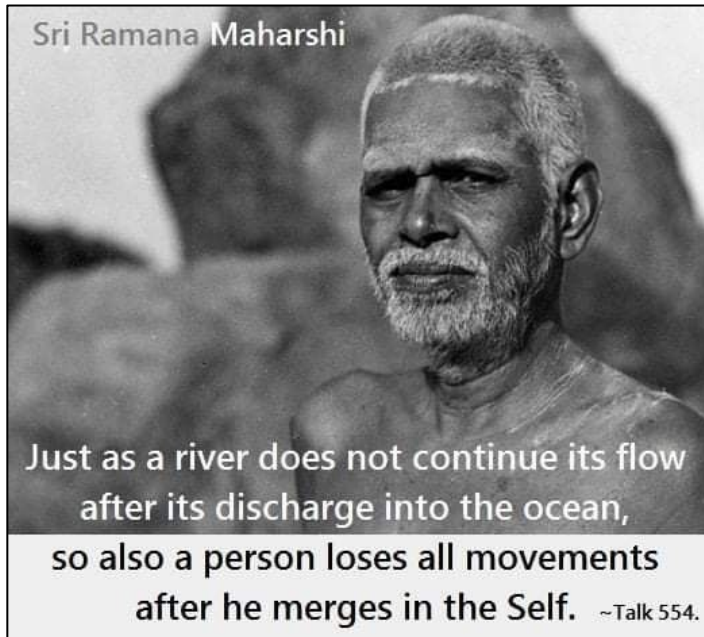
- ❖ **Devotee:** Did you give liberation to your mother?
Bhagavan: Why shall I give her liberation? It is her Jnana that liberated her.

- ❖ **Devotee:** Will you bless me with Nirvikalpa Samadhi?
Bhagavan: Why Nirvikalpa Samadhi? I will bless you with Sahaja Samadhi.

- ❖ **Devotee:** Do you prescribe idol worship?
Bhagavan: When there is nothing wrong in adoring this body made of flesh and blood daily, how can it be wrong in adoring an idol of God?



- ❖ **Devotee:** How long will it take to attain Self Realization?
Bhagavan: It depends on the aspirant's maturity. Gunpowder burns immediately upon being ignited, whereas coal takes longer to burn.
- ❖ **Devotee:** What is most loving to God?
Bhagavan: Duty done perfectly is most loving to God.
- ❖ **Devotee:** I brought nothing to offer Bhagavan...
Bhagavan: Why do you say that you have not brought anything?
Didn't you bring the false 'i'?
- ❖ **Context:** When someone talked about Siddhis....
Bhagavan: Your mind gets dissolved into its source in the presence of a Jnani. What else can be a notable Siddhi than this?
- ❖ **Devotee:** Mahatma Gandhi eats ground nuts; Sri Aurobindo eats cashew nuts, but why do you eat only curd rice?
Bhagavan: They eat whatever they have. Similarly, I eat whatever I have.



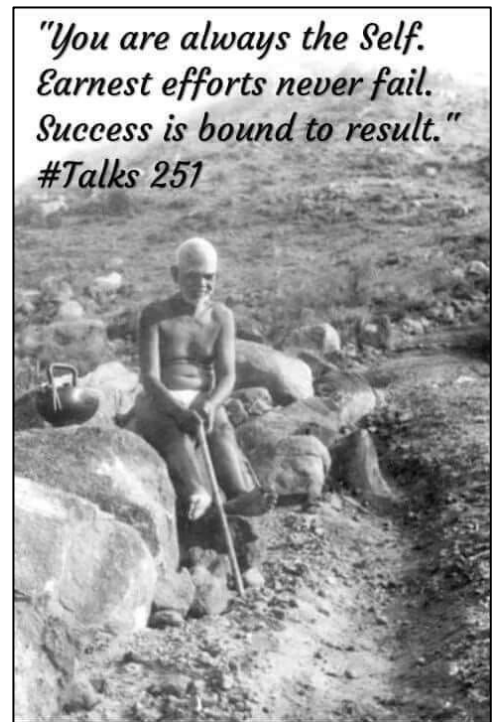
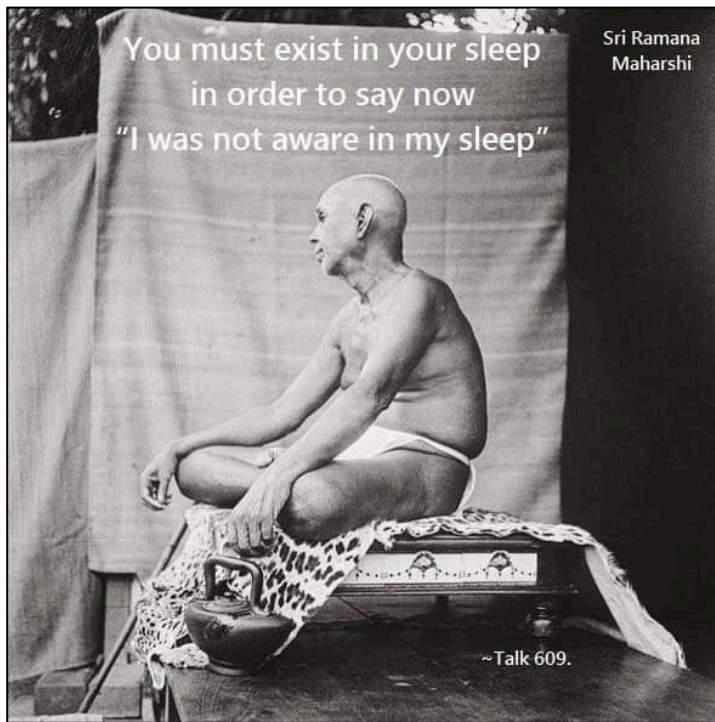
- ❖ **Devotee:** Why didn't I still get a Guru?
Bhagavan: Every person has two essential tasks on this earth: first, to get an external Guru and then to secure the internal Guru. Your first task is now done.

- ❖ **Context:** When anyone tried to judge others...
Bhagavan: There are Supreme Court judges to make judgments. Why do you want to do this salary less job?

- ❖ **Devotee:** What is it that makes your head shake?
Bhagavan: What happens when a big elephant (Self) is tied down in a small hut (body)?

- ❖ **Devotee:** When so many leaders serve the nation, why can't we still see change?
Bhagavan: How can the nation be reformed when its leader's services are self-centred?

- ❖ **Context:** When someone talked about the corruption prevalent amongst the politicians...
Bhagavan: Why don't you roam along with them so that you can get your share from them? To find wrong in others is one's own wrong.



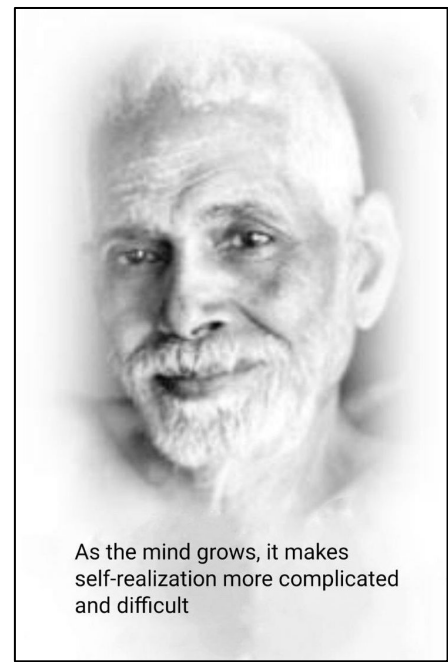
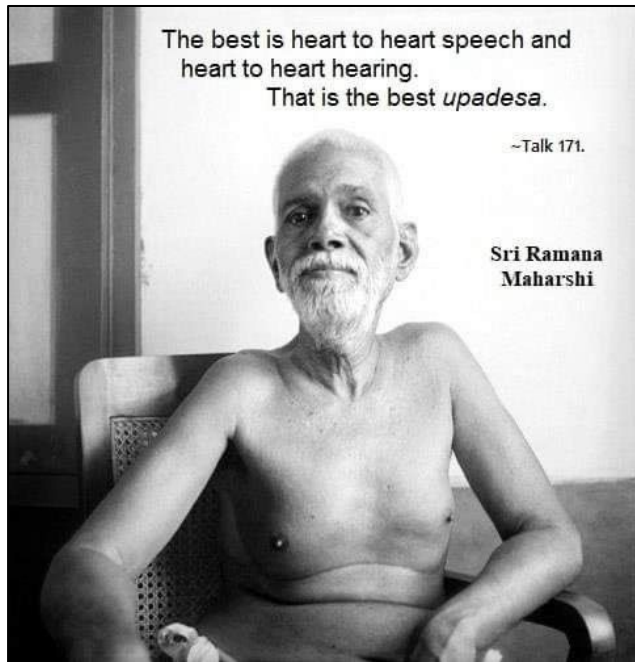
- ❖ **Devotee:** Lord Arunachala appeared in my dream and commanded me to initiate you with this mantra...
Bhagavan: Let the same Lord appear in my dream and say so. Only then will I take the initiation.

- ❖ **Devotee:** Why don't you give me the power to reform others?
Bhagavan: Why do you plan to build a choultry when you have nothing to eat? Without possessing Peace, how can you distribute it to others?

- ❖ **Context:** When devotees wanted to retaliate against the thieves who beat Bhagavan...
Bhagavan: Will u cut down the teeth if they bite the tongue?

- ❖ **Context:** When anyone talked about any irrelevant things...
Bhagavan: Is this Jnana?

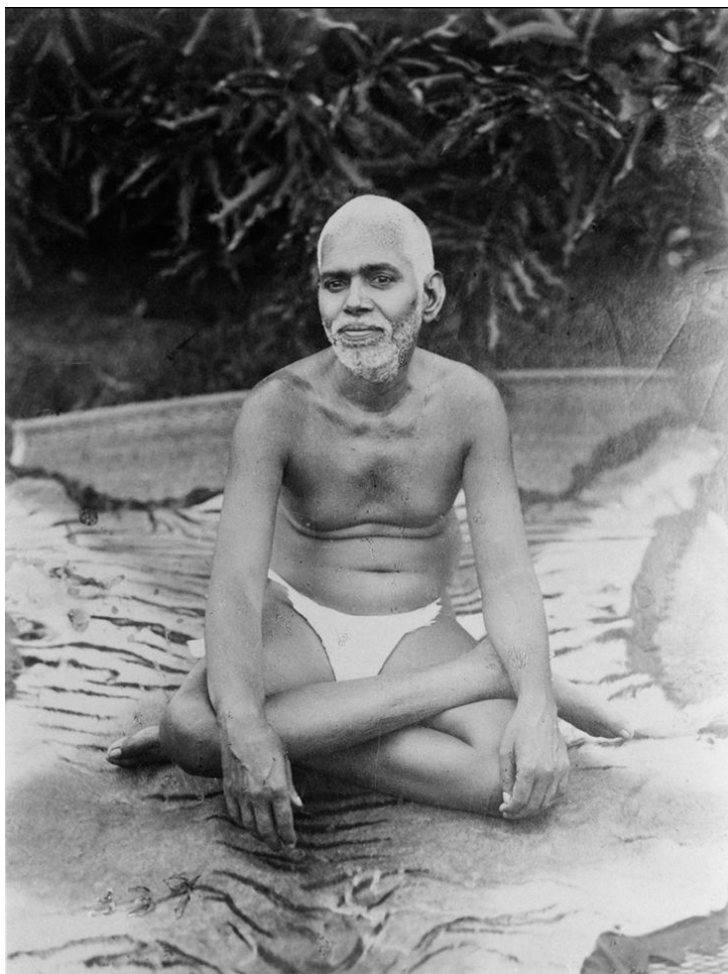
- ❖ **Context:** When anyone talked about reforming the world...
Bhagavan: This world existed before your birth and will continue to exist even after your death. There is a higher power to take care of.



- ❖ **Devotee:** 'Oh! Lord, your will is my will. Your liking is my liking' - Can we call this surrender?
Bhagavan: For me, surrender means: 'Oh! Lord, your will is peace, joy, and freedom for me'.
- ❖ **Devotee:** It is an excruciating pain when you are annoyed with us...
Bhagavan: I am also pained that your mind has not got rid of crookedness.
- ❖ **Devotee:** Why do you treat us as your equal?
Bhagavan: The ocean is not aware of the waves. Similarly, the Self is not aware of the ego.
- ❖ **Devotee:** We are indebted to you. How can we clear the same?
Bhagavan: View Me in everyone. It will make you debt-free. Ensure that you love all the Jivas in the same manner as you love your Guru.
- ❖ **Devotee:** Who are you? Are you an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, Shiva, or Kumara Swami?
Bhagavan: I am neither Shiva nor Vishnu nor Kumara Swami. I am the Supreme Consciousness that resides in everyone's Heart.

An Introduction to 'WHO AM I?'

It is a Universal fact that I always exist. I certainly cannot doubt my existence in the waking state. I approve of my existence, even in my dreams. I do exist even in deep sleep, for if I really don't exist, I cannot return to the waking state. Moreover, I sometimes say, 'I have slept peacefully, ' which depicts my existence even in deep sleep. In the waking state, I recognize a world of forms of which I identify myself with one. I am



neither the physical body nor the mind. They must exist even in deep sleep if I were either of them. But both the body and mind vanish in the deep sleep.

Moreover, it is also scientifically proved that dreams are of very short duration. Hence, I don't know where I exist in deep sleep. But I do exist. If I were a body, even a dead body must be able to speak. Whenever I refer to the mind, I say, 'My mind,' which implies that the mind belongs to me, and I am not the mind. Hence, the question 'Who am I?'

The Upanishads say: "Thou art That," which means that there is nothing like I, or You, or We, but only one real Self, which is eternal

love, eternal peace, egoless, and immortal. Knowledge, Existence, and Bliss are the attributes of the Self. The world exists only after we exist. We approve of the world's existence because we can see it. Hence, the world is a thought, which is nothing but the mind. Mind is a bundle of thoughts that arise to the first thought called ego. The Self cannot be experienced without the complete destruction of the ego. Man undergoes all sufferings only due to his wrong identification with body or mind.

Everyone in this world is striving for happiness, the very nature of Self. We do have a glimpse of Self every day. When we are about to wake up from sleep, unconsciousness first exists, then comes the light of consciousness, and after that comes the I thought, with which the world consciousness floods.



We should do Self-enquiry and find out the source of the ego. The ego is a tiny projection of the Self and ultimately must reach its source. Only after attaining Self-Realization do we recognize that the ego has been the cause of suffering and the ego has been the sufferer.

A Short Prayer:

Where the riotous rest and are lulled into soft slumber,
Where speech conceals into Silence and thought flows into its fountain-
head,
Where this gigantic ego drops to a point,
Vanishes and lo emerges as the Infinite one,
Where the atom and the Universe, the soul, and the over-soul, unite in
one eternal luminous Being,
There, O' Self of Self, Let me awake.
Oh! Ramana, you are the Truth named 'I am,' and
You are the Ultimate Jnana achieved through Self-Enquiry.
When I perform the Self-Enquiry of Who am I?
My heart is entirely filled with you, O' Master of Knowledge.
O' Sadguru, you protect me out of compassion,
You are my sole refuge; Who else exists to protect me?
O' Light of Arunachala, O' Ramanesha,
I became your slave due to your grace.
Is it possible to attain a state without a trace of mind?
No, Master, It is impossible.
I will beg of you constantly: please listen to my prayers;
So that I can achieve the ultimate state, O' Ramana.

