

**O Guru, O the Sage divine, I will
be victorious by Your Naama**

I will gain pleasures by Your grace
in this unreal world.

He who attained Your Lotus-feet
irrespective of his caste and creed,

You sheltered him and made him
happy forever.

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Kathamrita

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Chapter 32

Sri Siddharudha alone is a support for the intense seekers because when He places His hand on the seeker's head, knowledge of self rises and mind goes upwards (gets purified). This state usually happens everyday in the world. Hearing this, a man came and asked Siddharudha, 'O Swami, I keep your hand on my head everyday but why didn't I get knowledge of self?' Sadguru replied, 'A devotee must have firm faith in Guru. He should feel that this is his Guru and his upliftment is possible by this Guru alone. How could he achieve knowledge of self if he thinks Guru as a man like himself? It is pure cordiality alone that gains the Grace of Guru. If you want to achieve pure cordiality, just listen to me. Do shravan (listening to wise words of Guru). Serve Sadguru'.

O listeners, listen to me. When Siddharudha came to Hubballi, he was living in Dumageri. He used to play with the shepherds. Siddharudha did not like the company of the people in those days. He wanted to be all alone by Himself. On seeing the people, He would run away or keep quiet. Oneday, a man called Gurupadayya Hiremath came to have His darshan and seeing Him from a distance he was simply astounded. Siddharudha had sat in a tree with big stones in His hands. He pelted a stone at a shepherd that hit him on

his head. The boy began to cry with pain. The other shepherds

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started lamenting. Seeing this, Siddharudha threw another stone at the same boy that hit again but this time, the boy became calm and began laughing. Gurupadayya wondered and said to himself "People call Him mad. He seems to be an ascetic. He has incarnated in the human form to uplift the fools like us. If I serve Him with good will, all my mundane problems will disappear suddenly. He is totally a *Brahmajnani* (knower of ultimate truth) and He has no body conscious. If I serve such a great man (mahatma) with food and water, I will be blessed." But he was hesitant to approach Him. He met the boy whom Siddharudha threw the stone and hit upon his head. He asked him, "When He hit you on your head, you started crying but he hit upon you for the second time, you began to smile.

What's the reason for this?" The boy replied, "This Siddha is really mad but he has one good quality i.e. if he sees anybody who is sad, he will remove his sadness suddenly. When he threw the stone upon my head, I felt very sad but the moment the second stone touched my body, I felt happy. In this way, he is playing with us everyday. Noboday understands what game he plays." Delighted by hearing the words of the shepherd, Gurupadayya further asked the boy. "What does Siddha eat?" The boy said, "We give sheep's milk to drink. He eats a piece of bread when we give him. If there is nothing to eat, he will mix a little soft mud with water and drink it" Gurupadayya thought that he would feed Him everyday. Mustering the courage, he went near Siddha when he came under the tree, Siddha descended. When Gurupadayya bent his head at the feet of Siddha He kicked him on the head. Standing with folded hands. Gurupadayya

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said, "O Gurudeva, please come to my house and purify other members of my family as you've purified me. Please, come my home and have Your meals there."

Siddha answered, "I'll not come to your house and whatever you wish to give Me, bring it here. Now, go soon" saying so, he pushed Gurupadayya.

Gurupadayya hurried as fast as he could and said to his wife, "We've got a real treasure. Our birth itself will be successful because of Him. So, give me bread and rice soon. I'll feed him." Thus, hearing the words of her husband, she felt sad and because there was not enough food at home. The family had to toil hard to earn money for their food and they lived on alms. The son of Gurupadayya used to collect beg alms and the alms collected would be divided among the three the husband, the wife and the son. So, after some hesitation, the wife gave him some food. He kept bread and rice before Siddharudha . Siddharudha distributed the food among the shepherded boys and ate a little of it himself. Then, he said to Gurupadayya, "The food you brought was not sufficient for us. Fetch some more". Gurupadayya went home again and found his own share of food. He took it, placed it before Siddharudha and stood with folded hands. Though he fasted, he remained happy. He said to himself , "I'm really blessed today." Siddharudha distributed the food among the shepherded boys and ate little himself. He gave a small piece of bread to Gurupadayya. Folding both his hands he accepted it considering it amrit prasada, he put it into his mouth. Gurupadayya felt that he had eaten a full meal to his great

satisfaction. He produced a cry of
satisfaction. He said to

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himself . There's no doubt that
Siddharudha Himself is God,
Isvara. If I begin to serve Him, my
life will be successful."

Having saluted Siddharudha,
Gurupadayya was returning home.
Then a man (he belonged to
Gurupadayya's caste) came up to
him and said, "I saw you eating
food given by a bhavi. I inform this
fact to everybody. You have
become corrupt. We'll
excommunicate you." He informed
the other ayyas and they decided to
keep them away from their caste.
They went to Gurupadayya's house
and said to him, "You all
(including the wife and the son)
should leave the *matha*, otherwise
you should tell that I give up the

company of a bhavi. If you give up his company, we will involve you in our caste" In reply, Gurupadayya said, "I can't live without Siddharudha. He is God incarnate. I will go to some other place but I leave my wife and son here" Then, the ayyas said to him, "We know that you are definitely going to live with Your incarnate God. O corrupt, you are on the wrong way" Gurupadayya did not say anything to this. The wife forced him to leave Siddharudha. The enraged son said to his father, "I don't know what taste you've enjoyed in the company of the bhavi. Will you die if you don't live in the house? You've certainly gone mad. Now, quit the house" He heard harsh words from his dear ones but Gurupadayya did not reply.

Taking his satchel, Gurupadayya left his home. Having collected alms, he came to a place where Siddharudha was. He placed the satchel before Siddha Sadguru and ate what he gave as prasada. Since then, he began to live in the *matha*. Having seen Gurupadayya's devotion towards Siddharudha, a number of devotees began to come to Siddharudha. They

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said to themselves, "We really found a Sadguru" Then, they would pray Siddharudha to come to their houses. Feeding Him, they felt blessed. Some of the devotees arranged for Siddharudha to come to give discourses at their houses. Some used to discuss their philosophical doubt with Siddharudha. Gurupadayya felt happy that Siddharudha began to uplift the seekers.

Once, Gurupadayya suggested to all the devotees that they should worship Siddharudha gloriously on *Kartik Shudh Poornima* day (full moon day). They all gladly agreed. For this auspicious occasion, they constructed a big pendal and in it they put a divine throne for the worship of Siddharudha. They made Him sit in it and they decorated Him with various things - a crown adorned with beautiful flowers on his head, a divine garland round his neck, a diamond medal on the chest, a pear (necklace) round his neck, a divine pitambar on his shoulder etc. The devotees who came to see the worship said, "We are blessed, blessed we saw Shankar in the Sagun form."

The number of devotees of Hubballi increased day by day. The fame of Siddharudha spread far and wide. The foreigners began to come to the *matha* everyday. A grand *matha* was constructed and the people became closer and closer. Many lingayats became the disciples of Siddharudha. Then, Ayyas involved Gurupadayya in their caste. Gurupadayya, who held the Lotus feet of Siddharudha became blessed. It was he, who for the first time recognized the true

worth of Siddharudha to be a great
saint with great powers to

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do. It was Gurupadayya alone who
found a pearl. The others got its
benefit.

O Intense seekers, loot this wealth.
Gurupadayya brought you this
undecaying wealth in your hands.
Merciful Siddha Sadguru is like the
inestimable pearl of devotees. The
bondage of bhava will be destroyed
through His Grace. Here Shivadas
dedicates the thirty second chapter
of `Sri Siddharudha Kathamrita' at
the Lotus feet of Sri Siddharudha,
which burns all the sins by just
hearing.