Sri Ganeshaya Namah | Sri Sadguru Siddharudhayanamah ||

## Chapter 43 They serve Great Master without worrying about their bodies

He himself is a great soul on earth to uplift the ignorant.

They come to such a great teacher to have his Darshana

Abandoned differences they experience eternal peace.

O My Master, victory be unto You. You are complete bliss and unique. You have manifested in Hubballi to carry the devotees across the ocean of mundane existence (the cycle of births and deaths). You yourself behave in the form of all saints and sages. You are raising the people here and there. Thus, visiting Your devotees personally, You cross them from the ocean of bondage.

There was a Brahmin couple in a town called Gondavale in Maharashtra. They were quite happy. They spent their time in worshipping Panduranga Vitthal every day. They used to go to Pandharpur during the Ashad and Kartik Ekadshi (when fasting is enjoined and is considered to be productive of great religious merit) and have the darshan of Vitthal devotedly. When they were pronouncing Vitthal naam (saying `Vtthal' Vitthal') they could feel Vitthal at their hearts. They had intense love for Lord Vitthala. Thus, they were, always immersed in doing bhajan. Once, the conquerer of senses, (Hrishikeshi) Lord Krishna Paramatma appeared before them in their dreams and said, 'You will give birth to Ramadas, who was the incarnation of Hanuman and who uplifted the poor. He himself will be born as your son in the human form'. Soon after hearing these words, they felt very happy. They thought that they were greatly blessed. Then, the wife gave

birth to a he-child. According to the family tradition they named their child Ganapati. They taught him to do bhajan of Pandurang. When the boy was eight years old, they did the binding on the Munja grass girdle (religious ritual). As he was advised remembering of Ramanaam the boy immediately started the repetition of Mantra. While sitting, getting up and working, he would pronounce the Naam of Rama without a break. As he was studying thus, he attained intense dispassion. Ganapati, a boy of just fifteen years old left home for holy places. At last, he got a place of Guru (spiritual preceptor)

In the province of Varhad, there was a village called Ele. There was a satpurusha (Gunatit Guru-who is in constant rappot with Paramatma) named Tukaram Chaitanya who lived outside the village. Having heard the fame of Tukaram Chaitanya, Ganapati met him. When Ganapati was saluting him He said to his disciples, `See, a robber came' They were greatly wondered to hear this. But Ganapati thought that he was really blessed. `Having travelled a number of places, at last, I've come to you and I wish to serve you as a slave. The satpurusha said, `Ganapati, you can't serve me. I'm very cruel to the beings. Ask them who are standing here.' Speaking thus, he threw stones at Ganapati but Ganapati collected them which hit his body. He said to himself, `These stones touched by Sadguru are venerable to me'. Saying thus, he kept them on his head. Then Sadguru asked him to come closer

to him and angrily asked him to press his legs. Ganapati came still closer to Sadguru and he was greatly surprised to see Guru's Lotus-Feet. He touched the Feet which were softer than the

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lotus. Guru thrashed him suddenly and said, `Stand up, your hands are harder than a stone, I can't bear the touch of your hands.' Though he heard such words, Ganapati's mind did not shrink. With folded palms he stood for some time. Then Sadguru said, `Now, let's go to the forest and bring some wood'. Hearing these words, Ganapati said calmly, 'Please sit here and I'll fetch wood'. Then Sadguru said, You'll bring bad ones. I come with you' They both went to the forest together. Both Guru and disciple collected a lot of wood. Guru fastened all the wood with the help of his dhoti and imposed a burden upon the disciple's head. Having held a cane in his hand. He said to Ganapati, `Go ahead and I'll follow

you.' Accordingly, Ganapati proceeded. The bundle of wood was very heavy. While carrying the heavy load, his head began to ache. When he stopped for a while, Guru hit him on the back with the cane. Heavy load on the head, now and then heavy blows on the back, pronunciation of Rama- nama from his month, behind him Guru with the cane in his hand thus Ganapati walked for about twenty minutes. Though he was immersed in Gurubhakti (devotion to Guru), his body could not bear the heavy load and he was very tired. Then Ganapati stood for a minute or two. Immediately, a blow of the cane fell on his back. He fell on the ground and became unconscious. Perturbed at his heart, Guru Graced him by touching Ganapati's head. Soon he woke up. Sadguru then took him to the shade of a tree and made him sit there. As soon as he Graced Ganapati, all his anguish calmed. He attained happiness through the Grace of Sadguru. Then

Tukaram Chaitamya Maharaj said to him with a smile, `You've proved the words that I called you a robber. You've stolen my heart completely. I've never seen such a disciple as you are' Then Sadguru preached him atmajnan (knowledge of self). He attained his real nature by mere hearing which is a rarity even for gods and goddesses. Guru knew that he attained Samadhi (state of spiritual trance). Having brought him to revival state, `Don't give up the study in order to get this knowledge firmed. Read the holy book called Dasa-bodha everyday. As narrated in it one should be pure in three aspects body, speech and mind. Now, go home and test your devotees whether they are worth for spiritual path. Then only, preach them Naamsmarane (rememberence of Naam). Now you are blessed. You are purified consciousness. Therefore, from today onwards, you are Brahma Chaitamya.' Hearing the nectar-like words of Sadguru, his eyes were full of tears of joy: he fell at the Lotus-like feet of Sadguru and said. `O Sadgururaya, how kind you are! Today, I'm verily blessed. Having showed me your real nature, you did a wonderful work.' Speaking thus, Brahma Chaitanya again saluted Sadguru. He then took the permission of Sadguru and returned to his place.

A large number of devotees began to come to Brahma Chaitanya and he uplifted them with the help of His association. He advised all devotees to do Rama-smarane (Rememberence of Rama-*naam*). Gondavalekar Maharaj had a favourite disciple called Tammanna Shastri who was known as Vidyasagar (Ocean of Knowledge). He lived in Hubballi.

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He and the other devotees requested Brahma Chaitanya Maharaj to come to Hubballi. Having accepted this offer gladly, He came to Hubballi with his devotees to have darshan of Siddharudha. The devotees of Hubballi received him warmly. They thought that they were greatly blessed through his darshan. All the bramins took mantropadesh from Brahma Chaitanya but they did not allow Him to meet Siddharudha because Siddharudha was a non-Brahmin. Once, while going to a certain devote's house, he did not call any Brahmin. So, from there Brahma Chaitanya Maharaj went straight to Siddhashram. Here, at the matha, while Siddharudha was resting on the bed, suddenly he got

up and said to the devotees nearby, `The saint, Brahma Chaitanya is coming right now.' Having said thus, He looked at the way. He saw Brahma Chaitanya coming. He hurried to welcome him and embraced Him. At that time, both felt very happy and their happiness was indescribable. After the destruction of Tripura, both Shiva and Vishnu embraced each other. Similarly, Siddharudha and Brahma Chaitanya embraced each other. Brahmananda (Bliss Eternal) manifests when jeeva and Shiva unite each other, the same bliss now manifested in both Sadgurus. Immersed in such bliss, they forgot their body conscious and shed tears of joy. When they were embracing each other, they forgot the entire world. Rays of happness spread from the centre of happiness. The devotees nearby dipped into their happiness. The devotees also shed the tears of joy. All the three worlds were filled wilh happiness and still it remained. Both saluted each other suddenly.

Then, holding Brahma Chaitamya by hand, Siddharudha took him to His seat and made him sit on the seat. Both sat on the single seat. Virtuous Maharaj said to Sadguru, `O Sadguru Siddharudha Swami, this body lives in a village called Gondavala. Some bodies, (its friends) are living here. It (body) has come here for them. Those bodies have sent for me. So, this body is here. It took Your darshan and felt happy. This body always says, `Rama Rama' and asks the intense seekers to say the same. You've to tell me Your opinion about this if it is right.' Having heard these sweet words, Siddharudha felt happy. Then He replied, `There's no second happiness other than naam (rememberence of Naam). Naam itself leads all the jeevis to salvation. Even Shiva repeats the Naam itself. Naam itself alone is the most valuable thing in the mundane existence which is full of sorrows. Bounded by the Naam itself, Ishwar carries all the burden of His devotees. There's no other means greater than Naam. All the other means are bondages themselves. Naam itself crosses all the individual souls from the ocean of mundance life. I also repeat Naam itself. I preach the same to all people. During the Shivaratri festival, repetition of Naam will be continued day and night for seven days. The whole Vedant roars that Rama Naam itself is truth. Atmaram, who is in all creatures, is named Rama. Your incarnation is for the uplifament of the people. You are uplifling the people through preaching of Naam, There is no greater work than this for saints' Hearing the words of Siddharudha, Brahma Chaitanya Maharaj felt very happy. All

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the devotees said, `Victory to Siddharudha, `Victory to Brahma Chaitanya'and they all prostrated before both the Sadgurus. The women did arati to both of them. They enjoyed rare happiness. Then Siddharudha placed some fruits before Maharaj. Sadguru peeled the skin from bananas Himself and put it into the mouth of Maharaj. Thus, they showed their love and affection each other. Some time after, Brahma Chaitanya took the permission of Siddharudha and went.

Then Tammanna Shastri said to Brahma Chaitanya Maharaj, `O Sadguru, even, Hariharas (Vishnu and Shiva) can't understand Your internal state. You visited Sri. Siddharudha. I can't understand greatness of the saints. I'm asking You with good-will, 'How is Siddharudha like?' Brahma Chaitanya Maharaj replied, 'Jnaneshwar Himself has incarnated in the form of Siddharudha who is the best among wise men. In the past, He was incarnated in Maharashtra. At present, in order to uplift Karnataka Jnanadeva Himself took birth in the Naam of Siddharudha,' Having heard these words, Tammanna Shastri felt very happy. Then, Shastri went to Siddhashrama. He saluted Sadguru and said, `O Siddharudha, Brahma Chaitanya Maharaj had come to have Your darshan. Please, explain to me how his greatness is like because saints

can understand the hearts of the saints. The ignorant like me can't understand their internal' Siddha Sadguru said, `I understand that this Ramadas Himself has incarnated in the name of Brahma Chaitanya on the Earth. Pure body has been constructed by the merits of intense seekers' Hearing such words, Tammanna Shastri felt glad. Mind gets purified by hearing the greatness of such rare saints. Then purified mind

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attains knowledge of self. In the next chapter, there is a story of a man called Sachchidananda Chaitanya (Tammanna Shastri) who is favourite of Siddharudha. Here Shivadas dedicates the forty third chapter of `Sri Siddharudha Kathamrita' at the Lotus feet of Sri Siddharudha, which burns all the sins by just hearing.

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