

Chapter 29

A little Grace is enough to attain *'Nirguna Brahman'* easily

Lessening the burden of His
devotees, shielded them lovingly.

He himself saved his devotees from
the hands of Yama (Lord of death).

He himself swallowed the tablets
and lived happily.

Sri Siddharudha
Kathamrita

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The thing, which is perfect Sat-Chit-Ananda (Existence-Consciousness-Bliss) that itself, is Sadguru. I salute such a Sadguru Who cleans the dirt of the mind. Hariharas may grow angry with someone, but Sadguru protects him. If the Guru refuses someone, none will protect him. `How can the body survive without the grace of Sadguru?' `Who should bear the troubles related to the body conscious?' `What would be the gain if bodily pleasures are renounced? Don't ever imagine this way; I cannot live without serving Kind Guru. I may have to take thousands of births if I don't get the grace of Sadguru. If I didn't have your company my life would have been a waste. Having pitied this child, You saved me, but the body You saved is not Grace. Showing my true nature is real Grace. When I experience the state beyond the body, I understand that I am blessed.

O listeners, now hear a story. Siddha Himself tells the story. The devotees were building a huge building for the pilgrims of different places in Siddhasrama. The devotees would come to the construction site and serve in various capacities. Many of them came there to serve. One among them was Shivappa (he was also called Shivaraya). One day, he came hurriedly and climbed a ladder without anybody's support to it quickly. When he was stepping on the final rung, the ladder slipped and fell down. Shivappa was dashed against the the edge of a stone and found alive but unconscious. Sadguru was near him, and He was the first to see the

falling Shivappa. The others came running and one of them lifted the ladder. Shivappa lay on the ground, bleeding profusely.

Sri Siddharudha
Kathamrita

The whole body was full of blood and the kind ones poured water on his body but he looked like a dead. However tried, he could not regain consciousness. Grief-stricken, his wife and children came there. Foam mixed with blood was coming out of his mouth. The people nearby said to themselves that there was no hope of his survival. Some people ran to call the doctor. Some other said, "Why the doctors, bring wood. Journey of his body ended. Dying at the feet of Sadguru, he is truly blessed" Shivappa's wife and children were helpless and they went to Sadguru and fell at His feet and said, "O Sadgururaya, You Yourself protect us. There is none without you. Having abandoned all, we have held Your Feet and do not leave us. In spite of all the difficulties, we never desert You and go anywhere.

You are both father and mother to us. Keep us at Your Lotus-like feet" Seeing Shivappa, Siddharudha stood motionless and silent. As soon as He heard the words of Sivappa's wife and children, he stood up suddenly. Blood was bleeding from Sivappa's left cheek. Seeing this, Siddha sat beside him and touched the wound with His hand. Bleeding stopped. Then, saying, "Om Namah Sivaya" he stroked affectionately his body and said " It appears that his death is near but he has to live to do some special work. Therefore, Sadguru must save him with the help of remainder of life" Thus speaking Siddharudha sprinkled water over the face of Shivappa and remained in *Samadhi* (mental equilibrium). All the devotees were looking eagerly and motionless like the men and women in the picture. The women were shedding tears. When all were looking at Shivappa, his lips wobbled slowly and chanting of Ramanam came out of his lips. Now, all were happy. They all roared *jayakar*. None could describe the greatness of Sadguru. Siddharaya said, "We really got Sadguru. Therefore, Shivappa survived. Hence, now there is no fear for him". After some days, he regained his health and began to serve Sadguru more devotedly.

Sri Siddharudha
Kathamrita

Sri Siddha Sadguru, at times suffered from illhealth as He was wearing the body because the body is naturally the seed of all diseases. Once, Siddha got severe fever and with a groan, he was rolling on the bed. Seeing this, the devotees were bringing some medicine and tablets. Siddha put them at the bottom of bed. He told them that he would take them later. One day, a famous doctor came and gave him the best kind of pills. Siddharudha kept them at the bottom of bed. The devotees came every day to give Him some tablets but the disease was not cured. Once, the doctor, who gave him the best kind of tablets, said to Siddharudha, "Maharaj, the disease has not yet been cured. The pills that I gave were very good. If you had used them, it (disease) would have been cured. I think that perhaps, you have not used. How can it be cured? Therefore, I earnestly request You to take the medicine and protect Your body for Your devotees". He said to the doctor with an amused grin, "If you pressurise me, I will take all the tablets right now." He stood and took all the tablets from the bottom of the bed and swallowed them. Seeing this the frightened doctor said, "I committed an offence" Beating his face himself, he started to roll on the floor. The people present there felt sad and said, "There is no use to be on hopes. Our merits (earned by virtuous life) today ended" Siddha stood up and said "Nothing happened to me. Why are you hustling unnecessarily? I never suffered from any disease. I have no births and deaths. I have no body itself. Hence, where does the disease come from? You do not know what I am" Speaking thus, He began to

walk here and there. All the devotees were wondered to see Sadguru walking. They talked among themselves thus, "The greatness of saints has no border. We think that, like us He too has a body. This is our folly. By his mere touch, we get rid of great diseases. By giving medicine to such a Sadguru, we displayed our stupidity"

Sri Siddharudha
Kathamrita

O Listeners, now hear the subtle meaning. Jeeva (individual soul) as Shivappa was attempting to attain *moksha* (liberation from the cycle of births and deaths) He climbed a ladder in the form of sapta-bhoomika (seven storeyed high as palace). While climbing the last bhoomika (rung), he fell down by mistake. IÉmÉëqÉÉSÉS
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||OûÏMüÉ|| Bhagavan Sankar in his Viveka Chudamani thus says. For a *jnani* who has established himself in his true self, there is no worthless object more than forgetfulness. The forgetfulness leads one to attachment and from

attachment to *aham-buddhi* (ego-intellect). Bondage makes jeevas sad. Thus the jeeva receive the decline in the form of the mistake and he was injured by dashing against the edge of a stone as Samsara (wordly existence which is very difficult and hard to cross) At that time, the son as viveka and the wife as devotion prayed to Sadguru to bring jeeva to his earlier state. The moment Sadguru touched him, bleeding stopped. jeeva attained his true self and suddenly woke up himself.

In the second story, Sadguru Himself is *Pratyagatma*. Suffered from avidya disease, He looked like a patient to the people. The devotees were giving him a number of pills. At that time, the doctor as *Sankya* came, preached philosophy and tried to solve avidya (delusion). *Pratyagatma* was all-knowing, so he did not listen to his advice. Then he swallowed all the pills to amuse them. Then, *Pratyagatm* said to them, "There is no name of avidya in me. I am swayameva asang Brahma. I am constantly healthy" Then, the devotees said among themselves, "We took His darshan. By that prasada all the diseases ran away. We called Him patient" O listeners, in the next chapter, hear an interesting story. Here Shivadas dedicates the twenty ninth chapter of 'Sri Siddharudha Kathamrita' at the Lotus feet of Sri Siddharudha, which burns all the sins by just hearing.