

Sri Ganeshaya Namah | Sri
Gurubhyo Namah ||

Chapter 53
On thinking of Sadguru,
devotedly

His pure form manifests
everywhere.

Protected quickly drowning woman
in the sea

Sadguru manifested himself in
three worlds to spread his fame.

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Chapter 53

O Adorable by the Vedas, Support of the world, Essence of the Vedas and Knowledge, *Sadguru* with form, victory be unto You. It is possible to cross from the bondage (mundane existence) through Your Naam. Knowing this, namadharak (a devotee who wears Naam on his forehead) remains untroubled. As he believes that You are always near him, he is not afraid of his death. All the miseries of mundane life will be vanished through the utterance of Your *Naam* (name). You rush to the place of Your devotees to protect them from danger the moment they think of You. Who are the other protectors except You? The individual souls immersed in mundane existence do not understand whom they should call for help. As soon as You Grace such devotees, they recognize You. Then, they hold Your Lotus-like feet which are ship-like and they cross the ocean of worldly life happily. You are such a kind man. O listeners, hear the story of Sri Siddharudha which is rather difficult to understand.

There is a town called Kundapur located on the sea-shore. There lives a brahmin named Sridhar. His wife Lakshmibai is a great devotee of Siddharudha. While in Hubballi, at her father's house, she would take darshan of Sri Siddharudha daily. She has intense devotion to *Sadguru*. The time came for her to go to her husband's place, Kundapur. So, she goes to Siddharudha to have His darshan and says to Him, 'O kind *Sadguru*, show mercy to me. The time has come to go away from You. How should I live in that place

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without taking Your darshan? I'm worried about this. O kind one, You know this'. Hearing her words *Sadguru* said, 'Remember Your favourite god and always meditate upon His Sagun form at your heart. You will be calm by doing so and He Himself comes to your rescue. Don't have any doubts about this'. Having heard these words, Lakshmibai felt very happy. Again saluting at His Lotus-feet, she went to her husband's place. She did not worry about the fact that she was departing from her parents. But she was agitated at the fact that she was departing from *Sadguru*. At her husband's place, she was always meditating upon *Sadguru's* Sagun form. She was also happy with her husband.

When the Shivaratri festival was approaching, Lakshmi Bai, one day, said to her husband, 'O my husband, listen to me. There lives a great sage called Sri Siddharudha in Hubballi. The Shivaratri festival is being celebrated in His *matha*. Then many devotees come there from far off places. Haridasas also do keertan everyday. Nama-Ghoshas (cry of *Naam*) will be arranged day and night in front of *Sadguru*. At the time of sun-rise hearing and preaching of Vedant will take place. Meals for thousand of devotees will be provided in the afternoon. Mahapuja (Great Worship) will be held in the evening and its grandeur cannot be described. You should go personally and try to understand how indescribable it is! Thus, this great festival lasts for seven days. On the seventh day is car-festival. On the car-festival day, the devotees make *Sadguru* sit in the car. If we see that great beauty on that day, we feel blessed ourselves. So, we must go to Hubballi now. If we see the Shivaratri festival, we'll feel happy'. Then Sridhar said to his wife, 'What you say, may be true but I can't come leaving my profession here.'

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Perhaps, you know this. Gokarna, a place of pilgrimage is quite near. Here also, Shivaratri festival is being celebrated on a grand scale. This is also a holy place. Here also, lots of people gather here. But Lakshmibai said to her husband 'We will have direct darshan of God in Hubballi. *Sadguru* Himself talks to devotees. How sweet are His words! Once, if one sees, His face, one's troubles of previous births will be removed. If one bows down one's head at His Lotus-like feet, happiness will reveal itself in one's heart. After having His darshan one feels that one has met God. One's sight on the face can't move from it'. Lakshmibai was overjoyed to talk a lot about *Sadguru* Siddharudha and she shed tears of joy. The husband noticed them and his heart was melted. He said to her, 'If you desire so, let's go to Hubballi Next Friday let's sit in the boat'. She was pleased to hear nectar like words.

Having prepared everything, they sat in a boat. At that time, one should see the joy of Lakshmibai. Her joy knew no bounds. She was repeating the *Naam* of *Siddha Sadguru* day and night. It so happened that she saw *Sadguru* everywhere. Having seen the waves on the sea, she said, 'These (waves) are rising out of love of Siddharudha. Having heard the roaring sound of the machine, she said, '*Sadguru*, at the time of worship makes the devotees roar.' Seeing the thousands of people in the boat, she said, 'All these people are going to celebrate the Shivaratri festival in Siddharudha matha'. Thus, wearing love at her heart, she forgets her body conscious. The boat was moving fast. The other steam-boat was coming with equal

speed from the front. Both collided with each other quite by accident producing a very loud noise. The boat where Lakshmibai was sitting in, was wrecked and it began to hang. The people trembled with fear and began

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to shout, 'The boat sank' They ran here and there like mad to escape from the danger carrying their children and belongings, they rushed towards the other ship. Sridhar was greatly frightened when he heard the thunder. Forgetting his wife he ran to the other ship. A friend of his asked him why he had left his wife. He replied him that when he had been in danger, how he would look at her. He further told him that if he survived, he would marry someone and if he died, what the use of her living would be.

Here, the boat started sinking. it slowly went into the water. Lakshmibai found her husband missing. The people are running

hither and thither. Lakshmibai could not find way to go to the other ship. She repeated the *Naam* of Siddharudha. While she was looking for the husband, she found a child lying near her. Someone had left it. So she picked the child up tenderly. The boat sank. All the other remaining people had gone to the other ship. Lakshmibai alone remained there. In the meanwhile, the ladder, which helped to climb the other ship fell down unexpectedly. As there was no remedy to escape, Lakshmibai remained there in the sinking boat. The water raised round her and she stood in the navel deep water. Then, having held the child high, Lakshmibai prayed, `O *Sadgurunatha*, Merciful one, why have You left me in the middle of sea? I remained in the water. There's no way to escape from here. My husband is not here. I don't know where he is. The other ship is far away. What should I do now? I remained behind in order to save this child. Who is there to protect me now except You? You yourself see the situation. May be you are not interested in me but have mercy to this child. O Kind One, come soon, protect us at this time'. Hearing her words, the kind *Sadguru* came there to rescue. Rowing a small boat, he came near

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her. Lakshmibai gave him a child.
He took the child and kept it in the
boat. Taking her by his hand,
Sadguru made her sit in the boat.
Having seen the small boat coming,
the steam ship stopped. Then
taking the child, Lakshmibai
boarded the boat. What miracle
happened was - both *Sadguru* and
the boat disappeared from the
scene. Seeing this, all the people
were dumb-founded. No one knew
His greatness then, mother of the
child came, saluted Lakshmibai and
said, `You are verily the Goddess,
you came to save my child.
Lakshmibai gave the child to the
mother and began to search her
husband. Sridhar felt shy for his
behavior and hid himself
somewhere. Then, someone
brought him. As soon as
Lakshmibai saw him, she touched
his feet. She said to Him,
`Sadgurunatha protected me. He is
very kind to the poor. He Himself
protected you. Seeing her love and
happiness, all shed the tears of joy.

Then she told her husband the
event that had happened but she did
not blame her husband. Having
heard all this, Sridhar told the wife
that he was fortunate to have a wife
like her and further told her that
when she was in danger he had left
her. He felt ashamed of his act. The
wife, Lakshmibai pacifying her
husband, said, `I feel happy that
you are survived. That *Sadguru*
Himself came to your rescue.
There's no doubt about this. Having
brought me here, he disappeared.
We don't understand His greatness'.
The couple got down from the ship
in the Goa providence. From there
they came to Hubballi by train.
They felt so happy when they met
Siddha *Sadguru*. While narrating
the event that took place on the

way, tears rolled down from their eyes. Hearing the entire event, Siddharudha said to her, `O Lakshmibai, you are really blessed. Soon after remembering the name of *Sadguru*, he came and helped you in danger.' These kind words soothed her and she got peace of mind. Lakshmibai said to *Sadguru*, `We feel that we don't like to go back to Kundapur. If you

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Grace us, we won't return'. Siddha advised her, `Go to your place after the festival is over. Stay there fearlessly. Happiness that gained by the remembrance of *Sadguru* can't be lessened by change of place. If you enjoy such holy happiness that will be good for you.' Hearing the words of *Sadguru*, Lakshmibai calmed down. After the festival was over, the couple went back to their place. There, they led a very virtuous life and always thought of *Sadguru*. They felt that *Sadguru* was always near them. Such kind *Sadguru* functions as a boat for His devotees because having got His company they will cross the ocean of bondage easily and happily.

Now, listen to the secondary meaning of this story. Sridhar is Jeeva (individual soul). His wife is Devotion. *Sadguru* sends her to Jeeva. If both of them want to reach the feet of *Sadguru*, they have to cross the ocean of bondage (the bondage of births and deaths). They try to cross the ocean of bondage by sitting on the boat of attachment. Then, the ship called Virakti (dispassion) came from the front. It came very fast and broke the Attachment. Jeeva abandoned Devotion that very moment and took shelter in Virakti but he is not happy for his act. When Devotion was in Attachment, she found a child as kind. Therefore she remained in Attachment. When she was immersed in the water of bondage, *Sadguru* came there suddenly. He took both Daya and Devotion to Virakti (the ship) when Devotion met Jeeva, he felt comfortable. Both felt very happy. Then jeeva and Devotion met *Sadguru*. He advised them to do namasmarana- (remembrance of name). Kind *Sadguru* Himself crosses the jeevas from the ocean of bhava (cycle of births and deaths) Here Shivadas dedicates the fifty 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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