

Sri Ganeshaya Namah | Sri
Sadguru Siddharudhayanamah ||

Chapter 23
He will be blessed by just hearing
the greatness of Sadguru

And will be free from sins by mere
worshipping His Feet

Eating happily in the row of
discriminating *Brahmins*

Merciful Master dispelled their
pride.

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Chapter 23

O Supreme abode, I salute Your Lotus-like feet humbly. Your Feet are the ships, which will safely take the intense seekers across the ocean of *Samsara* (worldly life).

Removing all our adjuncts, please, cross us. You are truly Chid-roopa (consciousness form). Sins and merits do not cling to You.

Incarnating in the human form, You are crossing Your devotees from the ocean of bondage. Ishwar-maya, mixed with difference and indifference gives miseries to individual souls. The best way to get free from the shackles of Maya is our complete and whole hearted surrender to You. You Yourself know the internal state of maya (illusion), jeeva (individual soul) and Brahman. Many things are said of Maya in *Shastras* and they cannot take us from the web of Maya. As they are mere words, their minute meaning cannot be known. If you teach those things clearly, we can understand them quickly. We do not understand the things written in *shastras*.

Therefore one should listen to Sadguru. Understanding the adhikar of the listeners, Sadguru tells them to do karma (action), upasana (worship) and jnana (knowledge). One must wear that advice firmly in one's heart. One will not understand one's adhikar. So, one should practise Guru's advice with good-will. He, who follows and believes the words of Sadguru will be blessed in three worlds.

Well, now the listeners must listen to a story. Once, two saints came to Hubballi from Pandharpur. They had gone to Pandharpur to witness the Ashada Ekadashi festival from

Dakshin Kannada. They were *Brahmins*. There were their acquaintances in Hubballi. They took them to their house and treated them well. The householder, Ramaraya arranged

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a *samaradhan* (a means of satisfying) for the saints on the second day. So he invited all the *Brahmins*. Ramaraya was a great devotee of Siddharudha. He never took his meals without Sadguru's *padateertha*. He wanted to invite Siddharudha and worship Him. He consulted the saints and said, "Sirs, in this place, there is *Srotriya Brahmanistha Sadguru* named Siddharudha. Shall we call Him tomorrow for *samaradhana*?" They laughed and said, "We know Siddharudha. He may be a *Brahmanistha*. We can't eat sitting in His row because He is a shudra. How should the *Brahmins* eat in His row? If we give Him a different row, He will be disregarded. Therefore, we don't like this idea. From this, our caste will be belittled". Having heard these words, Ramaraya felt sad. He could

not sleep that night. He said to himself, "What shall I do at this time without my God, Siddharudha? O kind, Sadguru, I have a strong desire to invite You for Samaradhan. How can it be done at this time? I wanted You to sit in the place of worship, and worship You on a grand scale. Besides these, my desire is to show Your greatness to these *Brahmins* who are non-devotee." Thus speaking, he went asleep. He had a dream. In his dream, Siddharudha came and said, "Get up soon, do worship (Pooja)" Then, Ramaraya placed a seat (asana), made Siddharudha sit on it and worshipped Him with sixteen ways. Thus he satisfied His wish. At the end of worship, Siddharudha gave him a gracious gift, a coconut and said, "Take this favour (prasada) and your desire will be fulfilled tomorrow." Thus saying, He disappeared. Then Ramaraya awoke and saw the coconut beside him which was given in the dream. Ramaraya carefully observed the coconut. The coconut which he saw in his dream is near him. He was greatly wondered. He said with great delight, "I am really blessed in all the three worlds. This is not a dream but true because the coconut favour (Prasad) remained. Sadguru will fullfill my heart's desire today. There is no doubt in this. Siddhanatha

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favoured me." While preparing food, Ramaraya often remembered Siddharudha. In the afternoon all the *Brahmins* began to come for lunch. Having worshipped the two saints, they began to serve the food. Two plates were put closer for the two. Then they did *brahmapuranam*. After having announced, "Pundaleek varada Harivitthala", all began to eat. Ramaraya began to worry for the absence Siddharudha. Having seen a unique wonder, he felt very happy. While both the saints were enjoying their meals, Ramaraya was greatly surprised to see Siddharudha enjoying His meals, sitting between the two. There was a plate in front of Siddharudha. Ramaraya saw Him eating from it. As the saints got involved in eating, they did not see each other. In the mean time, the saints wanted to talk to each other, at that time, they saw a man sitting between them. This dumbfounded them. And they said, "Before, nobody was here and now how did this man come and sit between us? We've never seen before." The others told them that he was Siddharudha. They asked Ramaraya the reason why and how he came. Ramaraya told that he did not know. Siddharudha was enjoying His lunch peacefully. Having realised their folly, the two saints said to themselves. "We, two dullards, have not understood the greatness of Siddharudha. There is no doubt that He is God. We are blessed because we have eaten our lunch in His row." Someone wanted to see if Siddharudha was present in Siddhasrama. He went there and he was greatly surprised to see Him there. Showing a wonder Siddha disappeared from the scene. Then they said to all the *Brahmins*, "You all have seen that

Siddharudha came and took His meals with us. Ramaraya is really blessed. Siddharudha was pleased for his devotion. We got Siddha's feet because of him but we didn't worship Him. Having applied the dust of His feet to our cheeks, we became blessed". Then, Ramaraya went Siddhashram to bring Siddharudha and said to Him, "Maharaj, You are visibly Ishwar" Saying thus, he told him

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all the details that had happened. Laughing at this, Siddharudha said, "Ramaraya, your pure-mind has been manifested in the form of Sadguru. Pure-mind is the only reason for this. There is no Ishwar, God greater than this. O listeners, think over this truth. Ramaraya took Siddharudha to his house for worship. Sants and the remaining *Brahmins* took His darshan.

Now, hear the secondary meaning of this story. Sadgurunatha Himself is *pratyagatma*. His disciple, Ramaraya is a jeeva (individual soul). He is drinking happiness as *teerth* (holy water). The two saints are the admirers of indriyas - karmendriyas and jnanendriyas. Sense thoughts are the other

Brahmins. They were invited for lunch as enjoyment of senses. Jeeva said to the admirers of indriyas, "We should call *Pratyagatma* for our *samaradhan*". They said, "He is different to us. In his company we become corrupt" Hearing this, the jeeva felt bad and he prayed to *pratyagatma*. He came in jeeva's dream and gave him a coconut as a favour and that coconut is vivek (discrimination). Having obtained it, he became happy. When they were enjoying sense lunch, *Pratyagatma* came and sat between the two admirers of indriyas. Jeeva saw Him with the help of discrimination. Immersed in the enjoyment of sensual pleasure, the admirers of indriyas accidentally saw him and thought that He himself was God. That very moment, he became formless. They send vivek to bring *Atma* (soul) Jeeva thought that all the *Vrittis* were blessed because all began to follow the devotional path by the Grace of Guru. All worshipped *Atma* (soul) and received Ananda Prasad (happiness favour). Jeeva felt blessed. All the listeners must understand the secondary meaning and enjoy *ananda-prasad*. By the favour of *Pratyagatma* all the *vrittis* got purified. Here Shivadas dedicates the twenty 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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