

### Chapter 3

O Master, victory to You. Those who think upon You, You will remove their misery, give them peace of mind and carry them across the ocean of mundane existence. If You grace, is there anyone who is afraid of mundane affairs? You protect those who worship You without any expectation. Gone on the pilgrimage, some people put in trouble themselves. Staying at home, if they meditate upon You, You will give them eternal bliss. Once one attains eternal bliss, one's anxiety ends and intellect calms in *Brahmananda*. Oh merciful master, there is no fear of *Samsara* at Your Feet. Give me place there only. So, I always remain fearless.

Once Siddha was listening to a pleasing discourse delivered by His family Guru, Veerabhadraswami. In the course of his speech the guru said, 'The earth will dissolve into the water one day or the other. The mountains like *Meru* will fall down. *Panchabhutas* (five elements-earth etc) will be destroyed. Heaven etc all the worlds will be burnt in the fire of *Pralaya* (destruction of world). How can I describe the plight of the confused man, who identifies himself with his body, and desires for worldly pleasures?' Having heard this, little Siddha asked the Guru how the sky would be destroyed. Guru told him to ask this question to a realized one. Then, Siddha decided to search a *Brahmavid guru*.

Next day, Siddha set forth without informing His parents. He came

across His friends named Soma and  
Bheema. They

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asked Him where He was going.  
Siddha said, `The whole world is  
destructible. So, what's the use of  
living here? One must make efforts  
to attain one's real nature. This is  
possible only in human birth.  
Therefore, one needs the advice of  
Guru. Otherwise, all our other  
efforts will be in vain. Therefore,  
I'm going to find a Guru'. Heard  
these words, they argued, `Why at  
this young age? It is for old people'.  
Siddha said to them, `This can't be  
achieved in the old age because  
lust, anger etc make the youth blind  
of discrimination. Therefore they  
forget *Swaroopabhava* and they  
have to face immeasurable  
miseries. The old remember the  
pleasures one's they enjoyed when  
they were young. This old memory  
makes them worry day and night.  
They don't think of good thoughts.  
The mind becomes fickle. Besides

these, fear of death always haunts them. Thus, the *Jeevas* (the individual souls) are agitated and for them hearing of *Vedant* will be useless. Therefore, one should find a Sadguru (*Srotreeya-Brahmanishta guru*) at the young age. Taking the advice of such a guru, one should remain in achieving self knowledge'. Motivated by the wise words of Siddha they expressed their willingness to go with Him. They desired to surrender themselves to Sadguru. They hoped that they would return to their village after having gained self knowledge. Siddha consented. All the three went on foot and came to a certain village. Soma and Bheema were very hungry and said to Siddha, 'Friend, we are now hungry. Who is going to give us food here?' Listening to them Siddha said, 'Don't think of the body. Meditate upon God from the bottom of your hearts. If you drink the nectar of happiness, you will get peace of mind. The food can't give you such happiness. The people, who don't understand this simple truth, ask for food. As God has given us body, he himself must protect it'. Both said to Siddha, 'We understand Your philosophy but when *Pranas* are agitated due to hunger, nothing can be done without food. *Parashara smruti* also means the same, first food next

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*Dhyana* (meditation). The contented *prana* leads one to peace of mind and meditation. Siddha replied, 'When you have understood this much, why do you grieve for food?' He protects all. He himself provides food for you. The hunger is not inherent for you. You feel hungry when your mind turns to the petal of hunger. At that time cling your mind to some other petal. So, hunger will be conquered. This is possible through meditation only. No other remedies won't help in this connection because the *prana* stands still in meditation. So, the fire of belly (*Jatharagni*) won't be agitated. Then, there is no harm to *jeeva* (individual self). They listened to the speech of Siddha and became calm and quiet. They continued their journey and came to a village. All the three entered the temple of Basava. Tired of journey, both Bheema and Soma slept in the corner of the temple. At that time Siddha saw the beautiful image of Basavanna, and He sat on its back. In the mean time, the priest saw Him sitting calmly on the image of Basavanna, and angrily shouted at Him, 'Hey, where are you from? Come down soon. Where have you kept your modesty and devotion?' Siddha said to him, 'I've kept my devotion to God but you have kept it to a stone'. Listening to this, His intellect began to think. Siddha began to laugh looking at him. The priest told Him that he would teach Him a lesson. He then went into the village and brought some people to the temple. The people saw the little Siddha sitting on the back of the image of Basava. Siddha, bereft of fear was looking at him with a smile on the face. One of them came forward, lifted His hand with a purpose to hit him but the nail in

wall pricked his wrist, made it bleed. Seeing this, they hesitatingly asked him, 'Why have you sat on the God?'. Again Siddha asked them, 'Tell me who is greater whether the sitter or the seat. Since long unworthy devotees have been worshipping this image. So, it has lost its power of divinity. I give life to it'. The people surrounded there were wonderstruck and surprised to

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listen to the wise words of the little boy and they began to talk to one another, 'His words are valuable. In his speech knowledge is there. Though he appears in the form of a child he is a great man'. They all fell at His Feet devotedly. He said to them, 'Devotees, listen to my words. The worship of great man is the best and the worship of idols is the worst because *Paramatma* is in the form of great man, saints and *sages*. This is the opinion of *Shruti*. A child in the womb is pleased with the food given to its mother. Similarly the worship of sages pleases *Paramatma* (god)'. They were greatly pleased to listen to His wise words. They decided to worship Him. The news of His greatness spread. Men and women

of the village came to the temple to worship little Siddha seated on back of the image of Basava. They offered him offerings (*Naivedya*). Soma and Bheema woke from their deep sleep, came to Siddha and saw the sweet offerings beside Him. When they were very eager to take them, Siddha said to them, 'See, God has sent us food to eat. Now chanting the *Naam* of God, satisfy your hunger'. At once they have started to eat. Siddha also took a bit of it. He then decided to leave the company of those people. Siddha signalled to his friends for continuation of their further journey. Escaping from the site of the people Siddha started to move with his friends. It was getting darker and darker. Soma said to Siddha, 'Friend where are you taking us? We have been enmeshed in the forest and we can't see the path. Bheema consoled him by saying, 'Soma, don't fear. God is there to protect us. He himself is our real friend. Let's move courageously depending on god' but Soma was stepping with hesitation. He felt a sharp prick when he stepped on an upturned prickle. Not enduring the pain, he began to cry and said to himself, 'I made a mistake by coming over here. What shall I do now? If I remain alive I'll not make friends with such people' Both Siddha and Bheema held His hands. When they were walking through the forest, they heard the roar of wild animals.

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The frightened Bheema said,  
`Siddha, I'm frightened. Let's reach  
the village quickly. I can't walk  
through this way'. Siddha replied to  
him calmly, `The way to search a  
guru is rather difficult. The body  
conscious `I am the body' won't  
work. If we remember the birth  
sorrow (the pain that *jeeva*  
experiences at the time of birth),  
*Deha dukha* (body sorrow) is little.  
That *Deha dukha* can be removed  
by the self knowledge given by  
Sadguru. One should be  
unconcerned to *deha dukha*. Then  
only, one is able to serve guru as a  
servant. Without guru *seva* one  
does not get the Grace of Guru.  
This Grace of guru enables us to  
cross the ocean of bondage. One  
should pass the test of Guru and  
should not leave the path of eternal  
bliss. If he left, Sadguru would not  
Grace for ages.

They both said to Him, O  
Siddhamuni, we love to follow You  
but we don't have *sadhana*  
*chatustaya sampat* to get Sadguru.  
This path of God realization is  
suitable for the great men like You  
and not for us. Now we are scared  
to go further. So, show us the way  
back to our village'. Siddha showed  
them a lamp which was in the left  
direction. Then they all began to  
walk towards the lamp. At last they  
reached a village. They were  
exhausted with a day's journey.  
Then they slept in a dilapidated  
temple. The part of the wall of  
temple fell down due to heavy  
rains. Both Soma and Bheema were  
frightened to see this. They said,  
`We are in trouble. It happened so  
because of the company of Siddha.  
We don't know whether we live or  
not. When Siddha heard this and  
He said to them, `We have come in  
search of a Sadguru. Why do you

think of the body? You wished to come to the village. But you are not happy. If you get the desired object you will remain still unhappy. When you get the objects desired, the mind leaving them wants some other objects. So one should however control one's mind' Meanwhile, it stopped raining Soma and Bheema felt very hungry. They decided to go into the village for alms. When

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Siddha was asleep. Both of them went to the village for alms and stood before a house. The owner of the house, looking at them said to himself, 'These are the thieves. Day before yesterday they definitely stole our buffalo. They have come here to spy in the guise of saints'. Both said to him, 'Master, we are not thieves We have just come to the village, we are hungry and we have come here to ask for alms. Master, please show mercy to us. The owner grew very angry and chased them to beat. Soon they went running. The night watchman held them, asked them who they were and warned them not to wander at night. He further told them to spend the night in the temple and leave it early in



the morning. Desperated, they came back to the temple, and found Siddha sitting happily. Siddha said to them, `Without believing in God, you went to ask for alms. When I was meditating upon Shiva, the priest came here with the offerings (food, fruits etc). Having dedicated the offerings to God, he kept them here. You all are hungry now. I have kept the food for you'. Then all the three after having the food, they spent the night there. When they got up from bed, they both said to Siddha, `O Siddhanath, we are ignorant. Our mind turns out to be fickle. Searching a Sadguru is difficult. So we can't move. At home our caring parents are worried about our absence and often remember us'. Siddha said to them, `Well, the people who are on the path of searching a Sadguru have to face a number of hardships. The people who are aware of body conscious find it very difficult. Therefore you have no *adhikaratva* now. You go home. Lead a mundane life but inwardly worship Lord *Ishwar* with love and affection. Then you will become *adhikaris* Hearing the wise words of Siddhamuni and saluting Him, both Bheema and Soma returned to their village. From there, Siddha went in search of a Sadguru. Here, Shivadas dedicates the 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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