

Chapter 37
***Darshana* of saints enables one to**
gain liberation in a second

Having lost all his bondage, he
became a Yateesh.

Those, who have taken the Darshan
of Master particularly qualified
possessed self knowledge.

Nectar in the form of Upadesha is a
drinking for listeners.

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Kathamrita

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O Supreme Lord, I salute You. We, the ignorant do not understand Your greatness. You are like the ship to cross us from the ocean of mundane existence. We will cross the ocean of bhava (the cycle of births and deaths) with your assistance. We know that You have incarnated in the human form for us. If You neglect us, who is there to protect us? I believe that there is none to protect except You. Therefore, we have surrendered to You completely. We sing Your fame. We see You in our hearts and we meditate upon You. We live in Your holy presence and come to Your sacred place everyday. We chant Your *Naam* and we are not even afraid of the God of Death. Give us the company of the saints and sages, let our mind be at Your Lotus-like feet and make us indifferent to body, house etc. We do not beg anything more than this. A man, who is in the association of good people is verily blessed. All pleasures and four *Muktis* (liberations) fall at His Feet. Company of the good is the ocean of happiness. *Satsanga* itself removes all the bondages. Knowledge (jnana) can be acquired immediately by *Satsanga* (company of good people). *Satsang* itself is the form of self realisation. Both Iswar and Parvati know the glory of such *Satsanga*. Its glory is indescribable. One must attain self-realisation by keeping the company of good people. The difficulties, that one faces for *Satsanga* will be dedicated naturally to Brahma. The kind Sadguru will give knowledge.

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Well, there was a clever brahmin in the holy place called Haridwar. Krishna was the only son to him. While he was reading the Ramayan by Tulasidas, his son used to listen to him. He would hear the stories of the saints and the sages. So, he had a great admiration for the saints and he wished to serve them. Having heard the story of Kabiradas who was a great devotee of the saints, he shed tears and he decided to be like him. He would go to the Ganga and serve the saints there. He spent most of his time with them. Forgetting his studies, he served them in many ways. Seeing this, his parents were greatly worried. His parents often told him to continue his education but he did not lend ears to them. If he met any sages, he would bring them home for lunch. Once, the father said to Krishna, 'Do not bring the saints to the house. If you bring them, thus, I'll send them out' The son was worried and he could not sleep that night.

Once, he went to the river bank and saw a saint lying on the ground. He enquired of him and the saint said, 'I didn't find any food and I don't eat rice. I protect my body by drinking milk only. I don't take any other food except milk'. Krishna went home and found no milk there. This worried him much, He, then, stole some money from his father's pocket to buy milk for the saint. He bought some milk from the market. The father saw Krishna giving milk to the sage and asked him, 'Where did you bring milk

from?' Krishna answered, 'The sage was dying of starvation. I stole your money and bought milk for him' Krishna's words enraged the father and he thrashed him badly. Having taken him to his house, he tied him to the pillar. At that time, Krishna was worried about the saint. He said to himself, 'Who gives milk

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to him? If he doesn't get milk to drink, he will die. O Sri Ram, if you released me, having sold my body, I would buy milk and give it to the saint'. Speaking thus, he began to cry. Krishna saw the same saint standing near him. Sadhu embraced him lovingly. He said to Krishna, 'Don't worry about anything. I will live with you daily and I'll liberate you in a suitable time' Then, Krishna said, 'O Father, keep me with you. Your service gives me immense happiness' While saying this, he was shedding tears. He said again, 'O kind one, don't leave me here'. The saint assured him that everything would be all right. Soon, the saint disappeared and there itself Sri Ram manifested

himself. Light appeared everywhere. Krishna Saw Sri Ram in the middle of the divine light.

Having seen such a beautiful form, Krishna was engrossed in bliss. Forgetting his body- conscious, he immersed himself in the form of Sri Ram. Then, Sri Ram said, 'Child, you see me because of the good deeds done in the past life. I've come to see your firm devotion at the feet of the saints. You've no other interest except the saints and the sages. You are going to attain sainthood shortly. Be in the service of the saints until then. If you chant my name continuously, I will be always with you' Having said these gracious words, he disappeared from the scene. The father came suddenly and embraced his son, Krishan lovingly and said, 'What brilliance on your face! Do as you like the most from today onwards. I don't obstruct you but you should be at home' Hearing the words of his father, Krishna jumped with joy. Krishna treated the saints well as usual. The father got him married forcibly when he was 16. Krishna was at home for a year.

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One day, a saint met Krishna and preached him vairagya (dispassion). After hearing his advice, he attained intense dispassion. Without informing anybody, he left the father, the mother and the wife and went with the saint. They visited many holy places and finally they came to Kashi (now Benaras). There, they went to a saint and began to serve him. Krishna prayed him and said, 'I have no one with me and give me *sanyas-deeksha* (saint investiture with the sacred thread). He gave him *sanyas deeksha*, advised pranava mantra in the ear and named him Govindananda. After some days, taking the permission of his Guru, he went on pilgrimage and came to Dwaraka. There, a saint named Shivananda met him. Shivananda said to Govindananda, 'Siddharudha, Shiva incarnate lives in Hubballi. I'm His disciple. He is fond of me. I collect the articles, things etc. from different places and I supply them for the festivals held at Siddhasrama in Hubballi. The festivals are conducted during the months of Magha and *Shravana* every year. At that time, they worship Sadguru on a grand scale. Sadguru is very kind. He always gives happiness to his devotees. He protects his devotees who are in trouble. He is called the protector of the poor. If one sees him once, one's mind will become calm. He is composed in mind, His face shines with divine brilliance. He removes *tapatrayas* (three troubles) by his mere darshan' Hearing the words of Shivananda, Govindananda made up his mind to meet Sadguru.

He left for Hubballi from Dwaraka. He came to Siddhasrama at midnight. All were asleep. At the

same time, Sadguru came out unexpectedly. Govindananda was pleased to see him and asked, `O Maharaj, tell me where Siddharudha

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is. Sadguru said, `You are very hungry. Come inside the *matha*.' Having heard this, He said to himself. `How did he understand that, I was hungry without asking my past and future?' Sadguru took him by holding his hand and woke up one of the disciples and ordered him to give food to Govindananda. Sadguru said to the disciple, `He has been fasting for the past three days.' Govindananda told them that he could not eat without darshan of Siddharudha. Then, the disciple said to him, `O Saint, this is Siddharudha Sadguru' Saying thus, he pointed out to Siddha Sadguru. Govindananda fell at the feet of Sadguru and said, `O kind Sadgurunatha, I'm just a servant but how you worry about me! What

Shivananda said about you, I really see it now. All of a sudden, I came here and you show me so much of love but I don't deserve it. I'm ignorant at your Lotus Feet' Speaking thus, he again fell at the feet of Sadguru. The disciples searched for the fruits everywhere but they did not find. Knowing this, Siddharudha said, 'It's something like this that once, Durvas came to the Parnakuteer of Dharmaraya at night for the meals. At that time, Draupadi prayed to Krishna but here who should I surrender to? Govindananda replied, 'One should surrender to oneself' Siddharudha went out with a laugh on His face and soon came back with a *dhoti* in hand. He opened it and there were a variety of fruits. Nobody knew where he brought them from. Govindananda knew that Siddharudha was Iswar incarnate. All went to bed safter eating fruits.

Next day, Sadguru said, 'O Govindananda, be here (live here) and give us your holy companionship` He said to Sadguru, 'I had merits done in my previous births. So I took Your darshan. I don't leave the service of Your holy Feet till

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my death' I pray to You, 'To
describe your fame and greatness in
the country, I need pure intellect.
Please give that one' Then,
Govindananda Paramhansa stood
to narrate the fame of Sadguru. The
listeners were greatly impressed by
the way he described. All shed the
tears of joy. Thus, good and wise
men came to Siddharudha from
different corners of the country and
took darshan of Siddhanath. Once
they came here, they were hesitant
to go back to their places. As
Siddharudha Sadguru was visibly
Parameshwar incarnate. Adhikaris
(deserving devotees) came to
Hubballi in search of Sadguru. All
the rivers at last join the ocean.
Similarly, all the great men join
Siddharudha who is the ocean of
mercy. He gives others water in the
form of happiness. The mind of the
listeners gets happiness by listening
to the life-story of the saints.
Therefore, today I have become a
promoter of this delightful story.
Here Shivadas dedicates the thirty
seventh chapter of 'Sri
Siddharudha Kathamrita' at the
Lotus feet of Sri Siddharudha,
which burns all the sins by just
hearing.

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