



DR SHOBHA RAJU

The sign of humility & equality World learning to say Namasthe

I was in the third and fourth standards. A drama company in our colony used to rehearse different dramas. I used to get engrossed in their rehearsals.

Once, they were rehearsing "Sri Seetha Ramanjaneya Yuddham". Poems are very important in dramas based on epics. By virtue of my grasping power, I learnt all the poems. I used to sing them for my mother after coming back from rehearsals. My mother used to explain the meanings of the poems to me.

It was the battle scene. Rama asks Anjaneya to leave Yayati Raju to Him as He promised saint Viswamitra that He would punish Yayati Raju for offending the saint. But by then Anjaneya would have given word to His own mother, Anjana Devi, that He would protect Yayati from being killed. So Anjaneya politely refuses to hand over Yayati.

In the above context, there are a lot of famous and interesting poems. In one of the poems, Rama

quotes all the instances in which, He helped Anjaneya. In another poem, Anjaneya also quotes all the instances, in which He helped Rama.

As a girl of six/seven years, I felt it was not in good taste to boast of the helps each did to each other, though they were saying the facts.

Later as a girl of fourteen/fifteen years, I saw "Sri Seetha Ramanjaneya Yuddham" directed by Sri Babu. In this too, I didn't relish Rama quoting instances in which He helped Anjaneya and asked Him to relieve Yayati. Rama was all-powerful yet very humble all the times. In this scene, he appeared to be a bit different. I empathised with Anjaneya, who also quotes instances in which He helped Rama. But he quotes in a subdued tone that is always filled with devotion to Rama and with the repentance. Repentance is for having given a word to His mother Anjana Devi, in the name of Rama Himself, that He would save Yayati, - not knowing that Rama

has already given a word to Viswamitra to punish Yayati.

However much one might contribute or help the other or however much meritorious one could be, if one boasts of his help or merit boisterously, it will not be in good taste. As a kid and as a teenager I felt it.

I wrote an application once again to the then CM in 1996, requesting him to allot an extent of land to Annamacharya Bhavana Vahini. It was perused by a High Court Judge. He said, "We appreciate the reason why you want it. But you didn't strengthen your request by mentioning your service, awards, merits and all". As I expressed my sensitivity to write about myself, he said, "That's why you are not getting your due. You must talk about yourself. Otherwise, how do the people know?".

Listening to his elaborate reasoning to write about myself, I started to attempt. Right from the beginning, something within me started feeling very uncomfortable. I was of nature from childhood that



while I help others, I create a feeling in them that I am being helped by them. My love & concern for them would be so. Somehow, I completed writing about myself.

The next day Poornanna, our Rakhee brother came to our house. Just to gain moral support, I showed the letter to him. "Is this the Shobhamma, I know, who wrote this letter? She is very humble. Won't boast. What's this?" He said, shocked. I was dead for a while listening to his comments. "It feels repulsive when one talks of one's own achievements. You get a negative result", he said. He was echoing my thoughts. As a child, as a teenager and as an adult (me in three different stages of age), felt it be not in good taste to boast about one's own self, be it, Gods or humans.

A realised soul cannot be egoistic for he sees entire creation as one whole. Whom are we looking down when the whole creation is one? Those who do not have a holistic approach to humanity is not a

Sanatanist (one who practices Sanatana Dharma). Dear Readers! I was much relieved when I came to know that the scene of "Sri Ramanjaneya Yuddham" isn't there in original Ramayanam written by saint Valmiki. It's added later in different versions of Ramayanam just to emphasize the importance of Ramanama and Bhakti (Devotion). As Rama shoots the most formidable "Rama banam" (arrow of Rama), Hanuman sits in meditation chanting the sacred name of Rama as Rama Nama is more powerful than Rama banam.

Our Sanatana Dharma is the most valuable and has much science behind it. We are all very proud (humbly) about it. But in this hour of unprecedented crisis, when Carona is threatening the world, if the foreign leaders adopted "Namasthe", it could be a matter of pleasantness to us.

In this toughest time of Carona, it was so heartening to see the foreign leaders greeting each other with "Namasthe" instead of shaking hands. Lo! Entire social

media went berserk. Even I did. Trump of USA, Leo Varadkar of Ireland, Prince Charles of Britain, Emmanuel Macron of France, Netanyahu of Israel and so many world leaders greeting each other with our "Namasthe"!

There is a great percentage of good in our culture and tradition. There is something great in other systems also. Let us share. Let us prove our systems through experiments and establish their values. Our philosophies shouldn't be confined to the dais and TV shows. It should shine in practical application. How do I wish our ancestors had explained the rationality and science behind our rituals? They were just asked to follow blindly. When the questions were dealt like arrogance and most of the times had no answers, the rituals were looked down like dead habits.

Namasthe is truly a sign of humility and equality! Not of arrogance. Namasthe!

(Author is a well-known musician, Devotional singer, writer and composer.) **TN**