

DR SHOBHA RAJU

God isn't human to be blind to heart Let's not pinch and praise Him simultaneously

Imay call you moon, but there is a stain in it.

I may call you sun, but there is fire in it.

I can only tell you, that I love you!

(Translation of a stanza from a popular Bollywood Hindi song, "E mera Prem patr padhkarke tum naaraaz naa hona", the essence of which would have been quoted by every lover).

While quoting this to one's lover, if the one twists her hand to dying pain, how paradoxical is that?

It's similar to singing praises to God, like singing "Soundarya Lahari" (Adi Shankara's poetic praises to Beauty of Divine Mother) while in practicality, causing pain and stress to a good human being by bad-mouthing about him/her or by cheating or by discrimination or by hating or being jealous of him/her and so on. It amounts that paradoxical behaviour because God is all life. His closest image is the human not the idol of stone.

If any practical problem is there with anyone, we can deal with him wisely, without any hatred. But to harbour negative feelings against as if an enemy doesn't help us anyway, contrarily it is more injurious to us than to him.

So these paradoxical prayers won't allow the Universe to heal, as our prayer is both positive and negative. Positive while we sing or praise Him, negative because we cause pain to fellow humans simultaneously. It's like pleasing & causing pain to Him simultaneously.

Take any traditional chant, like "Vishnu Sahasra Namam", or "Lalitha Sahasranam". "Vishnu Sahasranamam" starts with the shlokam, "Vishwam Vishnu...." meaning..The One Who permeates the whole universe..". Entire chants if summarized, will be the all-pervading character of The God. Take "Lalitha Sahasranamam" the essence is that she is all pervadingenergy and lives in all beings.

If that be the case, how can we sing His/Her Glory and cause pain

to Him/Her by causing pain to fellow beings? After all the universe is the body of the Supreme Soul. How can the universe comply with our prayers? This message is conveyed to us in different ways in different times by different saints.

"Brahmamokkate Parabrahmamokkate" is a folk song composed by Saint Annamayya, the first and fore most saint composer of South India. When I was appointed as the first ever artiste for the exclusive propagation of Annamacharya Sankeertanas by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthnams, I picked up this Sankeertana, in the first lot Sankeertanas to be propagated. I started to sing "Brahmamokkate Parabrahmamo kkate" first though the song starts like, "Tandanana Ahi, Tandanana pure, Tandanana Bhala, Tandanana". I wanted to highlight the central theme of the song by starting with the later portion of 'Pallavi'. That has become a tradition now to sing that way. The meaning of "Brahmamokkate Parabrahmamokkate" is that the Consciousness in all the beings is one! Whole of the song is stuffed with the message that the indwelling spirit in all is one and the same.

People liked it so much that they wouldn't let me go without singing that song. They dance to the song fondly. But rarely any body bothered to know the essence of it. Even if they try and know, they are not inclined to heed to Annamayya's message practically. They keep their sense of discrimination in tact. It's obvious that they just like the kick of the tune.

How can the universe accept this prayer of lips alone where heart has no voice?

This epidemic is the result of collective Karma. Unless we all pray with heart, we don't know when the prayer works in totality. What do you think of yourself Carona? Do you think you have conquered us? Can you ever conquer our ego? Our jealousy? Our hatred? Our discrimination?

In reality, unless we conquer all these negative passions, our prayer is not complete. It will not be understood by the universe in totality as is in the case of a little - known foreign language.

Prayer has to be specific and hearty. When we have wronged to the universe and nature, the prayer has to start with realising our mistakes followed by repenting for the same, asking for pardon, assuring no repetition of the mistake and praying for the relief, all in a progression.

When someone awfully wronged towards you and comes back to you saying, "I love you, you are great", will you entertain him/Her? No. You expect a realisation. A repentance. A sincere sorry. An assurance that the mistake will not be repeated followed by a request to be pardoned. Later you wish to hear the praises. Then you cool down. Universe also expects the same from us. We all collectively have to do the process "Dil se" (heartily) for coming out of this pandemic.

Existence made me to write and compose a prayer song for the world to sing in chorus.

> "Govinda! Rakshamam



Caronataha" - this is the refrain of the song which has transformed into a Parama Mantra. Unconsciously it was so composed that it was stuffed with many Beejaksharas (Certain syllables, the sound vibes of which have extraordinary effects when chanted).

The meaning of the song, which I composed in Telugu:

This is our prayer. God! Pls grant! Drive away this darkness and remove the fear.

Govinda! Protect us from Carona!

You gave us beautiful nature! We tested the patience of Mother Earth. We committed

crimes against the five elements.

Repentance is the relieving self punishment. Pardon us! After all, we are your children!

Govinda! Protect us from Carona!

However effectively it's taught that "Parabrahmam" (Consciousness) is ONE, we just happily sing the message without least effort to put it in practice. Selfishness, hatred, vulnerability to body's organs won't allow us behave like a human.

God! Please pardon us for this

one time one time! We'll love everyone!

Govinda! Protect us from Carona

Dear readers please check the following link for the song in YouTube and you may join us in this World Prayer for relief from Covid-19: https://youtu.be/Z2h4B1x-8k

There are thousands of Annamayya Sankeertanas which are equivalent to Mantras. They all do help in relieving us

from this pandemic. But the secret is - universe needs a specific prayer to react totally and speedily. Inspired by Him, I did what my Guru Annamayya would have sung, if He were to be present during this testing time.

I was divinely directed to chant the refrain of the song prefixing the Beeiaksharas ofSudarshana Mantra. After singing the song, you may also please chant the refrain:

"Om Sreem Hreem Kleem Govinda! Rakshamam Caronataha"

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