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DR SHOBHA RAJU

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE OF THE DIVINE

66God! God! Will You please see that i tide over this difficulty? I'll be ever grateful to you. I'll not commit any sin hear after...please please...I'll put ten thousand rupees in your Hundi.", Gajendra, a common person like you and me was pleading. God didn't respond. He held his head with his hand and was sitting before a portrait of his deity - dejected.

He promised to return fifty thousand rupees in a month to Venkat from whom he took the loan. One year passed. Every time he gave a pretext to Venkat. Observing his indifferent attitude to return the money, Venkat got enraged and filed a case against Gajendra. He won the case and the judgement came from the court that Gajendra would be imprisoned for five years if he didn't pay the money to Venkat within a week. The next day, Saturday, would be the last day to pay.

Suddenly there was a knock on the door. Gajendra got up slowly



and opened the door. Lo! Govindu! His childhood bosom friend from L. K. G. to tenth standard was in front of him. They hugged each other with immense fondness. Govindu returned from USA after five years.

After a course of hearty chat, Govindu asked, "When are you getting married?" Grief-stricken Gajendra was in tears. Govindu was moved by his tears. Gajendra spoke about his grave situation. Govindu put his hand around his friend's shoulder and said, "I am there for you. I will give you fifty thousand rupees. Don't worry". He wrote a check for fifty thousand and gave to Gajendra. Gajendra hugged Govindu gratefully. "At any cost, I will return your money in six months", he promised to Govindu. "That's fine. Please go to bank to withdraw the money before it closes. I am leaving to my village today. Will catch up with you on phone and meet you again before I

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leave to USA", said Govindu and left.

Gajendra withdrew fifty thousand from bank. He drove his bike towards the house of Venkat. Half way through, he got a different idea. He met Venkat and gave him only five thousand rupees and said, "Please accept this and withdraw Next day Govindu called him to find out weather he could pay off the loan. Gajendra didn't take his calls. In a week, Gajendra spent all forty five thousand rupees for bar etcetera.

Govindu came to meet him before leaving to USA. Gajendra bluffed to him convincingly that as



the case. Trust me. I will pay five thousand every month and return total amount in ten months". He pleaded very intensely. Venkat took pity on crying Gajendra and accepted his proposal.From Venkat's place, Gajendra went straight to a bar. Couple of his friends were already there. He did his usual course of action. He got boozed up. he came out with the bag of money from the bank and was about to sit on the bike, two goons came on bike, snatched his bag and rode off! In that shock, he forgot to notice the number of the vehicle. Gajendra's crocodile tears earned him fifty thousand more.

Govindu said that he was leaving to USA the same evening

as there was some urgency in his office and promised to be in touch with Gajendra regularly.

Gajendra went to Venkat, paid five thousand again and went straight to bar from there. Again he was empty handed within no time.

After a few days the police arrested Gajendra and he ended up in prison.

One day he happened to see Anjayya, Govindu's father, who came to visit his friend in the prison. "How is Govindu Babay (Uncle)? It was very nice to see him after a long time", said Gajendra. "When and where did you see Govindu? He sent tickets for me and your Chinnamma (aunty) to go to America as he is not able to come ever since he left". Their talk proved that Govindu never came to India. Anjayya said that his son called him two months ago to tell him that a lakh of rupees were drawn from his India account without his knowledge. He said, "Lord Venkateswara took one lakh from Govindu as he promised to put the same amount in His Hundi (a bag in which devotees offer monetary gifts to God) after he got a job. As it was four years long time, Venkateswara knew how to take his money".

"So who was it? God Himself?" Gajendra was thinking as he got goosebumps! He remembered his appeal and the promise he made before Balaji's portrait after the court judgment.

God's compassion and human's cunningness make their ways even in impossibility. When does man realize the grace of God, transform himself positively and be grateful to The Divine?

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