



DR SHOBHA RAJU

SILENCE

Is not just the absence of noise

“चतिरं वटतरोर्मूले वृद्धाः
शषिया गुरुर्युवा
गुरोस्तु मौनं व्याख्यानं
शषियास्तुच्छनिनसंशयाः”

Amazing! Under the banyan tree, there are disciples who are old and Guru, who is young. The Guru is giving the commentary of silence and the disciples' doubts are cleared. The Guru is Dakshina Moorti!

This is an allegoric picture, a sharpened spiritual vision could see. The Guru, with exalted spiritual maturity and the disciples, with sharpened spiritual perception. The language of communication between them is -Silence!

True. When the intellect is cleansed of all the thought-pollution, it will be endowed with a higher faculty of grasping in silence without any verbal teaching. But the Guru also should be of a high order, like Dakshina Murthy, who could impart

knowledge with the medium of instruction - silence!

Shiridi Baba quotes an anecdote. A mother tortoise is on a side of river-bank. Her young ones are on the other side of the river. The mother tortoise feeds her young ones just by the glance of love as



the young ones look at her earnestly. The young ones get energized. Here there is no food involved. Just the connection of minds in silence, is working this wonder.

I do not know about the tortoises. But I am sure of The Guru's silent working.

At Annamayyapuram, there will be a concert of Annamacharya Keertanas every Saturday. Once, an artiste sang “Vadala vadala venta”. I was thinking of the thought in the song. Just closed my eyes. Went into a field where there was no buzz of thoughts. Enjoyed the true silence.

The concert was over. The volunteer called me to speak. I went to the podium without any preparation. As I focused on giving out the gist of the song, “Vadala vadala venta”, the wonderful thoughts that were totally new to myself, just poured in. Till that moment, I was not at all aware of those interesting points I expressed so creatively. Sometimes, the language supports so fluently to express the thoughts. It was one such occasion.



“What is this magic?” I was questioning myself. It was the magic of silence, the beautiful field I went into, prior to my talk.

This is the reason, Silence has a great importance in spirituality. We have “Mounis” (The saints who observe silence). We have “Mouna Vratam” (The austerity of being silent). All the VEDIC knowledge was revealed to our ancient Rishis who were engrossed in silence, which we call “Tapas”, (Penance). When our subtle identity is con-

him angrily to go to school. Taking advantage of his mother’s “Mouna Vratam”, the boy was shouting at the top of his voice that he would not. The lady was carrying the vessel of water into her house. As the boy shouted, she poured all the water on the boy, fuming with anger. An elaborate mime drama of anger was staged later.

Of what use is that “Mouna Vratam”? Silence of emotions is the purpose of “Mouna Vratam”. Instead, if we just shut our mouths

carry on life. But to express subtle substance of ourselves and to realize the dimension beyond physicality, we do need extra and sincere observance of silence.

The silence The Dawn speaks is very eloquent. Let’s observe that art, The Existence draws on the canvas of silence, everyday....Let’s gaze into the Milky Way...every star sings a song of silence Every brook makes a sweet noise but that enhances the density of silence. Every breeze has its own musical composition. We can feel it as it touches us...as it touches a tree. As the flower blooms, a subtle “Sitar tarf” is there. Silence emerges out of observation of nature in absoluteness. That silence quotes our being with a grace. A person may have perfect features, figure and complexion. But is not appealing without this inner quoting.

“హౌనముగానే మనసు పాడిన

వేణుగానమును వింటిలే”

(I could listen to the song of flute, the heart has sung silently)...Very profound thought! Yes....Silence is the sweetest Music! I fondly remember, a dance teacher and a regular visitor to Annamayyapuram, late Raghu saying, “However much high pitch one sings in or however much loudly one sings here, only silence is heard” (referring to a music concert at Annamayyapuram). That’s because much silence was created in Annamayyapuram.

Silence is the life at Prashanti Nilayam of Puttaparthi.

Let’s gaze in silence, the depth of Keats’ “Heard melodies are sweet, but the unheard are sweeter”.

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



nected to Cosmos, ...much flows into us. All the VEDIC knowledge, which is in our reach, is through such process only. That’s why Vedas are called “Apourusheyam” (Unspoken). They were just heard in silence and in the medium of silence. They are a bit distorted when they were conveyed in physical sounds.

I have seen some people observing “Mouna Vratam”. They keep their mouth shut but engage in more aggressive methods of communication. A boy was asking for a bicycle and was refusing to go to school. His mother was drawing water from the well. She signaled

and indulge in more violent ways of communication, it causes more damage to the sensitive substance within us and in due course we loose, that grace, which silence creates in us. All the “Chakras” (Energy Centers) in us get disturbed. A person is as much a disturbed person as his “Chakras” are. A person is as much graceful as his Chakras are nourished with silence. Our face gives out our inner picture to those who have the yogic perception.

Every one of us have sufficient dose of silence as an endowment from nature in the form of sleep. That’s enough if rightly utilized, to