

Experiences with my Guruji

Translation of the talk (in Hindi) given on Guruji's Birthday

by: Pandit Satyavan Mishra

I came to Delhi looking for a lecturer's job in the Lal Bahadur Shastri University. I had done my PhD and decided to do teaching work. After the formalities of the application, I was called for an interview. When I reached there, I realized that there was no job for me here. But in the interview room I met the principal and our beloved Swamiji sitting next to him. At the end of the interview I was very dejected to know that I will not be getting anything here.

As I was leaving, Swamiji Hariharji called me. He asked me, whether I was looking for a job. He asked, "*Naukar Banega, Naukeri Karega*". Will you be a servant? He was referring to the lecturing job I had applied. He further said, "*Main tere ko Malik banonga*". Meaning I will make you a master. I did not understand what Guruji meant at that time. He further continued and told me, "If you are going to work here you will be teaching students between the ages of 15 - 25. You come with me and you will have the chance to teach people from 9 to 90 years." I did not think twice and decided to follow Maharajji. That same day I became a member of the Geeta Ashram.

The Geeta Ashram family was expanding and more Ashrams were coming up in various parts of India as well as other countries. Swamiji regularly attended the Ardh Kumb held at Prayag (Allahabad, Uttarpradesh). Prayagji is a place of special significance for us, as it is a holy city on the banks of river Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati. The Ardh Kumbh Mela is held in the Magh or the Winter months. It is extremely cold during this period. On the top of it, camps are made at the banks of the river, in open air. That makes living here more challenging in the month of the Kumbh.



Swamiji was a regular at the Mela. The caretakes of the Ashram there was not very reliable. Once Swamiji asked one of the senior monks at the Ashram to go to Prayag for Ardh Kumbh. As was instructed, the monk proceeded with Rs.20,000. When he reached there, he established a small place. The caretaker did not take this nicely. He scared the monk, saying that there was trouble brewing at the Kumbh and it was best for him to leave the place and return to Delhi. The monk believed the caretaker's words and returned back to the Ashram.

Maharajji was conducting a *satsang* when the monk arrived. Maharajji asked him, why he had returned. He told the incidents that made him return. At that point of time, Maharajji put a question to the audience. "Who is not scared to die?" All heads were down. Nobody was establishing eye contact with Maharajji. Maharajji turned his attention towards me. I was scared but I saw and felt the comfort in Maharajji's eyes. I said, "I am not scared to die".

Maharajji then instructed me to go to Prayag Raj.

I stayed there for a month. Upon my return I brought back Rs.65000 from the Mela. When I handed over the collection to Maharajji, He asked me jokingly, “Where did you get so much money? Did you rob somebody?” We had a hearty laugh. I replied that this was the collection. Swamiji said that it was the first time in so many years that money came back and that all this while, money was only going out. He congratulated and blessed me. He further said that, there are two Ashrams that have been established by him. One is at Mathura and other is at Prayaag. He said, he loved these two Ashrams very much. He told me that the condition of the Ashram at Mathura was not very good. He was looking for someone strong to take over the Ashram. I was told to proceed to Mathura.

At Mathura when I took over, things were really in bad shape. There was not enough food to eat also. Monkeys were a constant problem and used to take over the food that I cooked and brought. The five years I spent there was a period of constant penance. However, I could always feel the blessings of Maharajji with me and felt a certain peace and happiness. Maharajji always entrusted me with those things that

were dear to him. The Ashram at Mathura was dear to his heart, as he had spent many years there meditating. I felt honoured to take charge of the Ashram there.

Even now, as I have been posted to Malaysia, I feel honoured since the Kuala Lumpur Ashram has been the first Geeta Ashram outside India. I feel that it is his blessings that I have got another first in my life. I thank the Secretariat, Committee Members and all devotees for having that faith in me by giving me an opportunity to serve the Ashram .

I can still feel Maharajji's blessing - even today. Though Maharajji is not in his physical body, I am very sure that he is around us always. There is *Ganga Jal* near the statue of Maharajji. I can say here with total conviction, that if any one cleans Maharajji's eyes with *Ganga Jal* and chants the *Guru Mantra* twenty times, then within 3 days, he/she can see the benign difference within himself/herself.

I thank you all again and know that Maharajji will bless each and every one of us here. A happy *Holi* on this occasion.

Hari Om Tat Sat

(Translated By: Shri Suresh Kumar Ranga)