



The Sweetness I Seek

Shri. P. Venkat Rangan

Shri. P. Venkat Rangan—the vice chancellor of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Amma’s Deemed-University, and a professor of computer science at the University of California, San Diego, U.S.A.—explains how he has been transformed by Amma’s love, compassion and selflessness.

It was an early morning day of the first week of July 2001 in San Diego, California. My family and I had been preparing frantically to leave for India to set up the Bangalore Development Centre for the company I had founded. As soon as I got out of bed, I noticed a fairly big garden lizard in our room, and my wife screamed just looking at its outward ferocity. The garden lizard looked as though it was ready to pounce on us any minute. We had just returned from Amma’s California retreat, and Amma’s message of love was fresh in my mind. I calmed myself, brought an empty briefcase, opened it and kept it in one corner. I then loudly spoke to the garden lizard: “I love you. I will not harm you. Please get into the briefcase and I will take you to the eucalyptus grove outside.

You are also an embodiment of Amma, hence we love you.” To our immense surprise, the garden lizard immediately started going towards the briefcase, got into it, and waited for me to close the briefcase. I did so, took it and left it outside. For the whole day, I was awestruck at Amma’s immanence in all beings, and how Amma’s love can instantly transform even the most unfriendly and non-cooperative creatures.

I first met Amma in the summer of 1992 in Los Angeles. My father, Dr. K. Prasanna Kumar, had begun Amma’s *satsang* in Mysore, and had strongly advised me that I should go and have Amma’s *darshan*. As I was sitting in front of Amma, an amazing observation struck me: within 30 seconds, each and every one of the 30-plus qualities that Lord

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Shri Krishna mentions in the *Bhagavad Gita* as being evidential proof of a Supreme Master of God-realization shine forth instantaneously from Amma. For example, equanimity towards all beings, whether Brahmin or a dog, gold or mud, richest of the rich or the poorest of the poor, etc. In fact, if one carefully observes some of the videos about Amma's programmes, there are numerous occasions in which Amma gives darshan to a VVIP and immediately thereafter gives the same darshan to the VVIP's bodyguard as well.

Since my family's first darshan in 1992, we have had numerous instances of direct experience of Amma's omniscience and omnipotence. At the same time, Amma is the Divine Mother with unparalleled compassion and sweetness. Whenever we have any problem—physical, mental, intellectual or spiritual, we run to Amma. In observing myself, it is clear beyond doubt that almost all of the situations, problems or crises that I get into are all the result of my own unintelligent or thoughtless actions, and every time, Amma lifts me up from the morass that my own mind creates for myself. Not once does She ask why we did a particular wrong action. She pardons us with unconditional love and gives us a fresh boost at every step as we walk in this world filled with challenges.

Two months ago, in Silicon Valley (California), as we were explaining about the CEO/Leadership Summit for India's development to be held during Amma's Birthday Celebrations in Cochin, one of the corporate executives present there asked in surprise: What is the relationship between Amma, a world-renowned Spiritual Master and the development of India's people? To this came the follow-

ing beautiful reply from one of Amma's devotees (that instantly satisfied the inquisitive executive): Who else can know better about all of the peoples' problems and their solutions than Amma who has personally embraced 21 million people, has individually heard their sorrows, has removed their sorrows, and made each one of them happy. Clearly, Her understanding surpasses that of all other leaders of this mundane world, and no one can be more qualified than Her to be a global leader and teacher—i.e., to be our *Jagat-Guru*.

Amma is not only our Spiritual Master but is also the giver of all of the fruits of our actions in the material world. She gives us our family, physical well-being, intellectually satisfying profession, understanding, love and joy in what we do, and in fact, She gives us everything. Whenever we offer an action unto Amma, Amma gives back results that enrich our life many, many fold. What to say if the actions take the form of *seva*, or selfless service? Amma Herself is a role model in all aspects of life. Sometimes I have wondered, why does God need our *seva* (in any form: time, money, efforts, etc.) if He is all-powerful and all-merciful? As Amma points out, *seva* is really one of the surest ways for our mental purification.

However, there are many noble avenues for doing *seva*. Why not choose any organization to do my *seva*? Definitely not—since, honestly speaking, from a purely personal point of view, my end goal is not *seva*, but is immortality and bliss. And this, only Amma can give, as She is *Amrita-Ananda-Mayi*, the very Source of Immortal Sweetness.

We are now witnessing the re-enactment of Lord Shri Krishna's *leela* [play] on earth. Only that, this time around, the most merciful Lord Almighty has descended to earth in the form of our most-beloved Amma. On this occasion of the 50th year of this glorious Incarnation, let us humbly pray to Amma, to physically, mentally, intellectually and spiritually be with us until we merge into Her.