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Jagadguru
Sri Om Adisakthiyendra Swamigal

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Sri Om

By
Sri Om Gnanasakthiyendra Swamigal

Translated into English by Mr. B. C. Ramaswamy

Foreword

This book aims to give a clear and concise history of the life of Sri Om Panchasakthi Peedathipathi, Sri Om Adisakthiyendra Swamigal, so that everyone can understand his greatness. In the pages within, if everyone follows our Sadguru's teachings about the qualities of simplicity, single-mindedness, and purity, as well as bhakthi, we can all try to attain the vision of Sri Om Adisakthi Devi. His Holiness Sri Om Adisakthiyendra Swamigal provides blessings to all.



Sri Om Adisakthiyendra Swamigal

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3. Dwapara yuga : Sunset of commerce and wealth
4. Kaliyuga : The midnight of man.

The 4 yugas are not is equal duration. The puranas give their duration in years. They are in proportion of 4:3:2:1. That means the length of Kaliyuga is 1/4th of Kritha Yuga.

1. Kaliyuga : 1
2. Dwaparayuga : 2
3. Tretha Yuga : 3
4. Krutha Yuga : 4

10 which is called "Mahayuga"

The total of the 4 yugas thus amounts to 10 times the length of Kaliyuga. The period of time is called Mahayuga by the puranas. This is also called by the Bhagavath Geetha as the "Yuga of Goda" and 4000 such years constitutes as one "Devine yuga" or "Day of Brahma" or one cycle of creation of Brahma, the universal life principle.

The kaliyuga, began at past midnight on the 18th of February 3102 B.C. as per the Rais Chakra called 1st point of Mesha (Aries).

(Adopted from the "Treatise on Hindusim" by Dr. Veda Vyas)

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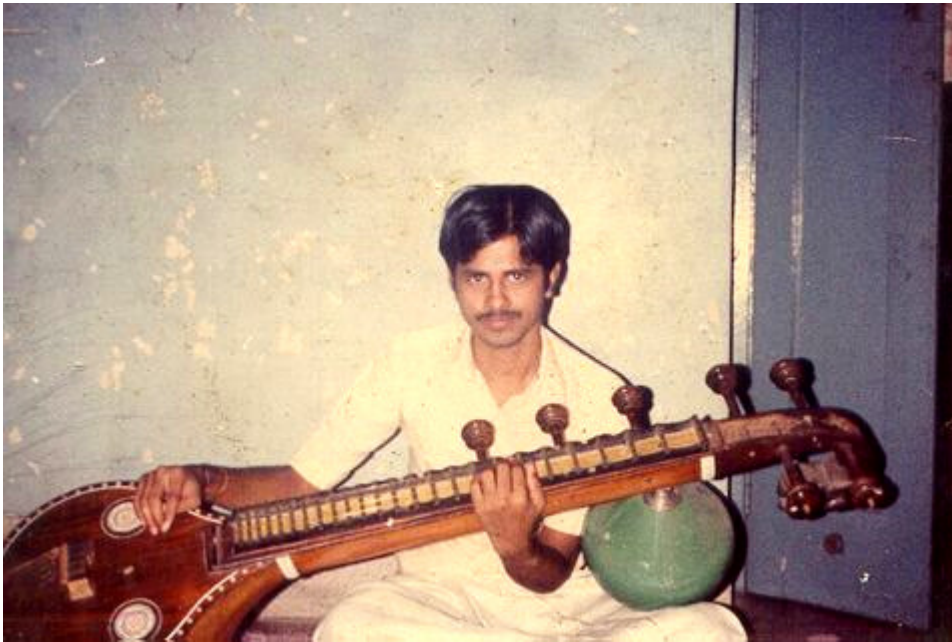
The Sacred day of Incarnation

Lord Sri Krishna had proclaimed in Srimad Bhagavath Geetha that he will be incarnating in every yuga* and similarly it is said in Vedas that great sages incarnate in every yuga for the benedictions of the world and to preach the eternal truth. Accordingly His Holiness Sri Om Adi Shakthiyendra Swamigal's incarnation took place on the 20th day of August 1961 as the 2nd child of a Vadagalai Vaishnava Hindu Family at Chennai (capital of Tamilnadu State, India). Swamiji was named Sri Ravinarayanan.

Education

Though His Holiness was born in Chennai, because of his parent he pursued his education in Bangalore and graduated in commerce.

During the student period he never liked to read any book. He had the capability of clearly memorising whatever lessons he was taught in the class. Whenever his parents compelled him to read, he used to say "for you I have to pass with good marks, isn't it?," and used to get very good marks in his exams. Because of his charming features, pleasant smile, and loving behavior he was endearing to everybody and had the unfailing affection and friendship of not only all the students but also his class teachers and professors. From school days to college days he has given only that much value to the education. He always believed that this education is for feeding the stomach whereas the real education is spiritual education and learning from truthful living. He has stood steadfast in this belief lifelong.



Swamiji playing the Veena in his younger days

Guru: Spiritual master, teacher.

Japa: The chanting one performs, usually softly, for one's own meditation.

Karma: Material actions performed in regard to developing one's position or for future results which produce Karmic reaction. It is also the reaction one endures from activities that bear fruit.

Samadhi: Trance, the perfection of being absorbed in the absolute.

Sanyasa: The renounced order of life, the highest of the four asramas on the spiritual path.

Tapasya: Voluntary austerity for spiritual advancement.

Upnishads: The portions of the Vedas which primarily deal with philosophically explaining the absolute truth.

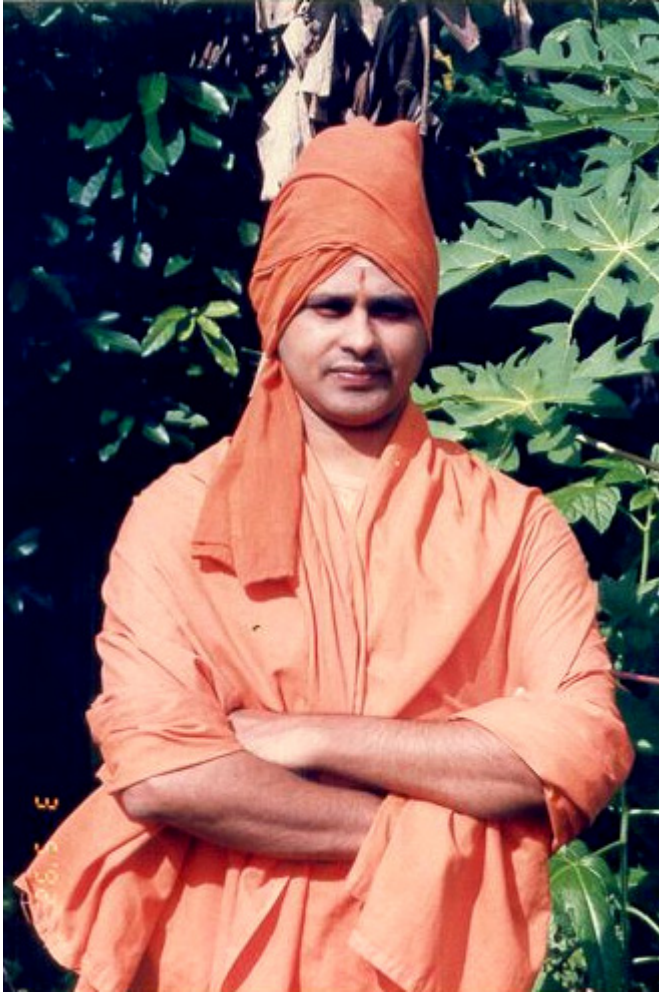
Vedas: Generally means the four primary Samhithas, the Rig, Yajur, Sama and Atharva and also their supplements, the Vedantha suthras, the puranas, Mahabharate etc.

Yoga Siddhi: Mystic perfection.

Yuga: The yuga is a planetary period of time based on Astronomy, whenever all the seven creative planets come together, in conjunction at the end of the 12th or the last Division, or Rasi, a new yuga begins.

The period between two such planetary conjunctions is called as "yuga" which is physically recurring. Thus the four yugas are counted as 4, 3, 2, 1 and again the same series begin four yugas are:

1. Kruta Yuga (Sathya Yuga) : Morning of civilizations
2. Tretha Yuga : Noon day of kingship



Beginning of Bhakthi (Devotion to God)

From childhood, even before understanding what is Bakthi, he always liked to visit temples and sit observing the deities. While other children will readily come when we call for shopping, Swamiji as a child will eagerly come running with full of enthusiasm and happiness if called for going to temples.

In the street where Swamiji lived as a boy, his regular daily routine was to accompany the ladies living in the neighbourhood to temples. Swamiji will be too eager to accompany anyone calling for going to temples. These deeds of Swamiji became the source for developing Bakthi (Devotion to God). Swamiji showed practically in his life during his younger days itself what should be the thoughts and desires of a spiritual aspirant during the initial stages of (devotion) Bakthi.

While going to temples Swamiji would carry the flower garlands made by him by selecting and plucking flowers. He used to make the garland beautifully visualizing how it will look on the deity. When the garland prepared by him was decorated on the deity in the temple Swamiji experienced boundless joy. Even now Swamiji's most favourite work is to assemble garland of flowers. He used to express beautifully that when we make the flower garland and decorate the deity, our mind thinks that one day we should also become the garland for the God. Like how the flowers decorate the Gods shoulders we also should try to reach (merge with) the God. This is very essential for the devotee's thoughts and actions. When the devotees mind is filled with such thoughts predominantly there will not be any other unnecessary thoughts. Because of the noble thoughts of desiring to become a garland for God persists, the other thoughts wane and all unwanted thoughts leave us them-

selves, says Swamiji. This was his deep rooted opinion from young age.

Service Mind

Swamiji from his younger days considered service as way of life and at anytime whoever gives him any task, he used to complete it with a cheerful attitude. "Cannot do" was never in his vocabulary.

As a young lad, when his mother's health was badly affected, he used to do household cooking. As the oven was beyond his reach, he used to stand on a bench and cook as guided by his mother who used to instruct him lying down. Therefore he is an expert in cooking. He describes cooking as an art. Swamiji's opinion is while cooking one should do it with total devotion, with pure mind and attention and if possible chanting the name of God and meditating. He himself used to follow this while doing anything. Without complaining or lamenting on what is not available in home one should learn to prepare food with what is available with complete attention. Food prepared like this will turn out to be very tasty due to pure intentions. Swamiji says that the food we prepare carelessly can become one of the reasons for squabbles and arguments at home and changing of children's character. Even today Swamiji gives this advice to his lady disciples and other household ladies.

Lord Krishna says in Srimad Bhagavad Geetha that a devotee or spiritual practitioner should have good control and discipline of eating and should take pure food, and our Upanishads also say the same thing.

Health disturbance in early years

While young Swamiji fell ill suddenly, doctors diagnosed that he had a

12. Fast at least a day in a month and be cheerful and normal as usual
13. Shed tears for seeing God only
14. Feed the poor daily. Donate clothes to the needy
15. Move with those who believe in God and respect Gurus
16. Be a good host and feed your guests
17. Do not gossip about others. Think and talk about God only
18. Detach yourself from worldly things and attach yourself to God alone

GLOSSARY

Acharya: The Spiritual master called Guru, the teacher, who sets the proper standard by his own example.

Arthi: The ceremony of worship when incense and ghee lamps, camphor lamps, and oil lamps are offered to the Deities.

Ashrama: The abode of a spiritual teacher or Sadhu. Hermitage.

Atma: Self or soul.

Atman: Sometimes referred to as the supreme self.

Bakthi: Love and devotion to God.

Brahmajyothi: The great white light or effulgence, which emanates from God.

Darshan: The devotional act of seeing and being seen by the Deity in the temple. Manifestation of God in human form.

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For further details you may visit the website www.sriomadisakthi.org.

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Sri Om Adisakthi Ashram's 18 Rules

1. Love all living beings
2. Always think of God
3. Give respect to elders. Elders should also be considerate
4. Always lead a simple life. Teach the same to your children
5. Do Pray and meditate both morning and evening
6. Neither your words nor your deeds should harm others
7. Destroy anger before it destroys you. Anger is self-destructive
8. Your food is vegetables, not animals. Stop eating meat immediately. God is there in animals too, hence it is a sin to kill animals
9. Spend your time knowing about Gods and Saints. Do not spend time unnecessarily
10. Do not over-eat or over-sleep
11. Practice silence for at least one hour daily. This is good for both mind and body

heart problem. Swamiji was never worried about his weak heart. He was moving around as usual with a cheerful countenance. Everyone used to be surprised to see Swamiji doing whatever works given by others in spite of not having good health. Because of poor health though he has had some set backs for periods during his early education as well as during his college education; he managed to overcome these easily.

Devotion to Swamy Iyyappa

During younger age, as his health was affected, the elders prayed to Swamy Iyyappa that if the child recovers from bad health, he will be sent to the Iyyappa's temple on the hill. Accordingly, every year Swamiji is to visit Sabari hill for the darshan (seeing) of Swamy Iyyappa. (Swami Iyyappa temple is a famous temple situated on the Sabari hills in Kerala State, India and thousand of devotees visit the temple during Sankranthi festival in January every year).

Swamiji had great devotion to Swami Iyyappa from his younger days. He considered Swami Iyyappa more as a friend than God. While young, he used to carry the picture of God with him whenever he visited the Sabari Hill. Whenever he carried twin bags (Twin bags of coconut, fruits and ghee are carried on head after pooja to be submitted at the altar of Swami Iyyappa as tradition) till the ritual of bathing the deity with the ghee that he carried, he never used to eat or drink anything except water.

To see God one has to go as per the proper code of conduct. To see God one should approach with total devotions of heart and mind without minding physical discomforts and even without sleep etc., If we do

this then God will appear before us is – this is a strong conviction of Swamiji.

Though he was having a heart ailment, he never worried about it and was constantly thinking of God, and he never deviated from routine rituals on account of his weak physical health but he followed even tougher rituals while proceeding to see God.

The Divine Game in the form of light

One particular year Swamiji decided to visit Sabari Hill along with his relatives and he approached the Guruswamy (the teacher or team leader, a senior member guiding the Sabari devotees with prayer rituals as per tradition), followed the rituals and wore the garland, fulfilled fasting rituals, and prepared and carried the twin bags of fruits, coconuts and ghee. He rested on the banks of river Pamba on the eve of the appearance of divine flame of light. While our Swamiji was resting and meditating on God, God appeared before his eyes riding on a tiger and asked him why he is there and asked him to proceed to the hill immediately as the divine flame will appear on the same day only. Advising this, God disappeared.

Our Swamiji who had boundless faith on God, approached his relatives and told them that the divine flame will appear on the same day and so they have to start and also decided to inform Guruswamy (the team leader). His relatives laughed at this but Swamiji requested them not to criticize and to believe in what he was saying. Then his relatives agreed to proceed with Swamiji on condition that if the divine flame did not appear that day, they will take up with Swamiji and the Guruswamy

reach the God.

Therefore our Swamiji's change of physical appearance is one of the greatest blessings - rare to find in this world. In the spiritual field such Madhura Bakthi (adorable devotion) was practiced by the elderly sages at certain times only whereas the venerable Guru like our Swamiji who practices Madhura Bakthi daily as a way of life, cannot be seen anywhere till date.

The best among our Swamiji's principles is that only humanity leads to divinity. Meditation can be achieved controlling mind only when there is purity of body, mind and truthfulness of behaviour. Without such purity we cannot achieve anything from meditation. If people who do not have purity claim that they have achieved things by meditations, or believe they have achieved something, then they are simply deceiving themselves. Humanity, purity of life and truthful devotion are the only ways to reach the God and without these traits it is impossible to know and reach the God.

We have given only a small account of our Swamiji.

It is essential to show our gratitude to the highest and supreme Sri Om Adi Shakthi Devi for giving us the most venerable sacred Guruji. To surrender to such a sacred Guru, find the way of true devotion and live a pure and truthful life and in the end to reach the lotus feet of the God is what we aspire and appeal to all of you to achieve.

His Holiness does not believe in publicity or propaganda. His Holiness is simple and easily accessible.

(mendicant) realizes himself, such a practitioner or teacher (guru) will be acting as per the directions of God. After realizing oneself, God will be acting as per the wishes of such a guru. Such great and sacred guru are called Sadgurus. Therefore as per this our, Swamiji, after completion of Agni penance, prayed to the Devine Mother that he wanted to merge with the Devine Mother and to be with her. The Devine Mother had no other option but to grant Swamiji's wishes and our Swamiji left this world and joined Devine mother. As Swamiji's physical body had some more earthly duties to be completed in this world and to make these duties to be fulfilled the Devine mother Sri Om Jagadhadri Devi, made to pass into Swamiji's body a small part of Sri Om Devi's energy and Swamiji's body started functioning as a feminine to suit the energy of Sri Om Devi. This is a factual truth, which has been understood and realized by those who have met Swamiji and have moved with him. The departure of a soul from the body and another soul entering this body and functioning is the accepted phenomenon of our Hindu religion. We can cite the example from Sri Adi Shankara's life history the incident of Adi Shankara entering another body temporarily to learn certain experiences.

In the same way we can see similar incident in saint Thirumoolar's life also. The highest form of devotion to God is worshipping God as husband and devotee as his wife, such a sweet devotion is called Madhura Bakthi, the most adorable devotion. In Madhura Bakthi, (adorable devotion) the Lord of protection Sri Maha Vishnu or Lord Shiva is considered as husband and considering devotee himself as his wife. This is the best form of devotion. In Vaishnava traditions only the protecting God Maha Vishnu is termed as totally masculine and all the other living beings are termed as feminine. It is said that is the best and easiest way to

was informed.

On hearing this Guruswamy smiled and said, "Brother, every year I come to the hill and it has never happened that the flame appeared a day before the nominated day". He said, "Your health is not alright and because of your extreme devotion to Lord Iyyappa, it might have occurred to you like this so do not go alone and take rest" he said. But Swamiji was adamant to go so Guruswamy allowed them to go to the hill saying he will meet them on the hill the next day.

Swamiji and his relatives proceeded and reached Sabari Hills. While both the relatives of Swamiji were looking in the direction where the divine flame was expected to appear Swamiji was praying Lord Iyyappa with folded hands. Swamiji prayed "Lord, because you have called I have come, you have to make the divine flame appear as promised otherwise my relatives will start ridiculing you. If it is true that you appeared before me and if it is true that you said the divine flame will appear today let the divine flame appear today," Swamiji was pleading. That wonder occurred at the same time as told by the Lord Iyyappa. The divine flame appeared. Those who threatened Swamiji of dire consequences if the divine flame did not appear, were blessed to have the vision of divine flame, by God. While everyone was watching the divine flame, Swamiji was overwhelmed by the marvel of Lord Iyyappa who showed to everyone that he actually existed and proved that he is truly the God for this Kaliyuga, and was standing totally mesmerized by Lord Iyyappa, in a state of trance.

The next day the Guruswamy (team leader) met Swamiji and apologized for mistaking him and said that is why the Lord did not bless him

with for seeing the divine flame that year. He said he is not fit to continue as Guruswamy to Swamiji and said he will not be giving him the twin bags from the next year. Needless to say that from the next year Swamiji himself gave the twin bags to his relatives for Sabari trip.

The first appearance (Glimpse) of Divine Mother

Once, Swamiji was not feeling well, and he informed his class teacher and returned home. He prepared coffee for his mother to have whenever she came back and prepared breakfast and kept ready for his father. Then he packed in a bag some change over clothes and left home carrying the bag and a flask. He locked his house and left the keys with the neighbor informing them that he is proceeding to the hospital and requested them to inform his mother whenever she returns. He went straight to the hospital and informed the doctor, as he lay on a bed and fell unconscious.

When his parents came to know and arrived at the hospital Swamiji was still in the unconscious state. They consulted the doctor and arranged for another cardiac specialist to examine Swamiji. The specialist doctor was an elderly gentleman who after examining Swamiji said that Swamiji's heart was weak but he said that may not be the only reason for this state. There may be some other reason beyond this for Swamiji's condition. The doctor continued that if what he presumes is correct, then Swamiji's body will recover back to normal consciousness without any problem after a few days. But if the heart condition is the only cause then it is difficult for this boy to recover, the specialist said.

So Swamiji's parents informed all the relatives and friends and everyone gathered for the final day of Swamiji. But Swamiji recovered as

Change in appearance

After Agni Penance Swamiji started considering himself as a woman and dressed accordingly and did poojas (worship). This change of appearance may be surprising to some people. But they may not be aware that such change of appearance is only as stated in Vedas.

It is an undisputed truth that what one thinks, one becomes. Therefore Swamiji has become a woman like the Devine mother Jagadhadri Devi whom he worships always. This is what our Rishis (Sages) have described, as how the worm brought and kept in a nest by a wasp becomes the wasp itself by hearing the wasp and thus becoming what it aspires to. This aspect is not new. Those who know Sri Ramakrishna's life history will understand this highest state of change.

It is enshrined in Vedas that one becomes the deity to which one prays. To his disciples and devotees he is incarnation of Sri Om Devi, who came from Sri Om Adishkathi Devi and was adopted daughter of Sri Om Jagadhadri Devi.

It is described in Devi Bhagavatham, that the three main deities Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva had to adopt feminine form to go and have the vision of the supreme energy, which is the basis and root for creation of all the devine and celestial beings, angels and for all creations, and for giving the shape and power to the three main deities themselves. Therefore we can say that our Swamiji similarly adopted feminine form of Devine mother to reach Sri Om Adi Shakthi Devi.

As stated in Guru Geetha until such time the spiritual practitioner



A recent photo of Swamiji

told by the doctor. He got up quite serene and there was no sign of weakness or tiredness on him. This astonished everybody, Swamiji shared an incident with one of his close associates. That is when he was unconscious he felt that he travelled somewhere and saw some globes revolving and when he went further he saw a very bright light and in that light he could see only a trident. From there he heard the celestial voice which said that this soul has some more time to live and there are many things to be achieved and till then it has to be there only. This is the first vision for the young Swamiji. After this vision his health was not affected and though the heart was weak it did not deteriorate further.

First Conclusion

After this incident Swamiji's consciousness underwent a great change. Whenever he sat and slept remembering his visual experience, he started seeing many globes revolving and started seeing vast spaces of expanse. He could not explain this to anyone and kept it to him for fear that others may mistake him. He resolved in his mind that he has to stay with the family till he hears the next voice. After that he never worried about anything and started functioning like a Karmayogi (Karmayogi is one who does all the daily routines with total devotion without expecting the fruits of his deeds). He attended his classes and serving his parents whatever way they needed. Cooking food was a regular chore which he did without expecting any fruits. Like this his life went on till he completed his university studies. He never bothered about what subject he should choose in his college. He accepted whatever his father advised for his studies and graduated in commerce.

He never harboured any desires. His only intention was to go to the

college and pass the examination. Getting more marks, studying for further higher levels and seeking a big post etc., were never his ambitions.

Job

After graduating as per his parents' directions he joined a Company named TVS in the purchasing department of the Company. There, due to divine mother's grace he got a very good boss. The boss understood our Swamiji well and therefore allowed Swamiji to go for meditation whenever he wanted after completing the day's job. He also offered to help Swamiji in his daily work. In his higher spiritual pursuit Swamiji used to complete his days tasks, fast, and only in the available time after that he used to settle in meditation. His mind did not accept him to stay there. He left that job and joined as a cashier in Winsermanor Hotel which is a five star hotel of ITC welcome group. There also he did a very good job. His job was so good that the management proposed to promote him and post him for their branch hotel in Srilanka. It was his habit to attempt with total commitment whatever job he undertakes to do. He never left his spiritual practice while doing his job.

Second Vision of Divine mother

Since Swamiji's mind was always meditating on the Devine mother he had the blessings of the Devine mother appearing before him quite soon. First he used to hear only the voice of the Divine mother. Then His Holiness had the vision of the lotus feet of Sri Om Adishakthi Devi. Once he had this vision he started getting the guidance from the Divine mother. His Holiness's Guru was Sriom Jagadhadri Devi, the ruling deity of our planetary system. She gave our Swamiji the moola man-

weather conditions.

On many occasions during pilgrimages, there are innumerable incidents of our Swamiji visualizing and describing from miles away from the temple to be visited, the type of deity and the decorations of flowers and clothes provided to the deity.

We have heard and read in the history the blissful states which sages experienced. We have seen our Swamiji in a similar state. We have seen and enjoyed the Devine dances performed in blissful state. When Swamiji once visited a Vinayaka temple in Karnataka, he sat in a blissful state and started narrating that he was being bathed with such and such items, he was being decorated with such and such colour of cloth and flowers, on his head was being placed flowers, beetle leaf and nuts etc. In the meantime the temple sanctum sanctorum was opened after the abhishek ceremony, and we could see with wonder that whatever Swamiji was narrating was done to the deity.

Swamiji, if he sits for hours in the blissful state, will lapse into Samadhi state (super conscious state). In Samadhi state he will be sitting for hours without any movement. Sometimes when Swamiji sits with eyes open, there are instance when he sat for five to six hours without batting eyelids.

In this Kaliyuga our Guruji Sri Om Adi Sakthiyendra Swamiji is one who possessed extraordinary spiritual strength due to penances. In spite of possessing such a spiritual strength Swamiji never exhibits this and does spiritual service with extreme simplicity. Such humbleness and simplicity cannot be seen in this world these days.



**Swamiji, returning from Agni Tapas, at the Ashram during
*Padha Pooja***

thra and enlightened our Swamiji on Vedas and Puranas conducting classes daily.

Though Swamiji had the desire to adopt Sanyas (Monkhood) but as ordained by Divine mother he continued to stay at home for some more time.

Sri Om Adishakthi Sahasranamam (thousand names of Sri Om Adishakthi)

Having had the vision of the Divine mother by meditating on the Divine mother, Swamiji was advised to start writing the Sahasranamam of Sri Om Adi Shakthi Devi by the Devine Mother. Every night, Swamiji used to meditate for hours together and during the meditation the Divine mother use to give five names every day. She also advised that whatever she gave should not be written as it is but should be properly arranged in sequence. Because of deep meditation and spiritual discipline Swamiji practiced, he could re-arrange the name of Sahasranamam in proper order. Finally Swamiji completed writing the Sri Om Adishakthi Sahasranamam that was scrutinized and blessed by Sage Narada, Sage Vyasa, Maha Vishnu Sriman Narayana and Sri Om Adishakthi Devi. The Divine mother asked Swamiji to say what is the benefit of reading the Sri Om Adishakthi Devi Sahasranamam and Swamiji answered “no mother”. But on the insistence of the Divine mother that Swamiji had to give some benefit, Swamiji has blessed the Sri Om Sahasranamam with benefits. During this Kaliyuga out of meditative power was written Sri Om Adishakthi Sahasranamam.



A young Swamiji dressed for his job

His Holiness our Swamiji has traveled all over the world and established an Ashram at Sydney in Australia, and at Auckland in New Zealand. His holiness was a guest of honour at the Australian parliament during Deepavali in the year 2006. His Holiness has rendered discourses in Radio/Television on Devi Mahatmyam, humanity and on innumerable other topics related to philosophy both in Australia and New Zealand. As a guest of Government of Fiji Island he has taught slokas (Hymns) at various schools in Fiji islands.

His Holiness also has rendered discourses at Vancouver, Canada. His holiness established an Ashram at Yemcha Village, 6 Kms from the famous Saraswathi temple of Basar on the banks of River Godavari in Nizamabad district of Andhra Pradesh, India. His Holiness' gift to all of us are: the Sri Om Adiskhathi Kavacham, Sri Om Adishakthi Sahasranamam, Sri Om Adhishakthi Pooja Vidanam and Sri Om Adi Shakti Mahatmyam which are all priceless jewels mankind forever.

The Spiritual Strength of Penance

It is needless to say that His holiness, who has completed so many penances, possesses great spiritual strength and spiritual power. The Vedas proclaim that nature submits to the person who had understood himself and conquered himself. We learnt that this saying is absolutely true by seeing with wonder some of the great deeds of our Swamiji. In severe summer he has made rainfall, and during monsoon he has shown that he could stop the rain fall for the required duration of time. During severe summer he created a cold misty weather like in winter by his sheer spiritual strength of penance. Such things he has never done for fame or money and also will never do for such reasons. He has done such things and shown at some rare situations necessitating specific

what is true devotion etc.

9. The principle of service to humanity is service to God is followed by himself in everyday life. He wants to see others follow this also.
10. To advise mankind to live with humanity.

Swamiji does not stop with advising the above noble deeds but practically shows others by following them himself. One who preaches should practically follow and live according to what is preached – this is the strong conviction of Swamiji.

Third Penance

Swamiji performed Agni penance (meditating sitting amidst of blazing fire around) at Kathri Hills near Salem (Mettur) in Tami Nadu during the year 2001. This is a very rare penance. History records that only Saint Ramakrishna Paramahansa had done this Agni penance in the entire world. Our Swamiji has done this penance. Without making any announcement or propaganda Swamiji completed the penance nicely true to the proverb “a full vessel makes no noise”.

Swamiji prepared food himself and served with his own hands the hill tribes of Kathri Hills and completed his penance. He also sat among them and ate. Swamiji conversed with them and gave them good advices and blessings and as per their request enshrined the Mahalakshmi Devi temple there. Swamiji brought to Ashram children of the tribes who were in utter poverty and did the service of educating them in an English medium school. Some are still studying and the good news to cherish is some have become graduates. The Ashram gives refuge to old age people also.

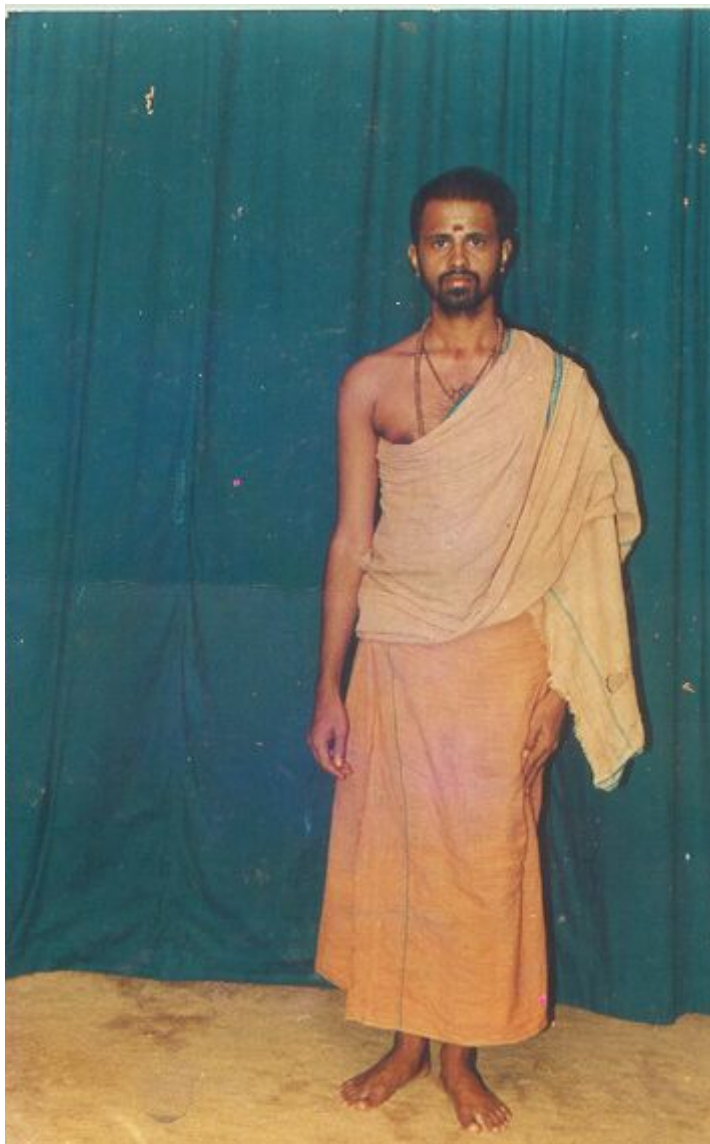
Sanyas (Monkhood)

After completing the writing of Sri Om Adishakthi Sahasranamam, Devine mother Sri Om Adishakthi Devi said that one will be able to write such Sahasranamam only out of spiritual strength gained by penance and meditation. Devi asked our Swamiji “you have achieved writing the Sahasranamam. Even then you are required to undertake further penances. Therefore will you be prepared to leave your jobs, your home etc., and proceed to do penance as I advise? Or, I will grant you all the wealth and treasures and all that you desire, will you become a family person?” Devi asked Swamiji. Swamiji replied that he did not want anything and he only wanted to adopt Sanyas (Monkhood) to serve the Divine mother. Divine mother agreed and said “this sanyas life (monkhood) will not be like it is for others; it will be very tough, you have to follow only my instructions and act accordingly, is it agreeable?” Also the Divine mother laid a condition that “later on you should not think that this is very tough and painful”.

Swamiji replied “mother I will undertake to become a Sanyasi, but will you be with me?” he enquired. The Divine mother assured that surely she will be with him.

On hearing this Swamiji said “mother when you have promised to be with me, how can there be sorrow and pain for me? I will accept happily whatever you give me, you have to be with me and I have to be with you. That is all I need.” Saying this, Swamiji got ready to leave his job and undertake Sanyas as ordered by the Divine mother.

As per tradition every Sanyasi should have undertaken three penances.



Swamiji just after completion of his first penance

aim are one and the same only.

11. In this world of illusion one should select the correct Guru (Spiritual teacher) and follow his foot steps.
12. Best of all charities is feeding the hungry because spiritual lessons can be effectively given only when the hunger is satisfied. When hungry one cannot grasp anything and only when the stomach is satisfied, the mind can be satisfied.
13. For God there are no castes or religions. In the same way for a Guru there are no caste or religion differences. The one who sees castes or religions can neither be God nor Guru.
14. Living peacefully in one's own way is life. No one is high and no one is low. Religious may differ in their path, may appear to differ in their principles but they all speak about God and they all preach humanity and there are no religions without doing these.

Only a few Swamiji's principles are given here.

The Services rendered by Swamiji

1. Swamiji likes very much to do charity of food. Therefore in our Ashram daily food charity is undertaken.
2. To help whatever way possible to anyone seeking help
3. To offer medical aid
4. To arrange for educating poor children
5. To give spiritual advice to educate about what is true meditation and how to do meditation etc.
6. To preach Hinduism and to explain its true values.
7. To explain the true philosophy contained in the ancient Hindu scriptures.
8. To preach people essential things like the virtue of devotion and

The Principles endeared by Sri Om Adi Shakthiyendra Swamiji

1. Human beings should live with (the concept of) humanity.
2. There cannot be Bakthi (devotion to God) without humanity and humanity is the only way to Bakthi.
3. Claiming to have Bakthi (devotion to God) without being humane is tantamount to deceiving oneself.
4. Along with humanity, service to human beings is very important. Service to mankind is the service we will be doing to God. At the same time our ego is controlled.
5. Ego is to be eradicated because ego will not lead us to Bakthi; rather, ego will destroy us.
6. For Bakthi (devotion to God) and Mukthi (freedom from bondage), purity of body mind and spirit are essential. Without these qualities (devotion) Bakthi will not come and hence without Bakthi Mukthi (freedom from bondage) will not occur.
7. Bakthi is most virtuous when we do without any expectation. It may be our privilege to request God to give us whatever we want. In the same way what is good for us and what is bad for us is known to God because she is like a mother with a loving heart and care taker. The first step for the spiritual practice is to accept, with happiness, whatever she offers us.
8. Bakthi without surrender is of no use. Surrendering oneself is not an easy job but faith and constant effort will make it easier.
9. Surrendering oneself is the only way out of sorrow.
10. Religious and spiritual teachers may appear to have diverse policies but all they had expected was to motivate people towards devotion to God and to make them devotees, and to make everyone realize who they are etc. They had such high ideals. Though the paths of all spiritual teachers look different their objective and

Swamiji got ready for the first penance as per the Divine mother's order.

First Penance

Swamiji was engaged in the spiritual practices. That is when Divine mother ordered him to undertake the first penance for the prescribed period in the river Ganges during the biting cold season of winter. It is customary for all sanyasis to go to Kasi and beg for food. As a result, they are forcibly made hungry as a test of their faith. Accordingly, Swamiji arrived at Kasi purchasing ticket with the available money which was only enough for the ticket and nothing else. He did not know Hindi then. He neither worried about this nor about not having money. While at Kasi, the noble soul wandered all over and got very tired and drowsy and laid down somewhere. Because of drowsiness due to hunger, when Swamiji tried to lie down at the entrance of a choultry, the caretaker poured water over the place and told Swamiji not to lie down there. For four days, he was begging for his food. In the city of Kasi, which was known for charity of food to all pilgrims, and where the deity of Annapoorni Devi (Goddess for food, grains etc.) resides, ironically no one was giving alms to our Swamiji. Due to hunger pangs he slept unaware of himself. When he felt something chill his face he woke up to find that someone had spat on his face, the chewed betel leaves. Then only he noticed that he was lying near the dust bin. What is so sad to us was humorous to our Swamiji because he used to be very clean during childhood and used to wipe the floor ten times to clear the dirt. Such a person who was clean conscious and totally hygienic was made to sleep near a dust bin by the Divine mother. Swamiji thought that Divine mother is putting him to test to find out if he thinks that "in spite of Devine mother being with me I am getting such troubles and may

be Devine mother wanted to see if I will run away from these troubles. Divine mother is testing whether cleanliness is important, or God is important,” Swamiji thought.

On the fifth day, he was given sweets by a shopkeeper, who then advised him to go to Trivenisangam, Allahabad. To reach there, one had to travel by a rickshaw. For that Swamiji had no money and no one was willing to heed Swamiji’s request. An elderly gentleman enquired Swamiji about where and why he wanted to go. Swamiji replied by gesturing that he wanted to go for doing meditation and japa. The elderly gentleman chided Swamiji if he was mad to go for penance in this bad and biting cool weather. Swamiji said he had to go and requested him only for guidance. But the elderly person himself took Swamiji to the site of penance. Swamiji completed his penance standing in neck deep water in the chilling cold weather Swamiji He was then ordered by Devi to travel to Rameswaram to get the mantra upadesh. After finishing his tapas, he came to Allahabad station, to board a train to Rameswaram. He had no money or possessions in his hand. At that time one army personnel approached Swamiji and said “you look very weak and famished due to starvation and you are shivering”, he took Swamiji and gave a blanket to cover, and got him and tea and bread and made him eat. He enquired Swamiji where he wanted to go and purchased and gave him the ticket to return and sent Swamiji off. Swamiji used to say that the Devine mother who tested him also helped him like this. He then went to Rameswaram where he got the mantra upadesh in front of Lord Shiva and Paravathavardhini Devi, by Sri Om Jagadhadri Devi (the Divine mother who was ordering). Thus Swamiji’s first penance was complete.

All the disciples started compelling Swamiji to find out and tell what the Devine mother’s wish is. On seeing this Swamiji took kind on them and said “I do not want an Ashram and you all want an Ashram. Or if I say that I have expressed my view as Devi said, or if I say alright we can establish Ashram then you may say I have changed my mind. Therefore we will shuffle slips written for and against and pick up one slip and take it as Devi’s orders which I will also accept” he said. Therefore, when they picked a slip, it read for establishing an Ashram. Three times when picked it was the same result. Therefore Swamiji agreed to establish an Ashram.

The Starting of an Ashram

Because of the unanimous request of the Fiji disciples and as ordained by the Devine mother, Swamiji decided to establish an Ashram by purchasing a land at Avalur Village, near Kanchipuram town in South India. The Ashram has the title “Sriom Pancha Shakthi Pedam” (Altar of five energies) and is the highly sacred shrine. The Sri Om Pancha Shakthi Pedam is enshrined integrating the sacred truths of Vedas and sayings of great sages, spiritual masters and monks of repute. The philosophy behind the Sri Om Pancha Shakthi Pedam can be understood by going through a separate book where this is explained.

In the year 1991 the foundation stone was laid for Sri Om Pancha Shakthi Peedam. In the year 1993 the Kumbhabhishekam ceremony (sanctifications ceremony by pouring holy water) was performed by the holy hands of Swamiji Sri Om Adishakthyendra Swamiji.



Swamiji meditating

Second Penance

Swamiji was ordained by Divine mother to proceed to the ancient place of Devi Mookmbika to search and reach a cave going along the River Sowparnika, at Kopdashadri Hills, Chitra Moola cave, which is the origin of Sowparnika to do the second penance there. Swamiji prepared for the second penance as directed by the Devine mother. He searched and reached that place without questioning how to proceed, as he did not know the way, as well as what the items to be carried are, and not bothering about having no money etc.

That place was infested with wild animals and poisonous snakes and leeches. Even today that place is like this. That place is called Kodashadri hill near Kollur, in Karnataka State, India. Here, only the shrine of Devi Adimookambika exists which was established by Sri Adishankara. It is where Sri Adi Shankara did penance and had the vision of the Divine Mother and rendered and gave the great treasure called soundarya lahari. Going further through the above place we can see the place where our Swamiji did penance. Now, special jeeps roll up to the shrine of Sri Adimookambika Devi. After that, an hour of trekking is required on the hill. Even today it is a tough path while traveling by the special jeep, and we have to hold our breath as the path is very dangerous. In those days when there were no facilities available, believing the word of Divine mother and with total surrender to her our Swamiji had climbed the tough hill and did the penance.

Sri Om Adishakthi's appearance

On fulfillment of the penance Sri Om Adishakthi Devi appeared before



Swamiji's second penance

This shot was taken many years later on a return visit to the area

Disciples

During Swamiji's spiritual journey in Fiji islands many people of Indian origin and some Indians who came across our Swamiji began adopting our Swamiji as their Guru. Due to such devotees' endless persuasion, devotion and affection, Swamiji preached them a sacred manthra as per the Devine mother's instructions and gave them spiritual lessons. He conducted classes explaining the deeper meaning and highest spiritual values of Upanishads, Devi Bagavatham, and Devi Mahatmiyam.

Method of conducting of classes

Swamiji's method of conducting classes was unique. Swamiji had not learnt Vedas and he never read books. But he had a very high intelligence and talent. Before conducting class he will sit for few minutes closing his eyes and flood of knowledge will flow through him. From science to spirituality the knowledge will flow uninterrupted - such is his greatness.

Swamiji's Desire

After completing his spiritual classes at Fiji Island, Swamiji desired to tour all of India by foot and to preach spiritual truth to all those who came to him seeking guidance and to spend his entire life like this.

The idea and establishment of Ashram (Hermitage)

The disciples of Fiji island wanted Swamiji to establish an Ashram. So they expressed their desire to Swamiji. At the same time they wanted to establish an Ashram at Fiji island also. But Swamiji did not accept their desire. On learning this, the disciples felt sad and decided to undertake fasting till Swamiji accepts to fulfill their desire to establish an Ashram.



Swamiji in Fiji

our Swamiji as a huge ball of fire. Unable to withstand the heat and unaware, Swamiji called out “mother” and immediately Sri Om Adishakthi Devi appeared in the form of mother with one hand holding the trident and the other hand showing blessing gesture. The Divine mother who appeared as a huge ball of fire in the form of bright light is known as Sri Om Adishakthi Devi and the Divine mother appearing after Swamiji called “mother” is known as Sri Om Mahashakthi Devi.

Sri Om Adi Shakthi Devi’s boon

After the appearance the Divine mother wanted to grant a boon to Swamiji for the penance he had done. The Divine mother asked Swamiji to tell her what he desired to have. Swamiji looked at Divine mother and said “Mother, you have promised to be with me always - what more can I desire to have? What I really aspired for, I got in seeing your divine appearance and I do not need any other worldly items, which won’t be of any use to me.” When Divine mother persisted to offer the boon Swamiji submitted “Mother, if you insist on giving the boon, kindly give your appearance, the same way you appeared before me, to those devotees who worship and meditate upon you wholeheartedly. Kindly grant this” he said. The Divine mother said yes and granted Swamiji’s desire. Accordingly in our Ashram at Avalur on the last day of the Chitra Poornima festival (full moon festival in the month of Chitra, April) on the day of Divine appearance, the Divine mother Sri Om Adishakthi Devi’s appearance can be experienced by those who wholeheartedly pray and, with complete faith, meditate and desire for the Devi’s appearance. This wonder happens only one day in the year.

Spiritual Practice

After the penance Swamiji continued to do his customary rituals and

spiritual practice without interruption. He took a handful of food only once a day and spent his days in the small space, where it is difficult to stand even, underneath the staircase of a well wisher's residence. He would come out of the small recess only for taking the one time food and for attending to nature's calls.

Decoration on the five face oil lamp

For sometime Swamiji was living near the shrine of Vadivudaiamman in Thiruvotriyur in Tamilnadu. Daily he used to visit the temple and meditate. At that time the Devine mother ordered Swamiji to decorate the five faced oil lamp and invoke the deity. Sriom Jagadhadri Devi taught Swamiji to decorate the lamp. As per her directions Swamiji started decorating the sacred oil lamp. The philosophy behind the decorating the oil lamp is explained in separate book describing prayers and worships.

Sri Om Adisakthi Garland of Hymns (Kavacham)

One day after worshipping the deity Vadivudaiamman at Thiruvotriyur, when Swamiji was walking around the sanctum sanctorum, he realized that there was the sound of an anklet before his steps. He heard the sound with total attention as he realised that the Devine mother was trying to convey something to him. Swamiji grasped in mind the words conveyed by Devine mother and gave us the Sri Om Adishakthi garland of Hymns. In our Ashram, during worship with lamps, all the disciples, devotees and other members recite this in their places. Swamiji's blessings are that no evil forces will come near us if we recite these hymns. He also preached that these hymns can be used for getting relief from some evil things.

Sri Om Devi Mahatmiyam: (Sri om Devi's account of greatness)

Our Swamiji visualized in his meditation the scared dance of Devine mother Sri Om Adhi Sakthi Devi. The Devine mother explained the sequences of the dance which Swamiji gave us as thirty stanzas. Devi Mahatmiyam is a part of Devi Bhagavatham. Devi Bhagavatham has 700 slokas (hymns). In modern times it is difficult to recite 700 slokas daily. But we can recite the 30 stanzas. This is a rare boon for the spiritual devotees, because those who recite Devi Mahatmiyam will be freed of all their Karmas and attain salvation is the forecast of Devine mother.

18 Rules

Swamiji gave 18 rules as the easy path for us to reach the lotus feet of Devine mother. Lord Krishna gave 18 Chapters for living in Srimad Bagavad Geetha; in the same way these 18 rules are given. These 18 rules are easy to read but difficult to follow. This will be known to the spiritual practitioners who truthfully try to follow these rules. The first rule is "Love all living beings". If we can follow this rule truly then it is sure that the rest of the rules are easier to follow.

Visit to Fiji Islands

After his second penance Swamiji was giving spiritual advice and blessing those who were coming to him for guidance. During that period Swamiji received an offer from the Tamil Association of Fiji Island to go over there to give spiritual lessons but Swamiji was not willing to accept the offer. But on Devine mother's orders Swamiji proceeded to Fiji islands without objecting and for many years he was preaching his spiritual experiences and knowledge.