

DEVOTEES' SUFFERING, TEST TO TENACITY

The intention of the wise religious leaders of the past in incorporating episodes concerning human activities was only to make others acquire genuine spiritual knowledge and to step in the right direction that will lead them to God's kingdom. While digesting the contents of various stories people will develop deep attachment to God and carry out only those duties which will please Him.

A god-centred person may utilize the surplus wealth with him on causes like maintaining a temple ensuring that the daily worship proceeds without any let-up. The good sense to spend on similar divine service will occur to him only because of his study of religious literature. His concern will be to repay his debt of gratitude to the Almighty who was responsible for his present position. The non-religious will fritter away his money or keep it accumulated.

However, at times, even Godly souls will seem to face severe trials. This makes lay men wonder about the very purpose of offering worship and adhering to the rules of moral law. Swami Ramakrishna and Bhagavan Ramana went through agonizing days before shedding their mortal coils.

A devotee built a temple for Lord Rama but was imprisoned. An Azhwar was suspected of having stolen God's property. Why, even Sri Sita was made to go through an ordeal after Her release from captivity. These may create doubt among some whether this will be the prize for them too if they display sincere devotion and whether only the pious should suffer.

Sri Yagnarama Sarma in a discourse said God's chief aim in giving His devotees tests is to demonstrate to the world, their tenacity in holding on to Him in spite of severe jolts. God will remove these obstacles in their pursuit. He will similarly reform all of us also providing opportunities to get over all problems. All that He expects from us is that our faith in His powers is firm.

One of the ardent devotees of God was engrossed in conducting singing-chanting congregations and attending to the comforts of saintly men. One day, while the Bhajan-rendering was going on, his child died falling into a tub. He (Gopanna) and his wife did not disclose this to the Sadhus who

however guessed that some calamity had occurred. All of them appealed to God and got the child resuscitated.

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