

Diwali Puja

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ORIGINAL TRANSCRIPT

ENGLISH TALK

Today we have gathered here to worship Shri Lakshmi. In Diwali, in India, they worship Lakshmi because a great rakshasa called Narakasura was killed. Also that Lakshmi came out of the sea, at the same time - long time back. I mean, I should say, this is like Her different appearances on the same [SOUNDS LIKE jeokijen ?].

Lakshmi is the Goddess which gives us wealth, gives us prosperity. She is very blissful - no doubt. She gives you protection and also She's very humble, because She stands on the Lotus. She's very light, means does not put her pressure on anyone. These are symbols of Shri Lakshmi. But also She is a part of Mahamaya in the modern times. When people get Lakshmi - the money - they don't understand that She is their Mother also and She is to be respected. When this kind of a perverse idea of Shri Lakshmi comes in, such countries, such people meet their last end and destruction of the worst type comes in. So this Lakshmi has to be used with a big balance, like standing on a Lotus and not get into the pond, where there are all kind of creatures to eat you all. You have to stand on the Lotus - that means, that you are above all the lures of this Maya. Also in Sanskrit and in our languages, we call Lakshmi as the Maya. If somebody gets lot of money they would say - "He got lot of maya." Now this maya plays the tricks. If money, prosperity, was the salvation, then there would have been no problems in this world because those people who have money always get ruined. If they're not ruined, their children, their grandchildren get ruined.

This principle of Lakshmi within us is very dubious and the allurements is so much that people see somebody having a good car these days, they think - "Ah, what a man he is!" - in any case he's not going to give you the car. If somebody is having lots of, what you can call, palaces or buildings, people start admiring. This is Kali Yuga. They start admiring, "See - this man is so rich." Even clothes, people see you wearing clothes which are very good tailored, might be from some designers, say - they think no end of that man. For example in England, there is another befooling place called Saville Row. So if you want to buy one suit you have to pay sometimes three thousand pounds. Now people are so stupid, that now if they wear a suit from Saville Row, they put the brand outside - "Saville Row". All such tomfoolery is going on all over the world. The clothes have no meaning, their lifestyle has no meaning, ultimately they end up in Swiss Bank. The Lakshmi tattwa of Swiss Bank is also now showing its teeth, and (Shri Mataji laughing) if you read what's happening to them, I mean, they are shaking, they don't know. They went to this limit that they took the teeth, golden teeth of the Jews. I mean, it's going too far, all this tomfoolery has been going on. Their military services - why, who's going to conquer that country? Even Napoleon didn't do that. And they have made big caves to keep their weapons there, who's going to attack them, stupid people - suffering from ego. But the attack has come and this attack is so serious that they might be completely shattered and destroyed.

Now who falls for this kind of thing, you should see, are the people who are crooks, who are dishonest, who are absolutely Adharmis. They can be Mafia-dons, or they can be some thugs, some black marketeers, some smugglers. So going against the Lakshmi principle are so many done these days. One fellow who was thrown out of Sahaja Yoga, because he was trying to be very dominating and all that. He said, "That's better." I said "Why?" He's doing now smuggling, making money out of smuggling and he's become very rich - according to him. But it comes to an end and a very tragic, bad end.

Money is such a lure for human beings that it kills all sense of decency, of higher values, everything. A brother say, who is very nice and good fellow, if he gets money out of proportion by all doing the hanky panky, he neglects his mother, father, brother, sisters, everyone. So I would say then it

comes to that point, that Lakshmiji becomes a bhoot then. And She - all Her blessings become sort of a challenge to your dignity.

Now certain countries, like America - which is the area for Shri Krishna, because He's Kubera - they have no money as such, I've seen, they are all poor, they are all indebted. So many Indians went to America and they can't come to India now - "Why?" "We're indebted." "Why are you indebted?" - "Oh we get everything free now, see the bank gives us loan, we can have the best lifestyle."

So they will have 3 Mercedes - is nothing, 3 Mercedes is nothing, we should have Rolls Royces, we should have this. For what? What do you get out of it? Now of course - little bit they are shaken up, with the stock exchange and all that nonsense they had started. All this joke and all these very big, I should say, camouflages - all now are coming out. So this is no Lakshmi, because Lakshmi must give you dignity, prosperity and respect. I think Americans understood about it so they became philanthropists, means they are giving money to people. Whom did they give money? All the names these people took from South Africa - were all given money by the philanthropists of America. What has happened to their wisdom? That 16 year old boy, he went there, and then all ages went there and made a very big money. All this money-making proposition.

Aside : Can you give some seat to those musicians? [Hindi...]

So what is the matter? If there's a blessing of Lakshmi, why a man who gets the blessing of Lakshmi becomes so funny, so stupid, and ultimately ends up his life that people are not there even to pick up his dead body. [Hindi aside...]

What is the difference between money and Lakshmi? She gives you money all right, agreed, but when She's giving the money what happens to that money which comes to you - is a very subtle thing one should understand. In India if you give, say hundred rupees to a servant, immediately he'll go to drink somewhere. First idea will come, what he should do, he'll go for a drink, of the hard ones, I mean, your Vodka is nowhere near that - such hard ones they make in India you know, it is called as Hatbati - means made with hands. So in hundred rupees they are willing to go. I mean, that means any money you give to them, it spoils their life completely. Lakshmi has been given, all right, so what happens to this Lakshmi? She changes Her form and Her form is so bad that you are completely ruined with that.

So now, we have to understand what is the way we can use the Lakshmi. Supposing I get money, supposing, then I will go to the market say, and I'll see something nice - "Ah, this is very good for this Sahaja Yogi." Or I will say, "This will be very handy for our Ashram". Immediately the mind starts working in a very socialistic way I should say, not individualistic.

For example, I went to Rajasthan and I saw such a lot of sand, just like a big desert, big dunes, everything - and people starving. So I said, "How to get money to these people?" So I said, "Let Me start a factory." A factory with the unbreakable glass which they make only in France. They make it very cheap and regard it as very cheap thing - not in India. In India if you go to some elite's house they'll offer you tea, in (Shri Mataji laughing) these unbreakable things. (Shri Mataji laughing) They think it's very elite, you know, it depends on what you think about what. They're proud of it. So I said if we make these things in India, these poor people, you know, because there is so much sand, and the sand is needed by trucks, so I will utilise this to make this beautiful factory here. And then give them some support to live well.

Now, when I went to one place called Warna - you all had come also once - there's a gentleman who was a disciple of Gandhiji and he's organised this Warna company for distributing milk. It became so very rich, so very rich, it's a co-operative - so he started giving money to all the co-operative people, those who had laboured there. Now this labour had never seen that money. So he came to Me, touched My feet and he said "Mother, You tell me now, what should I do? I'm so unhappy with the development of this Warna because there are prostitutes who have arrived from Bombay. There are all kinds of hard drinks which have come from Bombay, and these people are smoking like

hell, they are taking drugs.” “Why?” “Yes, wherever there is money the drug goes there. And the children are becoming absolutely useless, they don't want to study, they will slap their parents.” So he said, “This was not Gandhiji's idea, now what has happened?” He said, “This is a curse of money” and he was crying.

Now how can Lakshmi become a curse? It does, it is in the Nabhi, what a central position it has. And when this Nabhi starts working it is a very remarkable thing, that you feel gobbling the food all the time, with this Nabhi. You go on eating, go on eating like mad, and then some bhoot comes in to eat also with you, inside the Nabhi. Then you can eat so much that no human beings can eat like that except for the people who are rich. Then you start a big science, or what you can call etiquettes.

I don't want to hurt anybody, I mean if you are eating well I don't mind - eat well. But the first part is, because today is Diwali I'm trying to tell you all these interesting stories.

I went many a times for dinner with French Diplomats - My goodness. Now Me and

My husband don't drink. So 45 minutes they were only discussing what they will have today. Then they remembered yesterday they had that, the day before they had that, so there should be variety. So then they came down to something, not all of them drinking the same, different, different. So they came (Shri Mataji laughing) to some point – all right we'll have this, but some people asked for something which was not available, so they said, “You have to have it” and they shouted at them. My goodness, they took 45 minutes to decide what they are going to drink. It's regarded as French etiquettes, I think, and we two chief guests, Myself and My husband, looking at this man and looking at that woman didn't know what to do with these etiquettes, so we were thinking, “Now better go.” Then it came to food, they are so particular: “I like this, and I like that”, they are worse than Indians, I tell you. And they took at least, 80 minutes to decide what they will eat. Ultimately they found something nice, each different and the restaurant people were trying to pamper their ego, “oh what a thing you have chosen - this is the best ..wow wow...” So they started serving. The cheese was smelling so awful, I tell you, (Laughter) we couldn't bear it, you know, both of us. So My husband told them, “Today is Our fasting day, for both of Us.” He said, “Why is it a fasting day?” “In India we have, you know, fasting like this, sometimes we have to fast, today is ours.” (Laughter) But I told him, “Here one day you are saying 'today is our fasting', but We have to go to so many dinners, what will you do?” He said, “Everywhere better to say that We are fasting.” (Laughter) Such a horrible cheese they brought, and they started boasting that they have 200 types of cheese – wow, wow! I said, “200 types - of the smelly ones? From where did you get?” (Laughter) They said, “This is French perfection! – heese.” I said, “What is this French perfection?” But then you know, tears came into My eyes, C.P. said, “Why are you crying?” - “Not crying, but I think, what will happen to these people with their cheese, where will they go? - Even if they go to hell people will throw them away with the smell of the cheese!!” (Laughter and applause)

Then I read how this cheese came in, so they said - there was a big snowfall, and they had put some big, big containers in a cave, of milk. And people forgot about it - snowfall was there for 20 days, whatever it was, and they just forgot about it. So after one year they got the smell, you see, coming out of it. So they went and saw the cheese being formed – can you imagine? This is the beginning of the end. (Laughter) Actually one should never eat anything that is kept overnight, normally, but now they have got fridges so you can keep it for 2 days, 3 days at the most. Like on the ship they keep it. But this I couldn't understand that this cheese, which is, they told Me, is very old, I said, “Really”? And they sell it by that, what old it is. And their wines, if they are say 200 years old, it is 200 times more expensive. So it's such a bhootish thing to eat all that.

So when the Lakshmi goes into the hands of bhoots on a very less level, I should say, is this, then it goes into the heads of people who want to exploit money, exploit poor people, exploit countries which are down-trodden - go on like this collecting money you know, looting, looting, looting. When English came to India, we didn't know they used to take bribes. On Diwali day if you went there

without any present they say “baksheesh”. You must give some present, and what they liked was our country liquor. I never knew this, but later on I came to know because My husband became a collector of merit - and there were bottles of country liquors kept in that house and that house was itself more than a hundred years old. A long time back it was kept there still, some of them you see, and we could have sent them to England to sell - would have been a good idea.

So the older it is, it's better. This Lakshmi I think becomes old and dies and there is A-Lakshmi. A-Lakshmi means when you have money and you don't have the qualities of a person who should have money. In that quality of A-Lakshmi you become very miserly, you don't even want to help your brothers and sisters, you don't want to give any money to anyone. And even if you give it, you give it to false gurus and wrong things. This is up to, we can say, is A-Lakshmi, the behaviour becomes very arrogant. So arrogant that you behave like horses, you know. People look like horses, they walk like horses - but I don't know if the horses have ego. If you see these people you just don't understand what's gone wrong with them, you see.

There was one gentleman who started an aeroplane business, aeroplane business in India. I won't take his name, but say some “Majidhia” or someone. And My granddaughter met him with My grandson-in-law, and they were walking like this, talking like this, you see, they can't understand these two persons. So they came and talked to them, who you are and all. And then they said, “We are this Majidhia.” So My granddaughter said, “Who is Majidhia?” My goodness, they fell from heavens, “You don't know who are Majidhias! Do you read newspapers or not?” Then her husband came in. He said, “I do. Now what do you want to say?” “We are Majidhias!” He said, “Who are Majidhias?” “You don't know? What sort of business you do, what is this?” Such stupid things they did that these children felt that there's no use having any business, if business means this kind of behaviour, very indecent, very arrogant, they don't know how to relate to people, they don't know. And after some time I heard that their business was completely finished - it was a flop they call it, flop.

So now, we have to realise that this Lakshmi, how it takes us to wrong things. Firstly, She makes you very egoistical, somehow. When a man who has money starts behaving like that - one cannot understand how a person who was normal, suddenly becomes like this, starts talking like this. He might earn money even in the horse races. Around the Lakshmi is the valency of Dharma. There is - around the Lakshmi - is the Dharma. And this Dharma if you cross that's the best place where they can cross, the Dharma. Then you can do whatever you like which is Adharmic, which is irreligious, which is hideous. You have to just cross that limit of Dharma, you have to just deviate from Dharma.

Now as I have said on many a times that there are ten valencies human beings have got. But apart from that, there are many Dharmas which are surrounding us - like angels. Like first Dharma is your Love for humanity, is the first Dharma.

But if you say from that end when you start, it starts with Sree Dharma, is the Dharma of the woman - how she should live, how she should get married, how she should look after her children, what should be her behaviour, all is Sree Dharma.

And then is Patni Dharma, is the wife, wife's Dharma, what should be her Dharma? In her Dharma she looks nice, if she gives up her Dharma then she is a prostitute.

So then is Pathi Dharma, how should be a husband? How should he behave towards his family, how should he pay attention towards his wife, about the whole, entire family, the whole, you can say, Parivara they call it the whole, all the relations and everything. That is his Dharma.

But beyond that is the Dharma of Satya Dharma, how much he sticks to truth.

Then the Dharma for Creativity. In creativity as you know very well these days, with money people are standing on their heads or I don't know how, what they are doing, because the amount of nonsense they are producing all over the world in the name of modernism, is no way is Khala Dharma, no way.

Then we have also what you call politics, Rajkaran Dharma. This also Dharma is there. Now

taking bribes, I mean, the kind of things that are going on, corruption, all kinds of things that are going on, competition and fighting and all that. They are falling from their Dharma of Rajkaran.

Education same thing, we call it as Shikhshada - Shikhshada. All such things are dharmas, there's a kind of a principle which we have to keep, otherwise you can topple down from the Lotus and that's what happens. Now we have also Rashtra Dharma. The Rashtra Dharma is that your country, you must, there's a Dharma of your Rashtra. When you have to fight for your country you should, but you should not be aggressive on other countries, not try to dominate other countries, nor you should bring bad name to your country.

It's very important. Sahaja Yogis have all these intact, absolutely, because you are standing on the lotuses already. You don't have this problem, normally not. Once in a while there are people who behave like that, but mostly Sahaja Yogis don't fall into these traps. That's why their Lakshmi tattwa will definitely improve. They'll have little problems here and there, but without problems if you get Lakshmi you'll not have value for Her. So with little problems you get the Lakshmi. But Lakshmi it doesn't give you all this imbalance. Such a man has to be extremely balanced because beyond that is the step of Mahalakshmi, where your seeking starts, where you become a seeker. You go beyond Lakshmi principle and this Mahalakshmi principle starts coming into you.

I would say in the western countries this consumerism has started and it's such a funny one. In America one lady was married to an Indian and he used to tell Me how this consumerism works. I said, "How?" He said, "I gave my wife money to buy two shirts for me because I had no shirts. So she went and bought five skirts. So I said, "You have so many skirts, why did you buy the skirts?" "Because with this money I could buy five skirts instead of two shirts, so I bought five skirts". So he said "I can't wear skirts. (Laughter) So how should I correct her?", he said. I said, "You do one thing: tell her I want to buy some skirts for her, and go and buy five shirts". Then she will realise that if the money was given to her for one purpose, it should be used for that.

This is a very subtle principle which I follow because I don't understand money. So what I do - whatever money I get I put packets. This is for this, this is for this, this is for this - into packets. But I don't understand you know and I don't write accounts, you know. I'm very bad at all that, somebody else does that. Now, if I spend some money from one pocket for some emergency, then I again fill it back, it's written there, so much is there, so much is there. So the money is available at the right time for whatever I want to do, and the money is in the packet. It is, not in the, sort of an open thing, that I can just want to buy a Mercedes, I want to buy a Rolls Royce, no, nothing doing, it is for something, some purpose, and there is no need.

So when you go to the shop and you see something you won't buy it because that money is not kept for that particular thing. For Sahaja Yogis it's very easy to handle their money with respect. So you go to any shop, you won't buy anything, but My nature also is spontaneous. So I went to Frankfurt changing, they said, "Mother, there's a very nice watch shop". I just thought I'm going to get three son-in-laws, and what will I give them. So I went to that shop and I found such beautiful, beautiful things, but I had not kept any money for the watch. But I said, "I must buy." One of the watches turned out to be a very unique one, I must tell you, which is no more available. Because of My eyes, I saw this something unique and My son-in-law is so, I mean, overwhelmed, so overwhelmed, he's quite rich, he has no problems, but he said, "This watch you cannot get." Then an article came about that particular watch, so he's kept it with him.

You see, so to have something - it should have a value behind it, that is the Dharma part, value behind it. What is the value? When you want to buy something just don't buy because you're mad, I mean instead of shirts you buy skirts, not that way. But anything that has an artistic value or some special value - then you should buy that.

Now this Sari I'm wearing - it has a special value, why? Not that it is made with hands, is a very beautiful design it has, no. This was made in a place called Paithan, which was the capital of a

kingdom, which belonged to My forefathers Shalivahanas. And these Saris were made there, Paithan and they used to sell it to people. Now they have become expensive, in those days they were cheap. Now it has that value. They're very honest, very religious, they were called Shalivahanas, because they used to give shawl to the Goddess. They spread their kingdom very much and also there is a calendar in their name, but the kind of life they led. They were just very generous people and they have made beautiful temples, beautiful places for people to rest near the river, I mean so many beautiful things they have done. Apart from that, Rama and Sita when they went to Dhandakaranya they went to this place and you have the place where Sita took Her bath - Her bathing place, there's a little river flowing there. And how it was covered from all the sides and how the light was coming, so beautiful. But whatever Rama had done they redecorated it with the Rajput style art.

Then also there was a very beautiful temple I saw that they had made. Also I don't know how there was some water flowing. And there was Shri Mahadeva's, a big thing, Pindha - very big. And also there was a Parvati's statue, so old as that. I don't know if it was put by Rama or by these days, My own - you can call them, the great, great, great grandparents. But the beauty about that place that it shows that Sita used to worship Mahadeva. The water was flowing somehow by nature, inside up there in a stream, and She used to take the water and put it on that Pindha. How deep these people were, those who built that temple. Such a beautiful temple they have built. See so many temples are built like this in India, by people who had money, and they believed that if you spend your money in this kind of work you are blessed.

I bought a land near the River Neera, that's My home name, Neera. And this land, I just bought it just like that without thinking. And what they told that their Guru - Shalivahanas - Guru was Shandilya and this place belonged to him long time back, which was an ashram of Shandilya - exactly the same. And that land I bought very surprisingly, then in the newspaper it came out everything about that land, and that - this land was the place where a great devotee of Shri Vishnu, Pralahda, was praying. So you must have heard about Pralahda. His mother had a husband, in a long time, Hiranyakashapu was her husband, a horrible rakshasa. So she ran away from there and who helped was Indra. He brought this lady to the place of Guru Shandilya and Shandilya told Him, Indra that, "You don't put any effort for her, I'll look after her, and the child that is going to be born to this lady is going to get the Avatara of Narasimha" - you know Narasimha is the man and the lion. He said, "How can that be?" He said, "It is so." So Indra left her there, the child was born, till 5 years that child used to play in that land which I have bought. But I didn't know about it, but I just saw it, I was surprised. But when the child grew up after 5 years he had to go back to his father. I don't know how many of you read about Pralhada, raise your hands, I would like to know. The little boy Pralhad, let me see, who was killed and, I mean, his father tried to kill him and torture him, but he had certain boons so Shri Vishnu appeared as Narasimha, means the lion and the human form. And then he killed this Hiranyakashapu, the father. Now imagine, how much - big it was, that thousands of years back this must have happened, and that I should purchase that land only. And there is a very beautiful temple built about 300 years back by Maharashtrians.

So the story is that Pralhada came into the dream of the people who wanted to build the temple and told them that, "I have already made the statue of Narasimha along the river Neera", - imagine the name of the river is also Mine - "and if you can walk along the banks of Neera river very close to the temple, I have made the statue in sand." It's a miracle, so when there they went there and they saw that statue, they brought it back and installed it in that temple, and it's still there, made of sand. Also they say there's a kind of a river or a water flow up to, very small one just like the finger, flows down from the top, God knows how.

So, now see the value, the value of money which was collected to build this temple had such an old value. So the value is not money - this one should understand. What is the value of the thing? You want to give to something to others, then the feelings you have in your heart is the value, and that value

is the real Lakshmi.

When you are, say, building a house, the plans you make and things you do, what is the idea behind and what you are trying to express through that house is the value of that house. Once you understand that you have to buy, with this Lakshmi, or you have to use this Lakshmi for certain value, and not for showing off or for money. This superficialness that we have about money itself is like an ordinary glass, but if you put behind the glass the mercury, you can see the value. So when you start buying something, what is the purpose, why are you buying it - this will determine the value.

Like, last time I came to Portugal and I said, "This year we'll go and buy some Terracotta", but they are very expensive. I said, "This is the price", but I wanted to buy Terracotta from Portugal, because it's very rich in that. So we went to one factory, and the factory was quite far out, none of them could find out, but I told them, "It's here only just go and see." And then we bought the Terracotta. But on our way I told, "Stop, stop here, stop." So they stopped, there was a shop. I had to buy some things for Sahaja Yogis in India, and also for some people in Cabella. And that shop had such beautiful cottons. They were Sahaja Yogis from here who saw it, such beautiful clothes and I bought lot of it. I said, "Thank God the problem presents are finished now for India." So joy-giving it was, everybody was surprised - why, suddenly in a place where never had been Mother there, suddenly She finds them. It has a value, because I wanted to buy something for Indians to be given as present.

So if your Lakshmi is, say, this much, once you add to it value it becomes so big. The sign of a person who is Lakshmipathi is this - he should have a house like the lotus in the hands of the Goddess, he should protect people who are depending on him, and from the left hand he should give. This is the image of the Lakshmi. This is what the Lakshmi is within you, if you have these four things in balance, without conditioning, without ego, then you are a Sahaja Yogi - otherwise you are not.

On a Diwali day we have to promise ourselves that whatever we are going to get now as Lakshmi principle or as a Lakshmi's prasad should be used in getting things which has value. And thus you will learn that you have used your Lakshmi very well, and with that your Mahalakshmi principle become very strong. Will become very strong by which you'll ascend very fast.

Today is the day for us to celebrate the Lakshmi Puja, but Lakshmi Puja doesn't mean that you worship money. Money as it is, is the most dangerous thing, and I think it is the hidden weapon of Lakshmi Devi. See, if you try to misuse Her, She goes on punching with it. With when one punch if you don't realise then She gives you another punch, like that. Then She might little bit twist you, to suggest. She'll try everything, to convince you that what you are doing is nonsense - ultimately She sees your destruction completely.

So, Lakshmi, though She is the one who is a giver of boons, giver of everything, you should not be misled by her Mahamaya character. I'm your Mother so I better tell you to be very careful.

Thank you very much!

MARATHI TRANSLATION

(English Talk)

Scanned from Marathi Chaitanya Lahari

सारांश (Excerpt)

आज आपण श्री लक्ष्मीपूजेसाठी एकत्र जमलो आहोत. भारतामध्ये दिवाळीला श्री लक्ष्मीची पूजा केली जाते. कारण त्या दिवशी तिने नरकासुर या नावाच्या राक्षसाला ठार मारले. श्रीलक्ष्मी समुद्रमंथनातून बाहेर आली. तिची अनेक रूपे आहेत. लक्ष्मी आपल्याला संपत्ती व समृद्धी देणारी देवता आहे. ती फार कृपाळू आहे; ती कमळामध्ये उभी असल्यामुळे अत्यंत नम्र आहे; ती आपला भार कुणावरही टाकत नाही. सध्याच्या युगातील महामायेचा ती एक प्रत्यंग आहे. लोकांना ती पैसा देते पण ती प्रथम माता आहे हे त्यांना समजत नाही. श्रीलक्ष्मीबद्दल जेव्हा लोक विकृत कल्पना करून घेतात तेव्हा ते लोक व तसे देश यांचा विनाशकाल सुरू होतो. म्हणजे लक्ष्मीसारखे कमळावर तेल संभालून आपल्याला उभे राहता आले पाहिजे नाही तर खाली चिखलात पडायची आणि त्यातील किड्यामुऱ्यांच्या भक्षस्थानी पडायची वेळ येईल. कमळावर उभे राहणे म्हणजे मावेमधून उत्पन्न होणाऱ्या सर्व मोहांपासून अलिप्त होणे. संस्कृतमध्ये लक्ष्मीला माया असेही म्हणतात; त्याच अर्थाने एखाद्याजवळ पैसा असला की त्याच्याकडे बरीच माया आहे अशी भाषा बोलली जाते. ही माया पण जादू करते. पैसा हेच जर सर्व प्रश्नांचे उत्तर असते तर जगात प्रश्नच उरले नसते. त्याच्याजवळ पैसा आहे त्याचा अखेर नाशच झालेला दिसतो किंवा त्याच्या एक-दोन पिढ्यांत ते ऐश्वर्य संपून जाते.

आपल्यामधील लक्ष्मीतत्त्व एका अर्थाने विचित्र आहे, म्हणजे एखाद्याजवळ महागडी कार असली तर लोक लगेच म्हणतात, "वा, केंव्हा मोठा माणूस!" तसेच एखाद्याजवळ अनेक बंगले, इस्टेट असली तर त्याला समाजात मान दिला जातो. कारण हे कालयुग आहे. नीच गोष्ट पेटब्राज, श्रीमंती पेहराव करणाऱ्या व्यक्तीबद्दल, इंग्लंडमध्ये "Saville Row" नावाचा एक भाग आहे. तिथे सूट घ्यायचा असेल तर ३,००० पाँड लागतात. वर त्या सुट्यावर Saville Row हे लेबल चिकटवतात. असला आचरटपणा जगात सगळीकडे चालला आहे. कपड्यांना, रहन-सहनला काही अर्थच उरला नाही, या सर्वांची अखेर म्हणजे स्विस-बँक; तिथले लक्ष्मीतत्त्व उग्र रूप धारण करू लागले आहे आणि ते लोक भयभीत झाले आहेत. ज्यू लोकांचे सोन्याचे दात मागण्यापयंत त्यांची मत्त गेली आहे. आणि त्यांनी फार मोठे सैन्य तैनात करून ठेवले आहे. त्यांना

कोण पादाक्रांत करणार आहे? नेपोलियनलाही ते जमले नाही. हे सर्व त्यांच्या अहंकाराचे परिणाम आहेत. पण आता त्यांच्यावर हल्ला होणार आहे आणि तो फार भयंकर असल्यामुळे त्यात ते

खुलास होणार आहेत. त्यांच्या जाळ्यात अडकणारे लोकही सारे भ्रष्टाचारी, पापी, अप्रामाणिक असे अधर्मी लोकच; त्यांच्यात टग, काळा बाजारवाले, स्मगलर्स हे पण येणारच.

आजकाल लक्ष्मीतत्त्वाच्या विरोधी वागण्याची प्रवृत्ती बळावत आहे. सहजयोगामध्येही असा एक माणूस सर्वांवर नेहमी दबाव दाखवणारा होता, शेवटी त्याला सहजयोगातून काढून टाकण्यात आले आणि आता त्याने स्मगलिंगमध्ये जम बसवून खूप पैसा मिळवला आहे आणि हे चांगलेच झाले असेही तो म्हणतो. पण याचा शेवट फार भयानक होत असतो. पैसा ही माणसाला लागणारी कीड असते; जी त्याच्या जीवनातील सर्व सभ्यता, उच्च मूल्ये इ. ना खाऊन टाकते. मुलाला गैरधंदे करून खूप पैसा मिळू लागला की तो आई-वडील, बहीण-भाऊ सर्वांना विसरतो. म्हणजे एका अर्थाने लक्ष्मी अशा वेळी भूत बनते असे मी म्हणून आणि तिचे सर्व आशीर्वाद तुमच्या सभ्यतेला आत्मान देऊ लागतात.

अमेरिका हा श्रीकृष्णांचा देश- ते कुबेरच आहेत. पण मी पाहतं की त्यांच्याजवळ पैसा नसतो कारण ते सर्व उधारीवर चालवतात. भारतातून तिकडे गेलेल्या लोकांना भारतात परत येणे अवघड जाते कारण त्यांनी तिथे बरेच कर्ज काढलेले असते. बँका त्यांना कसलेही कर्ज नाबडतोव देतात, सगळी खरेदी उधारीवर म्हणून घेतात रहायची त्यांना सवय होते. दोन-दोन तीन-तीन गाड्या, त्यामुठ्ठा महागड्या. इतके सर्व जमवायचे कशासाठी? त्याला लक्ष्मी म्हणत नाही; लक्ष्मी तुम्हाला सभ्यता, समृद्धी व सन्मान देते. कदाचित अमेरिकन लोकांना हे समजले असेल म्हणून ते दान करू लागले. पण दान कुणाला दिले पाहिजे तर सारी नावे दक्षिण आफ्रिकेतील; त्यांच्यात सुज्ञता उरलीच नसावी. म्हणून सोळा वर्षांचा मुलगाही तिथे जातो आणि खूप पैसा कमावतो. मग लक्ष्मीचे आशीर्वाद मिळण्यात काय मोटेसे? तसे असेल तर लक्ष्मीची कृपा असलेला माणूस वेड्यासारखा, मूर्खासारखा वागू लागतो आणि शेवटी त्याची स्थिती कुत्राही त्याच्याकडे पाहणार नाही अशी होते असे कां होते?

पैसा आणि लक्ष्मी यात काय फरक आहे? लक्ष्मी तुम्हाला पैसा देते हे ठीक आहे; पण त्या पैसाचे पुढे काय होते? ही फार सूक्ष्म गोष्ट आहे. भारतात नोकरीला शंभर रुपये दिले, की चाललाच तो हातभट्टीकडे! याचा अर्थ पैसा मिळाला, की त्याचा गैरवापर, अपायकारक वापर सुरू. मग ती लक्ष्मी कुठे गेली? तर तिने आपले रूप बदलले आणि ते इतके वाईट झाले की तुम्हाला बरवाद करू लागले. म्हणजे लक्ष्मी कशी वापरायची हे हेतू कळले पाहिजे. मला जर पैसा मिळाला तर मी काय करते? मी बाजारात

जाणार, चांगल्या वस्तू निवडणार, हे अमक्या सहजयोग्याला देण्यासाठी, हे अमक्या आश्रमाला देण्यासाठी; म्हणजे मन कसे एक प्रकारे सामाजिक बनू लागते पन्हा. मी राजस्थानात गेले होते, सगळीकडे वाळूच वाळू आणि अर्धपोटी लोक. मग या लोकांनी पैसा कमावण्यासाठी काय करावे असा विचार मी करू लागले. मला वाटले की यांना न तुटणारी- न फुटणारीच काय (जी फक्त फ्रान्समधेच बनते) बनवण्याची फॅक्टरी काढून देऊ. आजकाल अशा काचेच्या कप-बशीरानुन चहा देणे हे उच्चभू जातीचे लक्षण मानतात. तर इथे वाळू भरपूर आहे आणि ती या कारखान्याला खूप लागणार. म्हणून या गरीब लोकांचा उदरनिर्वाह होईल म्हणून अशी फॅक्टरी काढण्याचे मी ठरवले.

मी एकदा वारणाला गेले होते. तुम्हीपण एकदा तेथे आला होतात. तिथे एक गांधीजींचा शिष्य होता; त्यानेच वारणाची दूध-कंपनी चालू केली; को-ऑपरेटिव्ह संस्था सुरू केली आणि त्यांचा धंदा चांगला चालून खूप पैसा मिळवला. मग त्याने कंपनीतल्या मजूर लोकांना कर्ज देण्यास सुरुवात केली. मी तिथे गेल्यावर तो माझ्याकडे आला आणि पाया पडून म्हणाला "माताजी, मी वारणा संस्था एवढी धडपड करून वाढवली पण तरीही मी असमाधानी आहे, काय करावे कळत नाही. इथली परिस्थिती फार बिघडली आहे. मुंबईच्या वेश्या इथे येऊन धंदा करू लागल्या. मुंबईच्या लोकांनी इथे येऊन दारूची दुकाने चालू केली. लोकांना सिगारेट, मादक संवन यांची सवय लागली; मुले फार बिघडली आहेत, अभ्यास अजिबात करीत नाहीत, आईवडिलांनाही मारतात. हे सर्व गांधीजींच्या शिकवणुकीविरुद्ध आहे. हा सर्व लक्ष्मीचा शाप आहे." इतके बोलून तो रडू लागला. लक्ष्मीकडून हा शाप कसा आला? लक्ष्मी नामोमध्ये आहे, आणि ती जेव्हा कार्य करू लागते तेव्हा खा-खा सुटून माणूस सारखे खात सुटतो, वेड्यासारखा खात सुटतो. नाभीवर कृणी भूत येऊन जेवायला मागत असल्यासारखा खात राहतो. मग तुम्ही साधारण माणूस खाऊ शकणार नाही इतके खाता- अर्थात श्रीमंत माणसांची सवय तशीच आहे. वर मग आहाराच्या शास्त्राची चर्चा सुरू करतात, खाण्याच्या एटिकेटस्वर भर देतात. आज दिवाळी आहे म्हणून या गमतीदार विषयावर मी बोलणार आहे.

फ्रेंच राजदूतांबरोबर मी बऱ्याच पाट्यांना गेले आहे. तिथे मजाच असते. मी आणि माझे पत्नी ड्रिंक घेत नाही. पार्टीला जमल्यावर आज कुठले ड्रिंक घ्यायचे याच्यावर चर्चा करण्यात पाऊण तास घालवतात. मग त्यात एकमत होतच नाही कारण बराचटी हवी ना! मग प्रत्येकजण वेगवेगळे मागत राहतो. याला ते एटिकेटस् समजतात. आम्ही दोघेजण नुसते त्यांच्याकडे बघत राहतो, निघून जावेसे वाटू लागते. मग जेवणाची सुरुवात. तिथेही प्रत्येकजण वेग-वेगळे मागत राहतो. या बाबतीत भारतीय बरे असे ते तऱ्हेवाईकपणा करतात. आणि पाहुणचार करणारा त्यांचे कौतुक करत राहतो. जेवणातील चीजला घाणेरडा वास येत होता. आम्हाला ओकारी आल्यासारखे वाटू लागले म्हणून आम्ही

त्यांना आमचा उपास असल्यामुळे काही खाणार नाही असे माझ्या पतीने सांगितले. मी गमतीने त्यांना म्हटले की आपल्याला इनक्या टिकाणी जेवायला बोलावले आहे तर उपास-उपास असे कितीदा सांगणार? ते म्हणाले, राज नसे सांगावे लागले तरी हरकत नाही, पण तेच बरे. इतके घाणेरडे चीज पण ते म्हणतात की दोनशे वर्षांचे जुने आहे म्हणून संशय आहे. ती त्रिविध आवड व वास पाहून माझ्या डोळ्यांत पाणीच आले. कारण मला वाटले की मेल्यावर या लोकांना नरकातही जागा मिळणार नाही, त्यांचा वास आल्यावर तिथूनही झकलतील.

मग त्या चीजची कहाणी मी वाचली ती अशी पूर्वी खूप बर्फ पडले होते तेव्हा लोकांनी दुधाचे मोठे-मोठे ढंडे रूटन लपवून ठेवले होते. पंधरा-वीस दिवस बर्फ पडत होते आणि त्या दुधाचा लोकांना विसर पडला. एक वर्ष गेल्यावर तिथून वास येऊ लागला आणि जाऊन पाहतात तर त्या दुधाचे चीज बनून गेलेले. इथून सारा सत्यानाश सुरू झाला. साधारणतः आदल्या दिवशीचे अन्न दुसऱ्या दिवशी खाऊ नये. पण आजकाल फ्रिज असल्यामुळे दोन-तीन दिवस ठेवले तरी चालते. जहाजांवर हेच करावे लागते. पण चीजचा हा प्रकार मला कलेला. पण त्यांना त्यांचेच भूषण, तोच प्रकार दारूचा. किती वर्षांचा जुनी आहे यालाच महत्त्व. जितकी जुनी तितकी किंमतही जास्त असा हा भुतादकीचा प्रकार. म्हणून लक्ष्मीच्या स्थानावर जेव्हा अशी भुने येतात तेव्हा सारा लुबाडण्याचा हव्यास सुरू होतो; पैसा, लोक, देश, भूकली जनता साऱ्यांना बिनादक्कत लुटायचे आणि पेशाच्या मागे धावत रहायचे.

इंग्रज लोक भारतात आले तेव्हा ते लाच घ्यायचे. दिवाळीच्या दिवशी त्यांना भेटाला जाणाऱ्याला काही बंधस (भेट) घेऊन जायलाच लागायचे. आणि त्यांची सवात आवडती गोष्ट म्हणजे देशी दारू. माझे पत्नी मीरतला कलेक्टर म्हणून आले तेव्हा आम्ही आमच्या बंगल्यावर प्रथम गेली तर तिथे दारूच्या बाटल्या पडलेल्या. माझ्या मनात आले की या बाटल्या इंग्लंडला पाठवून विकाऱ्या म्हणजे पैसे मिळतील! म्हणजे जितके जुने तितके चांगले. एकदरीत लक्ष्मी पण अशीच आतारी होऊन नाहीशी होते आणि तिथे अलक्ष्मी येते. म्हणजे ज्या माणसाची तशी लायकी व योग्यता नाही त्याच्या हातात पैसा येणे; अशा वेळी त्या माणसाला दानत नसते, दुसऱ्याला मदन करण्याची तयारी नसते. आणि दिलेच तर अनाढ्या गोष्टीसाठी. आणि वर ते उद्दाम बनतात; जनावरासारखे वागू लागतात. त्यांच्याकडे पाहिले तर त्यांची ही अवस्था को झाली समजणार नाही.

लक्ष्मी-तत्त्वाचा आदर न केल्यास माणूस चुकीच्या गोष्टीकडे कसा वळतो हे लक्षात घ्या. सर्वप्रथम तुमचा अहंकार बलावतो; विशेषतः ज्याला पैसा मिळाला ना व्यक्त अहंकारी बनते. आधी अगदी साधासुधा वाटणारा मनुष्य एकदम असा कसा बोलायला लागतो, उद्धट बनतो समजत नाही. रसेसचा नाद लागला की पैसा हानी घेता. नाभीच्या भोवताली धर्माचे स्थान

आहे. लक्ष्मीने तिथे धर्म प्रस्थापित केला आहे आणि या धर्माच्या मर्यादा तुम्हाला ओलांडल्या असे वाटत असेल तर तुम्ही कसेही वागा. पण तो अधर्म होईल, दोन प्रवृत्ती होईल. पण धर्माचे उल्लंघन केल्यावरच हे होणार. मानवाला दहा मूलभूत धर्मांला दिल्या आहेत पण त्यांशिवाय तुमच्या भोवती अनेक धर्म आहेत. मानवाबद्दल प्रेम हा पहिला धर्म. क्रिया दुसऱ्या बाजूने बांधतले तर स्त्री-धर्म हा प्रथम. स्त्रीने कसे बोलावे-चालावे, विवाहित स्त्रीने कसे रहावे, मुलांवाळाना कसे वागवावे, इ. सर्व स्त्री-धर्म आहेत. तसाच पति-धर्म: नवऱ्याने कुटुंबात कसे वागावे, त्याचे कर्तव्य काय इ. म्हणजे कुटुंब व नातेवाईक यांच्याबरोबर वागण्याचे धर्म. पण या सर्व धर्मांहून त्याचा महत्त्वाचा धर्म म्हणजे सत्य-धर्म जो सत्याबरोबर किती प्रामाणिक असतो हा धर्म.

त्यानंतर निर्मितीचा कलाधर्म. आजकाला पैशाच्या लोभामुळे कलेच्या बाबतीतही वेडेवाकडे प्रकार चालले आहेत. जे या धर्माच्या पूर्णपणे विरोधात आहे. तसेच राजकारण धर्म. या क्षेत्रातही भ्रष्टाचार, स्वार्थ, हेवे-शेवे या प्रकारामुळे इथेही गैरप्रकार चालले आहेत. तेव्हा या धर्माचे उल्लंघन आहे. तोच प्रकार शिक्षण-धर्माबद्दल. आपला आपला एक धर्म म्हणजे राष्ट्र-धर्म. राष्ट्राच्या संरक्षणासाठी चुट्टाला तयार असणे. अर्थात दुसरे देश पादाक्रांत करणे, त्याच्यावर आक्रमण करणे, बघेस्व गाजवणे, आपल्या राष्ट्राची बदनामी होईल असे वागणे. इ. सर्व राष्ट्र-धर्मांना मान्य नाही. असे अनेक धर्म आहेत आणि त्यातील तत्वांचे पालन करणे महत्त्वाचे व जरूरीचे आहे; नाहीतर तुमचा नोल जाऊन केव्हा खाली पडाल याचा नेम नाही. तुम्हा सहजयोगी लोकांना आधीच कमळावर स्थान मिळाले आहे म्हणून या सर्व धर्मांचे पालन करण्यास तुम्ही समर्थ आहात. एखाद-दुसरा सहजयोगी खराब असेल पण साधारण सहजयोगी या मोहना बली पडणार नाहीत आणि त्याचे लक्ष्मीतत्त्व सुधारणारच आहे. आता थोडे फार प्रॉब्लेम्स असणार; पण काहीही प्रश्न या अडचणी न येता लक्ष्मीतत्त्वाने उत्तरलात तर त्याची खरी किंमत तुम्हाला समजणार नाही. म्हणजे अशा लहान-सहान प्रॉब्लेम्समधूनच तुम्ही लक्ष्मीला जाणू शकाल. लक्ष्मी तुमचे संतुलन बिघडवू देत नाही. ज्याला लक्ष्मी-तत्त्व मिळाले तो अव्यंत संतुलित असलाच पाहिजे कारण त्याच्या पुढच्या पायरीवर महालक्ष्मी आहे आणि इथून पुढे तुम्ही साधक बनता. लक्ष्मीतत्त्वानुनच महालक्ष्मी-तत्त्व तुमच्यामध्ये प्रस्थापित होत असते. आता या पाश्चात्य देशांमध्ये ग्राहक जागरूक व्हायला लागले आहेत. घाची एक गमत सांगते. अमेरिकेतील एक सहजयोगी मला तक्रार करत होता की त्याने त्याच्या पत्नीला, जी भारतीय योगिनी आहे, त्याच्यासाठी दोन शर्ट्स आणायला पैसे दिले तर तिने बाजारात जाऊन स्वतःसाठी पाच शर्ट्स घेतले, कारण म्हणून तिने सांगितले की दोन शर्ट्सच्या पैशातच पाच शर्ट्स मिळाले मग काय वाईट आहे? हे कसे ठीक समजवायचे असे त्याने विचारल्यावर मी सांगितले की तिच्यासाठी शर्ट्स घ्यायचे असे

सांगून स्वतःसाठी पाच शर्ट्स घे. म्हणजे तिला ज्याच्यासाठी पैसे दिले त्या कामासाठीच ते वापरावे हे समजेल. मला पैशाबद्दल काहीही समजत नाही म्हणून मी हाच नियम पाळते. मी अशी पद्धत वापरते की पैसे वापरतोना मी ते वेगवेगळ्या पाकिटांमध्ये वाटून ठेवते आणि प्रत्येक पाकिटावर त्या पैशातून काय विकत घ्यायचे ते लिहून ठेवते. एखादे वेळेस एका पाकिटातले पैसे दुसऱ्या किटाच्या जरूरीच्या कामासाठी वापरले तर पुन्हा त्यात तेवढे पैसे परत ठेवते. म्हणजे मला जेव्हा खरेदी करावची असते तेव्हा त्याचे विशिष्ट पाकीट घेत व तो खर्च करते. आता तुम्ही म्हणाल की मर्सिडीज गाडी चगरे साठीही असेच करत असेन तर तसे नाही. बाजारात गेल्यावर एखादी वस्तु कुणाला देण्यासाठी आवडली तर त्याचे पैसे पाकिटात घालून ठेवते व मग केव्हातरी ती खरेदी करते. असे केल्याने दुकानात गेले आणि खरेदी करत सुटले असे होत नाही. सहजयोग्यांना पैशाचा वापर आदराने कसा करावचा हे चांगले समजते. दुकानात जाताल पण काहीच खरेदी न करता बाहेर पडतील. माझा स्वभाव माघ सहज आहे.

फ्रॅक्चरमध्ये मी होते तेव्हा तिथे घड्याळाचे चांगले दुकान आहे असे लोकांनी सांगितले. माझे तीन जावई येणार होते म्हणून मी त्या दुकानात गेले; तिथे खूप छान छान वस्तु होत्या. पण घड्याळासाठी मी पैसे घेतले नव्हते. तिथले एक घड्याळ फार छान होते, आता तसे मिळणार नाही. ते माझ्या डोळ्यांनी बरोबर दाखवले. ते दिल्यावर माझ्या जावयाला आनंद झालाच पण त्या घड्याळाचे फार कौतुक वाटले कारण तसे घड्याळ मिळणे शक्य नव्हते; तसा त्याच्याजवळ पैसा कमी नाही पण त्याने ते ठेऊन घेतले. काही विकत घ्यायचे असेल तर त्याच्यामागे काहीतरी अर्थ असला पाहिजे, हा अर्थ असणे हाच धर्म. तुम्ही जे घेता त्या वस्तूंमध्ये विशेष अशी कलात्मकता किंवा तसेच काही खास वैशिष्ट्य असलेले चांगले. आता माझी ही साडी पहा, तिचे वैशिष्ट्य हे की तिच्यावरचे डिझाईन फार सुंदर आहे. नुसत्याच हाताने बनवलेली आहे म्हणून नव्हे, ती पेटणची आहे. पेटण माझ्या पूर्वज राजघराण्याची-शालिवाहन-राजधानी होती, तिथल्या साड्या बाजारात विकायला असत. आता त्या फार महाग झाल्या आहेत. त्याकाळी त्यामानाने स्वस्त होत्या. ते लोक फार प्रामाणिक व धार्मिक होते. शालीवाहन म्हणजे देवीला शाल देणारे. त्यांनी आपले राज्य खूप वाढवले; त्यांच्या नावाने कालगणना होते.

ते लोक उदार अंतःकरणाचे होते. त्यांनी बांधलेली मंदिरे, नदीकाठी लोकांच्या निवासासाठी बांधलेले प्रसाद प्रसिद्ध आहेत; श्रीराम देवकारण्यात वनवासात होते तेव्हा सीता इथे स्नानासाठी आली होती; तिथे एक लहानशी पण छान नदी होती. चारी बाजूंनी वेढलेली असल्यामुळे निवात होती. श्रीरामांनी जे काही केले त्याला लोकांनी राजपूत कलेचा साज दिला. तिथे महादेवाचे फार सुंदर मंदिर मी पाहिले. तिथे पार्वतीचा पुतळा होता आणि विशेष म्हणजे तिथे पाणी कुटून सोडण्यात आले होते कुणालाच

माहीत नाही. त्या स्थानाचे वैशिष्ट्य म्हणजे सीता तिथे महादेवाची पूजा करायला येत असे, तेथील एका ओढ्यातील पाणी नेऊन ती महादेवाच्या पिंडीला स्नान घालायची. भारतामध्ये श्रीमंत लोकांनी अशी खूप सुंदर सुंदर मंदिरे बांधलेली आहेत; असे कार्य केले की परमेश्वराचे आशीर्वाद मिळतात असा त्यांचा विश्वास होता. तिथेच नीरा नदीच्या काठी मी काही जमीन विकत घेतली. नीरा हे माझेच नाव- काही खास उद्देश नव्हता पण लोकांनी सांगितले की ती जमीन शालीवाहनांचा गुरु शांडिल्य याची होती; त्यांचा तिथे आश्रमही होता म्हणे, तीच जमीन मला विकत घ्यायची इच्छा काही हे आश्चर्यकारक होते. नंतर पेरामधून बातमी आली की श्री विष्णूचा भक्त प्रल्हादनेही तिथे तपश्चर्या केली होती. त्याच्या आईचे हिरण्यकश्यपू या भयानक राक्षसाबरोबर लग्न झाले पण नवऱ्याच्या त्रासाने ती तिथून पळून गेल्यावर इंद्राने तिला आधार दिला व शांडिल्य ऋषींच्या आश्रमात आणून त्यांच्याजवळ ठेवले. शांडिल्या ऋषींनी तिची व तिला होणाऱ्या बालकाची सर्व काळजी घेण्याचे वचन दिले कारण तिच्या पोटी विष्णूचा अवतार जन्म घेणार असल्याचे त्यांना ज्ञात होते. नंतर मुलाचा जन्म झाला व पाच वर्षांपर्यंत तो आश्रमातच- जो जमिन मी आता विकत घेतली आहे तिथे वाढला. मग तो प्रल्हाद आपल्या वाडिलांकडे रहायला गेला, तिथे वाडिलांनी-हिरण्यकश्यपुने त्याचा खूप छळ केला व त्रास दिला. शेवटी विष्णूने नरसिंहरूप धारण केले व हिरण्यकश्यपूला ठार केले. हे सर्व हजार वर्षांपूर्वी घडले आणि तीच जमीन मी आता विकत घेतली आहे. हा योगयोग बघा. तिथेच महाराष्ट्रीयन लोकांनी बांधलेले एक सुंदर मंदिरही आहे. त्याची कहाणी अशी सांगतात की ते मंदिर बांधणाऱ्या लोकांच्या स्वप्नामध्ये प्रल्हाद आला व त्याने त्यांना सांगितले की, "मी नरसिंहाचा बाळूचा पुतळा केला आहे आणि तुम्ही या नीरा नदीच्या किनाऱ्याने चालत गेलात तर मंदिराच्या जवळच तो सापडेल," त्याप्रमाणे लोकांना तो पुतळा मिळाला आणि तो मंदिरात आणून त्याची स्थापना केली. असेही म्हणतात की त्या पुतळ्यावर करंगळीएवढी पाण्याची धार पडत राहते आणि ते पाणी कुटून येते कुणाला माहीत नाही.

यावरून पैशाला कशी किंमत असते बघा. त्या मंदिराकरता जो पैसा जमवला त्या या पार्श्वभूमीचे मूल्य होते. म्हणजे पैशाला म्हणून तसे मूल्य नसते हे लक्षात घ्या. तुम्ही जेव्हा दुसऱ्याला भेट म्हणून काही वस्तू देता तेव्हा त्या वस्तूमागील तुमच्या प्रेमाचा किंमत असते, महत्त्व असते. आणि हेच तुमच्यामधील खरे लक्ष्मी-तत्त्व. तुम्ही घर बांधताना नकाशे बनवता, नक्षीकाम सजावट यंत्रे करता त्याच्या पाटीमागच्या कल्पना व त्यामधून तुम्ही काय सुचवात आहात याला किंमत असते. म्हणजे तुम्हाला लक्ष्मीकडून हे सर्व मिळाले आहे आणि लक्ष्मीचा उपयोग तुम्ही संपत्तीचे प्रदर्शन न करता दुसऱ्या चांगल्या उद्दिष्टासाठी करत आहात हे तुम्हाला समजते. पैशाबद्दल माणसांना ज्या पोकळ,

वरवरच्या भावना असतात त्या काचेसारख्या असतात; पण त्याच काचेला तुम्ही पाटीमागून पारा लावला तर त्याची खरी किंमत तुम्हाला समजते. तुम्ही काही खरेदी करता तेव्हा ते कशासाठी खरेदी करता याच्यावरून त्याचे मूल्य ठरत असते. मी जिथे जाते तिथे बाहेरच्या सहजयोग्यांसाठी काही ना काही भेट-वस्तू देण्यासाठी खरेदी करत असते. मी पातुंगालला गेले होते तिथे टेराकोटाच्या फार सुंदर वस्तू असतात त्या घेतल्या. कबला आणि भारतातील सहजयोग्यांना भेट देण्यासाठी वस्तू खरेदी केल्या. लोक म्हणून लागले माताजी इथे कधीच आधी आल्या नव्हत्या त्यांना एकदम चांगल्या वस्तूंचे दुकान कसे समजते मी स्वतःहूनच सगळ्यांबरोबरच चालत असताना त्यांना त्या दुकानासमोर थांबायला सांगितले हात मग मी सांगितले मला भेट घ्यायला आवडते आणि हीच त्या वस्तूंची खरी किंमत आहे.

अशा तऱ्हेने तुमच्यामधील लक्ष्मी, तुमच्या अंतःकरणातील प्रेमाची व सदभावनेची जोड मिळाल्यावर बळकट होते. "लक्ष्मीपति" हा शब्द याच अर्थाचा द्योतक आहे. लक्ष्मीच्या हातातील कमळासारखे त्याचे घर असावे, त्याच्यावर अयलंबून असलेल्यांचे त्याने रक्षण केले पाहिजे आणि डाव्या हातातून दान करत असावे, लक्ष्मीचे रूप असेच आहे; तीच तुमच्यामध्ये आहे. अहंकार आणि कान्दिशनिंग यांना धारा न देता या चार गोष्टी तुमच्यामध्ये रुजल्या तरच तुम्ही सहजयोगी, एरवी नाही. दिवाळीच्या या शुभ वेळी आपण असा निश्चय करू या की लक्ष्मी-तत्त्व किंवा लक्ष्मीप्रसाद म्हणून आपल्याला जे काही मिळेल त्याचा उपयोग आपण चांगल्या (ज्याला value आहे) गोष्टीसाठी करू. म्हणजेच तुम्ही लक्ष्मीतत्त्वाचा आदर करता हे सिद्ध होईल. त्यातूनच तुमचे मन्त्रालक्ष्मी तत्त्व सुधारेल आणि तुम्ही अधिक उन्नति करून घ्याल. आज लक्ष्मी पूजा करायची म्हणजे पैशाची पूजा करणे असा अर्थ नाही. पैसा ही फार घातक गोष्ट आहे आणि लक्ष्मीचेच ते गुप्त हत्यार आहे. तुम्ही त्याचा दुरुपयोग केलात तर लक्ष्मी तुम्हाला चिमटे घेतल्यासारखे जागे करेल, वेगवेगळ्या प्रकारे तुम्ही चूका करता आहात हे तुमच्या लक्षान आणून घ्यायचा प्रयत्न करेल आणि तरीही तुम्ही समजू शकला नाही तर तुम्हाला विनाशाच्या वाटेवर सोडून देईल. म्हणून लक्ष्मी जरी नेहमी वरदान देणारी असली, सर्व इच्छा तृप्त करणारी असली तरी तिच्या महाभावा स्वरूपाला तुम्ही भुलू नका. मी तुमची आई आहे म्हणून तुम्हाला सांगावेसे वाटते की सांभाळून रहा.

सर्वांचे आभार.

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