



Discourse of HH Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swamiji

Datta Saptaha

December 2 - 8, 2021

Ganagapura

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Datta Saptaha Day 1

Sri Bala Swamiji's introduction

Pujya Swamiji is starting Datta Tattva Saptaham today at the Ganagapura Ashram. We know that the Guru narrates his own story in Guru Charitra. Pujya Swamiji is teaching us his own Tattva through Daatta Tattva. This is our good fortune. Pujya Swamiji thinks about the convenience of all devotees. Swamiji decided to a Saptaha here in the Ashram. Dr. DR Rao and his wife Vijaya Rao built this big mantapa and offered it to Pujya Swamiji.

Ganagapura Kshetra and Pithapuram are very dear to us because they are very dear to Pujya Swamiji. These are like His two eyes while Mysuru is His heart. There was a 5-day program here before that was not amenable to a Saptaham. Swamiji had said back then that if there were a hall here and a convenient place for everyone to sit, He would do a Saptaham. Therefore Dr. DR Rao and family have taken this on and offered this Mantapa to Swamiji.

Bhaktimala has shlokas called Guru Datta Mide. These are on the first page of Bhaktimala right after the "muktikanya" shloka. To understand Datta Tattva properly, we should do Parayana of Datta Darshanam while we are here. I offer obeisance to Pujya Swamiji on behalf of you all.

Sri Swamiji's speech:

As decided on the day of consecration in Ganagapura, we are doing Datta Saptaha here. It is Datta Satsanga – bhajans, discourses etc. We needed a hall for these programs. We also needed the grace of Goddess Lakshmi. Swamiji had announced earlier that Datta Jayanti would take place here. I did not explain to DR Rao what I was expecting. But by the grace of Goddess Anagha and Lord Datta and the good fortune of the family, the couple – DR Rao, Vijaya Rao undertook the construction of this mantapa; they are here with their children and the children's spouses as well as the grandchildren. The grandchildren do not know anything, yet they wanted to be with Swamiji in Ganagapura. This place looks lovely like Maya Bazaar.

Ganagapura had space but I wanted a temple and I wanted this to be a Kshetra. At that time DR Rao came forward to make this happen. A few other devotees also extended their help. DR Rao considered this his personal project. I wondered if I could propagate Datta Tattva in this birth. Time, mood, etc., all need to come together to make this happen. And devotees also need to be determined to make this happen. Ravindra Bhatt was a priest in this town. He passed away during Covid, but he always wanted a Kshetra for Swamiji so that Swamiji would keep coming back. He heard a voice tell him – “I am the deity in Mysuru whose Padukas you worship in Ganagapura”.

When I came to Ganagapura, I asked him if there was land available. He laughed thinking, “Swamiji knows everything. This is his leela”. He pursued Swamiji offering his land where the current Guru Nilayam is. He would constantly keep reminding Swamiji to register the land. He said – I know that Datta has nothing but an empty sack to collect alms. But He also has Anagha Lakshmi. So, you can do this.

He wanted the Guru Nilayam on his land. When that was built, I was happy with it. Later on, Hyderabad devotees came together and did more construction. And then it progressed very fast. I asked them to stop at that point. Ravindra Bhatt had a vision for how much space Swamiji should have and how much devotees should have. His son is here. He is doing what his father would have done. The consecration happened very well. Many of you were here. DR Rao also supported at that time.

We suffered for two years due to Covid. All projects and repairs in Mysuru were also stalled. There were heavy rains and some walls fell. We continued doing Annadana to over 20 hospitals during Covid. We did not even think about Ganagapura, we only focused on our activities. But DR Rao took care of Ganagapura. You must spend money to make programs like this happen. Many devotees gave away their savings to Swamiji, whether it was for Chalisa or for concerts. Each concert would cost 1.5 crore rupees. The volunteers would work very hard. If you want to save rice, you will need to ask relatives to not visit. To get rid of physical dirt, you need to rub soap on your body. Similarly, we get a small share of the merit when we offer help to some great souls. The engineering contractor Madhusudan has immense devotion for Swamiji – steadfast devotion like the flow of oil.

I have no words seeing this place. I even forget to say Jaya Guru Datta. This place is simple, there is not much, but it looks like Indra's palace now with Swamiji here. Datta's energy, Sri Pada Vallabha's, and Sri Narasimha Saraswati's energy are so profound here. When Lord Datta emerged from the waters after 1000 years, he announced – I am Datta, I am here to give you Upadesha and relieve you from the cycles of birth and death. I am the Datta you prayed to. Lord Datta himself revealed his Tattva (principle). What else do we need? Who gave the Upadesha 'Om Namo Narayanaya' to Sage Narada, to Lord Brahma? It was Lord Narayana. He gave the mantra to Brahma. He said 'tapa' indicating Brahma was to do Tapas (austerities). He said – you will realize you and I are not separate. Datta's Tattva was given by Datta in Datta Darshana. He said – I am Datta. You called me and I am here. It was not a second person announcing Datta. It was Datta announcing Himself. Sage Atri saw all three forms because the sage had meditated with those three forms in mind. You must forget everything else when you pray.

I spoke to a scholar last night. I told him I had no concentration. He humbly disagreed. I forget the bhajans I wrote. I say a different line each time. He said that Vyasa too would forget what he wrote. Swamiji's words are proof that we should have no desires. Only keep the mantra in mind. Nothing else. Swamiji forgetting is not about lack of memory. It is about only being steadfastly immersed in the mantra. Arjuna looking at the toy bird on the tree could only see the eye of the bird when Drona asked him to aim at it with his arrow. But the rest of Drona's disciples could see everything else around the bird as well.

You will be healthy if you eat a small quantity of one item. But if you keep eating a potpourri of items, you will ruin your health. So too, you will grow spiritually if you are committed to the one Guru mantra while respecting the other mantras. With Lord Datta's permission, praying to Him, we start this program. Praying to Lord Narasimha Saraswati, the deity of this Kshetra, we seek his permission and begin. This is His Land, we need His consent. We think of Him and listen to Him who is the other form of Datta. He is I and I am Him.

Everyone should wear a mask and have sanitizer on you. Protect yourself, maintain distance. Do not fall on each other, do not touch each other. Be safe. Only drink hot water. Drink rasam with black pepper in it. It is good for you. Do not drink too much of it, just drink enough like medicine.

(Swamiji lovingly asks that devotees not whistle since we have only just got here. Let us get acclimated to this place for a day and two first, Swamiji says. You can play as you wish in Nada Mantapa, but we are new to this place).

Sapataha discourse by Sri Swamiji:

Today on day one of the Saptaha, we will pick up the first verse of Datta Stava.

Datta Stava – verse 1

*dattātrēyaṁ mahātmānaṁ varadaṁ bhaktavatsalaṁ
prapannārti haram vandē smṛtgāmi sanōvatu*

Obeisance to Lord Datta who is a great soul, who showers boons, who has immense love for devotees, who removes sorrows of those who surrender to him. Lord Datta freely and generously showers boons. Our two hands are not enough to grab all those boons. He is infinite. He has infinite arms. If he gives boons with all those arms, how can we, with two arms, take them? He removes the suffering of those who surrender to Him.

Obeisance to the Lord who is very pleased and offers immediate protection when you merely think of him. Lord Siva likes abhishekam (ablutions), Lord Vishnu likes alankaara (decorations), Lord Brahma likes chanting of Vedas, but Lord Datta likes chanting of His name. Datta likes Smarana (remembering). He is pleased when we merely remember him.

It is with the illumination of Sri Datta Deva that everything is illuminated. He is the jeeva that shines as Ishwara. This entire world is illumined due to Hari, Hara, and Brahma or, in other words, due to Lord Datta. Sri Datta Deva made this creation and is playing in it. He created Nara – water- and he reclines floating on it. He is on water, he is water, he is reclining on water, he is darkness, he is the light in the darkness, he is the light. In the darkness of the night, you can still sense and see faintly. This illumination to the indriyas was given by Sri Datta. He experienced everything that happened in this world, he did not just stay away from it. Yet, he is not tainted by it. He is in it. He is also part of this creation and is illumining this creation. Datta Deva created gross, subtle, and causal bodies and entered them and is illuminating them. When we learn who we really are, we only see Him. Obeisance to that Sri Datta.

Sri Datta Swamy is Parabrahma, he is the primordial Guru. He is Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva. Rama, Krishna, and all other incarnations merged back into unmanifest from where they came. But Datta's incarnation alone did not go back into the unmanifest. Lord Datta's incarnation always stays as is. That is why Datta's incarnation is very special. He is the Parama Guru to everyone. He is the

deity that all prayers reach. The Lord incarnates only to protect all beings. The Lord uplifts as well as punishes all beings in this creation. Datta Swamy always wishes for universal welfare. He is in us, he is known to us, he is unknown to us. To bestow knowledge is Lord Datta's primary goal. To this end, he takes many strange forms. He is around us and near us all the time, but we do not realize it. He is in all beings, including pigs, dogs, etc. We see them as animals, but not as Datta. But that does not mean we should fall at the feet of dogs, cats, and donkeys. You are Datta, the animal is Datta. This is hard to understand. It is easier to misunderstand. It is only when you serve the Guru steadfastly that you will understand. This is not mad talk.

The Lord yearns to uplift us. That is why he appears as a human in our midst. Due to our ignorance, we criticize and blame him. He continues to live in the midst of people in various forms to uplift them. If a great soul feeds one lakh people, he is a form of Datta. If a great soul builds a hospital, he is the form of Datta. The Lord is established as Jagadguru in this world. His Tattva is to remove ignorance and bestow knowledge. The Lord continues to exert himself for our sake. He takes away our exhaustion. The Lord gives us knowledge about who we really are. Therefore, every morning, everyone must chant Datta Stava before embarking on tasks. Then, the Lord is easily pleased and removes the poverty at home. That chanting ensures food supply for seven births. So, it is our duty to chant Datta Stava. There is no second to it. The Lord is easily pleased with Datta Stava.

We may wonder why not pray for protection of the self alone?

Sarve janaa sukhinobhavantu.

When we pray for universal welfare chanting "svasti prajabhyah: paripalayantham..." Gau represents all animals; Brahmana represents everyone that remembers God. Such a prayer for universal welfare is successful. But if you pray that you alone be well, that is not good.

We should pray that the Lord protect all beings. We should not pray merely for our own protection. Why should we pray for everyone? If the husband is well, the wife is and vice versa. If parents are well, kids are well. If we are well, the neighbors are well. If all neighbors are well, the society is well, the state is well, the country and the planet are well. Do not wish that you alone be safe from Covid. You must pray that everyone be protected from Covid.

Pray for the welfare of all including neighbors and neighbors' neighbors. Keeping this in mind steadfastly, we should pray to God. Do not only pray for protection for yourself, your spouse, and your child alone. Do not pray to God to not protect your relatives. You must pray that others be bestowed a healthy intellect and be protected.

The Mother is so pleased when you say that the food she cooked is delicious. But she is hurt when you say that the food is terrible. Your appreciation is the motivation for the mother to cook even better. Appreciate the food you are being served at home. Tell the mother the food is good. She will know the food is missing salt when she eats it, you do not need to criticize her for it. If someone is in pain, you must empathize and express a little bit of pain yourself. That will give them some mental solace. The noble will not pray for himself alone. He will pray for everyone. The mediocre will pray for himself alone. The inferior ones will wish that no one else be well. So, always develop noble thoughts, this shloka teaches us.

Datta Saptaha Day 2

Bhajan: Dattatreya Atreya putra!

*ya eka rūpaḥ svakṛteṣu rūpeṣu
arūpakoyaṃ bahurūpakeṣu!!
viveśa saṃkalpa vaśāt svakīyāt
taṃ me bhajā datta guruṃ hṛdābje!!*

Like we discussed yesterday, Datta pervades in all forms. He is everywhere. He is in every word, step, and breath. Datta has another form – that of being formless. What is this you may wonder? Formless cannot be called a form – this might be your doubt. True! Nirguna (formless) must not be referred to using attributes. But, the Lord who envelops the entire world is being called Sarvantaryāmi (omnipresent). Such an omnipresent Lord is not visible. That's true! Since he is in all forms and because we cannot talk of each form, we say he is all forms. Eating rice in different forms gives the same energy. But the foundation of the different varieties is rice only.

With his energy, the Lord created beings of different forms per his wish. So many innumerable beings are created that even computers cannot calculate. The number will have an endless number of zeros in it. Our body itself has billions of beings. Some beings within us build us while some destroy us inside the body. Imagine how many beings exist in millions of people. Each cell has life although it has no form. There is a vibration associated with it. It changes form when it relocates to another place. This might be true! The Lord entered into each being but He manifests in a single form. He never transforms, although the beings that are bound by action which are created by the Lord take up several forms. I serve such Guru Datta Deva in my lotus-like heart.

This is the verse from the Bhaktimala magazine's Sri Datta Maalika (front page of Bhaktimala). Every month, one verse is given. Each and everyone must get a Bhaktimala copy to your house. You may get an online copy but you must get a copy to your house through post. It is a prasada for us. How many receive Bhaktimala at home? All those who did not register for Bhaktimala as yet must do so immediately. Pay for the entire lifetime or ten years. Each house must get one book. All other Peethams deliver magazines online. Despite publishing online, we print hard copies of the magazine and deliver it. You may be aware how difficult it is! With the intention that the magazine must reach home like a

blessing, we are doing it without being concerned about the difficulty. Do you know how much good that bestows on you? It builds such a good connection with Swamiji. Make a resolution that each of you will get ten members registered for Bhaktimala. It is enough to pay on behalf of all members of your family. Let them wonder why they receive the magazine despite not wanting it! They will slowly get transformed. Many of our devotees did so. Keep doing it more and more without forgetting it.

Datta is the charioteer who resides within us. He is like a minister who gives suggestions exactly when we need them the most. Using such chances when he gives suggestions, we must drink the nectar of Datta's names. Arjuna also was a friend of Krishna, who bestowed Jnana on Arjuna. Krishna bestowed Jnana on all his eight wives and children too. Some understood the preachings of that Jnana while some did not. Datta is our friend, relative, Lord, soul-mate, Guru and God. He is our everything. Guru Datta Deva ki Jai!

Bhajan: Dattude Daivam Janulaara!

It has been a long time since I sang this. So much meaning is embedded in this bhajan.

Datta Parabrahma was born to the couple – Atri and Anasuya. They were such a pious couple that words fall short to describe them. Atri Maharshi, the father had the divine vision of the Shakhala Shakha Panchama Mandala of the Rigveda. When diseases spread in Krita Yuga, then Atri, upon having the divine vision of Ayurveda, destroyed all the diseases with its help. At another time, when people were oblivious of adhering to Dharma and faced great difficulty, Atri Maharshi wrote a smriti by his name called Atri Smriti (a rule book) and taught Dharmic injunctions. Once, a war broke out between Gods and demons. Defeating the Sun and the Moon, the demons bound them. As a result, the world suffered a lot. This story also shows the power of demons. Since they have the traits of Rajas and Tamas predominantly, they have become demons. Once, while describing the story of Diti and Aditi, I have also told you why they became demons. Then, Atri himself became the Sun and Moon, dispelling darkness in all worlds. He filled light in the world as the Sun and the Moon. There are myriad feats that Atri has performed, which are impossible to be described.

On the other hand, Anasuya, the mother of Datta, was as great as her husband. One day, she brought back the dried Ganga to life, thereby giving life to all. She also restored the purity of Ganga with her mere touch when the latter was submerged in grief due to the sins she had absorbed from the devotees who took bath in her. Now we use several machines to clean Ganga which still doesn't make it clean. But back then, Mother Anasuya sanctified Ganga with her mere touch. We can also say she is greater than Atri Maharshi. When famine broke out, Mother Anasuya, like Annapurneshwari, created roots and fruits, and supplied food to all. The famines have occurred several times.

This world has existed since innumerable Yugas. The only difference is we exist in different forms today. Famines occurred in all Yugas, leading to the destruction of the human race. Once again, we were born as humans after evolution. We have suffered many times before due to millions of diseases like Corona, since ages. Many suffered and also met with untimely death. Once, when Mother Ganga turned black, Mother Anasuya sprinkled water from her water-pot and sanctified Ganga. There are innumerable feats that the Mother performed. They are indescribable. The couple was full of greatness.

Once, they performed penance begging for a son. Seated on their vehicles, the Trimurtis, one day, appeared in front of them.

*mahā vṛṣabha vāhāya
namaste haṃsa vāhana
nāgāri vāhanāyāstu
vāsudevāya te namaḥ*

At times, the Lord roams on the bull and at other times, he moves about on swan and at other times on Garuda. Prostrations to such Lord!! The Lord need not roam anywhere. He can traverse the sky itself. However, there is a rule and a subtle aspect involved here. It is said that those who travel in the sky possess demonic aspects in them. Hence Lord Dattatreya Swami uses some or the other vehicle, despite having the capacity to move in the sky.

Atri Maharshi was surprised to see Trinity at once. He wondered why all three Lords had arrived when he only contemplated on a single tattva (principle). Prostrating to them, Atri prayed, "O Trinity! I have only prayed to one of you. How is it that all of you have come here? I only requested for Lord Vishnu to shower his grace." Then the Trinity smilingly said, "Maharshi! The Nirguna Para

tattva (formless highest state) is one and only one. However, you segregated it into three tattvas during your contemplation. So, we also had to appear in the same way. You contemplated based on the three attributes. Hence three attributes had to be created. If you contemplated on a single tattva, then also we would have appeared in a single form. Each of us represents each attribute. Since formless had to assume a form, it led to the formation of the three forms. Hence we, the Lords of each of the attributes, came here as the Trinity. We are pleased with your devotion. Therefore, we give ourselves to you. We are doing Atma dāna to you. Atma dāna means giving oneself. It also means Dattatreya. The Lord is giving himself. Hence we must also say Datta, and offer Atma dāna at the Lord's feet, for him to do Atma dāna and shower His grace. Therefore, we have given ourselves to you. We will be born to you as sons.”

One day, their words came true. Firstly, the radiance of Atri's eyes fell on Anasuya. As a result, Chandra (the Moon), an aspect of Brahma, manifested. Thereafter, combining the aspects of Brahma and Rudra, Maha Vishnu was born. Afterward, Durvasa also was born with the aspect of Rudra in him. Chandra became the Lord of Chandra Loka and lived there. Chandra and Durvasa are the brothers of our Lord Datta Swami. Lord Datta became a Yogi. He moved about killing the evil demons and protecting the disciples. Protecting the world, he is residing in the Sahyadri caves. Durvasa undertook 'Unmatta vrata' and moved about destroying the arrogance of the wicked.

*brāhmeṇa somena dvijāgrajena
durvāsa sā rudra bhavānujena
saṃlālyamānaṃ sarasāṃgayaṣṭim
kumāra rūpaṃ gurudatta meḍe*

Chandra who is born as the Brahma's aspect, is his elder brother. Whereas, Durvasa who is born as the aspect of Rudra is his younger brother. Both of them cuddle the little Datta who is the form of Vishnu. I extol such Datta, says this verse. Although Durvasa is the younger brother, he grew up as soon as he was born. Hence, he played with little Datta. Now, this reminds us of Krishna's miracles. Datta grew up like this. In this manner, Datta Swami incarnated to uplift the world. Atri was aware that Datta is beyond all ceremonies (samskaaraas). Hence, he did not perform any of the ceremonies or gave him any name. Hence, the son of Atri was called Dattatreya. For the Lord who was

nameless, this name itself got fixed. There was no naming ceremony or anything because he is Paramatma.

Bhajan: Jaya Jaya Guruvara Jaya Guru Datta!

The greatness of Datta is all embedded in this bhajan. It would be enough if you go through this because Datta mahima is in each line of this. All the incarnations of the Lord are featured in this. Lord Datta is Mahatma which means one whose Atman has no boundaries and the one who thinks that all 'I's is himself. Such an integrated 'I' is named as Mahatma. He keeps thinking that 'I exist in everything' but he never reveals it outside. If someone says it externally, such is not a Mahatma. Mahatma is the one who brings the thought in a person of any attribute, that 'I am in everything', and yet does not cause one to reveal anything. Lord Datta always feels that He is in everyone. Hence, he is a Mahatma.'

Likewise, the Lord has 'Varada' as a name also. If a child asks to play with a gun/knife or wants to put his hand in fire, the mother will not agree because it's not good for the child. He will be harmed by the gun, the knife or the fire. Hence she hides such objects. That's why such objects were kept high up somewhere in the kitchen so that the children could not access them. In the ancient days, all objects were kept on the ground because children never entered the kitchen. Now, children are everywhere. Hence, we take care.

Likewise, Datta Swami also knows what to give and what not to give to his devotee. He gives what bestows good upon him and what is good for his life. We believe God or Guru only if we are granted what we want. Such is the stubbornness of the people and children now! Only if Swamiji gives what I want, I will believe Him. Now, we have such fickle-minded devotion. Lord knows what will happen to you if your wants are granted. However, people do not listen. Some stubborn devotees do not listen. They are stubborn to procure a seat in a college despite Swamiji cautioning them not to pursue the same. Swamiji would warn the devotee, "You cannot study. You will come back home. So, do not waste so much money unnecessarily." This turned out to be exactly the same for thousands of people. Despite hearing me warn, the devotees would reply, "No! I cannot survive without that."

When people say they want to end their life, we must just let them do so. Instead, we go behind them begging them not to die. As a result, they become

extra stubborn. We must question, “When are you going to die? It would be good if you die on a holiday.” We must neither beg them not to die nor say that we will do the same. Fed up of all this madness, the man of the house does not even want to come to the house. He considers the house as a mental asylum. Therefore, just like how the mother never gives a knife to the child, the Lord also knows when to give what to which devotee. He gives only what bestows good upon the devotee. Hence he is called Varada. He also slowly convinces the devotee to accept something else. The mother does the same also. Thus, the Lord, being Varada, showers love on the devotee like a mother shows in her child. He is Bhakta vatsala (Lord considers his devotee as his child).

Some get a doubt once in a while, “We worship the Lord and participate in all sevas. Then, can he remove all my difficulties?” Such people consider the relationship as a business. They question if it would be enough if they pay for the seva. “O foolish mind! Who gave you the money that you could offer? Who gave you the energy to stand and question so far? If you think of the energy that drives you, you will understand for sure.” When one surrenders, only then the Lord removes the difficulties. He certainly does not cause the end of the difficulties because we offer our money. We must surrender with devotion, along with all that. When we offer the flower with surrender and devotion, the difficulties are removed by the Lord. Instead, if we boastfully speak of offering a thousand flowers, then we will not be freed of difficulties. He will only give us more difficulties. We must surrender and offer the Atman, the body and the mind as a flower, the Lord will put an end to our hardships. Money does not do that.

We go to the temple every single day, offer dhupam, deepam and naivedyam every day because we hope to get devotion one day towards Lord, either at the time of crying or at the time of disappointment or depression or when we do not get what we wanted or when we are humiliated or when we are neglected in the house or when things do not go as per your plan etc. We are driven towards devotion for the Lord since we worship Him everyday. Then, we sit in solitude and talk to ourselves or only to God. We do not say it out to anyone else. All that we have in our minds will be let out to God on the bed, while crying. That would be so good. No humans will listen to our cries. People will scornfully tell you, “Enough of your problems now! Go to a mental asylum and get treated. How long can we listen to all this?” Those who try to console you

also get restless. They can console you for two days, three days or maybe a month. But, they will only end up shouting at you. You keep waking up at all odd times. Don't you think they also need rest and food? They also have a life. They do have care for you but ultimately they have a life too. They cannot console you always.

In such a situation, you develop devotion, all of a sudden. You get the belief that the Lord will listen to you and your problems, irrespective of whether they are solved or not. This comes to us unknowingly. You will start to believe, "Why doesn't the Lord listen? He certainly does. So many Puranas and Mahatmas speak of this. I have experienced this several times as well. The belief that your words and grief will be certainly heard by the Lord will arise. That is Ekanta puja (worship in solitude). It is not a secret worship where the curtain is pulled. It is telling all your mind to the Lord openly. You will do that in front of the Lord's image, either in your bedroom or when you go to the seashore. When you say it to the Lord, your mind becomes free and refreshed. You feel like you have gotten wings. The grief may not leave you but you become relieved at that moment. If you continue to do so, you will come to a state where you remain unbothered by the grief. You will only realize that you love talking to the Lord, His Dhyana, or singing His glories more than anything. This is considered the highest joy! Hence, you must close the door and talk out loud to the Lord else you would be considered a crazy person! Already people do not think any good about you. So, if you talk like this to God, then people will comment, "She had been to Ganagapura recently and she has become like this, upon hearing Swamiji's discourse". They will recommend you to a Psychiatrist, who will give you two sleeping pills. Then, you will feel like you have slept. But, gradually, you will only end up with physical ailments, So, you must talk to God without anyone's knowledge.

Devotion comes to us step by step. It does not occur in a day because we have hundreds of questions and doubts. We doubt ourselves and our very birth. We doubt whether we are really born to our parents. We wonder about your children who show no concern for you. We develop mental agony in such a manner. Then the best happiness is when you take refuge in Sadguru and talk to God. There is no greater friendship or happiness in either children, elders, spouses or anyone.

All relationships thrive on desire and selfishness. The mother shows selfishness

towards the child and vice-versa. Both of them show selfishness towards the father. The father is selfish also for getting his work done. All of them have mutual needs, they are giving bribes to each other. That is not true love. It is like a business! This is the relationship we have in the family. I never approve of this!

The baby cries for milk and the mother's lap – which is selfishness. Mother also is selfish because she has a duty towards the child. She cannot let go of the child after giving birth. She is in the grip of fear for duty and societal norms. The husband and wife should move about together, for the sake of society. When we observe this, we feel that there is no pure love anywhere. We get pure love only with the Lord and with no one else.

After marriage, the boy joyfully says that he wants the same girl as his wife for all births. The girl probably thinks, "Let this life pass, we can see the rest later." She will not disclose it outside, although outwardly she says, "Yes! I too consider you as the husband for all births!" The wife and husband make big promises to each other out of desire. But, none of the promises work. All of them go in vain.

Pure love comes with Paramatma alone because He has only one attribute. The husband, wife and children have all attributes. A grown-up girl has different attributes. She falls in love with someone and out of selfishness, she shares the same with Mother but not the Father (out of fear for him). This has been happening a lot these days, especially in Hyderabad. 99% percent of the members of the family have no love, although they seem to coexist happily. They enjoy parties and other stuff but none of them have a deeper connection. Everything seems fashionable. It is a love that lacks sense. The parties and events at the houses make no sense at all. It is a mere waste of time and only a show.

We go to a temple, sit for an hour but we keep thinking about different matters. It only becomes a show. The mind starts thinking, "How long does this priest do the Puja?" We want to get up and leave the place. This is fickle-mindedness. Hence we must think of God repeatedly. The Lord liberates us from difficulties only when we surrender. You may place other offerings also along with surrender. This is the condition – that you offer yourself to the Lord in order to seek protection. You cannot show the same fakeness towards the Lord as you show in your house. If you fake, the Lord also will fake. He might not say it out loud but he will reflect the same in His actions. We have been carrying out this

drama right from birth. Everything including life, food, and clothes is fake! The entire world is fake. It all happens as part of Maaya (illusion). Only with complete love, the Lord protects. The one who wishes to get uplifted must certainly surrender. Hence, the Lord is called, “Prapannarti haram’. This means that the Lord certainly protects the devotees who take refuge in Him. He is the only one who keeps up his promise of protecting and no one else does so.

*nijāśrayānām hr̥di sajjanānām
yaḥ prāṇa nirmocana puṇya kāle
tattvārtha visphūr̥ti māyena tanvā
vibhāti dattaṃ tamupāśrayāmaḥ*

Datta Swami protects his noble devotee, who takes refuge in Him, and who travels in the being’s journey hereafter (after death). He shines forth in the heart as the Tattva. Hence we must practice devotion always, even if we lack it. Slowly we become devoted one day, owing to practice. During our journey hereafter, Paramatma alone comes with us. No wife, husband, party or insurance comes with us. We have seen that during Covid. When the life force departs, the being focuses on no one.

When the life force leaves the body, the messengers of Yama carry the being. The being, at the time of death, does not even recognize the Doctor. It holds on to life-force only. Despite seeing all this, why do we not learn our lesson? We see people dying right in front of your eyes, yet we still keep thinking we will continue to live. We see people getting affected by Covid, yet we believe we will never get affected. How strange this world is!

Datta Swami himself gives us his darshana at the time of our journey after death. It will happen only because of the devotion you have practiced. The Lord will give all at once. It is just like how you receive all increments along with your retirement fund at once. Likewise, the seva to the Lord is like keeping money in the bank. Even if your work remains unaccomplished today, all of this that you have done today will help you one day. At the time we leave the body, we will be filled with fear. We get scared that we have to leave aside everything and depart. You will not remember anyone then. You will remember people around you only for sometime in the beginning. Later on, you will not have your focus on anyone. Then, the Lord will rescue you and uplift you.

Coming back to the story – The little Datta grew up. Then, some children of the sages prayed to little Datta to accept them as his devotees because they believed that Datta could uplift them all. They wanted Datta to wash off their sins and enable them to reach the supreme worlds. However, Datta likes to test a lot. Therefore, even as they continued to watch, Swami got inside a big lake and drowned in it. Who will wish to get drowned? No one emulated the Lord. They remained scared. Only after 100 years, He came up. Only some stayed back till then. Then, the Lord emerged from the waters only to enjoy pleasures. Only those who believe strongly can stay till the end. Some thought that the Lord had drowned while others thought that the Lord was no more. So, they left the place. Some others thought they would wait and see. Those devotees who learned the truth that the Lord bestows them with liberation got fickle-minded. As Lord Datta drowned, they thought, “It has been so many years since the Lord went inside water. Why has he not come out? Perhaps, he died. It is impossible to survive so long.” Some others were stubborn to see the Lord. Such devotees could only see the Lord. In those days, the lifespan of the people was 10,000 – 15000 years.

The Lord emerged from the waters in a strange form. He had a vessel of drinks, a pot of palm wine and a woman on his lap. The Lord came out singing with the woman and dancing as a duet. Some wondered in disgust, “We wanted salvation. But, why is our Guru naked? Why is he like this? Fie! The lady next to him is half-naked. He is dancing and drinking as well.”

They doubted, “Is this conduct befitting of a Mahatma? We came to him for salvation. But, this feels loathsome. Fie Fie! We do not need such a Guru.” They marched away from there.

Some others thought so, “We thought the Lord is a Yogi. Now, we see his true colors. He is not a Yogi. He is a Bhogi (one who enjoys pleasures)..” Some left even without informing while some discussed at great lengths and then departed. We have a bhajan – Atrinandana Datta mooruti which talks about the same.

The more the devotees left, the more enthusiastic Datta was to test them. Along with Anagha Lakshmi who was enjoying pleasures, Datta sang aloud with extra enthusiasm. Finally only a few Maharshis remained. They were well aware of Datta’s ways of testing and behavior. Therefore, they thought to themselves, “This is how the Lord tests. He transforms a stone into a gem. We cannot do

that. Therefore, let the Lord hand any number of tests, we must remain steadfast.”

Then, they prayed, “O Yogeeshwara! Datta Prabhu! Please show us compassion. You are like the Wind that touches everything – perfume, flower, garbage, burial ground etc. but remains untainted. Likewise, the Lord has no defect at all. Now, there is smoke in the air. But, the air is untouched by the smoke. Fire remains untouched by everything. Everything unites in it. You are also like Pancha bhootas (five elements). You are beyond creation. Nothing touches you! Ordinary people cannot understand this due to their narrow-minded nature. They think of binding the Lord with worldly Dharmas. They also think that the Lord should behave like a human also. This is wrong! Some see your playful ways and fall from Dharma. You will never be known by such fickle-minded people at all, in any birth! Lord! Kindly end your test and uplift us!”

So, when we believe in the Lord and take refuge in Him, we must have darshana of the Atma tattva. Instead, we must not believe the physical acts or plays that the Lord displays. Then Datta Swami was happy to see their true devotion and he showed them his real form. Therefore, we must praise the Lord thus,

*yam bālarūpaṃ vipulānubhāvaṃ
tapovanastāstavirāmunīndrāḥ
samikṣyamugdhāśśaraṇaṃ prapannāḥ
tamadbhutaṃ datta mupāśrayāmaḥ*

Although he is in the form of a child, his influence is very great. Seeing the Lord’s form, the old sages were stunned. They surrendered to the Lord completely. I seek refuge in such a strange Lord!

So, we must not get trapped in delusion or fickle-mindedness, upon seeing the very strange tests that Datta gives us. We must neither misunderstand Datta Swami nor blame him in haste. We must understand that the ways of the Lord are beyond the world. Only those who stay strong and win in such tests beget the grace of Lord Datta!

Bhajan: Guruttama Datta Guruttama!

Many make fun of bhajans. They remark unfavorably about bhajans. However, they will be blessed with salvation for merely uttering the word ‘bhajans.’ Bhajans have so much power. They liberate one from repeated births. Bhajans

are not for fun. Chanting of names is of three kinds – chanting loudly, whispering and then doing it mentally. Mental chanting is the best way, for it bestows the best of liberation. However, for this to stay firm in our minds, we must sing loudly. You may do bhajans alone for four hours at home, and repeat one divine name of your choice (even your husband's name is fine also). Sing loudly. After some time, you will be tired. Then you will try to sing under your breath, with just the lips moving. Finally, you will chant mentally. So, first, we must sing loudly for this to happen. We must use the body to delve in the self. You can try this for an hour, for my sake. When you sing loudly, you will be tired after some time and then you chant silently. You will feel like getting good sleep.

Datta Stava – verse 2

***dīnabaṁdhuṁ kṛpāsīṁdhuṁ
sarvakāraṇa kāraṇaṁ
sarvarakṣākaraṁ vaṁde
smarṭṛgāmi sanovatu***

All of us are helpless. Who is helpless? It is not the one who lacks money or food. They also are helpless but the truly helpless persons are those who cannot understand Paramatma. The Lord is the relative of such helpless persons. He is as compassionate as an ocean. He is the cause of all causes. Prostrations to Datta who protects all!

May Lord Datta protect us as soon as we think of him. With the mere thought of Him, he protects us. All of us are helpless. We surrender to Paramatma. However, we must not surrender to money or relatives. You must not depend on each other. You must depend on Paramatma alone. You may act outwardly as if you depend on others. But, place Paramaatma alone inside your heart.

The wife shows so much love for her husband as though she is dependent on him. It is only because she does not believe him and that she wants him to come home soon so that he does not go to another woman. So much love is showered due to suspicion. That is trickery. You must not depend on each other in this manner. You must show love that you cannot live in this world without one another. I keep telling you all the same always. But, some of you forget it. You depend on others so much and wail about them. Depend on Paramaatma deeply. May Lord Datta protect us, as soon as we think of him.

Bhajan: Dattatreya Atreya Putra!

Gandharvapura is Ganagapura where Gandharvas used to come here and sing here, once upon a time. They would sing and serve Datta. Hence Narasimha Saraswati stayed here since Datta keeps coming to this place for Bhiksha. That is how this place has gained so much popularity. We have consecrated Datta temple also. All Datta devotees have gathered here before Datta Jayanti. We will celebrate Datta Jayanti in Mysore.

While you are here, do the Parayana of Datta darshana, Guru Gita and Guru Charitra. This is a wonderful time for us here. Do not waste time moving about here and there. You will get the merit even if you read in your rooms also, since this is a kshetra. Take a resolution of chanting Datta Stava for some fixed number of times.

The next trip would be to Pithapurama and the last one would be a pilgrimage to Badari. The trip to Badari would be my last trip, which will last in history. This might take a year, 3 years, or 4 years also. This is just a few hours away from Hyderabad. So, you can perform good events like marriages also here. You can also undertake Saptahas, Homas, naming ceremonies for the Lord. If you utilize all this, I will be happy also.

Jaya Guru Datta!

Datta Saptaha Day 3

We have been talking about Datta Tattva. In order to understand Datta tattva, no amount of studying, singing, dancing, doing japa or penance or charities would suffice. It is like holding a drop from an ocean. We must keep reading such Tattva innumerable times. In Ganagapura kshetra, where the Lord accepts Bhiksha, we are doing our Parayana again and again to understand Datta mantra and tattva. It is said that one out of many efforts will succeed. Many do not even make an attempt because they believe they will not succeed. Such people cannot attain it at all. Some give up on climbing the hill half way through. The others who are about to set out on the climb get discouraged seeing them return. There are so many who do not even make an attempt.

Those who try to climb the hill regardless of everything will definitely reach the top and attain the Atma darshana. Seven hills are symbolic of the seven Chakras in our body, starting from Muladhara Chakra (Root Chakra). Seven hills is not just about Venkata Ramana Swamy. We must keep doing Dhyana until we learn to focus, starting from Muladhara till Sahasrara Chakra. It is usually not easy to do Dhyana. The Yoga that has started at Muladhara might stop at any Chakra, regardless of the amount of effort that is put in. There are some who are easily satisfied with what they got. They do not even try further. But we must continue to try. We will ultimately earn God's grace. We must not give up out of the belief that we cannot earn the Lord's grace. We are disheartened because we see 99 out of 100 fail to get the grace of God. Only one or two in a thousand get that grace because the rest succumb to desires and fickle-mindedness. Therefore, we cannot focus our mind or control our senses. The senses continue their activities and as much as possible, they pull the being downhill owing to extreme attraction towards external matters. The being is at a loss because the senses pull it down towards Muladhara Chakra (whereas the journey is supposed to go upwards from Muladhara Chakra). We must overcome all that and travel upwards to the Muladhara Chakra. We have so many problems – pertaining to the world, senses, doubts, hardships, grief etc. The doubts in spirituality pull us down. Also, we are tormented by physical and mental ailments. This is how we lose time. This is how we end up going back to Muladhara Chakra despite traveling up towards higher chakras. Muladhara is of element Earth hence it has a lot of attraction. Any person will have to lose. But, we must try to win by knowing Datta tattva and keeping our faith in Him.

What I am talking about right now is nothing but Yoga Vasishtha – in other words, which you would have heard already. We must know all this.

All you think of is worldly desires – money, kids, diseases etc. We are bound by ignorance and hence being satisfied by it, we assume that ignorance is everything. We must transcend that. Hence the Lord shows all sorts of illusions right in front of us. People we know pass away in front of our eyes. Our own hard-earned money is lost. The beings whom we love the most go away. We end up in losses. We may think this is injustice. But in God's view, it is justice. Since you see it as injustice, you feel so. The Lord's ways are always right and never unjust. He has pre-planned everything.

When we are alive and still have awareness, while we are still moving, eating, etc, we must try to know Atma tattva as much as possible. A hard-working person wants to earn something or the other. Likewise, when we have the lifeforce in us, we must use it to know Atma tattva. You have heard Adhyatma Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Bhagavatam (all about devotion) in the Telugu language. Is there anything that you have not heard from your Guru? You have heard everything.

What more fortune do we need than all this?

Despite having heard so much, you say that Swamiji did not give us Jnana. As though these are regular classes, you ask what is next? After you complete schooling, college and PhD, some ask what next? Knowledge is endless. But, that's different.

Sage Bharadwaja, despite studying Vedas for a long period, asked for a life span of 1000 years from Lord Brahma. Even after 1000 years, he again asks for an extension of life to study more. This happened several times. But finally, Lord Brahma said that what he had learned so far was very minute like the size of a pebble in a hill which represents the huge knowledge of Vedas. Lord Brahma asked him to understand the Tattva in whatever he had learned until then. We must do the same instead of asking for the next.

Many asked me on Appli what the next discourse was that I would be giving. Isn't what was told to you already sufficient? Several lifetimes would not be enough to digest all that you heard so far. That was so enormous! So, it seems like all that was given to you was just like the radio broadcast – you heard it all and you ask what is next. I was surprised by this. We must be satisfied with

what we got. If you question like this, it implies that you have not understood properly.

However, very few (a handful out of several thousands of people) after listening to Bhagavatam and Mahabharatam said to me that they are so satisfied that they are willing to accept death any moment. They said that what they heard was enough and that they will continue the rest of their lives by doing Upasana. Some 100 members messaged me after listening to the Adhyatma Ramayana that they were satisfied and they felt their life was fruitful.

But some others asked me, what next? This is like an entertainment show or a movie for them. You want to watch a variety of movies each time. The Upadesha from Guru is not a movie. Each Upadesha comes to us due to the merit accrued from several births. We must not keep asking for what is new. What you have gotten is enough. After serving you a feast, you ask for a new item even before starting to eat. Despite having 40 items to eat, you ask for the 41st item. I wonder if such people have any human tendency at all.

A true disciple who seeks refuge in Guru will say, "I am satisfied with what I have got. Please make this knowledge firm in me. Make me follow what I have heard and make me attain accomplishment in my Sadhana" No one has told me so. Some have asked me to give a discourse on Devi Bhagavatam. It seems I am like a storyteller/ Harikatha daasa. I have told very clearly in the very beginning itself that I am giving Upadesha and not discourse. But, none seems to have understood that. Even if I keep Brahma in your head, you will question if there is another Brahma. They ask if there is another Vaikuntha. I would reply, "Yes, you have another hell for sure!" When you see hell, you will know the value of Vaikuntha. The hungry person knows the value of food. Since you have no hunger to know, you keep asking for more like the demon Bakasura.

I feel sad that you cannot understand despite everything I told you. Guru tells the story in different ways. He must preach out of interest but he must not do so with difficulty. He has no difficulty but just a word from Him is enough also. So, do not try to pass time asking for more, revise what you learned. I do not have a contract to do more. You should know that when I speak it is all a mantra. You must know that. How much Upadesha. One drop of nectar is enough, you do not need glassfuls like coffee or tea. Even the mere smell of nectar is enough. We are all immortal. We have gained it already.

You must never wish to be born in the same household. Lord Narasimha asked Prahlada if he was afraid of seeing the Lord's fierce form. Prahlada said that he was not afraid of his form. He said he was only afraid of this samsara (cycle of births and deaths). "You have blessed me to have kingship. But, then I will have to be in this samsara for thousands of years and I am very much afraid of this". Therefore, human birth itself is Samsara. Hence, the Gods do not wish for this birth. When they err, they are cursed to be humans. Once born as humans, it is very rare to attain divinity, for we keep committing sins and keep taking birth as humans. Committing sins, taking more births to get freedom from sins – all this puts us in an endless cycle of births. Hence, Gods do not wish for human birth.

Prahlada said, "My father got quick relief from this cycle of births when he became your enemy. But I am relegated to this cycle of births due to the 1000s of years you have given me on this planet. The same had happened with Prahlada. He had to fight with the Lord himself. Prahlada had to take birth again.

This human birth is like a space station to get salvation. For the jeevis that have gained enlightenment, they will not have to come back to this station. We must try to put in efforts starting from today. We must do Upasana (worship) secretly. We cannot listen to this enough number of times. You can listen to this Tattva over and over.

In this Ganagapura, where the Lord takes Datta Bhiksha, we are all gathered and doing this Saptaham. Ganagapura is also known as Gandharva Puram. Mother told me about it. I shall now preach to you the same.

Bhajan: Gandharva Lokave Ganagapuravu

yannāma japāḥ sakalāḥ nāśaḥ
smratistathā samkaṭajāla haṁtrī
yaddhyāna yogokhila cakrabhettā
taṁ nirvikalpaṁ gurudatta mīḍe

Merely chanting the name of Datta drives away sins. Remembering him removes difficulties. We are all attached strongly to this world. So, sometimes the mind is immersed in sorrow when our work (that emerges out of ignorance) is not accomplished. We are all born due to karma, so there is nothing wrong with that.

The greatness of Rama's name was extensively extolled in Ramayana. It was said that there was no other Japa than Rama's name. Even before Rama's incarnation, Datta mantra and Datta's form was there. Whenever you are in sorrow, chant Datta's name for 108 times and your sorrows will be quelled. Your mind will find happiness. Therefore, meditating on him will penetrate all Chakras from Mooladhara to Sahasrara. The entire Yoga journey takes place with his mere name. Prostrations to Datta! This is the meaning of the above verse.

*dīnabam̐dhum̐ kṛpāsīm̐dhum̐
sarva kāraṇa kāraṇam̐
sarva rakṣākaram̐ vande
smatṛgāmī sanovatu*

He is the relative of the one who suffers. The Lord alone is the refuge for the one in suffering. Who covers them with a blanket? Who feeds them on time? Who feeds the frog under the rock, the ants in the anthills? Who is feeding the countless organisms? Who else but Paramatma. We think that we have done Annadana to a few thousand. Who is doing Annadana to countless organisms? It is Him.

Somalia is a country with a lot of hungry people. It is said that the region has a lot of diamonds. There are people who live 90 years or more there. We wonder how they lived that long without food. They somehow get food, they get food support from other countries. They somehow are able to eat to sustain life just as they were about to die. What an illusion!

Somalia is impoverished, people go to bed hungry. There are many natural minerals, but the rich loot all that like thieves, the poor do not get it, yet they are still alive. If not God's leela, what else is it? 5-6 devotees of Swamiji from Somalia came to see Swamiji.

A devotee named Sherry Lipton does seva in Somalia in Swamiji's name. The Principal of that school came to see Swamiji just because Sherry Lipton was doing Annadana on behalf of Swamiji, using Swamiji's photo banner. God alone is feeding them.

God has an ocean of compassion. If you go to the ocean with a pitcher, you cannot cry about not being able to pick up the entire ocean in it. You will take

whatever water you can fit in the pitcher. You reap what you sow. Blessings come as per your eligibility.

God is the cause of all causes. He protects all. We offer our obeisance to Him. The Lord approaches us as soon as we think of Him. May the Lord protect us all (not just me), said Lord Vasudevananda Saraswati, who was the incarnation of Lord Datta. It is their magnanimity that they pray for all. We must not wish for protection only for ourselves or our family. We must pray to the Lord to protect all, even our enemies and may everyone foster goodness!

Lord Datta is in all forms. Hence, he has no enemies. Even demons are his devotees. Humans, Gods are also his devotees. He is the Guru to the Gurus. He has neither friends nor foes. He has no partiality. He is like an infant. He forgets everything. If a child sticks his hand in the fire, the mother will not yell at him saying he deserved it. No Mother says so! The Mother cries for him and tries to help him heal. We may taunt a person who sticks his hand in the fire, but the mother will never do that. The mother feels very sorry for the child's pain. We should have the heart of a mother. Datta is the Lord who acts like a mother to us.

Sometimes devotees leave Mysuru to go home to their town. Until they go home, I am waiting for their message. I know they will reach safely, but I am in a human form and I wait for their message. If they do not message me, I get angry. But, I lovingly scold them. I may feel like I will smack them nicely if I find them in front of me. But, I will not do that if they really come to me directly. I keep yearning and thinking – I wonder if the devotee landed safely or not. Many devotees delay reaching home by halting at hotels and spending a lot of time eating. Despite all that, I will keep checking once every half an hour after 9 pm. Rest all take rest, but I do not sleep unless I am assured they reached home. So many tell me, "What is this Swamiji? Why will they not reach? They surely will reach home. Please get some sleep." When I listen to such words, I feel they don't have humanity. I know the flight landed, but I do not use my yogic power all the time.

Ramakrishna Paramahansa, despite having great power of penance, gave 4 annas and crossed the Ganga river in a boat. Another great soul walked on the water and taunted Ramakrishna that he had to pay 4 annas to cross the river. Then Ramakrishna asked, "You indeed did a great job. How many years of penance did you do?" The man said he had many years of penance. The man

was unable to walk on water to go back because he had expended all his penance in walking on water. In other words, he gave up all his penance for 4 annas. Likewise, I do not spend my penance for trivial matters because I want all of you to be good. Also, people around me would leave everything to Swamiji saying that Swamiji can use his power of penance. You would just say, "Let the food in Annapurna Mandira become inexhaustible". You will do nothing about it.

The Government is giving free money due to Covid. Now, those people are simply sitting and refusing to work. This is foolish. The driver of an auto will refuse to take passengers even for a short distance, for he expects Rs 1000 wherein it is only worth Rs 100. This is because the Government has destroyed labor unjustly for the sake of votes. If everyone becomes a businessman, then, who will do agriculture? Instead, the Government may give some amount per year. If the Government keeps giving money, people will not get household help. We need to get labor from another state. But, they also work for two days and then disappear from the third day. Then, whom can we trust? You may ask if I know why it is so. Yes! I know it very well. We need no divine vision for everything. We must toil hard. Only with hard work, we get food.

All the farmers lived so long. They all lived for 90-100 years. But, now they suffer from diseases because they refuse to work. They are either into court cases or fights or elections. There are always elections in India. We are now eating more and more rice. We used to eat millets before. Now, thanks to China, we eat so much rice which eventually leads to Diabetes. Every day, I eat a single pancake made of Jowar along with tasty curry and butter. It's so filling. But you eat a lot of rice, Tamarind rice, Fried rice, Fried Biryani, Vegetable Biryani, Red rice, etc and therefore your health goes bad. You will certainly get Diabetes of various kinds. Millet diet is the best diet. Now, everyone has got so much awareness about millets.

The extremely dry Gulbarga grows a lot of millets. They do not grow rice. I grew up eating millets in Bommeparti. Only on festive occasions would we cook rice. Even on days I earned Bhiksha, I would get millet balls or Jowar balls to eat. It gets digested very quickly. So, you will be good and healthy. I don't know where this rice has come from. We have so many kinds of rice and so many different dishes cooked with rice. Alongside that, there are so many kinds of diabetes. Learn to eat millets (Jowar, Ragi etc). You may feel a stomach ache in the

beginning. But, gradually your body will get accustomed to it. We distributed 5000 Ragi balls in Jayalakshmi Puram recently. Everyone enjoyed them. So, we attain Jnana only with hard work and penance.

The Lord is a relative of those who are deprived of food and have no shelter. He is the cause of all causes, an ocean of compassion and protects everyone. Obeisance to the Lord.

Lord Datta has 24 Gurus, this is described beautifully in Datta Darshana. The Lord helps the worthy as well as the unworthy. You may wonder why I help someone whom you think is wicked. I help because he is worthy in my eyes. The last King of Mysore, the highly educated Jaya Chamarajendra Vadeyar, whom I saw when I was a child in the Chamundeshwari temple, would ask me alone to give him Teertha. My Uncle Seshagiri Shastry was a priest in the temple. I used to help my Uncle in the temple works. From his house, I would walk 15 miles to school in Kesare. I would then go back home, supply milk to every household around and then take the money back home to feed the elders. The King Chamarajendra Vadayar would come every Friday for Teertha. My uncle would give him teertha, but the king would say, pointing to me – “That boy is like little Krishna, I want him to give me teertha.”

One day I refused to give teertha, my Aunt, Saradamma cajoled and begged me to give him Teertha. I said I would give if I got a coconut. I wanted that coconut for the two monkeys who lived there. I would pour two spoons of teertha and would refuse to pour a third. My Uncle also used to ask me to pour for the third time. Then, the King would again beg me for teertha and I would pour again. He wrote a book on Datta. He held Swamiji's hand and lovingly said “Datta”. He, the last King of Mysore, did great penance. Although he was a King, he observed Swamiji. Many do not. The eyelid never notices the eye.

The Lord showers his love equally on all. There are many who do not open their eyes (of knowledge) properly due to the sins of prior births. How can they be uplifted?

Lamp, incense, dhoop, scent, sandal, etc are liked by Datta. He likes aromatic items. You can offer them. No devotee of Swamiji comes with empty hands to Swamiji from Dubai. They bring scents of various kinds for Swamiji. I smear that all over the body. That's Datta's act. He likes that. But do not bring an ordinary scent. There is one in Mysuru who makes a very pure scent for me. That aroma

removes all diseases. Some devotees beg for the raksha I discard. Placing that raksha under the pillow removes bad dreams and problems at home. Do not start asking for my raksha from tomorrow.

If Swamiji enters your home (invisibly), you will suddenly smell aromatic Vibhuti. How many of you have experienced this? You will get the aroma, all of a sudden. Swamiji is really there, you do not know. He protects you. Swamiji asks as if he does not know. He asks when the heart attack happened, whether you have met the Doctor etc. You must not say – “You know everything.” You must answer correctly. That is also a seva. You must do your duty.

Owing to sins of prior births, those who do not open their eyes (of wisdom) also still need to be uplifted. Who is their savior? Lord Datta Swami alone is their relative. The Lord puts them in good company day by day. He removes their sins and uplifts them. That is why he is called “Krupa Sindhu” (ocean of compassion).

Datta is “Para Atma”. He knows everything. He alone knows how a person should be uplifted and when. The doctor knows what medicine needs to be administered to each patient in the hospital. The patient should not ask for the medicine that someone else is being given. The doctor knows what is right for you.

That is why the Lord uplifted Kartaveerya and Parashurama. The story of Lord uplifting Parashurama is very strange. These two were sworn enemies, but the Lord was Guru to both and he uplifted them both. The Lord protected them in different ways, out of compassion. Kartaveerya was given Vaikuntha and Parashurama became Brahmarishi.

When food is served in Annadana, everyone gets the same. So too, the Lord knows how to uplift each person and in what manner. He knows how to open the eyes of a devotee.

Bhajan: Chala Sakhyano...

Once, Datta opened the eyes of his mother Anasuya who had fallen into delusion. He had his mother witness the divine light. One day the Lord came home. The mother was overjoyed to see her son. Mother Anasuya was devoid of delusion. But she played this drama only to teach us.

The Lord said, “Mother! I cannot be home any longer. I need to constantly travel in this creation and uplift devotees

and receive the alms called their sins. He does not need to eat food. Lord Krishna stole the butter that was nothing but the sins of the Gopis and Gopalakas. The butter was a result of churning just as the sins and doubts are a result of repeated contemplation, Nama Smarana and Japa. Slowly, the sins will leave you because of the intense Japa and penance you do. The purpose of Mantra Daanam was to make you do more.

Swamiji asked you to do Hanuman Mantra, Shivaya Rudraya Namaha and Shatashloki Ramayana and Hanuman Chalisa several times. You all did. Now, Swamiji is asking you to do Om Aim Hreem Shreem Shiva Rama Anagha Dattaya Namaha. As you keep chanting, the mind becomes immersed in chanting. That removes sins. The Lord begged for alms only so he could take away their sins. Swamiji as a child used to beg for alms too. Even today, what Swamiji eats is called Bhiksha. You can participate in the Bhiksha seva too. You will receive the leftover food of Swamiji, along with the plate and food. This arrangement has been made in Mysore Ashram. You can pay for the seva as a group also. The leftover food given to you indicates two things, firstly, you have some more sins left, secondly, this will pave the way for your liberation. You should keep giving me more of the Mantra Bhiksha.

Lord Datta wanted to leave so he could receive the alms of sins from others. Lord Datta had just come home and he was already talking about leaving. He had drowned in the lake for 100 years and had just come back after, yet he spoke as if he was home all along. How was the mother to accept? She only played for our sake. Lord Datta was not born from Mother's womb. He was born from Sage Atri's radiance. Because mother too had a trace of sin, he asked her for alms. When he said he was going to leave the house, the Mother cried not knowing he was the Lord. She showed how a mother would feel. Yashoda did not understand Lord Krishna. Kausalya and Devaki both wept for their sons. They knew but they acted for our sake. Anasuya insisted that Datta not leave. However, Lord Datta was stubborn also. He had to uplift not just one person, but the whole world.

The Mother got angry and said, "I am your Mother. I gave you birth and this body. Give me your skin before you leave." The mother made this demand to stop her son from leaving. She tried to strangely test Datta. The Lord tests the tests themselves. He created tests, he created illusions as well. So, the Lord

without even reacting, peeled off his skin as if peeling a banana. He handed the skin to her.

Datta Swami was standing then like a mass of flesh and blood. As the Lord peeled his skin the mother's ignorance also peeled off like layers of an onion. Our eyes water when we peel onions. This is like the layers of ignorance falling off as we cry. This body is a skeleton made of flesh and blood. In the end, there is nothing. This is the truth.

The Mother's delusion was shattered. She had the vision of divine light. Overjoyed, Anasuya said, "You are Jagadguru. You transcend birth and death. You have no boundaries. To teach me this, you showed this form. You may go as you wish." Sahyadri is a huge mountain range. Someone asked me where Sahyadri is. The Lord is everywhere. What address does the Lord have? He has no name, no address. Mother blessed Datta, "Reside in Sahyadri and uplift your devotees."

Since then Lord Datta, the cause of all causes resides in Sahyadri and uplifts the devotees. We should sing praises of the Lord thus:

*mātā tvameva karuṇā prathamāvatārā
prajñānidhe nanujanasya pitā tvameva
nyāyaprasusakala satpatha śikṣakastvaṃ
mārgogatiśca gurudatta bhavānnacānyaḥ*

O Lord! You are the first incarnation of compassion. Hence, you are the mother to all beings. You are the treasure of all intelligence. You are thus the father of all beings. From you comes justice. Therefore, you teach all the noble paths. O Guru Datta Deva! you are the path and the destination that the path leads to. There is no one else. Obeisance to you.

Datta Stava – verse 3

***śaraṇāgata dīnārta
paritrāṇa parāyaṇaṃ
nārāyaṇaṃ vibhuṃ vande
smarṭṛgāmī sanovatu***

He is inclined in protecting those who need protection and giving refuge to those surrendering to him. He pervades everything as Narayana. Prostrations to

Lord Datta! May the Lord, who appears as soon as remembered, protect us all.
Bhajan – Akalanka Charita...

Lord Datta removes all sins and destroys all sufferings. When an innocent man who is imprisoned chants the Guru Gita 3 times with total dedication and faith towards Guru, he is freed. Therefore, surrender to Datta Swami. For those who do, the Lord comes running. He is all-pervading like Narayana. Hence, he makes no delay in protecting devotees. His main intention is to fulfill the desires of his devotees. May you all receive the grace of Datta, who appears and protects as soon as remembered.

A very dear devotee, innocent man, was framed for murder and imprisoned. He considered that too his prasadam, sitting behind bars. The wife came to me weeping. She said, "Swamiji! You know what has happened. My husband knows nothing. it is your wish." Then, Swamiji said, "Take this Guru Gita, I am with you. Someone will help you take it inside." Someone helped and the man received and studied Guru Gita three times and was freed in one week. The real culprit was imprisoned. I do not know if the man is here, he often comes like Pingala Naaga used to, to see Swamiji.

If you are innocent, you will be freed when you study the Guru Gita. If you did commit the sin, your punishment will be softened. Study the Guru Gita when possible. Listen to it. Listen to it while driving in cars. Do not listen to or encourage criticism of Guru. Walk away from there. Ask the car to be stopped and get out of there. You must not listen to criticism of any Guru. Be very careful in the matter of Datta.

Many participated in Datta Bhiksha for this Vishwaroopa Datta Kshetra. I am very happy about that. You must never get up unless Swamiji gets up from Vyaasa Peetham, unless you have some emergency.

Datta Saptaha Day 4

Jaya Guru Datta

Today, I named a baby girl 'Shrotashvini'. It means a deity that listens to the sounds in air and light. She is the wife of Sun God. Unable to bear the radiance of Sun God, she took another form as a horse who was called 'Shrotashvini'. It is also a Raaga which I had played in a healing concert. This bhajan is set to 'Shrotashvini' Raagam.

Bhajan: Saamahita Sivatanugaa Saa...

We have already entered Day 4. We are doing Datta Stava Saptaham, singing one stanza each day. Tembe Maharaj, also known as Vasudevananda Saraswati gave the Upadesam of Datta Stava for the first time to Vishnu Datta. Thereafter, it emerged from the lips of Vishnu Datta. But, people gradually forgot the importance of Datta Stava. Once again, it has come from Swamiji, and now, we sing it often. There is so much of Tattva in Datta Stava. It is unparalleled. No amount of description would suffice. We should listen to such hymns. We must want more of it. That's nothing wrong. But, we must not want more money, assets, and wealth. That would lead to one's ruin. We must wish for more Japa, devotion, and Yoga. We must listen to the Jnana of Atma Tattva again and again. Utilize what you have already and tread the right path.

*drāṃ bījavāsaṃ daramanjuhāsaṃ
dāridryanāśaṃ daharaprakāśaṃ
dānteniveśaṃ daḷadabjabhāsaṃ
dattaṃ sureśaṃ dayitaṃ smarāmi*

'Om Dram Dattaya Namaha' is a mantra we chant everyday. Draam is Datta's seed letter. Every mantra has a seed letter. In that seed letter resides the Lord smiling tenderly. We should always see the Lord with a tender smile. He will then give us that tender smile. Therefore most moortis (idols) are made with the expression of a tender smile. If we keep a tender smile always, we will attain that also. But our Sadguru's tender smile is different. It mocks us. The Guru smiles as if to say you don't learn despite repeated teachings. We should absorb the bliss that the Guru gives us in totality. We should establish that tender smile in our hearts.

We decorate children and look at them fondly. We dress them as Lord Krishna, apply a mark on their foreheads and give them a flute to hold and take so much joy in it. We also decorate girls as Lord Krishna. Similarly, the Lord appears as Bala – a young child. That is why Krishna’s worship has become famous. Lord Krishna appears as a young boy most of the time.

Datta is praised as Unmatta and Paisaacha. The latter means he is indifferent. It also means he holds us with his hand and protects us. The former means he always appears in a state of sleep. His eyes appear like that. You have seen all those forms in Swamiji already. It is very difficult to see so many forms of Swamiji. As mentioned in Krishna Leela Tarangini, seeing Krishna in the cradle, seeing him as if bathing him, seeing him fast asleep (this is hard to see), seeing him eat – when we see these, it is said that they bestow emancipation. These are hard to get. That is why we offer Bhiksha. It is hard to see him in the cradle. But, we can see the Guru when he bathes in the river. You may even see Him when he’s eating, but you’ll not see him fast asleep. If you touch the feet of the Lord who’s fast asleep, he’ll wake up with a start and curse you.

dattātreya hare kṛṣṇa
unmattānaṃda dāyaka
digambara munebāla
piśāca jñānasāgara

Pisaacha and Jnana Sagara can be chanted together or separately. Jnana and Sagara can be chanted together or separately. Every letter has a deep meaning. This is a maha-mantra. You must elongate the fifth letter, ‘a’ in Dattātreya. Say Pisaacha with a ‘sh’ sound as in Sharadamma, the deity of knowledge. Pisaacha means that the Lord pulls and holds our hand firmly. This is a special meaning. “Pichaacha” is wrong, do not chant with a ‘cha’ sound. It will be wrong. You will get no fruit for it. It should be “Pishaacha”. Jnana Sagara is an ocean of knowledge, it’s also the one who helps us cross the ocean of samsara. All of you must certainly learn this mantra. You can chant the mantra faster as well. Chant this mantra whenever your mind is troubled. It gives a lot of peace. A lot of acts of Datta are represented in this mantra. There is so much to explain!

The Lord shines in the heart of those who remember him; He protects them and removes their afflictions. The Lord is dear to our hearts. There are many who are dear to our intellect, to our body, and to money. Many will come close to us if we have money. Some like food, some like fights, some like greed, some like

laziness. Why do we get laziness? Those who just eat and sleep are lethargic. Laziness will not give us any accomplishment. We should be active and alert. A shop had a sign that said that customers would get 50% off if they could speak in Sanskrit. The owner loved Sanskrit a lot. A customer went and asked for “naasikaakarnabandamuktam”. The owner said, “I will give you a 50% discount anyway on the item, please tell me what it means in Telugu, I have no idea of what you said.” The customer said, “Give me a mask please.” We have to close our nose, mouth, and everything. That is our fate today.

Today we will talk about verse 4 of Datta Stavam.

Datta Stava – verse 4

***sarvānarthaharam devam
sarva mangala mangalam
sarva kleśaharam vande
smarṭṛgāmī sanovatu***

Datta removes all dangers and disasters. We face many disasters right from birth until death. As we grow, there are more that come our way. We don't know anything until age 3, but after that, we understand the feeling of 'mine'. When the child grabs his toy saying it's “mine”, it means the child is falling into upheavals and dangers. After the child grows up a little more, he will refuse to share the toy with his younger sibling.

The Lord is luminous. He is the auspiciousness for all auspiciousness. There is no parallel for nectar. There is no parallel to the Rama-Ravana war. We cannot compare it with the Mahabharata war because Ravana was a demon and Rama was God in a human form. There is no parallel to the war between them. The Pandavas war was only a battle between the brothers, for us to get the Bhagavad Gita. We cannot find anywhere the morals that Mahabharata gives us.

Sun is the auspiciousness for light. We cannot, however, say that light is not the auspiciousness for the Sun. Light itself is auspicious. We are decorating the Divine Mother, but it does not mean that the decoration is auspicious for the Mother. It is the flower that gains higher auspiciousness due to Mother. Else, the flower that grows elsewhere will be discarded by us. The rays and light bring auspiciousness to the Sun. Sweet is the only match for sweet. You cannot compare sweetness based on the quantity of a sweet. Shiva removes evil and

bestows goodness, as described in a bhajan (Vesha amangala Mangala kara ki – Pavo Sharana bhajan) Lord Shiva’s appearance seems inauspicious, but that itself bestows auspiciousness. He wears a garland of bones, smears ash, and looks very strange. He adorns deerskin. We wonder if he showered in a while. What is the need for a bath? He has the Ganga on his head.

A girl said she wanted to only marry Shiva since his third eye would give gas to cook with and Ganga would give unlimited water supply. Shiva gives auspiciousness to everything that bestows auspiciousness. Just chanting “Shiva” bestows auspiciousness. Since Datta has Shiva’s aspect, he bestows auspiciousness. He removes impurities and flaws as Vishnu does. This mantra has the principle of Brahma, Vishnu as well as Shiva. He removes pain and gives comfort as Vishnu. Salutations to the Lord who approaches us as soon as we think of Him. May the Lord always protect us. This is what verse 4 says.

Datta Stava – verse 5

brahmaṇyaṃ dharmatattvajñaṃ

bhaktakīrti vivardhanaṃ

bhaktābhīṣṭapadaṃ vaṃde

smarṭṛgāmī sanovatu

He has the knowledge of Brahman – this is the ultimate. There is nothing beyond this. After liberation, what class do we get? Nothing! After eating until your stomach is full, you refuse food. We should keep listening repeatedly to what’s been taught. Do not keep asking for new things. We cannot study Datta Darshana enough. Brahma Jnana cannot be attained easily. All principles – Dvaita, Advaita, and Vishishtadvaita – all lead to knowledge of the Self – Brahma Jnana. If we seek refuge in the Lord, we get Brahma Jnana. If we approach those who have knowledge, we get the same. Datta knows the principle of Dharma (Dharma Tattva). He enhances the fame of his devotees, he doesn’t enhance his own fame. The Lord makes several efforts to strengthen the fame of his devotees. May the Lord who comes to us as soon as we think of Him, protect us!

Datta enhances our meditation, penance, knowledge, and concentration. If you keep chanting Datta Datta Datta Datta, it improves your concentration. Only if you can concentrate will you be able to chant Bhagavad Gita. We keep crying over insults from 20 years ago. We have great concentration and memory regarding such trivial stuff, but we cannot remember or concentrate on

Swamiji's words. You grind your teeth in anger thinking of that insult of your neighbor until death. You will lose your teeth, the person who offended you is fine. Once you get angry, your energy depletes as does your lifespan. Many get angry unnecessarily over trivial reasons. You boil in anger when you don't find your glasses. You are the one who misplaced it, but you yell at your family. You lose your temper frequently over every small thing. We take out our anger from work, at home. The wife is making coffee for you while you are yelling after coming back from work and she curses you under her breath for being rude unnecessarily. The family peace is shattered and the family breaks over time. Why do you get married if you cannot live together happily? Why should you get married if you only have to get divorced? What happiness do you derive from that? You could have remained single, happily working. If this is the case, do not get married at all. You think you cannot get liberation if you are not married. I will take care of your liberation. Tell me if you are not married and are over 35, I will give you in writing that you will get liberation. You can show that to Yama and he will certainly accept it. I will come there on a small scooter when you reach there. So, do not succumb to fear. Why should we?

Many parents want their daughters to get married and that's all. They are ready to give the hand of their daughter even to a donkey. Is the girl a burden for you? If she is not married, then she will go to work and take care of herself. It is very hard to trust men. You may wonder why I am speaking like this. I say this because I have experienced this. You must think through carefully and ask the questions you need to and only then get married. Once you get married, stay together. It is our Dharma. Get busy with your activities. Stay happy. Do not destroy the family unit. Be patient. Think 2000 times before you get married. But once you do, stay together. The relationship of a wife and husband is ordained by the Divine. Do not destroy it. Never utter inauspicious words. During an auspicious activity, we are on the phone, we are not paying attention. Always think positive and speak positively.

Datta strengthens our penance and Japa. He makes us adhere to Veda Dharma. Puja, meditation, following Sadguru etc are all Vedic dharmas. Veda Dharma does not only mean learning the Vedas. Every single Dharmic action you do as a devotee is approved by the Vedas. The Lord bestows Jnana. We need Jnana. We can earn everything else, but not Jnana. We cannot live for 200 years. Hence

Datta is extolled here as Brahmajna. Guru is praised as Brahma – Guru puts us on the noble path and strengthens our Jnana.

Bhajan: Datta Digamabara Eka Adhara....

All the dharmas observed by humans are known by the Lord. He knows who is lazy. Therefore, He observes Dharma and leads by example. He teaches Dharma and the principle of Brahma per one's eligibility. Not only does he strengthen devotees' fame, but also fulfills all their wishes. This is Datta Tattva. If the person is worthy, regardless of which Deity he worships, Datta Swami goes to him Himself and uplifts him, because He is Parabrahman. All Gods are Him, therefore, He has no name. Rama, Krishna, and other incarnations have their names. But Datta has no name. Because all forms are Him. So, call Him with any name and He will respond. He is Mother Goddess, Sri Chakra, the Trinity etc. He appears in diverse forms.

Narada as a Guru said to Dhruva that the one who has conch and discus in his hands is God. So when Vishnu appeared in a different form, Dhruva did not recognize him. Now your Guru tells you that all forms are His. All 14 worlds are His. So, we do not need to worry. He has no form. There are innumerable Earths. There are millions of Suns and moons and Earths. Can we measure the sky? There are worlds behind far space. There is always space beyond the farthest man can go. The ball has no beginning or end. It is continuous. Likewise, there are 14 worlds and there is more beyond. It's endless. It is not only Earth that is round. All the 14 worlds are also round. Beyond all this is also round again. It goes on like this. He is everything. He is all-pervasive. We hear news of new stars being discovered. We hear there was water on a star. Such amazing findings will have no end. This cosmic egg is said to have 14 worlds, but each world has 14 worlds and each of those has 14 worlds. No computer can calculate this. Not even bitcoin can. No one is even fully sure who started bitcoin, billions and billions are being traded, but no computer can decode. Do not invest in bitcoin. Only invest in Datta coins.

The engineer who built the house and set up electric wiring in the house will still have to search for the light switch in the dark. How do you think you can discover this universe? How much can you find?

Paramatma alone is our refuge. He is our everything. He transcends name and form. Datta belongs to everyone. All names and forms are His and He is them.

All devotees of all Deities are His devotees. So, he is the form of all Gods. One day, He imparted wisdom to Prahlada. Prahlada was the son of Hiranyakashipu. We must think of the great Vishnu's devotees like Prahlada, Narada, and others every day. Even remembering them bestows merit. Prahlada's name comes first in this list even before Narada's.

Prahlada, after Darshan of Lord Narasimha became king and ruled for thousands of years. He had no scarcity of anything, but there was some discontentment lurking in some corner of his heart. Some people cry sometimes because they have some discontentment that seems to have no apparent cause. There are people who are sad for no reason. Do you have too much money? If you do, come to Swamiji, you can spend it. People may have a great family and may make a lot of money, but still have some discontentment. Why are you unhappy? You are saying now, after bearing 10 children that you had to give up on the girl you liked and had to marry your wife. Why do you bear discontentment when you are happy now? They feel this way because they died with some discontentment in a prior life. Therefore, never die with a feeling of discontentment. If one dies with discontentment, then the same feeling will persist in the next birth also. So, always be content. Keep chanting the name of Hari to remain contentment.

We experience fear during the time of passing. We get scared seeing the messengers of Yama at the time of death. Prahlada's heart sprouted with discontent and that grew into a massive tree in his heart. He wondered what His true nature was, what this world was. These questions rose in him now. It would have been great if he had these questions earlier.

A king once asked for a boon of 10,000 years of life span. God granted him the boon. The king saw all his descendants die in front of his eyes. He then asked God to take away that boon because he could not bear to see everyone dying. We should be happy with the lifespan we have.

Bhajan: Lagoniya Paaya...

We must pray – “If I have another birth, let me always be in the midst of devotees. Prahlada was constantly thinking of what is the real meaning of “I”. He had grown very old. He did not find the answer he needed. He then set out on a pilgrimage in the company of some scholars. He reached Sayahdri. Lord Datta noticed him and smiled to himself knowing the heart of Prahlada. Datta

decided to uplift him. On the banks of river Kaveri, Lord Datta took the form of a saint and was found rolling on the sand like a python. This was no ordinary python. It would uplift the beings that came to it. Some came and cursed. Some spat on him. Some praised him and fell at his feet. Some praised him and some criticized him. Prahlada observed all this from a distance and realized that the Saint was not ordinary.

He approached the saint, fell at his feet, and humbly asked, “O Saint! Your ways are very strange. You don’t look like the one who works hard, yet your body shines like gold. Why do you roll in the mire? You seem to make no effort to make money. Your body is robust. You seem to always be sleeping, yet you are happy. There are many special features in you. When you talk to anyone, you seem to be a knower of Truth and Vedas. The rest of the time, you seem dull like a lump of mud. You are indifferent to praise and blame. You seem to be beyond likes and dislikes. You neither chide them nor praise them. Your ways seem to be contrary to the worldly rules of conduct. You also do not seem to adhere to Dharma. O great soul! You seem to me like the great Maha Vishnu. Prahlada was a Vishnu devotee and he saw Vishnu everywhere. So, he prayed to the saint to grant him Upadesham.

The saint out of pity said, “Prahlada! You have tied Sri Hari with the cords of your devotion. So, you have no darkness. If you try, you will understand the nature of this world. You, who are a great devotee, have asked. So I must tell you. Not just as animals, birds, and insects, I take birth in all forms. In this cycle of births, I once got a human birth which is the gateway to heaven as well as hell. Things on this Earth seem strange. You experience now what I have already experienced before. So, you will understand what I am saying. It is said that merit leads to a higher birth and sin leads to a lower birth. Merit gives happiness whereas sin gives sorrow. Having learned that all actions lead to sorrow, I abandoned everything and have come here. Many strive to get rid of sorrow and gain happiness. But in reality, the ultimate pursuit of a man, the true bliss is within you. Forgetting this, everyone looks outside for bliss. This is the magic of delusion.

Give up the madness for money. Money will come and go as destined. It is not ours. For instance, honey bees have a tiny form, but have desire as big as a mountain. Owing to excessive greed, they work tirelessly to collect honey. But finally, that honey is taken away by someone else. The python on the other

hand is massive, but never strives for food. It eats whatever comes its way. When food is obtained, it eats; otherwise, it will not lament. I examined both and accepted them both as Guru. The first – honey bee taught me how not to be. The second – python taught me how to be.

This is called 'Ajagara vrata'. I do not ask for anything. I do not refuse what I am given. I do not lament for what I have not. I do not let sorrow or joy enter me. I have equanimity. However, the world succumbs to delusion. I wish well upon those who criticize me. Thus I revel in the bliss of Atman. You are dear to Sri Hari, therefore dear to me. Understand this clearly, this is Paramahansa Yoga. Datta thus imparted wisdom to the old Prahlada. Prahlada's inner light is illuminated. Immediately Lord Datta appeared in his real form. Prahlada was overjoyed. He worshiped the Lord and left. He spent the rest of his life in bliss.

Lord Datta removed the few cords of bondage that remained in Prahlada's heart. May the Lord help you get rid of your illusory bonds as well. Om Draam Dattaya Namaha!

Seshulathaji is here. She teaches bhajans to thousands of students. She sings beautifully and teaches the kids to sing just as beautifully. Her students are very fortunate. Students can join online as well. She can help you sing with a divine experience. Elders can also learn. She had no time but came running to see Swamiji for at least a day. Swamiji has kept her very very busy. My heart is full of happiness.

People are participating in sevas so happily. Some gave away everything they brought on this trip. You have mad love for Swamiji. We perhaps ill-treated monkeys, that is why we look like monkeys with this mask. No problem, it is good we all have masks on. Swamiji has mentioned that there is a Teertha here in the Ashram. I showed it to Prasad. They are working on it. It will be called Kalpavrksa Teertham. They are searching for it. It removes all diseases and fulfills all wishes.

It has been two years since I saw a gathering like this. Pithapuram devotees also have come here. They are also requesting me for a program like this at Pithapuram. Do not drive at night. It is alright to wake up early at 5am and drive. I will see you again tomorrow and the day after. We are doing Datta Stava Saptaham.

Datta Saptaha Day 5

Sri Balaswamiji's speech

*gāṇagāpura sukṣetre
panka sparśena yasstriyaṃ
arakṣannovatāt
saccidānanda śrī gurussadā*

The meaning of this verse: May the one of the most sacred kshetra called Ganagapura, who donated mud, protected and uplifted a middle-aged woman, and who is none other than our Gurudeva, Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swamiji protect all of us also. You might be wondering what is the connection with the woman, mud and Ganagapura.

In Mysuru Ashrama, Sri Swamiji consecrated Kalagni Shamana Datta in 1978. Before the consecration of the temple, around 1976-77, Sri Swamiji said that he wanted to go to Ganagapura and return to Mysuru. Around 1988, Sri Swamiji visited Ganagapura. Then, the driver Puttanna accompanied Sri Swamiji here. After the arrival, Sri Swamiji had the Darshana of Nirguna Padukas. Sri Swamiji also went to Sangama and took a sacred bath also. You would have noticed that it is extremely swampy at the banks of Bheema- Amaraja river. After the bath, Sri Swamiji's legs were submerged in mud until the knees. Sri Swamiji somehow managed to come out of the boggy river and came close to Audumbara tree there. Then, the driver wanted to wipe and clean Sri Swamiji's feet but Swamiji refused. That driver insisted. Then, Sri Swamiji in anger, did not accede to his request.

As Swamiji kept walking, a middle aged woman was weeping profusely around the Audumbara tree. Those who suffer with mental afflictions automatically tend to cry in the presence of Datta in Ganagapura. Guru Charitra says that devotees are liberated from their difficulties by shedding tears. It is a purification process that happens in this kshetra. Thumping her chest, the lady was wailing bitterly, shouting Datta, Datta, Datta. None were around there. She was unstoppable. Sri Swamiji arrived by Audumbara and stood there seriously for a while. Then, He stamped his feet hard against the floor. As a result, the mud on His feet fell on the people around including the wailing woman. In just two minutes, the woman stopped crying.

I keep talking to the senior devotees once in a while, for they have many experiences. Some experiences have not come in Life history also. Sri Swamiji did not want some experiences to be written in Life history, while some of the experiences could not be traced by the Author of the book, Kuppa Venkata Krishna Murthy.

During Navaratri celebrations this year, I asked Puttanna to come to Ganagapura without fail. Then, he explained the story of Sri Swamiji travelling to Ganagapura and the story of the wailing woman. He said, “When Sri Swamiji wanted to circumambulate around Audumbara tree, the woman was right in front of Swamiji, crying unstopably. None of us knew how to stop her from crying. As soon as mud from Sri Swamiji’s feet touched her, her crying stopped. Sri Swamiji sat in the car and asked me if I understood why I was denied the permission to wipe clean His feet. I said I did not understand. I was in fact angry with Swamiji for not letting me clean His feet. Then, Sri Swamiji explained to me – I have not used any power of penance there. I used the power of devotees’ devotion. The mud that was stuck to me was the dust from the feet of the devotees who come here. Ganagapura kshetra is so powerful that the mere dust from devotees’ feet is enough to liberate the woman from her difficulty.” When we meet senior devotees, we must discuss the miracles of Guru – Guru mahima. Sri Swamiji visited Datta Padukas earlier in the day today. A wonderful verse from Guru Charitra says:

*dattātreyah sarvatīrtha rūpopi
bhuvī paryāṭan
nija paryāṭanenaiva
bhaktānuddharatīśvaraḥ*

Lord Datta is himself a manifestation of all Teerthas (pilgrim places). He does not need to visit any places or kshetras. Like Guru Gita proclaims, all teerthas reside in the right feet of Guru, Vedas reside in His face. So, a Guru has no need to go anywhere. Despite all that, Guru tours over all places. Why does He do so? With his travels, the Guru uplifts devotees. We understand this very clearly with the experience narrated by Puttanna. Many devotees are being uplifted in Ganagapura.

Did you notice the 4 Vedas in the picture of Datta behind Sri Swamiji? The four dogs in front of Datta are not just dogs, they represent the Vedas. That is why, it is said that food should first be served to dogs, cows and to mendicants before

consuming it. Out of the four Vedas here, one Veda seems to be relaxed after eating, one seems ready to relax, one is ready to leave, while one seems to place its entire focus on Datta. If we see and understand what Swamiji is saying like that dog is, we can easily grasp what Swamiji is teaching.

Swamiji makes us laugh during the discourse. We should bring the mind back to the discourse instead of getting distracted. It is our great fortune that we are listening to this amazing discourse from Datta himself. Today is Day 5 of the Datta Tattva Saptaha.

Discourse by Sri Swamiji

Today, let us learn about verse 6 of Datta Stavam.

Datta Stava – verse 6

śoṣaṇaṃ pāpa paṃkasya

dīpanaṃ jñāna tejasah

tāpa praśamaṇaṃ vaṃde

smarṭṛgāmī sanovatu

The Lord dries up the mire of sins. The mire of sins has all kinds of mud and soil in it. Sins are also like mire. All kinds of particles and organisms are in the mire. Sand and crores of native sinful creatures live in that mire. We have committed such sins, we continue to, and we will do so in the future. The Lord dries up and burns such sins entirely. Paramatma wipes them away completely. When the mire is dried up, it doesn't stick anymore. It mixes back with the mud.

He lights the lamp of knowledge. Light is knowledge (Jnana). When you show light to darkness, all objects in the dark get illuminated. We are not lit, our eyes see that light. We see the object when light falls on it. So, the objects are illuminated. Our eyes are not illuminated. Likewise, the Lord illuminates our knowledge. Three wicks are used in lighting a lamp. They represent the gross, subtle and causal bodies. Those three bodies burn in the light of knowledge. Oil that helps it, is nothing but penance and concentration. That oil makes sure the knowledge lights up and burns the three wicks that represent the three bodies. The earthen lamp contains the oil in which are the three wicks that burn in the light of knowledge. The oil and the wicks disappear and the knowledge is invisible. The earthen lamp alone is left with some soot or ash. Neither the wicks nor the oil are left. Wicks, oil and light come up then and also go away soon. The beings (Jeevis) too come and go in a flash. We are all like that. We come with three bodies per our karma. With the light of knowledge, only the ash will be left. From the ash sprouts life again. Science will not believe this. This is clearly stated in the Devi bhajan – Jvaalalanduna. (All bhajans have Vedanta secrets embedded in them coupled with the divine names)

We came with the three bodies. We need knowledge from the Guru. Fire burns but wicks burn only when they are soaked in oil. Oil is the karma that resulted in this birth and this family. The light helps it. This worldly life is the cause for destruction as well as upliftment. We are using the three bodies in two ways

with the oil called karma. We are either spiraling downwards or going higher. Human birth is rare and great, say the sages. Do not misuse it. We should not get a birth, but if we are to, we should get a human birth. There is no escape from lighting up the three bodies in the light of knowledge. We should dissolve in the Jnana that the Guru gives us. That is liberation. Listening is a lesson, it is sadhana. Therefore, obeisance to the one who lights up the light of knowledge and cools off the three kinds of afflictions that result from diseases; from the karmas and births; and from obstacles. May the Lord who approaches us as soon as we think of Him, protect us.

Bhajan: Smarami Dattam Bhajami Dattam....

Owing to a sin committed in some birth, a person suffers poverty in this life. Many wonder why there is so much poverty. I sent you a map today on happiness. India does not rank high in the happiness index. People in the world are happy about money and security. But the happiness in India from devotion towards God is found nowhere else. The Indians may be unhappy about money and security a little, but they will rank first in internal happiness. Millions of people go to Kumbha Mela in Allahabad. Why would they do that if they were not happy? Maharashtrians gather for festivities in Pandarapura. Thousands of people of Andhra Pradesh gather for Batukamma festivities. So many go to Kashi, Rameshvaram, Mathura, Srisailam, Ayodhya, Char Dhaam etc despite the difficulties due to old age. Those who did the survey only took into account material success and wealth. But if they measured spiritual happiness, we would have topped the list.

We observe festivals like Deepavali and have Darshan of Guru despite all kinds of difficulties. We are very content with devotion towards Guru, Hari, Shiva etc. Those who survey do not know this. Some sin in a previous life causes poverty in this birth. To overcome this, we commit more sins. Human nature is to lie to cover up another lie. Therefore, do not even start lying. You must sever the chain of lies at the earliest.

Unable to bear the torment of poverty, the man robs or begs for alms. We may wonder why he has to beg for alms. No one helps him. They label him a thief instead. The man is not a thief to start with, but might become one when he faces such hostility. We are inciting normal people to be poorer and to commit burglaries. We can instead support others as much as possible.

These days, people are getting creative and selling small products or cleaning your car windshield when you stop at traffic lights. I buy what they have, to support them. You can buy those items and distribute them to others. The West Indies used to have a lot of theft, but that has gone down now. That is because they sell small objects and wares on the street. We can help them by buying from them. What they sell may not be useful to us, but we should encourage them by buying from them.

Instead of giving to a panhandler, buy from people that are working hard like this. You may help those who are disabled. Some of the panhandlers carry infants in their arms to beg, that infant may not even be theirs. When you set out from home, carry some change, maybe carry Rs. 25 or so. Give Rs. 2 or so to each one that begs. Some may reject the small change because they want more. If they do, take the change back. So many keep committing sins to get out of poverty. That vicious cycle of sins has no end.

Once we get into this quagmire, it is very hard to get out. To get out of this, divine grace is a must. Lord Datta helps you not get into that quagmire. He dries it up before you fall into it. We think we were fortunate to not fall into it. But it is because of the Lord who dries it up by lighting the lamp called knowledge. That light is the great illumination that dries up the mire and does not let us commit new sins. This is also in a Bhajan – Datta Datta Datta Datta Datta Deepam. This bhajan talks about the light in the heart lit by Lord Datta. Swamiji has already given us everything in bhajans. The Upanishads are nicely embedded in them. The light burns the moths of desires. It penetrates the darkness of illusion.

Bhajan: Datta Datta Datta Datta Datta Deepam....

So, we need to put a full stop to this cycle of sins – lies to cover lies and sins to overcome sins. We should not give way to any more sins. There are many practices, traditions and scriptures in this world. But it is Datta who is creating them and making them function. Yet, surprisingly, he transcends them and is not tainted by them. The lotus leaf is born in muddy water and grows in it, but remains untouched by water. God's creation is such. God is in this creation but is untouched by it.

Many wonder what practice they should follow, or what Shastra they should use to uplift themselves. Why do we have so many Shastras when we cannot follow

even one, some wonder. Some wonder why another has so much money. They wonder because they don't have money themselves. This thinking torments us although the thinking itself is wrong.

This question also tormented Kartaveerya in the past. With Datta's grace, he gained a thousand arms instead of his crippled arms. He gained so much power that he could even travel in the sky and bestow boons on others. He could make creations and could become Sun and Moon himself. Such Kartaveerya was tormented by doubts because he could not understand the Guru. Holding the feet of Lord Datta, he asked him to answer his question.

Bhajan: Dattavadhoota Swami kaavave....

Lord Datta preached, "Kartaveerya! The nature of Gods and demons is different. The Guru of Gods, Brhaspati taught knowledge focused on compassion, non violence, truth, cleanliness etc. The Guru of demons, Shukracharya taught knowledge giving importance to comforts, lies, deception, violence etc. The difference between them lies in the kind of knowledge imparted to them.

So, in the beginning, the demons were winning and the Gods were getting defeated. The Gods were disillusioned and began to doubt their Guru's teachings. This is also a kind of karma. Fighting the demons constantly, the influence of the demons rubbed off on the gods. Guru Brhaspati grasped the intention of the Gods. Therefore, he composed works on many sciences and taught them to the Gods. Indra asked Brhaspati why he was teaching them sciences that promoted desire for women and wealth. He felt that only Tattva Shastra that promoted liberation should be taught. Indra opined, "A blind man may fall into a well not knowing his way, but why are you leading us and throwing us into the well of ignorance? I do not understand your intent, please be compassionate and tell me."

Brhaspati explained, "O Indra! You are in favor of Dharma and you fear Adharma. I am happy about this and I appreciate your question. Dharma must always be followed. Purity of mind, compassion, integrity, cleanliness, truth etc are all foundational to Dharma. If these form the basis, then anyone can attain liberation. For example, a sculptor can work making truth his foundation. If each person works in his occupation with truth as the foundation, he will certainly be uplifted. To illustrate this Brhaspati narrated a story.

In the past, in Kampilya city lived a man named Vidhijna who was very calm, compassionate, wise, honest and devoid of desires. He knew astrology and other scriptures very well and was a good architect. Everyone wanted him to build their house and also arrange their weddings. As a result, Vidhijna made a lot of money, but he did not hoard that wealth. Many stuff water pipes with money but will not share their wealth with the poor. Some hide wealth under sofas while some others bury the wealth inside the building. Vidhijna undertook a lot of noble deeds with the money. We don't know when we will pass away. So, save a little for yourself and do dharma with the rest.

Vidhijna won favor with the king and became the royal architect. His fame and earnings grew tremendously, but he was never arrogant. He was not greedy. He saved only a little for the future. He taught the same to his children as well. He never hurt another owing to the power of his wealth, power or knowledge. He never uttered a lie. His noble deeds only increased day after day. Thus, Vidhijna finally reached heaven. He experienced the merit of his actions in heaven and was born again as the king of the same kingdom of Kampilya.

We are envious of those who have a lot of wealth and built a lot of homes. He has all that because of the merit of his prior life, even if he is committing sins in this life. Vidhijna as the King continued his noble deeds. We may not have a charitable nature, but practice bit by bit slowly. If you gain a charitable nature, money will automatically flow to you. You will find ways to earn.

The King dug wells, planted trees, protected nature, built ponds, cleaned streets and built temples. He got extensive worship done. We build temples and then forget about it. You must be able to sustain the working of the temple. You must be able to support the priest's worship and his livelihood at a minimum. Building a temple is not just about giving an idol for the temple. Anyone can give an idol. The idol does not cost much. Even if you do not give an idol, you must build a temple. You must then support worship services as well. Merely building a temple structure is not enough. The king got many Yajnas done, and gave many charities. He worshiped gods and Brahmins. We get Brahmins to perform many worship services done all day, but give them meager Dakshina and old clothes in donation. We should donate generously. When they are happy, they give you blessings that are good for you. The king thus led a noble life and reached heaven after death.

After enjoying pleasures for a long time, he was born on Earth as a Brahmin. Owing to the meritorious activities from his previous birth, he continued the noble deeds like Japa and penance in this birth as well. Thereafter, he accepted Tureeya Ashram and attained Brahma Loka. O Indra, this is the story of sculptor Vidhijna. He started with just sculpting and then finally attained Brahman.

So, regardless of what occupation you have, if you conduct yourself with truth, you will attain salvation. No occupation is an inferior one. Do not assume it is only with studying scriptures that you will attain salvation. Even if you are a cobbler, work with devotion and faith. Be content. We must be content with what we have. Vidhijna adhered to truth and Dharma and step by step attained Brahman. This path is not wrong. What should be noted is that Vidhijna never abandoned Truth and Dharma. So, whatever the occupation, if you conduct yourself with Dharma, you will go higher. If you offer seva as a volunteer with total dedication, you will attain liberation. When the volunteers swept the Temple this morning, I wished liberation for them. You must work with contentment and with dedication. Never be dissatisfied. Be content whether you earn Rs 10k or Rs 10 lacs.

People pine for an occupation they could not be in, or for a woman they could not marry even after they have been married to someone else for decades. In the past, in Mahishmati Puram, a prince loved music. He married a princess and started Nadopasana. But the prince Visalaksha never lied and never coveted another's wealth or wife. He worshiped his parents and never pined for fame. He enjoyed marital bliss with his wife. He would do concerts and would do great charities.

The couple would never sing indecent songs. They only sang divine compositions. After death, they were born in Gandharva loka. Lord Shiva summoned them and had them perform a concert there. One day, Indra took them to Brahma Loka and recommended that they have the couple do a concert. Lord Brahma said, "O pious couple! You learned music in its entirety, but you did not learn about Brahman. So, reside here and I will impart the Upadesha to you." Thus the couple attained Brahman.

With truth, non-violence, compassion and other noble deeds, one can attain higher worlds, regardless of any scripture. Indra, having understood the Upadesham, prostrated to his Guru. Kartaveerya also comprehended the preachings imparted by Lord Datta.

Have a good nature, noble virtues, follow all the scriptural rules, do charity, have a higher living, then you will attain liberation with the grace of Lord Datta. May all you attain noble intellect!

Bhajan: Datta Deva Datta Deva Datta Deva Pahimaam....

Bhagavad Gita exams will take place online only. 7k cases have been reported in Karnataka. Later on, the students can come to the Ashrama and take their certificates and gold medals from Swamiji. Those in Hyderabad and Vijayawada can have Swamiji in their Ashrama for one day and get the medals/certificates. Last year too we did not have a Bhagavad Gita event due to Covid. You are fortunate to have this even here .

We don't need a separate Datta Jayanti, this is like Datta Jayanti. So don't lament that we are not doing this for Datta Jayanti. Do not be stubborn believing you will be fine even without following rules because Swamiji is with you. Change your masks every 3 days. Wash your hands often. Do not worry about when you can come to the Ashrama. There will be Live Darshana with Swamiji again.

There may be additional guidance and direction from your Bhagavad Gita teachers. Follow them. I am only giving you an outline, get all the details from your teachers. Shashtra conferences will also take place online because Karnataka has a larger incidence of Omicron variant. The virus will not stay still because Swamiji is here. Do not come to Mysuru for Datta Jayanti until further instructions. Watch them all online. We are observing Datta Jayanti right now in this sacred Kshetra.

If this event weren't happening, then you may feel bad about not attending Datta Jayanti. You know how much it costs for you to visit Mysore Ashrama. Use that money to participate in sevas instead. Today is the day Proddatur Yogi Raja Vallabha was consecrated. It is a good day.

Datta Saptaha Day 6

Jaya Guru Datta.

Today is already Day 6. Number 6 is very special. Each day's number has its significance.

*alarkarāja bhr̥kuṭī
nibaddasvanetra dṛṣṭim̐
dhr̥tayoga puṣṭim̐
pratikṣamāṇam̐ nijabhaktavaryā
nanugrahītum̐ gurudatta mīḍe*

Emperor Alarka placed his focus on his third eye and meditated on Sri Guru Datta, who adorns the power of Yoga and earnestly waits to eternally bless the best of the devotees. This is the meaning of the above verse.

The seventh verse of Datta Stavam:

Datta Stava – verse 7

***sarvaroga praśamanam̐
sarvapiḍā nivāraṇam̐
vipaduddharaṇam̐ vande
smarṭṛgāmī sanovatu***

Lord Datta drives away all diseases. The disease of samsara is the most terrible. We can cure the diseases of the body, or somehow live a 100 years, but the disease of samsara lasts through lifetimes. We may lose the disease or the body, but the disease of samsara attached to the being (jeevi) will not leave us throughout life. So, the Lord cures the disease of samsara, not the commonplace diseases. Lord Dhanvantari gave us medicines through Ayurveda, which enhances lifespan. The moon also gave us medicines. We may use those to cure diseases and one day lose this body itself. Some diseases may be pacified a little although not cured entirely. There are such medicines available to us.

These days, we can even change organs. Organ transplantation was there a long time ago. When Sada Shiva beheaded Vinayaka, Lord Narayana put an elephant head on Vinayaka. These days we talk about eye, heart, kidney transplants with great ego, but this was there at the beginning of creation itself. The entire head was transplanted. We still cannot do that today. We can only transplant some

organs and even then we have problems. Doctors these days may not be like Lord Narayana, but they may be like Naryana's wife – Maha Lakshmi. In other words, they are after money. Most are getting educated here and settling in America. Are there no poor and diseased in our country? The doctors must have the right mindset and the merit of prior lives to serve the poor. Serving in the medical field is like serving Narayana. This frame of mind does not come to all. It is not clear whether they are serving out of fear or for money. There are so many checkups and so many tests prescribed. After the patient dies, the family receives a huge bill. And the son then gets hospitalized seeing that bill. This is the current scenario!

There are three doctors here who are distributing medicines with their personal money. We do medical camps in Mysuru often. So many come to get treated. I am very happy. Doctors from other medical institutions also join us. We used to do a camp at a different village each month. We had to stop these free camps during Covid. There are many that want to serve. 40 Doctors used to visit Mysore Ashram each month and serve. Some companies distribute medicines freely also. These are part of the 2% of the medical community that have a service mindset. We should put our medical degree to good use.

I have many devotees who notice a limping cow on the road, stop their car and feed and treat the cow. They do not even tell Swamiji about it because they believe Swamiji knows everything. Sadguru Dattatreya is the greatest Doctor. We can cure other diseases at home, but we cannot cure the disease of samsara even in heaven. Only the Sadguru can cure it. That means, only He can cure the disease of the mind. Mental torment is the feeling of discontentment or the feeling of lacking something. Dwelling on this poses many hindrances to sadhana. Everyone has to experience the fruit of his Karma. If you forget it, your sadhana will progress without obstacles. Swamiji has given 5 stories in Life history to show that each one experiences the results of one's own karma. If you tell me what they are, I will give you a gold medal. Now, your reality will come out, you claim to read Swamiji's books. Hence, you must read all books of Swamiji and listen to all discourses of Swamiji. Guru is not for fashion. Guru removes torments known and unknown. We keep dwelling on the problems of others as well. In this world there are many people that suffer more, the more they know. Perhaps, it is better not to know anything.

A short story – A man had a big coconut grove. He would sell those coconuts and be happy, but would never touch one particular tree. The fruit of that tree was the biggest and had the sweetest taste. No one knew why he would not even touch it. One day, a new thief noticed this. The thief native to the place had never touched that tree. This new thief stole all the coconuts on Friday night and sold them at the farmer's market on Saturday. That morning the owner was surprised to see that someone had picked the coconuts from that one tree. He felt, "It would have been hard to carry these very far. They must be sold in the local market." He set out to see who the thief was. He went to the market where the thief was selling the coconuts.

Approaching the thief, he asked, "Where did you get these from?" The thief said, "I found these in the field nearby." The man said, "That field is mine." The thief panicked and said, "You may take your coconuts." The man said, "I do not know how you picked the coconuts. There is a black cobra on the tree." The thief was shocked and said, "Oh! that was what bit me twice." He fell down and died.

All these are examples of "peeda" – fears for no good reason. It is taking on burdens that do not belong to you. This verse says – Obeisance to Lord Datta who removes such fears. May He, who appears as soon as we think of Him, protect us all.

The eighth verse of Datta Stavam:

Datta Stava – verse 8

janmasaṁsāra baṁdhaghnanam

svarūpānamda dāyakam

niśśreyasa padaṁ vande

smarṭṛgāmī sanovatu

Lord Datta removes the bondages of samsara that cause births. We are taking birth over and over despite all the Yajnas and Yaagas. The bondage of samsara is such. You can only tell yourself that you are going to liberation. But your mind is here, dwelling on kids, pets and possessions. Once, I have already told you how a son takes birth. Remind yourself! One who gives inner bliss and is the dwelling place of liberation is Datta. Obeisance to the Lord who appears as soon as we think of Him. May the Lord protect us always.

Bhajan: Jaya Jaya Jaya Jaya Jaya Jaya Datta.....

Diseases are of three kinds – physical, mental and sadhana related. We know of the first kind. The second is mental diseases related to fickleness. It will not let us do anything and will never give us results despite much exertion. We should get rid of it and surrender totally to God. The third is ego and other related things. If these diseases are surrendered to Datta, they will disappear. The Lord removes all 8 kinds of afflictions. This is Truth! This is Truth! This is Truth! This is the command of Shiva.

Even if someone questions you – “Why do you hold on to Datta and not Santoshi Maata?”, you should not succumb to any wavering. You must think of Santoshi Maata as Renuka Maata only. Whatever Goddess you see, see Him as Anasuya Maata or Renuka Maata. If you see another Lord, see him as Datta. See the Lord in Tirupati as Datta. Annamacharya also wrote about Datta.

Even the greats have reconciled all deities back to Datta. He removes all eight difficulties if you have devotion like the flow of oil, not the flow of water. Oil flows smoothly. But we blame God when we have troubles. When we are happy, we praise him to the skies. One must have equanimity of mind. Do not link your troubles to God. If priests tell you that your troubles will be gone if you do a certain puja, know that they are not priests, but are businessmen. Do not bribe God. Just surrender! Bear no doubt. If you entertain doubt, God ignores you. If you are angry and you leave, so be it. You are the loser. God will welcome you to join the demons. You must not have an iota of doubt. Kartaveerya got his crooked hands fixed. He became a great warrior. We saw this even in the incarnations of Sri Krishna and Rama. Therefore, study the Bhagavad Gita and all your doubts will be dispelled.

We keep the company of the wicked. Our actions are bad. We keep listening to and touching things that we should not. That is why we ask you to stay away to prevent Covid. So too, association with non believers will induce non-belief in you. It is contagious. The company you keep will influence your habits. We have relations and friendships of all kinds around us, we have foods of all kinds around us. You are proud of your advanced academic degrees. But, you cannot find a switch in the dark. If you have no oxygen, you cannot live. What use is your education? Education helps you to some extent. It helps get a good name, build a mansion, earn wealth etc. It does not help you get rid of karma. You need association with the pious to get rid of your karma. Go to the library, but

pick spiritual books, not fiction based novels. We begin looking and acting like the characters we watch on screen. We revel in those experiences and while away precious time. We watch movies and daily soaps which only lead to confusion in the mind. When we act crazy, no one can help us. They will put us in a mental asylum. All that is due to watching too much TV.

There are some who always dwell on their grievances. Why do you cry? You must stand in front of God and laugh in happiness – “You have given me the opportunity to stand in front of you and praise you!”, “You have given me the eligibility to do this charity!” “You have given me the opportunity to serve you!”. You must be happy in front of God at all times. We must never cry in front of God. If we do, then God says, “So, be it!”. You will have to cry your entire lifetime.

Your mind is an ant-hill of desires. None of the desires will get fulfilled. Your mind will only end up in confusion and you will head nowhere like Trishanku who neither could live in heaven nor on Earth. Believe in Datta. He removes all afflictions. If they are not gone, consider yourself fortunate to chant Datta’s name. If none of you had any problem in life and were happy, would you be listening to these discourses? You are here because you have problems and desires. Each one of you came to Swamiji because of a desire. Today, we have grown up in the association of Swamiji for 30 or 40 years. So, your desires have withered away. New desires arise in us every single day which we cannot even keep track of. The couple Vishnu Datta and Susheela prayed to Lord Datta to bestow them with a desire that removes all their desires. We must not have any desires or demands. Our life is computerized. Why do you lament?

Every night, we go to bed crying over our problems. We call ourselves devotees, but we fail to see Paramatman, his light, his taste. We are unable to rise. Life goes on and life-span is getting wasted. Remember Datta and He will remove all your eight kinds of sufferings.

The eight 8 kinds of affliction are – absconding from one’s motherland; separation from wife; having to feed relatives at times of poverty; having to eat another’s left over, having to make friendship with foes; having to wait for food offered by others; being rejected by everyone and poverty. Being rejected by everyone is a great pain. Lord Datta removes all these. Therefore, the Lord is praised as “Sarvapeeda nivaranam”. So, we should praise him: O Lord, these bondages of samsara have me in shackles. Please free me from them. Many

think of Samsara as getting married and having children. That is wrong. Taking birth on Earth is samsara. Gods do not like taking birth on Earth. They think this is a punishment. They know that they will get stuck in endless cycles – getting married, bearing children and sowing seeds for next births.

Human birth is never just one birth. If you get it once, it spins endlessly. The only way to stop it is Guru's teachings. As you keep listening, the cycle will slow down and the sins will slowly decline and you will gradually get out. This might take time. Prahlada had said that he was not afraid of the frightening form of Lord Narasimha, but was afraid of samsara as the Lord had blessed him to be an Emperor for 10k years. Samsara is a "peeda". We should get out of this cycle of samsara. It is not possible to escape death. Demons ask for escaping death. What is the use of escaping death? You must make sure to not have another birth.

Death inevitably follows birth. Death is growth. We are all hurtling forward to our death. There is no need to be happy that you turned 33 years old. You just wasted 33 years of your birth. You must grieve within and ask yourself how many chants you did, how much charity, how much Japa, how much goodness etc you could do. Birth is itself death.

Only if you hold on to Datta, will you understand. The remedy for our various problems is not doing different pujas to the Demigods. That will only give you tiny little blessings and grace. But Datta gives you everything. You keep going everywhere when Datta is right with you. It is like a woman carrying her infant and searching for it all over. Since the woman carries the baby all the time, she forgets she has the baby with her. Many sleep even with masks on due to practice during the day. Some people are not wearing a mask once Swamiji leaves the hall. Corona is sitting on your shoulder waiting for you to take off your mask.

Yashoda could not understand Krishna. Yashoda worked very hard to ward off the evil eye on Lord Krishna. She was concerned that demons were in pursuit of her child. Is this not ignorance? Kausalya also behaved similarly, she could not understand the Lord. Dasaratha too grieved greatly for his son Rama. If he had known his son was God, he would not have grieved so much. He could have become a Jeevanmukta. Dasaratha was enveloped by ignorance due to which he was aggrieved. You know your true form when the bondage of samsara falls off. Janaka, on the other hand, attained Jnana and freed himself from the shackles

of samsara. When the bondage of samsara is gone, you will know your real nature and true form.

It is not enough to pay lip service saying I am Datta, you are Datta. You must contemplate within and experience this because knowing yourself is Paramatman. To attain this state is “nisshreyasam”. This is liberation. Looking inward steadfastly is this state. The mud becomes the pot, and the pot when it breaks becomes mud again. We do not call mud a pot, we only call it a pot once it takes on that form. When the body (which is compared to a pot) falls, it merges into the five elements. Femininity, masculinity, kingship, servitude etc – when all these are gone, Datta alone is left. This is Moksha. This is the great profit one gets when one surrenders to Datta. This is also called ‘Ahamgrahopasana’. This happens only when we experience that we are Datta. This experience removes the bondage of samsara.

Long ago, a Yogeeshwari named Madalasa and Kuvayalashva had four sons. They were Vikranta, Subahu, Shatrumardana and Alarka. The first three became Yogis just through her Upadesha and Vedantic lullabies. The sons reveled in inner bliss and left for the woods. The father, King Kuvayalashva was very unhappy because he did not know the truth properly. He thought attachments and enjoyments are the aim of life. So, he asked his wife to make sure the last son would stay back and become King. So, he requested that the fourth son Alarka be taught kingly wisdom and dharmas.

Madalasa could not go against the command of her husband. Therefore, she taught him Pravritti (path of action) as opposed to Nivrtti (path to liberation). The son of a Yogini, Alarka believed comforts were everything.

One day, the parents retired to the woods. The Mother Madalasa gave her son a ring and said, “My son! When you have unbearable suffering, open this ring and find your way.”

After some time, Alarka’s older brother Subahu learned about Alarka and regretted that Alarka was wallowing in impermanent worldly joys despite being son of a Yogini. He resolved to set his brother on the path of truth. He went to the neighboring king of Kasi and said, “I went to my kingdom and my brother owing to his pride, refused to recognize me and give me my share of the kingdom. Do something and give me my share of the kingdom.”

The king of Kasi tried diplomacy, but that backfired. The king then waged war against Alarka and defeated him. Alarka closed the gates to his kingdom which prevented food supplies from coming in. People starved due to famine. The king had nowhere to go. Unable to bear the suffering, he opened the ring which said, "Satsang is the remedy to the disease called attachment. So, be in the friendship of the pious. For the disease called desire, the intense desire for liberation is the only medicine. So, try to attain liberation."

As soon as he read these words, Alarka immediately remembered Lord Datta and escaped through a secret tunnel to Sahyadri to find Lord Datta. Many wonder where Sahyadri is. The mountain range extends thousands of miles. Swamiji built an Ashram in Panvel, Mumbai on the way to Goa. That is where Datta used to walk and rest. That is Sahyadri. Swamiji has identified it. You all must come to the Panvel Ashram and sleep for one night there. Let us all go there and have a gathering after Covid.

Alarka held the feet of Datta. Datta felt, "Alarka drank mother Madalasa's milk and was blessed. There is no need to test him further." Alarka wept holding the Lord's feet and begged for Tattva Upadesham.

*prasannāya pramuktāya
prakṛṣṭārthāyate namaḥ
aṣṭaiśvāryapradānāya
varadāya varīyase*

Bhajan: Vivarimpava Datta....

The Lord melted seeing Alarka. He said, "Who is grieving? Look within." These words worked like a mantra for Alarka. He did a lot of self inquiry and realized that attachment caused that grief. He was grieving over the kingdom and the attachment to his brother. He neither wanted to part with the kingdom nor lose his brother.

Alarka said, "O Datta deva! One day, the cat ate my chicken's head. I was very sad. The next day that cat ate a rat's head. I was very happy. This taught me that attachment causes sorrow. Where there is no attachment, there is no sorrow. I had attachment for the chicken, but not for the rat. Therefore, the fool thinks he has joys and sorrows. I have been living like a fool all these days. In reality, there is no joy or sorrow, I understand this now due to your grace.

Lord Datta had only said one sentence and that caused this realization in Alarka.

Lord Datta said, “O Alarka! You have analyzed it correctly. The feeling of ‘mine’ is sorrow. The feeling of ‘not mine’ is freedom. Those who wish for eternal happiness must sharpen the axe called knowledge using Satsanga as the tool. Thereafter, the tree called attachment must be severed with that axe. This is the process. Did you realize that the Atman is in the body?”

Alarka said, “Lord! I can now understand this well by your grace. But due to my fickleness, I cannot establish that knowledge firmly in my heart. My intellect and senses are clouded. What should I do to get rid of samsaric bondage?”

Datta replied, “O Alarka! Learn how bondage starts. Ignorance causes attachment which in turn leads to association. Association further leads to sorrow. So, first give up association. That will remove attachment. So, you must pretend bondage for the sake of society but be detached within. This comes with Guru’s grace only. You must act outwardly. Cry for the sake of society, if need be. But, remain dissociated within.

If you lose attachment, dispassion sprouts. That is ultimate bliss and knowledge that reveals to you your flaws. That Jnani will have no desire at all. He will act without any desires. He will have no more births.” Alarka then learned Yogic secrets and then prayed to the Lord thus:

*namaste sarvadevāya
namaste puruṣottama
namo girāṃ vidūrāya
cetaso nirguṇātmane
nārāyaṇa namastestu
padmanābha namostute
sarvasmai sarvabījāya
vācyāvācaka śaktaye*

Bhajan: Bhaja Bhaja Dattam.....

Alarka then sought permission from Lord Datta and went to meet Kasi king and brother Subahu. Offering salutations to them, he voluntarily gave up his kingdom to Kasi king. The king smilingly asked, “Are you doing this out of fear for your life?”

Then, Alarka said, “I spoke yesterday just like you are now. But due to Lord Datta, I am enlightened. When you were waging a battle here, I fell at Lord Datta’s feet. Now, I see no friend or foe. I see Datta everywhere.”

Hearing this, Yogi Subahu rose and hugged him. He turned to Kasi king and said, “Now, My work has been accomplished. I have done all this only to set my brother on the right path. I do not need the kingdom. Thank you for helping me in my mission. May you be happy with this kingdom also.” So saying, Subahu quickly turned to leave. He was an Avadhoota. Kasi king was confused.

The younger brother had abdicated his kingdom. The older brother was applauding his act. Kasi king’s head was spinning. He ran to Subahu and asked, “Sir, tell me the actual matter. What is this drama? I do not understand. You asked me to wage a war and I did. Please explain.” Subahu explained everything to Kasi king. The king also developed dispassion merely by hearing Subahu’s word and the message of Datta as related by Alarka.

The entire army present there developed dispassion and the entire kingdom was steadfastly focused on Datta Tattva. The Kasi king went back to his kingdom. Alarka made his son as the king and went to the woods and spent the rest of his life bereft of desires. He attained liberation. The Lord thus trains, purifies and uplifts his devotees from samsara.

*sadā dattohamasmīti prītyaitat
saṁvadanti na te saṁsāriṇo bhavanti*

Datta Upanishad says, “Those who lovingly and constantly experience and state “I am Datta”, will never fall into Samsara.”

*ardhāṅgālingitāṅgāya surāgāya virāgiṇe
vītarāgāya cāmṛtavarṣiṇe ca namo namaḥ
Bhajan: Datta Naam ka karke sumiran...*

We have one day left. I am remembering Kasi. Those who had a taste of Kasi are here. Such a big program in the midst of Covid is a matter of pride for all of you. Coming here itself is special. You are tired of watching programs online, but at least we have online programs. You have had the chance to see Swamiji everyday.

I cannot tell you anything about Mysuru Datta Jayanti. Karnataka has rising covid infections. Keep wearing a mask and wear it properly. Use sanitizer and do not touch anyone. Do not drink or eat anywhere.

We do not even worry about going back home or cooking dinner. Everything is right here in this small town of Ganagapur. In North India, discourses often start

at 8 or 9 pm. Then, they conclude at 2am and do arati at 3am. Everyone sits still listening. The discourse on Bhagavatam or Tulsi Ramayana or whatever else the topic is, is always repeated. I heard the discourses on TV from different Swamis. Everyone was mostly talking about Bhagavatam and saying the same thing over and over. But people were listening in rapt attention. The people were so used to it, they would sing the shlokas along. 30k-40k people would be sitting in the night. Everyone is silent and disciplined. They eat some chapatis at 8pm and come and sit for the discourse on Saturday evening. I wonder why we do not have this in South India. I regret this a bit. After 9 pm, people wait for the discourse to wrap up. Why is South India falling behind? Tamilnadu around 15 years ago used to have this culture, but not any more. After 9pm, people are vexed and slowly rise and leave, one by one despite a prolific discourse. We should change. You must never get up during Bhagavatam discourse. If you do rise, wash your hands and feet, and sit back down again. We must practice this. At least you must continue the tradition. Datta devotees are used to sitting still for 2-4 hours. I feel bad. I do not know why the field of spirituality has fallen thus. There used to be Harikatha artists in the past. But now there are barely any. We are only interested in movie songs and not harikatha. This world has to change. You will all change, it is inevitable.

Sri Guru Datta.

Datta Saptaha Day 7

Jaya Guru Datta!

Sri Balaswamiji's speech:

We are in the last stretch of Datta Tattva Saptaham. After Ati Rudra Yaga in Kashi, Swamiji took a sacred bath in Ganga. Likewise, Swamiji is having us do Avabhruta Snanam (sacred bath as a conclusion). Datta Stava has 9 verses. We have distributed the verses over seven days. Swamiji is about to narrate the fruit of chanting Datta Stava. Yesterday, Swamiji spoke about Alarka's story while explaining the penultimate verse. Devotees must seek pious company, but there is no need to alienate the rest of them. We should associate with noble souls and with Guru as much as possible. Satsang will take us higher, Swamiji emphasized yesterday.

There is a verse in Sanskrit:

*candanaṃ śītaḷaṃ loke
candanādapi candramāḥ
candra candanayormadhye
śītalā sādhusangatiḥ*

We can also say the last line as “śītalā gurusangatiḥ” Sandalwood is very cooling, that is why Swamiji asks us to apply sandalwood paste or Vibhuti. When we have a fever, we place a cold cloth on our forehead to lower the body temperature quickly. Science also has supported the same. Similarly, Swamiji asked us to put a mark on our forehead to cool off our passions. Cooler than the sandal paste is the Moon, cooler than both of these is the association with Guru or Mahatmas. We have experienced that coolness.

Even during this time of Covid, Swamiji is with us in this sacred place for a week and is blessing us as Datta swaroopa. I am praying to Swamiji to bless us with the Datta Tattva Saptaham and the last verse of Datta Stavam. Swamiji also said all the Kakada Aratis will be sung today.

Sri Swamiji's speech:

India had a small disaster. The chief of the the defence staff of the Indian Armed Forces, General Bipin Rawat has lost his life in a chopper crash. May Lord Datta grant him and his family peace and strength. May he attain higher worlds. Let us observe silence for one minute.

*dattātreya hare kṛṣṇa
unmattānaṃda dāyaka
digambara mune bāla
piśāca jñānasāgara*

Let us sing about Vishwaropa Datta Deva. Today is already Day 7, it came so quickly. I already said that time always runs, the earth always spins. We must run after time, it will not run after us, nor will it do as we wish.

Bhajan: Vishwaroopa Datta devamarchaye

*yannāma kanṭhe dhṛtamādareṇa
yadrūpamātmanyānu cintitaṃvā
rakṣāmaṇisyāt sakalāpadārti
pramocakastaṃ gurudatta mīḍe*

Lovingly and with great reverence, bearing name in our voice is enough. It is enough to chant the Lord's names everyday; or always remembering his form in the mind at all times is enough. That name and form itself becomes a protective armor for us at all times like a talisman. We need no other ornament or charm for protection. His name is the charm that we adore. We are praising Sri Guru Datta Deva!

Datta Stava – verse 9

***jaya lābha yaśaḥ kāma
dāturdattasya yasstavaṃ
bhoga mokṣa pradasyemaṃ
prapaṭhet sa kṛtī bhavet***

Victory, profit, fame, pleasures, liberation and desires are all bestowed by the Lord. Those who chant the Datta Stava wholeheartedly get blessed. Lord Datta fulfills all his desires and bestows victory in everything. But this must be chanted with deep love regardless of whether our tasks are accomplished or not. For those who complain about tasks not getting accomplished despite a lot of

chanting, the desires will not be fulfilled because they are doing it with selfish motives. One must chant with faith, devotion, love and strong determination, and not for fulfillment of desires. The Lord fulfills the desires of such a person. But after all the praying, if you finally complain that your wishes have not been fulfilled, you will certainly not find fulfillment, for, the Lord knows that you will complain in the end anyway. The Lord bestows profits in all tasks, not just in matters of wealth. He enhances our fame and gives us association with pious souls.

*ekādaśī vrata paraiśca mariśyamāṇa
śrīdharmakīrti nṛpanetra pathānta gamyaiḥ
buddhyādhṛtaṃ munivarairgurudatta devaṃ
saddharmabuddhi parirakṣaṇa dakṣamīde*

King Dharmakiriti who was about to die after he observed Ekadasi fasting, was uplifted by Lord Datta. My obeisances to Sri Guru Datta! Our duty is only to approach Lord Datta and seek refuge. He will take care of the rest. We think the Lord forgets us when we do not find success in our tasks. But we should remember that the Lord never forgets us for a second. We must know that the Lord is protecting us and must not succumb to depression nor bear anger towards the Lord. We must think that the Lord is doing what is good for us. Know that he will always walk you on the pious path even if you find no success in your tasks. We do not realize it. Unaware of all this, we abandon him thinking he is not taking care of us. We leave him and go back to him as the mind pleases. You are wasting that time when you are away from him. In fact, the Lord never leaves us, even if we leave him.

Do not blame Datta for not giving you success in some material pursuits. You do not know what the success in that pursuit would do to you. That is why he did not bestow success. If the Lord once thinks of uplifting a devotee, that is enough. Regardless of what worlds the being is in and how many births he takes, Datta never leaves him. He is always following the being. That is the grace of Datta. All we need to do is offer a small salutation.

Bhajan: Dandaalu pettedi maavantu...

Our duty is only to worship the Lord and repeatedly offer prostrations. Once we seek refuge with him, He will never forget us, even if we forget Him.

Bhadrashila's story is an example.

Sage Galava had a son called Bhadrashila, who would only utter the word 'Hari'. He would cry chanting Hari, he would think he was walking around Hari, he would worship Hari in solitude chanting His names. He would observe Ekadashi fasting adhering to strict discipline. Whereas we, on Ekadashi, eat 15 idlis for breakfast, 15 chapatis for lunch and 15 Dosas for dinner. Normally, there should be no food expense at all on Ekadasi, but we have more expenses on Ekadasi day. However, Bhadrashila used to observe rules diligently.

One day, Galava saw this strange behavior in his son and asked him, "My son! Who are you? Tell me why you are this way." Bhadrashila said, "I was king Dharmakirti in my prior life. Per Yama's words, I am conducting myself this way. I shall narrate Dharmakirti's story now.

Long ago, King Dharmakirti ruled Pratishtanapura. He once learned about Datta and approached Lord Datta to grasp the tenets of Dharma from Him. Datta's tests are strange. The Lord was drunk and inebriated. Dharmakirti fell at the Lord's feet, but the Lord drove him away by hurling stones and sticks at him. Dharmakirti did not budge. The Lord tested him quite intensely for sometime. Dharmakirti won all the tests. Finally, the compassionate Lord said, "King! Ask for what you want."

Dharmakirti said, "Lord! Tell me about Dharma. The Lord was pleased and taught him all Dharmas and said, "O King Dharmakirti! Everyone must follow their own Dharma, they must not adopt another's Dharma, even by mistake. It is alright to die while following one's Dharma, but never take to another's Dharma. Hence, the Lord has given you birth in this Dharma. The one who gives up one's Dharma is a sinner. The one observing one's Dharma is a noble soul.

When the aged, the intelligent and the wise come to us, we must necessarily prostrate to them. Anger must be conquered with patience. Your anger drives people away. So, do not let anger come to you. Else, anger burns the bearer himself. One's anger is one's foe and one's peace is one's friend. So, beware in matters of anger. So too, the words spoken should not be harsh. Your heart is good, but your words are acerbic.

Those who seek merit should always speak pleasingly without hurting another. Truth does not need to be spoken harshly. One can communicate the truth or point out another's fault using creativity and fun. Do not reciprocate another's abuse. If you do, their sin will attach to you. Nor should you deceive the one

who deceives you. Do not have others reciprocate on your behalf either. People who follow the noble path this way will be welcomed by Gods and led to heaven.

The most important of all is the company you keep. You will become like the company you keep. If you associate with gamblers, alcoholics, deceivers etc, you will become that way. Association with the noble will uplift you. The evil-minded always want to multiply their numbers in society. So, always associate with the pious. Only think noble thoughts, do good deeds and speak good words.

Dharmakirti heard all this and offered obeisances to Lord Datta and reached his kingdom. In the beginning, he followed the words of Lord Datta. But, the king's life is not easy. It is related to everyone's life in the kingdom. A King is needed by all. Dharmakirti did not get close to the pious, but got close to the wicked. Notice that children will quickly learn to kick, but they are slow to learn to prostrate or utter good words. So, one must bring up children very carefully. Instead of keeping the wicked at bay, Dharmakirti tried to reform them. But, unable to answer their tricky questions, he changed his own mind. In the friendship of the wicked, we develop more suspicion with each question they present, but the wicked never change for good. You must alienate even your son, daughter-in-law or husband when they utter bad words or revert with improper questions. You must give up their friendship and leave them to their karma. Else, you will not progress towards your upliftment. You will only end up in hell. Datta devotees must remember this!

Slowly, Dharmakirti lost faith in the words of Datta. He lost his belief in Lord Datta Himself. He felt, "The Lord observes no Dharma, He does as he wishes. (Lord is Avadhoota. This creation is His. Can we emulate him? When Sri Sankara Bhagavadpada was on his journey on foot, people mocked him and said it was easy to dress like him and emulate him, and there was nothing special about him. They imitated every action of Shankara. As Shankara was walking, he felt thirsty. He approached a meat shop and asked for water. The shop had only meat but no water. So, Shankara ate meat. The pseudo followers of Shankara followed suit. Thereafter, Shankara drank alcohol and the followers did too. As Shankara kept walking, he felt extreme thirst. So, he went to a blacksmith and asked for water. The blacksmith only had molten iron. Shankara drank it. But those mocking him, who were imitating him, ran away. – This story is folklore.

Lord Datta is Avadhoota. He can do anything. Sri Shankara Bhagavadpada could also do as he wished. He would transfer his fever to his staff (stick) and would bathe in colder water. The staff would shake in fever. After completing his austerities, Shankara would re-transfer the fever from the staff to his body. Mahatmas can do anything, the entire creation is theirs. Can the ordinary person do the miracles that the Avadhoota does? We may grow a beard, keep marks on our forehead, wear garlands or ochre robes like Avadhoota. But, can we perform the rest of the miraculous acts like them? It is impossible. Avadhoota eats anything and wanders in any place.

Dharmakirti wondered how he could follow the words of Datta who did as he wished. His suspicion overpowered his faith in Datta. Dharmakirti slowly gave up charity, he honored the murderers, gamblers, and criminals. He bestowed wealth on these people. The kingdom was filled with thieves, each more violent than another. As a result, the sins of the entire kingdom attached to the king, like how the sins of the children attach to the parents. Datta Guru noticed the degradation of his disciple and felt very sad. He waited for an opportunity to uplift him.

One day, Dharmakirti was out hunting when he lost his way and got separated from his retinue. All of a sudden, his horse got limp and died. The king fell down and got injured. Unable to walk, he crawled to the nearby Reva river to quench his thirst. After taking a bath in the river, he drank a stomach full of water. However, he could not digest the water and vomited it all. He noticed some lights in a nearby village. That was the day of Ekadashi! Therefore, some sages observed fasting and kept vigil for the night. Seeing them observe Ekadashi, Dharmakirti's hopes for acquiring food got shattered. He suddenly remembered Lord Datta's words about Ekadasi and wondered if perhaps Datta's words were the truth and were meant to uplift him. He deeply regretted his actions. He repented for not holding on to the path of Dharma. He was tormented by hunger on one hand and disease, on the other hand. Hence, he could not get any sleep. He witnessed the arati and pujas. He heard the Bhajans and the names of Hari they were singing. He soon died and reached Yama's abode.

Yama asked Chitragupta to read the sins of Dharmakirti. Chitragupta began reading his list of sins and added, "He observed Ekadasi one time in his life. He fasted, dipped in the River, witnessed Hari puja, heard Hari bhajans, and gave

up his life on Ekadasi day. (One who dies during Ekadashi attains salvation.) To top it all, he had received Upadesham from Lord Datta.

Lord Yama who was angry until then suddenly cooled off hearing Datta's name. He honored Dharmakirti and said to his attendants, "You must never look at the ones that observe Ekadasi vrata. But those who eat on Ekadasi can be beaten up. Lord Datta had never left him, otherwise, Dharmakirti would not have observed Ekadasi vrata. Lord Datta enabled Dharmakirti to observe the vrata and die on that day. Datta uplifted him in the last moments of his life. Lord Yama ordered his attendants to escort him to Vaikunta. This is the merit accrued by following Ekadashi vrata.

One day, the merit has to be depleted. After his merit was exhausted, he came back to Earth. Everyone's merit is exhausted at some point, so one must definitely pray to God in all births.

Bhadrashila said, "O Galava Maharshi! This is the story of Dharmakirti, who I was in my previous life. With the grace of Datta, I have gained good intellect. That is why, I live now chanting the name of Hari every moment, to break the bondage of birth.

*harohara priya svāmi
vaikunṭho viśvatomukhaḥ
ramāramaṇadevo māṃ
saṃrakṣatu harissadā*

Bhajan: Hari Hari Hari Hari Hari Anara.....

Bhadrashila said, "O Father! Devotion to Hari alone is the panacea for samsara. Worship to Hari alone wards off all obstacles. When the mind is pure with Hari's name, one attains liberation. Keep chanting the divine name 'Hari' as you sit down and get up."

Galava was very happy and supported his son's efforts to attain liberation. This is how parents must be! This is Datta's way of uplifting his devotees. Datta never forgets his devotees, he continues to encourage and train the devotees to do noble deeds. Datta works constantly without sleep or rest, to uplift devotees. This is the greatest fruit that devotees get. What else does one need?

In these 7 days, may all those who served in many different ways be blessed by Lord Datta. May all your sins be removed. May our sufferings be removed. May

you find happiness. May you find accomplishment in your tasks. We now do Mangalam to his Saptaham. There have been some unforgettable events here – Koti Datta Homa, Paduka Darshana, Vishwaroopa Darshana etc.

dattātreyo dayāpūrṇo
datto dattaḥ dharmakṛt
śrī dattadevo māṃ pāyāt
saccidānaṃda vighraha

Bhajan: Digambara Digambara...

Bhajan: Sripada Srivallabham.....

This good fortune that we have in this life is almost impossible. Many thought that since Covid hit after Kasi, they were not sure when they would have Swamiji's Darshana again. But we are happy we are having Darshana now. We are here now in the midst of Covid. Let Covid be driven away.

If everyone in the world observes some rules, then sufferings like Corona will be gone. We are not observing those rules. We keep removing our masks saying we cannot breathe. Why can't you? Many wear double masks. I wear a nasal mask and a regular mask over it. Doctors treat serious cases with a robust mask. They are the real warriors. It is only a psychological feeling that you cannot breathe. So, you must be careful. You will die anyway, why do you kill those around you? At least for their sake, follow the rules.

Bhajan: Kavidatta poorna Sarasvati....

Narayana! Narayana!

Sri Balaswamiji's speech:

No amount of gratitude is enough. Let us give a standing ovation to Swamiji! Mentally offer gratitude to Sri Swamiji. We have so much debt to Swamiji that we cannot fulfill it even if we offer ourselves. We celebrate milestones like 10 years, 25 years, 50 years etc. This is the 10th year of Ganagapur consecration. Doing this 10th anniversary so beautifully, Swamiji is giving us Darshana as Lord Datta.

Swamiji had earlier said that only those who had Darshana of the 16 kshetras could come to Ganagapur. But due to Covid, Swamiji relaxed the rule. He is now giving us Darshana in the 16 forms right here. Nowhere else do we see this Marakata Datta as we see here. Swamiji has designed this Vishwaroopa Datta Kshetra to be historic. Vishwaroopa Datta moorti had an umbrella before. Swamiji said he would come back if the umbrella was put there again. That has been done now.

Swamiji indicates that he is always protecting us like an umbrella. Swamiji has blessed us with Datta Tattva Saptaham and Koti Datta Homa along with special worship and Abhisheka to Lord Datta. Medical camps are also taking place. The Natureal team has planted 3000 saplings in Ganagapur. This place has a beautiful connection with trees. Swamiji is enabling us to do all these things.

Sri Datta Mantapa has had such a grand inauguration like no other building. We cannot imagine the amount of energy this Mantapa has. What are we to do in such a hall? There are devotees from various states here. We should come here once a while and conduct programs here like studying Guru Charita, Datta Darshana, Swamiji's life history etc. We should support medical camps and other projects here. You must visit here often.

Come back here to recharge your batteries with energy. Swamiji has been here for 7 days. Swamiji has said that Ganagapur and Pithampuram are like our two eyes. So, keep track of programs here, support the efforts and participate in the seva. I pray that Swamiji bestows the devotion, energy, wisdom and wealth to make all this happen. We are sad that this program has come to an end. But remember that this is the beginning of the next big event. We know Badari and Ayodhya are lined up already. Let us pray for universal welfare! Let us try our best to drive away Covid!

Sri Guru Datta!