

TRIBUTE TO PF ANILKUMAR BY M.N.VINODKUMAR, SAI WISDOM MEMBER, MALAYALAM (KERALA)

Inviting me to start the SaiWisdom Malayalam team during October 2020, he said, “On Thursdays I speak for 15 minutes on Swamy message, on Saturdays for 15 minutes I take-up Q.& A and on Sundays for 15 minutes I speak on the sweet conversations we had with Swami. It is nearly about one year and half this is going on by His grace.” The purpose of podcasts he summed up: “Personally I feel that spiritual content among us slowed down, this I thought we need overhauling and re-energising. Hence this humble attempt.”

Adi Shankara had got an exalted position in his mind through Swami, His many a discourse on Adwaita Vedanta. According to the Professor, during the last 20-25 years of His earthly sojourn, almost all discourses were on Adwaita and we need to study these words well. Many issues of Sai Sandesh-Thursdays podcasts and Saturday Q&A by Professor covered this topic which his valuable orations on Shankara Advaita. Kerala had a special place in his heart. Once he said to me: “I was a fan of Swami Chinmayananda. I had a sort of hero worship towards Swami Chinmaya.” He said he had already visited Kalady, the birth place of Adi Shankara in Kerala.

During 2011, I had burnt the midnight oil in compiling the discourses by Professor Anilkumar for the period 1999 to 2012 in 3 voluminous pdf compilations, titled by me “Saraswatham”, running into thousands of pages. The details of these Sai Encyclopedia, as I like to call it, are as follows:

*Saraswatham Vol I (Discourses 1999-2005) 2467 pages
Saraswatham Vol II (Discourses 2005-2011) 4420 pages
Saraswatham Vol III (Discourses 2011-2012) 908 pages*

I had gifted this compilation to Professor Anilkumar and sought his blessings. He wrote to me: “

[26/10/2020, 1:14 pm] Pf Anilkumar Kamaraju:

Sai Ram!

I am overwhelmed and in bliss receiving this most precious gift from you sir. May Baba shower His choicest blessings on you Sir. Sai Ram

Eternally yours in Sai seva -Anil kumar

I was often late in sending the podcasts within the time stipulated. Once, after my office hours I had finished it only by midnight and sent it with much embarrassment. To my surprise came reply from Professor. See it:

[2/11/2020, 9:56 pm] Pf Anilkumar Kamaraju:

It is a midnight edition.

Only a devotee could make it. Thanks once again.

*This was his attitude throughout his life, taking everything as positive. In certain podcasts, he quoted profusely Telugu poetry in its original form from Bhagwan Himself! Though I don't know Telugu, i was able to feel the richness of Telugu literature through his recitation. I had often troubled him seeking the missing words or letters which I was not able to understand which were cleared by him with much patience. The Telugu texts were also shared by him. Once, in Sai Pearls of Wisdom 18A, he mentioned: **That's what the sage Thyagaraja said long ago: One has to know the God whom one worships.** I asked him, "Will you disclose which keerthana it is? At least the beginning of the lyrics?" Soon came the reply: **Thelisi = in full knowledge , Ramachinthana= think of Rama.***

I had the good fortune of translating the Sai Pearls of Wisdom (SPW) texts in to Malayalam and publish them under the Malayalam title "Sai Viveka Muthukal" with photographs from my archives. Professor always appreciated these translations, and once he shared with me some rare photographs of himself with Swami during the many Kodai trips.

During February 2021, the Youth Wing of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations Kerala had conducted an online training course in public speaking under the name 'Uthishtata', aimed at improving the skills in articulation among youth members. I had requested him to share his invaluable experiences in the art of oration before Swami. He readily consented to record a talk by himself regarding this subject and happily shared with us. He granted his time to take part in the concluding session of the training programme and blessed the Youth with his valuable advices on the topic which was very inspiring.

He had also given an assignment to me which I stood failed to accomplish till the date, though it was a blessing for me.

[18/1/2022, 11:40 am] Pf Anilkumar Kamaraju:

Dear Vinod, Sai Ram .I have a request to make.141 and 142 Episodes posted are based on Githa. The two talks are a combination of Bhagawad Githa and Baba teachings. Swamy spoke on Githa on several occasions and even month long discourses in late eighties. So I had a keen interest to bring parallels between Krishna and Baba teachings. So please listen to these 141 and 142 and give your opinion, comments, views and suggestions freely, frankly and openly. Sai Ram

I was often awe-stricken on seeing the speed with which Professor is making his podcasts-thrice per week. We translators were far behind. Once I jokingly enquired with him regarding this speed: "In Kerala, there are 2-3 categories of transport corporation buses, according to the speed of plying. Ordinary, Fast, Superfast, Super Express and Lightning Express. You are lightning Express in

podcasts! These ideas are too philosophical that the translation is not an easy thing to accomplish.” I said.

His reply was,

[13/1/2022, 4:31 pm] Pf Anilkumar Kamaraju:

Wonderful Sir! Our aim is to spread His message, come what may ! Life is a challenge. Meet it, says Baba. This is Jnana yoga path of wisdom. This is our Sadhana, spiritual practice. Do not worry Sir. I am 80 year old with health issues. Yet I am determined to work relentlessly .This is constant integrated awareness as Baba puts.

I am aged and retired. I have no other avocations or occupations. In view of my health-related issues or family commitments I am afraid that this divine project may have to discontinue until I recover and am normal. So I am recording in advance .That’s all sir. You are in profession. Go in your own way .This is the spiritual content of your life.

Go forth Sir with all your strength, stamina and devotion. Swamy will bless you and your family. Wish you a happy spiritual healthy long life of service and devotion- Anil Kumar

Seeing Professor Anilkumar dancing madly on stage during a Krishna bhajan.

After his discourse, on his visit to Kerala years before, a friend of mine sitting by my side enquired secretly, “Is everything ok with him?” I kept mum then but whispered in my core: “Here is the demo of the Great Chaitanya dancing through the streets with devotion, forgetting everything. He belongs to another world!”

We've seen Swami in you,

Dear Sir.

We lovingly

referred to you as

Saraswati and

your podcasts,

indeed Saraswatam!

Baba blessed you

Bounteously and infinitely!

We placed you in our hearts.

*-M.N.Vinodkumar & Family
Saiwisdom Team member
Malayalam(Kerala)*