

# A S Rajagopalan Idea Series

## **\*IDEA\* #76 \*Who owns what?\***

Once there was an honest farmer. He bought a well, next to his farm land from a rich man. The farmer was very happy, paid the money and started to draw water from the well. The rich man came running and stopped him. He told, "Hey farmer. I sold you the well. But not the water. You don't have any right to touch the water. It belongs to me".

The farmer was very sad that he was tricked and went to the King and complained. The King called his smart minister and handed over this case and asked him to solve the problem.

The minister called the richman to the court and asked, "Why don't you let this poor farmer to draw the water? He has legally bought well and paid the dues"

The richman laughed and said, "Don't you understand, the sale contract is for the well. I sold the well. That is right. But that doesn't give him the right to own the water."

The minister smilingly said, "ok. I agree with you, richman. The farmer owns just the well. And you claim that you own the water. But there is a little problem. You have kept your water in the farmer's well. Either you pay rent to hold it there or take all of your water out of his well to somewhere else, immediately"

The richman understood that his trick has failed. The smart minister outwitted him.

Moral: \*Don't try to cheat\*. You will \*end up paying for it regardless of how smart you \* think you are!

Ps: In Srivishnava sampradAyam as eluded by bhagavad bhAsyakArar, that \*bhagavAn is vibhu\* – That means He pervades everywhere. There is \*no place anywhere exists that He is not present\*. There is \*no item exists that He does not own\*. There is \*no action or inaction exists without His control.\* If so, how come the little humans think, I own this – this is my body, my Atma, my car, my home etc. If bhagavAn owns every place, then if you consider the body, Atma etc. is yours, take it to a place where bhagavAn is not there! There is none.

The first brahmam (delusion) is that \*body and AtmA are the same\*; 2nd delusion, \*I own my AtmA and it is independent\*. These two delusions will be removed only if you accept the third delusion that every other demigod is the final. Understanding and \*realizing the ever compassionate Srlman nArAyaNa is the paradevatA, final refuge\* will remove all the three delusions.

## **\*IDEA\* #77 \*Companion\***

It was one of the famous pet stores. The owner of the shop placed a sign on the window that read, "Puppies for Sale". Everyone knows that signs like that, often attract young children. No surprise, a little boy saw the board and was very anxious. He went inside and asked the store manger, "Sir, how much would cost to buy a puppy?"

The manger responded, "Well, my son, it varies. It can cost anywhere from \$50 to \$500. The little boy try to empty his pocket and saw all it added up to \$3 and 25 cents. The boy with a long face told, "I have only \$3.25. Can I at least look at the puppies?"

The manager smiled and made a small whistle. Out of the kennel a few dogs came running. The boy could see a lady dog which ran to side of the store and behind were five puppies, just a teeny, tiny balls of fur.

One puppy was lagging considerably behind. The little boy immediately singled out that puppy and asked, "What is wrong with that puppy? The manager in a sad tone told, that dog has some birth defect. The veterinarian had checked and diagnosed that it doesn't have the hip socket. He would always be lame and has to limp through all his life.

The little boy got excited, "That is the puppy, that is the one I like. I really want to buy." The manager said, "No, you don't need to buy that little dog. If you really like it, I can give just give it to you.

The little boy was quite upset. He looked straight said, "Sir, you don't have to give it free. That little puppy is worth as much as all other dogs you have. I will pay the full price. I have \$3.25 and the rest I pay 50 cents every week till the whole sale is paid off.

The manager countered quickly, "Son, you really don't want to buy this little dog. He can't run; he can't jump; he can't play with you like the other puppies. He is not going to make you happy!"

To his surprise, the little boy reached down and rolled up his pant leg to reveal a badly twisted, crippled left leg supported by a big metal brace. He looked up at the manager and replied softly, "Well, you can see Sir, I can't run so well myself, and the little \*puppy needs someone who can understand and give him company in this world!\*"

**\*Moral\*:** Not everyone is perfect. \*The world is full of people who need someone who understands!\*

**\*ps\*:** Everyone is "challenged" in one way or other. Everyone struggles in some aspect. To put it bluntly, \*we are all totally helpless, with a big sign of utterly destitute" on our face.\* Couldn't do karma, jnana and bhakti yOgAs and resorted to prapatti. \*Lord is so compassionate and didn't laugh at us\*. But gave a helping hand and lifted us up from birth/death cycle. If that so, how fair is it for us to look down other people, bhAgavatAs, prapannAs. Tiny, miniscule amount of days are left in our life here before reaching the eternal happiness. \*Why quibble over necessary petty things and lose the boarding pass! Follow DAP\*

**\*IDEA\* #78 \*Can you hear?\***

An young couple started off their life very nicely. After some time, the husband feared that there is some hearing problem with his wife. He got into thinking that she may need a hearing aid. But don't know how to approach the situation.

Since the husband works out of home, he quietly texted to his family doctor so that his wife will not know. He confided to him that his wife may have the problem of hearing. The doctor was very nice and was communicating back to him. The doctor suggested that first they need to diagnose the problem correctly before looking for a particular solution.

The doctor asked the husband to do a simple test and report back the results. Doctor's suggestion was "Stand about 50 ft away from her and in a normal conversational tone say something and see whether she can hear. If not go close to 30 ft, then 20 ft and then 10 ft, and so on until you get a response. And let me know the outcome."

After completing that day's work, the husband slowly got out of his office room and looked towards kitchen and saw his wife was cooking something.

He got about 40ft away from his wife and asked, "Dear, what's for dinner?" No response. So, he moved a little closer. From 30ft away, he asked, "Honey, what's for dinner?" No response.

Next, he moved to the dining area, about 20 ft away from her and asked the same question, "Honey, what's for dinner?" Still he got no response. He walks up to the kitchen door, about 10 ft away from her and asks, "Honey what's for dinner?" "Again no response.

So, he walks up sadly close to her and stands behind her. "Hey sweetheart, my love what's for dinner?"

The wife shouted, "It is bisi bele bath.. my dear husband, I am telling you for the fifth time!"

Moral: "Don't be too convinced that others are wrong, before checking yourself first!"

Ps: Sri vaishNava sampradAyam teaches very nicely to be loving and generous to all living things. Enemy is a term not found here. There may be ideological differences; but any personal vendetta is unwanted. Actions out of ego is always self disastrous. This sattvic behavior is utmost important for prapannAs, who have done total unconditional surrender to Lord Sriman nArAyaNA and just passing the rest of the days on earth.

In svanishtAbhigAnAdikAra in SRTS, svAmi Desikan says about svarupa nishtai (understanding the nature of the self and displaying) that one should never care about anyone says or acts towards one's sariiram. After all it is acetanam and ignore. On the contrary, if they say something about one's AtmA, he needs to wake up and rectify that.

Simply, if someone tells you "You are short, you look ugly or I don't need you etc." that is related to body and ignore. On the other hand, if they say "what kind of sins you have done", then go and request an apology. Because that affects your AtmA.

As ANDAL says in tiruppAvai, a true prapannan would act like, "nAnetAn Ayiduka" (let aDiyEn be) "for any wrongful act, will go ahead and take the blame voluntarily on himself."

acronym: MAAM - Mistakes Are All Mine

**\*IDEA\* #79 \*Who first?\***

A man and his wife had an heated argument about a problem at home. Each one was shouting at the top of their lungs and finally calmed down. Now they were giving silent treatment to the other for 2 days. No talk between them.

The man realized that he had to take a flight next morning and would need his wife to wake him up. Not wanting to be the first one to break the silence and accept as a loser, he wrote on a piece of paper, "Please wake me up at 5 am" and kept on the end table, next to her bed.

The next morning, the man woke up and found out it was already 9 am. And missed the flight. He was so angry and furious. He was about to burst out at this wife, why she hadn't woken him up!

He noticed a piece of paper next to his bed. It read, "Honey its 5 am. Time to wake up!! "

\*Moral: Two can play the same trick\*. Don't try to outsmart your wife. \*A wife will always win any argument, by some means.\*

Ps: In Srl vaishNavam, pirAtti, Srl has given such an elevated status, sometimes even higher than the bhagavAn Himself. Without her recommendation (purushakAratvam), wecan't even imagine of mOksham for all the stacked up crimes popping out of our balance sheet. When bhagavAn tries to question and even hesitate on conferring the mOksham to us, she is the one cajoling and convincing him to spare the rod and hug us.

See, \*even in bhagavAn's case, He can't outsmart His wife.\* He has to yield.

**\*IDEA\* #80 \*Short Story\***

Sometimes less words mean more things. There are some very small single line stories which leave most to the reader's imagination and interpretation.

\*"Once again, we are strangers, but this time left with memories".\*

aDiyEn's initial interpretation

let us say, if it refers to baddha jIvan (bounded souls) it means ordinary worldly things (vishayAntaram). Spouse, home, wealth etc. come and go. Many times they leave with deep impressions after they have gone. Those memories usually of passion and craving on the lost things.

If its a prapannan (cetanan who have performed total unconditional surrender at the lotus feet of Sriman nArayaNA for the eternal kaimkaryam), will be very happy of things left him/her. \*"na mama" as he understands from the svarupa vikAsam learned from the upadesam of praNavam\* has a huge impact in his realization. Whether wife, home, wealth are there or not, he is away from them in terms of attachment.

Status of being strangers \*does not arise from physical separation, but its mental \*- its the attitude, its the behavior and its the faith towards the reward far better and higher and eternal (vishayam).

Lord krishNA says, "nazvaram gruhya mananscha viddhi mAyA mano mayam" in uddhava gitA. Anything you realize through senses, may be real, but Uddhava, understand its temporary only. Its a \*combination of your mind and my mystical power.\*

### **IDEA #81 \*Basics are the same anywhere\***

President Xi Jinpin of China said:

When I was a small child , I was very selfish, always grab the best for myself. Slowly, everyone left me and I had no friends. I didn't think it was my fault but criticize others.

\*My father gave me 3 sentences to help me in life.\*

One day, my father cooked 2 bowls of noodles and kept the 2 bowls on the table. One bowl has one egg on top and the other bowl does not have any egg on top. He said "My child. You choose. Which bowl do you want". Eggs were hard to come by those days! Only get to eat eggs during festivals or New Year. Of Cos I chose the bowl with egg! As we started eating. I was congratulating myself on my wise choice/decision and wallop up the egg. Then to my surprise as my father ate his noodles, there were TWO eggs at the bottom of his bowl beneath the noodles! I regretted so much! And scolded myself for being too hasty in my decision. My father smiled and sad to me, \*My child. You must remember what your eyes see may not be true.\* If you intent on \*taking advantage of people, you will end up losing!\*

The next day, my father again cooked 2 bowls of noodles: one bowl with an egg on top and the other bowl with no egg on top. Again, he kept the two bowls on the table and said to me, "My child. You choose. Which bowl do you want?" This time I am being smart, I chose the bowl without any egg on top. To my surprise, as I separated the noodles on top, there was not even a single egg at the bottom of the bowl! Again my father smiled and said to me, "My child, \*you must not always rely on experiences cos sometimes, life can cheat you or play tricks on you\*. But you must not be too annoyed or sad, just treat this as learning a lesson .You cannot Learn this from textbooks.

The third day, my father again cooked 2 bowls of noodles, again one bowl with an egg on top and the other bowl with no egg on top. He kept the 2 bowls on the table and again said to me, "My child. You choose. Which bowl do you want?". This time, I told my father, "Dad, you choose first. You are the head of the family and contributed the most to the family." My father did not decline and chose the bowl with the one egg on top. As I ate my bowl of noodles, Sure in my heart that there is no egg inside the bowl. To my surprise! There were TWO eggs at the bottom of the bowl.

My father smiled at me with love in his eyes, "My child, you must remember! \*When you think for the good of others, good things will always naturally happen to you!\*"

I always remember these 3 sentences of my father and lived and do my business accordingly. True enough, my business was a roaring success.

\*ps:\* Look at the 3 advices.

1. What your eyes see may not be true - pratyaksha pramANA (sesory perception) is not reliable

2. Your experience may not help in real life. Extrapolating from past experience is conjecture. AnumAna pramAnA (inferential knowledge) may not be reliable.

3. Think good for others and good things will happen to you. We say lokA samathA sukhino bhavandhu" That is \*sabdhA pramANA, the only thing that is always reliable.\*