

Om Namo Bhagavathe Sri Ramanaya

Interview of Smt. Ammani Ammal by J Jayaraman

Date:

**JJ:** What do you eat these days?

**AA:** Someone brings food, lunch in the afternoon and milk at night

**JJ:** Does your food come on time?

**AA:** Yes, it does. I have a helper

**JJ:** Ok

**AA:** She is coming at 4 PM and left saying she would bring boiled milk

Bhagavan has made all arrangements through Ganesan and is taking care of me through him. Everyone takes care

**JJ:** Grandma, first, in your younger days how did you first hear about Bhagavan?

Pause

**AA:** I heard about Him and came here. I said Bhagavan should I stay there or here? Bhagavan responded, 'Don't say stay to whoever is staying and don't say go to whoever is leaving. Everything will happen according to one's prarabdha'. I stood with my palms together and He looked at me, turned His head and said 'Ok, go sit'. Since then, I have subdued my mind and just remained.

**JJ:** Aha! Doesn't say stay or leave. Everything happens according to prarabdha

**AA:** I asked for Upadesa and He said 'Oh ho, want Upadesa? Did you bring a big vessel to take it? Go sit'. I used to do kankarya when ever I came here and then stayed here. I am 82 now. I came at 15.

<Lady prompts in the background asking Ammani ammal to speak louder>

**JJ:** Say something about Bhagavan. Who is Bhagavan? What type of person is He?

<Lady prompts again>

**AA:** Bhagavan is...

<Lady in background>She doesn't speak coherently. Grandma, grandma!

**JJ:** Tell us about His Look. You would have seen Him in the hall many times. Didn't He used to sit on the sofa?

**AA:** what?

**JJ:** Bhagavan used to sit in the sofa, Yes?

**AA:** Yes, he used to sit.

**JJ:** How would He sit? Tell us. Nice and happy, right? (jam jam is a colloquial way of saying happy)

**AA:**(Laughs) He used to sit in a reclined position

**JJ:** (Laughs) Reclined?

**AA:** Yes, there was no pillow. he would recline (slightly reclines to show how)

Whoever close by will give him the walking stick. He would go for walk and then come back and recline. He would never lay down fully. Just reclined

**JJ:** Ok

**AA:** Repeats “Want Upadesa? Did you bring a big vessel to take it? Don’t say ‘stay’ to whoever is staying and don’t say ‘go’ to whoever is leaving. Everything will happen according to one’s prarabdha’.

**JJ:** Bhagavan.

**AA:** <Speaks in a whisper>My father, Bhagavan, Ramana! Ramana! Arunachala! < Chokes with emotion> Was thinking about Bhagavan, how he used to talk and what he used to say and then He sends you here today. He is always in my thoughts. I thinking Bhagavan would say this and Bhagavan would say that. I am here like this... I am always thinking of Bhagavan

**JJ:** Yes? Tell what Bhagavan would say

**AA:** Krishnaswamy used to keep talking. Bhagavan would say “you keep talking along. What would people say?”

**JJ:** Yes, we met Krishnaswamy and spoke to him as well

**AA:** Krishnaswamy used to keep talking. Bhagavan would say “What Oyi, you keep talking along with me. What would people say?”. “you keep talking along with me. What would people say?”

< Colloquial - she could mean ‘talking back’ or ‘talking too much’>

Sivanandham and Madhava Swamy won’t talk but Krishnaswami would always talk back

**JJ:** Yes

**AA:** “you keep talking along. What would people say?”

**JJ:** <laughs>

**AA:** when I came here Madhava swami was here. Then there was Satyanandham, Malayalee. Krishnaswamy is the only one who would talk

**JJ:** < Laughs>

Pause

Bhagavan would have been patient with all that.

**AA:** Yes, He would say “you keep talking along. What would people say?”. That’s all He would say. Nothing else

Pause:

**AA:** Don't say 'stay' to whoever is staying and don't say 'go' to whoever is leaving. Everything will happen according to one's prarabhdha'. I was standing there and he said 'go sit'

**AA:**<not clear> – it is growing high

**JJ:** What is?

**AA:** The Ashram. I mean it is growing high..., every day

**JJ:** Yes, Yes, growing high

**AA:** Bhagavan's Shakthi, every day.

**JJ:** Yes, Yes, < quotes Arunachala Navamani maalai (Garland of nine gems)> “. Ongum Arunamachalamena Ari” (know that He shines High as Arunachala! Another explanation is - He rises above all as Arunachala.)

Pause

**AA:** He went along the forest(woods). There was a guy. he said he had a son who left him. Thorns pricked Bhagavan's feet. <Incoherent> Bhagavan gave Upadesa. He said Take the ego(ahamkara) and keep it on the hearse (paadai). Remain still as Shiva.

**JJ:** Keep the ahamkara on the hearse, remain as Shiva. He gave Upadesa. Said the guy

**AA:** My father, He left ....

**JJ:** Where did He leave? He is always here in your heart (Hrudhaya)

**AA:** Bhagavan would say this or that and my mind always revolves around Bhagavan – night and day. I was thinking about Him and lying down.

<imitates Bhagavan> How come you came today? That lady would come and fight

**JJ:** who?

**AA:** To draw the Rangoli. On important occasions, I would come to draw the Rangoli. When Bhagavan is sleeping I would come to draw the Rangoli. Bhagavan will wake up at 2 AM to go to the toilet.

**JJ:** Yes, He would go to the toilet at 2

**AA:** <imitates Bhagavan> She is painstakingly drawing. Don't walk on it Oyi!

**JJ:** Don't walk on it Oyi!

**AA:** Yes. “How come you came? The other lady would come and fight” He would say

**JJ:** To them?

**AA:** If some else comes instead of me He would say ‘Why are you here? That lady (Ammal Ammal) would come and fight”

**JJ:** what kindness!

**AA:** “Why are you here? That lady (Ammal Ammal) would come and fight”. Never says ‘stay’ to whoever is staying and never says ‘go’ to whoever is leaving. Everything will happen according to one’s prarabhdha’. Everything is happening according to my prarabhdha. It is Bhagavan’s grace <unclear>. I would come running. I used to stay near Ishanya (Mutt)

**JJ:** You were at Ishanya?

**AA:** I was staying at a Mutt near Ishanya. <unclear>I used to make garlands and give to the Temple. <unclear> I would sit in the Ashram and make garlands, give it to the temple and go to Ishanya Mutt. I used to live on a thinnai (Raised platform in front of a house) near Ishanya Mutt. They had built it. Chadwick is gone

**JJ:** Did you know Chadwick?

**AA:** Yes, Chadwick came after me. He would sit along the window side.

**JJ:** Yes

**AA:** along the window with the thing tied to...

**JJ:** Yes, he would wear a belt and sit

**AA:** Yes, along the window with a belt near Bhagavan. In the corner <unclear>. Everything is here. Did not go <unclear>

**JJ:** Yes

**AA:** Say its Him, its Him and stay as Shiva

< (Avane (Him) rhymes with Shivane (Shiva). Means, accept it is all Him and remain still >

**JJ:** Its Him, its Him?

**AA:** Say its Him, its Him and stay as Shiva

<Pause>

**JJ:** He would say Accept it is all Him and remain still?

**AA:** Yes.

**JJ:** it is all His doing...

**AA:**<repeats> Say it’s all Him and remain as Shiva. Instead of saying Him, say Shiva...

**JJ:** ok, instead of saying Him, say Shiva.ok

**AA:** What kindness, what heart!

When He passes-by He would glance around

JJ Yes? Glance inside the hall?

**AA:** When he goes after food or again at 3 PM, he would look around at everything. He would wipe his feet and sit reclined saying ‘appaadaa!’

**JJ:** He would say 'appaadaa' and sit!

**AA:** Whoever is with him would take the walking stick. He would wipe his feet and recline saying 'appaadaa'

What kindness! Haven't forgotten anything. It is all in my thoughts. I always think of Him. Who would make these arrangements in the ashram? Ganesan said he would come. He is not in town

**JJ:** He is in town, I will tell him

**AA:** He was not here. He was out for three months.

**JJ:** Now he is here

**AA:** They said he came Yesterday

**JJ:** Ok grandma, lie down

**AA :**<unclear>

**JJ:** cold, right?

**AA:** Yes, it is cold.

**JJ:** did Bhagavan used to cover himself with a shawl during cold days?

**AA:** They will ring the bell now

**JJ:** Yes, they will. It is 11.15

<screen goes dark>

