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upadeshasAram with English translation, Essence of Advice

उपदेशसारं श्रीरामरामदर्शीकृतम्

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उपदेशसारं श्रीरामानुजमुनिप्रोक्तम्



Original Tamil upadesha undiyar of

Shri Ramana Maharshi

With English Translation and Notes by

B. V. Narasimhaswami

Author of Self Realisation

The Genesis of Upadesha Saram

There is an old legend that a group of Rishis once lived in the forest together, practising Vedic rituals by which they acquired supernatural powers. By the same means they hoped to attain final Liberation. In this, however, they were mistaken, for action can only result in action; rituals can produce powers, but not the Peace of Liberation which is beyond rituals and powers and all forms of action. Shiva, determined to convince them of their error, appeared before them as a wandering sadhu. With him came Vishnu in the form of a beautiful lady. All the Rishis were smitten with loving desire for this lady, and their equilibrium was disturbed and their rites and powers were adversely affected. Moreover their wives, who were living with them in the forest, all fell in love with the strange sadhu. Incensed at this, they conjured up an elephant and a tiger by magic rites and sent them against him. Shiva, however, slew them easily and took the elephant's skin for a robe and the tiger's for a wrap. The Rishis then realised that they were up against one more powerful than themselves and they bowed down to him for instruction. He then

explained to them that it is not by action but by renunciation of action that one is Liberated.

The poet Muruganar was writing this legend in Tamil verse, but when he came to the instruction given to the Rishis by Shiva he asked Bhagavan, who was Shiva Incarnate, to write it for him. Bhagavan accordingly wrote the instruction in thirty (verse thirty was composed by Muruganar) Tamil verses. He himself later translated these into Sanskrit, and the Sanskrit version was daily chanted before him together with the Vedas and continues to be chanted before his shrine; that is to say that it is treated as a scripture. He refers to the various paths to Liberation, grading them in order of efficiency and excellence, and showing that the best is Self-Enquiry.

Reproduced from The Collected Works of Ramana Maharshi

उपदेशसारं श्रीरमणमडर्षीकृतम्

English Translation and Notes by B. V. Narasimhaswami

कर्तुराज्ञया प्राप्यते फलम् ।

कर्म किं परं कर्म तज्जडम् ॥ १ ॥

Karma must ever yield its proper fruit,  
For thus it is ordained by God, Himself,  
Supreme Creator. Then is Karma God?  
No, for it is itself insentient.

कृतिमडोदधौ पतनकारणम् ।

फलमशाश्वतं गतिनिरोधकम् ॥ २ ॥

Of Karma the results must pass away,  
Yet it leaves seeds which in their turn will sprout  
And throw the actor back into the flood  
Of Karma's ocean. Karma cannot save.

ध्वरार्षितं नेच्छया कृतम् ।

चित्तशोधकं मुक्तिसाधकम् ॥ ३ ॥

But acts performed without attachment's urge  
And solely for the service of the Lord  
Will cleanse the mind and indicate the way  
Which leads at length unto the final goal.

કાયવાજ્ઞનઃ કાર્યમુત્તમમ્ ।

પૂજનં જપશ્ચિન્તનં ક્રમાત્ ॥ ૪ ॥

Worship, reciting of God's Holy Name,  
And meditation, mainly are performed  
By body, voice and mind, and they excel  
Each other in the order here set down.

જગત ઈશધી યુક્તસેવનમ્ ।

અષ્ટમૂર્તિભૃદ્દેવપૂજનમ્ ॥ ૫ ॥

If we but recognise this Universe  
Of eightfold form as form of God, Himself,  
And serve in adoration all the world.  
This is of God most excellent worship.

ઉત્તમસ્તવાદુચ્ચમન્દતઃ ।

ચિત્તજં જપધ્યાનમુત્તમમ્ ॥ ૬ ॥

Constant repeating of the Holy Name  
Is more than praise, at length the voice will sink  
To silent repetition in the Heart,  
And in this way is meditation learnt.

આજ્યધારયા શ્રોતસા સમમ્ ।

સરલચિન્તનં વિરલતઃ પરમ્ ॥ ૭ ॥

Better than meditation that recurs  
In broken fits and starts is that which is  
A steady ceaseless flow, like to the course  
Of falling oil or a perennial stream.

ભેદભાવનાત્ સોડહમિત્યસૌ ।

ભાવનાડભિદા પાવની મતા ॥ ૮ ॥

Worship of God as in no way distinct  
From him who worships, or in other words  
Thinking that .He is I., is better far  
Than any other kind of worshipping.

भावशून्यसद्भावसुस्थितिः ।  
भावनान्नादाद्भक्तिरुत्तमा ॥ ९८ ॥

To rest in the Real Being, that transcends  
Our every thought, by reason of the strength  
Of our devotion to some thing conceived;  
This of supreme devotion is the truth.

दृत्स्थले मनः स्वस्थता ङिया ।  
भक्तियोगबोधश्च निश्चितम् ॥ १० ॥

To be absorbed again into one's Source (Heart)  
Is Karma, Bhakti, Yoga, Jnanam, all  
These things in truth. Or put in other words  
Good works, Devotion, Union, Gnosis, too.

वायुरोधनाल्लीयते मनः ।  
जालपक्षिवद्रोधसाधनम् ॥ ११ ॥

As by the fowler birds are caught in nets  
So by the holding of the breath within  
The mind can be restrained. This a device  
That will effect absorption of the mind.

चित्तवायवश्चिच्छ्रित्त्रियायुताः ।  
शाभयोर्द्रयी शक्तिमूलका ॥ १२ ॥

For mind and life expressed in thought and act,  
That is with thought and action as their function,  
Diverge and branch like two boughs of a tree,  
But both of them spring from one single stem.

लयविनाशने उभयरोधने ।  
लयगतं पुनर्भवति नो मृतम् ॥ १३ ॥

Suppression of the mind in two ways comes,  
Absorption and extinction; mind absorbed  
Will live again, but mind which is destroyed  
Will never more revive, for it is dead.

प्राणान्धनाल्लीनमानसम् ।

अेकचिन्तनात्राशमेत्यदः ॥ १४ ॥

When, by the means of restraint of the breath,  
The mind has been controlled, then make it flow  
Along a single current, that achieved  
Its form will then entirely disappear.

नष्टमानसोत्कृष्टयोगिनः ।

कृत्यमस्ति किं स्वस्थितिं यतः ॥ १५ ॥

For the Great Sage for whom all form of mind  
Has disappeared and who is ever one  
With the Reality, there is no Karma more,  
For He, indeed, the True Self has become.

दृश्यवारितं चित्तमात्मनः ।

चित्त्वदर्शनं तत्त्वदर्शनम् ॥ १६ ॥

When mind has given the sense-objects up  
Which are external and has drawn within,  
And has perceived its own refulgent form,  
Then verily alone True Gnosis is.

मानसं तु किं मार्गो कृते ।

नैव मानसं मार्ग आर्जवात् ॥ १७ ॥

When pondering with constant vigilance  
Upon the actual nature of the mind  
One finds that there is no such thing as mind;  
This, of a truth, is the straight course for all.

वृत्तयस्त्वहं वृत्तिमाश्रिताः ।

वृत्तयो मनो विद्ध्यहं मनः ॥ १८ ॥

The mind is nothing but a lot of thoughts,  
Of all these many thoughts 'tis the thought 'I'  
That is the root. So we can see by that  
The mind in truth is only the thought 'I'.

अहमयं कुतो भवति चिन्ततः ।

अधि पतत्यहं निजविचारणम् ॥ १८ ॥

Whence, therefore, does this 'I-thought' have its birth?  
With vigilant and ever active mind  
Seek this, and crestfallen the 'I' becomes.  
The search, itself, the quest of Wisdom is.

अहमि नाशभाज्यहमहंतया ।

स्फुरति हृत्स्वयं परमपूर्णासत् ॥ २० ॥

This search pursued till 'I' has disappeared  
There now vibrates the 'I-I' all alone,  
The quest is finished, there's no more to seek.  
For this is really the Infinite Self.

छदमहं पदाऽभिष्यमन्वहम् ।

अहमिनीनकेऽप्यलयसत्तया ॥ २१ ॥

This is eternally the true import  
Of the term 'I'. For in the deepest sleep  
We do not cease to be. We still exist  
Even though here there is no sense of 'I'.

विग्रहेन्द्रियप्राणधीतमः ।

नाहमेकसत्तज्जडं ह्यसत् ॥ २२ ॥

As I am pure Existence, I am not  
The body nor the senses, mind nor life,  
Nor even ignorance, for all these things  
Are quite insentient and so unreal.

सत्त्वभासिका चित्तववेतरा ।

सत्तया हि चिच्छित्तया ह्यहम् ॥ २३ ॥

As there is not a second consciousness  
To know Existence, it must follow that  
Existence is itself that consciousness;  
So I myself am that same consciousness.

ईशज्ज्वयोर्वेषधीभिदा ।

सत्स्वभावतो वस्तु डेवलम् ॥ २४ ॥

In their real nature as Existence both  
Creatures and the Creator are the same,  
The Unique Principle. In attributes  
And knowledge only is a difference found.

वेषदानतः स्वात्मदर्शनम् ।

ईशदर्शनं स्वात्मरूपतः ॥ २५ ॥

Realization of the Self alone,  
Eliminating all its attributes;  
Is God-Realization of a truth,  
As it is He that shines forth as the Self.

आत्मसंस्थितिः स्वात्मदर्शनम् ।

आत्मनिर्द्रयादात्मनिष्ठता ॥ २६ ॥

To be the Self that is to know the Self,  
As there is no duality in Self.  
This is Thanmaya-Nistha, or the state  
Of absolutely being That in truth.

ज्ञानवर्जिताऽज्ञानधीनचित् ।

ज्ञानमस्ति किं ज्ञातुमन्तरम् ॥ २७ ॥

That knowledge is true knowledge which transcends  
Knowledge and ignorance both equally.  
And this alone is truth. For there is no  
Subject or object there that can be known.

किं स्वरूपमित्यात्मदर्शने ।

अव्ययाऽभववाऽऽपूर्वाचित्सुषुम् ॥ २८ ॥



If one can only realize at Heart  
What one's true nature is, one then will find  
That 'tis Infinite Wisdom, Truth and Bliss,  
Without beginning and without an end.

अन्धमुक्त्यतीतं परं सुखम् ।

विन्दतीह श्रुवस्तु दैविकः ॥ २९ ॥

Remaining in this state of Supreme Bliss,  
Devoid of bondage and of freedom too,  
Is found to be a state in which one is  
Rapt in perpetual service of the Lord.

अहमपेतकं निजविमानकम् ।

महद्विदंतपो रमणवागियम् ॥ ३० ॥

By ardent quest and shedding ego's veil  
Realize the Self, the One that's ego-less,  
And function thus; the sole right penance this.  
So teaches Bhagavan Sri Ramana,  
Who is the SELF of everything that is.

॥ एति रामारामदर्शीकृतम् उपदेशसारम् संपूर्णम् ॥

upadeshasAram Essence of Advice

॥ उपदेशसारम् ॥

कर्तुराज्ञाया प्राप्यते क्लमम् ।

कर्म किं परं कर्म तज्जडम् ॥ १ ॥

कृतिमडोदधौ पतनकारणम् ।

क्लमशाश्वतं गतिनिरोधकम् ॥ २ ॥

धर्मरार्पितं नेत्रया कृतम् ।

चित्तशोधकं मुक्तिसाधकम् ॥ ३ ॥

कायवाङ्मनः कार्यमुत्तमम् ।

पूजनं जपश्चिन्तनं कर्मात् ॥ ४ ॥

जगत एशधी युक्तसेवनम् ।

अष्टमूर्तिभृद्देवपूजनम् ॥ ५ ॥

उत्तमस्तवाद्युच्यमन्दतः ।

चित्तं जपध्यानमुत्तमम् ॥ ६ ॥

आज्यधारया स्रोतसा समम् ।

सरलचिन्तनं विरलतः परम् ॥ ७ ॥

भेदभावनात् सोऽहमित्यसौ ।

भावनाऽभिधा पावनी मता ॥ ८ ॥

भावशून्यसद्भावसुस्थितिः ।

भावनाबलाद्भक्तिरुत्तमा ॥ ९ ॥

दृत्स्थले मनः स्वस्थता ङिया ।

भक्तियोगबोधश्च निश्चितम् ॥ १० ॥

वायुरोधनाल्लीयते मनः ।

जालपक्षिद्रोधसाधनम् ॥ ११ ॥

चित्तवायवश्चिच्छियायुताः ।

शापयोर्द्धयी शक्तिमूलका ॥ १२ ॥

लयविनाशने उभयरोधने ।

लयगतं पुनर्भवति नो मृतम् ॥ १३ ॥

प्राणबन्धनाल्लीनमानसम् ।

अेकचिन्तनाशमेत्यदः ॥ १४ ॥

नष्टमानसोत्कृष्टयोगिनः ।

कृत्यमस्ति ङिं स्वस्थितिं यतः ॥ १५ ॥

दृश्यवारितं चित्तमात्मनः ।

चित्त्वदर्शनं तत्त्वदर्शनम् ॥ १६ ॥

मानसं तु ङिं मार्गो ङृते ।

नैव मानसं मार्ग आर्जवात् ॥ १७ ॥

वृत्तयस्त्वहं वृत्तिमाश्रिताः ।

वृत्तयो मनो विद्ध्यहं मनः ॥ १८ ॥

अहमयं कुतो भवति चिन्वतः ।  
 अयि पतत्यहं निजविचारणम् ॥ १९ ॥  
 अहमि नाशभाज्यहमहंतया ।  
 स्फुरति हृत्स्वयं परमपूर्णासत् ॥ २० ॥  
 अहमहं पदाऽभिष्यमन्वहम् ।  
 अहमिहीनकेऽप्यलयसत्तया ॥ २१ ॥  
 विग्रहेन्द्रियप्राणधीतमः ।  
 नाहमेकसत्तज्जडं ह्यसत् ॥ २२ ॥  
 सत्वभासिका चिह्नववेतरा ।  
 सत्तया हि चिच्छित्तया ह्यहम् ॥ २३ ॥  
 अशुभयोर्वेषधीभिदा ।  
 सत्स्वभावतो वस्तु केवलम् ॥ २४ ॥  
 वेषहानतः स्वात्मदर्शनम् ।  
 अशदर्शनं स्वात्मरूपतः ॥ २५ ॥  
 आत्मसंस्थितिः स्वात्मदर्शनम् ।  
 आत्मनिर्द्रयादात्मनिष्ठता ॥ २६ ॥  
 ज्ञानवर्जिताऽज्ञानहीनचित् ।  
 ज्ञानमस्ति हि ज्ञातुमन्तरम् ॥ २७ ॥  
 किं स्वरूपमित्यात्मदर्शने ।  
 अव्ययाऽभवाऽऽपूर्णाचित्सुषम् ॥ २८ ॥  
 अन्धमुक्त्यतीतं परं सुषम् ।  
 विन्दतीह शुवस्तु दैविकः ॥ २९ ॥  
 अहमपेतकं निजविमानकम् ।  
 महद्विदंतपो रमणवागियम् ॥ ३० ॥  
 ॥ अति रमणमहर्षीकृतम् उपदेशसारम् संपूर्णम् ॥


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