upadeshasAram Engilsh translation, Essence of Advice



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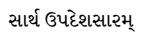
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Original Tamil upadesha undiyar of Shri Ramana Maharshi With English Translation and Notes by B. V. Narasimhaswami Author of Self Realisation

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

શ્રી રમણ મહર્ષીકૃતમ્ ઉપદેશસારમ્ English Translation and Notes by B. V. Narasimhaswami

કર્તુરાજ્ઞયા પ્રાપ્યતે ફલમ્ I કર્મ કિં પરં કર્મ તજ્જડમ્ ॥ ૧॥ 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.

કૃતિમહોદધૌ પતનકારણમ્ I કલમશાશ્વતં ગતિનિરોધકમ્ II ૨II

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.

ઈશ્વરાર્પિતં નેચ્છયા કૃતમ્ l ચિત્તશોધકં મુક્તિસાધકમ્ ॥ ૩॥

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.

કાયવાડમનઃ કાર્યમુત્તમમ્ I પૂજનં જપશ્ચિન્તનં ક્રમાત્ II ૪II

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 l અષ્ટમૂર્તિભૃદે્વપૂજનમ્ ll પ ll

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.

ઉત્તમસ્તવાદુચ્ચમન્દતः । ચિત્તજં જપધ્યાનમૃત્તમમ્ ॥ ६॥

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 સ્રોતસા 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 ॥ ८॥

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.

ભાવશૂન્યસદ્ભાવસુસ્થિતિઃ l ભાવનાબલાદૃભક્તિરુત્તમા ll ૯ ll

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.

હૃત્સ્થલે મનઃ સ્વસ્થતા ક્રિયા ! ભક્તિયોગબોધાશ્ચ નિશ્ચિતમ્ ॥ ૧૦॥

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.

વાયુરોધનાલ્લીયતે મનઃ l જાલપક્ષિવદ્રોધસાધનમ્ ॥ ૧૧॥ 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.

ચિત્તવાયવશ્ચિત્ક્રિયાયુતાઃ I શાખયોર્દ્વયી શક્તિમૂલકા II ૧૨II

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.

લયવિનાશને ઉભયરોધને I લયગતં પુનર્ભવતિ નો મૃતમ્ II ૧૩ II

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.

પ્રાણબન્ધનાલ્લીનમાનસમ્ l એકચિન્તનાન્નાશમેત્યદઃ ll ૧૪ ll

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.

નષ્ટમાનસોત્કૃષ્ટયોગિનઃ l કૃત્યમસ્તિ કિંસ્વસ્થિતિં યતઃ ॥ ૧૫॥

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.

દૃશ્યવારિતં ચિત્તમાત્મનः । ચિત્ત્વદર્શનં તત્ત્વદર્શનમ્ ॥ ૧૬॥

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.

માનસં તુ કિં માર્ગણે કૃતે **l** નૈવ માનસં માર્ગ આર્જવાતુ **l**l ૧૭ **l**l

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.

વૃત્તયસ્ત્વહં વૃત્તિમાશ્રિતાः । વૃત્તયો મનો વિદૃધ્યહં મનः ॥ ૧૮॥

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'.

અહમયં કુતો ભવતિ ચિન્વતઃ I અયિ પતત્યહં નિજવિચારણમ્ ॥ ૧૯॥

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.

અહિમ નાશભાજયહમહંતયા l સ્ફરતિ હૃત્સ્વયં પરમપૂર્ણસત્ ll ૨૦ ll

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.

ઇદમહં પદાડભિખ્યમન્વહમ્ l અહમિલીનકેડપ્યલયસત્તયા ll ૨૧ ll 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'.

વિત્રહેન્દ્રિયપ્રાણધીતમઃ l નાહમેકસત્તજ્જડં હ્યસત્ ll ૨૨ ll

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.

સત્ત્વભાસિકા ચિત્કવવેતરા **!** સત્તયા હિ ચિચ્ચિત્તયા હ્યહમ્ **!!** ૨૩ **!!**

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.

ઈશજીવયોર્વેષધીભિદા ! સત્સ્વભાવતો વસ્તુ કેવલમ્ ॥ ૨૪॥

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.

વેષહાનતઃ સ્વાત્મદર્શનમ્ । ઈશદર્શનં સ્વાત્મરૂપતઃ ॥ ૨૫॥

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.

આત્મસંસ્થિતિઃ સ્વાત્મદર્શનમ્ । આત્મનિર્દ્વયાદાત્મનિષ્ઠતા ॥ ૨૬॥

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.

જ્ઞાનવર્જિતાડજ્ઞાનહીનચિત્ । જ્ઞાનમસ્તિ કિં જ્ઞાતુમન્તરમ્ ॥ ૨૭॥

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. કિંસ્વરૂપમિત્યાત્મદર્શને l અવ્યયાડભવાડડપૂર્ણચિત્સુખમ્ ll ૨૮ ll

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.

બન્ધમુક્ત્યતીતં પરં સુખમ્ । વિન્દતીહ જીવસ્તુ દૈવિકઃ ॥ ૨૯॥

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.

અહમપેતકં નિજવિભાનકમ્ I મહિદદંતપો રમનવાગિયમ્ II ૩૦ II

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.

II ઇતિ રમણમહર્ષીકૃતમ્ ઉપદેશસારમ્ સંપૂર્ણમ્ II

upadeshasAram Essence of Advice

II ઉપદેશસારમ્ II

કર્તુરાજ્ઞયા પ્રાપ્યતે ફલમ્ I

કર્મ કિંપરં કર્મ તજ્જડમ્ ॥ ૧॥

કૃતિમહોદધૌ પતનકારણમ્ I

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ચિત્તશોધકં મુક્તિસાધકમ્ II 3 II

કાયવાજમનઃ કાર્યમુત્તમમ્ I

પૂજનં જપશ્ચિન્તનં ક્રમાત્ ॥ ૪॥

જગત ઈશધી યુક્તસેવનમ્ I

અષ્ટમૂર્તિભૃદેવપૂજનમ્ ॥ ૫॥

ઉત્તમસ્તવાદુચ્ચમન્દતઃ I

ચિત્તજં જપધ્યાનમુત્તમમ્ ॥ ૬॥

આજ્યધારયા સ્રોતસા સમમ્ 1

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ભેદભાવનાત્ સોડહમિત્યસૌ 1

ભાવનાડભિદા પાવની મતા ॥ ८॥

ભાવશૂન્યસદ્ભાવસુસ્થિતિઃ I

ભાવનાબલાદ્ભક્તિરુત્તમા ॥ ૯॥

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ભક્તિયોગબોધાશ્ચ નિશ્ચિતમ્ II ૧૦ II

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ચિત્તવાયવશ્ચિત્ક્રિયાયુતાઃ I

શાખયોર્દ્વયી શક્તિમૂલકા ॥ ૧૨॥

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લયગતં પુનર્ભવતિ નો મૃતમ્ ॥ ૧૩॥

પ્રાણબન્ધનાલ્લીનમાનસમ્ I

એકચિન્તનાન્નાશમેત્યદઃ ॥ ૧૪॥

નષ્ટમાનસોત્કૃષ્ટયોગિનઃ I

કૃત્યમસ્તિ કિંસ્વસ્થિતિંયતઃ ॥ ૧૫॥

દૃશ્યવારિતં ચિત્તમાત્મનઃ 1

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માનસં તુ કિં માર્ગણે કૃતે I

નૈવ માનસં માર્ગ આર્જવાત્ ॥ ૧૭॥

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અહમયં કુતો ભવતિ ચિન્વતઃ I

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સ્ફરતિ હૃત્સ્વયં પરમપૂર્ણસત્ ॥ ૨૦॥

ઇદમહં પદાડભિખ્યમન્વહમ્ **I**

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ઈશજીવયોર્વેષધીભિદા **I**

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વેષહાનતઃ સ્વાત્મદર્શનમ્ ।

ઈશદર્શનં સ્વાત્મરૂપતઃ II ૨૫ II

આત્મસંસ્થિતિઃ સ્વાત્મદર્શનમ્ ।

આત્મનિર્દ્વયાદાત્મનિષ્ઠતા ॥ ૨૬॥

સાર્થ ઉપદેશસારમ્

જ્ઞાનવર્જિતાડજ્ઞાનહીનચિત્ ! જ્ઞાનમસ્તિ કિં જ્ઞાતુમન્તરમ્ ॥ ૨૭ ॥ કિં સ્વરૂપમિત્યાત્મદર્શને ! અવ્યયાડભવાડડપૂર્ણચિત્સુખમ્ ॥ ૨૮ ॥ બન્ધમુક્ત્યતીતં પરં સુખમ્ ! વિન્દતીહ જીવસ્તુ દૈવિકઃ ॥ ૨૯ ॥ અહમપેતકં નિજવિભાનકમ્ ! મહિંદદંતપો રમનવાગિયમ્ ॥ ૩૦ ॥ ॥ ઇતિ રમણમહર્ષીકૃતમ્ ઉપદેશસારમ્ સંપૂર્ણમ્ ॥

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