

Yogi Ramsuratkumar

Yogi Ramsuratkumar is a name which thrills the hearts of his devotees. It is a name that charms a person who hears it for the first time – only to long to hear it again and again. It is a name that can by itself work miracles. It is the name of that Supreme Being, who, out of His compassion and mercy has manifested in flesh and blood as Yogi Ramsuratkumar.

Yogi Ramsuratkumar – heals the sick. He soothes the maimed and those who are hurt. He raises the lowly to heights of God - consciousness. Yogi Ramsuratkumar – he floods all who come to him with unlimited love and tenderness. He drives away the pettiness and hypocrisy that so often shroud our true being. He got rid of the frustration, anger and jealousy that spring from our meddlesome ego. Yogi Ramsuratkumar – inculcated in us true values of life, that are valid for eternity, and enabled us to live perpetually in the consciousness of God, which is our true life and being.

The very darshan of Yogi Ramsuratkumar brought us a sense of peace and well being. There was a flow of love and joy and a quietening of the mind. These could not be experienced even if one mastered the Vedas and Vedanta or read a thousand books. What we felt was a sense of fulfillment, a sense of having “arrived”. The realization, that one was meeting face to face the person who took care and protected – the unseen presence that stood between us and a hundred pitfalls. He in his dirty and torn clothes, might appear like a beggar at first sight. But his effulgence and majesty soon made you forget that deceptive appearance. The glorious piercing light from his eyes penetrated a person’s worldly armours and entered the heart. Hearts hardened by cynicism were softened, and many people found

themselves shedding tears of sheer love and tenderness. You were in the magnificent presence of an unfathomable dynamic force. As the Bhagavatam says of Lord Krishna “ Now that we have seen you, we can claim that human birth has achieved some purpose. The very purpose of birth is now understandable. We have had the privilege of seeing a great Yogeshwara like you, a privilege denied even to celestial beings. Mere water could not be holy Tirtha. Idols of stone are not Gods. Sadgurus like you are the real Gods and genuine Tirtha. Tirthas and idols have to be propitiated for long years, and then only does one attain salvation. It is only then that the devotee is able to cleanse his mind. Not so, when one has the darshan of a Sadguru or a great Yogeshwara. As soon as one meets such a great one, his mind and conscience are made clean and pure, devoid of all impure thoughts” Such is the miracle that is Yogi Ramsuratkumar, who pulls you gently but firmly towards God. Those are fortunate who had his darshan, who have heard of him, who speak of him, who love him. Blessed are they who think of him with devotion.

BIRTH AND CHILDHOOD

Yogi Ramsuratkumar was born on 01.12.1918 to devout parents Ramdutt Kunwar and Kusum Devi, in a remote village on the banks of the Ganga in District Balia of Uttar Pradesh. He had two brothers, one elder and one younger.

The parents named him Ramsurat, meaning one absorbed in Rama. Perhaps an indication of the events to come: of attaining oneness with God by uttering the Taraka Mantra – Ram Nam. His parents inculcated in him the true values of our Sanatana Dharma by teaching him through Puranas and Itihasas. Such teaching had fallen on fertile ground and Ramsuratkumar grew up with an innate and growing love for God. He also had devotion for all those who had renounced the worldly life to seek God. Little is known about his childhood years except that he was a healthy intelligent boy who loved to swim in the Ganga and took part in various games. However his prime passion seems to have been association with Sadhus who sought the banks of the Ganga for their Sadhana. The company of these sadhus awakened and developed his interest in all matters spiritual. Already in his boyhood Ramsuratkumar had unusual experiences, as indeed, those selected by God must undergo.

Yogi Ramsuratkumar remembered that when he was three or four years old, his father had taken him near the Ganga and that was his first glimpse of the mighty river. His father, pointing the river to him, asked him gently, “Do you know what this is?” The boy replied “River.” His father was deeply stirred; with tears in his eyes, he said, “Do you think this is a mere river? Know that this is a goddess, the mother. Ganga is the mother, the Punya Tirtha”. Ramsuratkumar felt the presence of the river, alive and glowing. Thereafter the Ganga

was a living being to him, the mother. She whispered many secrets to him- at times gentle and playful; at times roaring with the swollen waters of the monsoon rains in her rush towards the ocean. The mighty river worshipped down the ages as mother Ganga had nurtured and raised many sadhus. It is the faith of millions in India that a dip in her washes away all the sins. The mother purifies people for what? To make them fit for receiving the highest knowledge, that of God. Ramsuratkumar was to recount with tears in his eyes, many years later “People know that this beggar had three (spiritual) fathers but nobody knows who the mother is; it is Ganga.”

The gay, fun loving lad also had great depth of understanding and emotion, which waited for the suitable moment to emerge. Ramsuratkumar had learnt the Puranas and Itihasas at his father’s knee and was helpful to his mother in her household chores also. Always considerate and compassionate, he understood the pangs of hunger of wandering sadhus. They, in their search for God, might go without food for days. He would give away his own food, or take the sadhus home for a meal. Even some neighbors would sometimes oblige, seeing how earnest and eager the young lad was to feed those who had given up their all to seek God. Similarly young Ramsuratkumar would give away his own food to a needy schoolmate. The mother would have prepared sattv (a flour made of gram dhal) and stored it in the kitchen which, when added with salt and water, rolled into balls or as a drink serves as a nourishing meal at a moment’s notice) If there was no food available, Ramsuratkumar would stuff handfuls of the sattv as much as his shirt front would carry, take a little salt, and run to the Sadhus, before he could be caught by anyone. He derived such intense pleasure in feeding the Sadhus.

This depth of understanding and compassion marked him out throughout his life. In later years he organized Annadanam for Sadhus, the poor, and devotees in his magnificent Asrham.

Ramsuratkumar was twelve years old. One evening his mother asked him to fetch some water from the well, which he immediately undertook to do. The moon had risen: it was yet dusk, and a strange bird was perched on the parapet of the well, singing the glories of its life. Drawing water from the well, Ramsuratkumar casually threw the rope across – to scare away the bird? To catch it? Whatever the intention, the very accurate aim of the boy hit the bird direct and the bird fell. Realizing the enormity of his deed Ramsuratkumar ran to rescue the bird, attempted to pour water down its beak, but to no avail. The fallen bird could not be revived, however much he tried. Ramsuratkumar filled with remorse and sorrow, for the first time began to examine questions of life and death. Even at that young age he did not attempt to justify his act or imagine reasons to lessen the enormity of the deed. The anguish at the death of the bird, of which he was the unwitting cause, tortured him and turned him into an introvert at an age when most youngsters would be wholly occupied with the wonders of the world. Such introspection threw him even more into the company of sadhus, from whom he sought answers concerning life and death. His spiritual thirst and quest were kept alive by occasional spiritual experiences.

The boy seems to have grown up with an awareness of that which is not understandable by the senses, which is beyond reason. This triggered and nourished a thirst for God. It generated a restlessness of spirit driving him on for years to come. His education continued. He shone in his studies and also made it to the volleyball team.