

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th Aug. 2002 at 9.am. Bangalore

Most Rev. Maharaj ji had called a meeting of volunteers at 9am on 6th Aug 2002. About twenty to twenty two people attended it.

Maharaj ji started the meeting by expressing his views about "Shri Ram Sharnam & the values and the principles that it stands for. He advised the members to work as team irrespective of status and personal standing in life. He requested that all the members should work in accordance with the guidelines and principles set by Swamiji Maharaj and if any one does not adhere to these principles or does otherwise, Maharaj ji said that he will be the first one to disassociate with such a person or persons. He also emphasized that as a saint he will be residing and eating at one place only.

Maharaj ji suggested that whenever any one participates in Amritvani Satsang, one will do so with the intention of satsang only. He said that now a days Amritvani Satsangs are being held on the occasions of Birthdays, Wedding Anniversaries, Uthala etc. You are free to attend such events, but he has advised us not to partake in the party(eatables) that follow thereafter. If we do so the very essence or meaning or sanctity of satsang is lost. Maharaj ji said that explain humbly to the host: "you donot mean to insult him or her and you will definitely partake at any other time".

Maharaj ji also suggested that we should not go anywhere as a 'mandli'. He further added that no offering of any kind (not even flower) is to be made. No प्रसाद is to be distributed even on the special days like 'गुरु पूर्णिमा'.

Maharaj ji emphasized that rules & guidelines are meant to be followed and not broken, if you are to expand the organization.

Maharaj ji requested that no devotee should touch his feet as it is customary in south. He said that Swamiji never allowed anybody to do so.

Maharaj ji very strongly asserted that we should not associate our group with any other group or संस्था. If we do so, we lose our own identity.

One member said that people do not like his way of functioning though he puts in lot of sincere efforts, to which Maharajji said, "कि आप अपने तरीके से काम क्यों करते हो, सबकी रजामन्दी से काम कीजिये," and then he suggested that we could form a small group consisting of 10-12 people who would voluntarily want to work selflessly. Further that in the group all should be equal (there should be no leader) and decisions should be taken collectively.

Maharaj ji said that we should not compel any body to do any kind of work for organization, each should work with free will and no expectation should be there, "अपेक्षा किसी से नहीं रखनी है" because who are we to expect anything from anybody, there should be unity. There should be no jealousy and animosity. We should share the sorrows and happiness of others in-

stead of deriving pleasure in somebody's sorrow or misfortune. He said, "मैं सुख नहीं दे सकता तो मुझे दुःख भी नहीं देना चाहिये। गुण—jealousy का विषय नहीं बनना चाहिये। अवगुण किसी का दिखाई दे तो प्रार्थना कीजिये, कि हे परमात्मा यह अवगुण मेरे अन्दर न आये। महाराज जी also said कि यदि वृद्धि चाहिये तो अपने आपको सुधारिये। Set an example for others.

One member complained that there is thin attendance at his place for Amritvani Satsang to which Maharaj ji replied that even if there is one person present satsang should go on and if need be cassette could be played, Maharaj ji questioned " कि सत्संग में आपको वृद्धि चाहिये या अपनी प्रसिद्धि? (this is in reference to thin attendance) . He said that वृद्धि के लिये आप सब अपने आपको सुधारो जिससे लोग आपके स्वभाव से आकर्षित हों, so set an example to others. नौकर बन कर काम कीजिये, क्योंकि करने और करवाने वाला तो ईश्वर है।

Another member suggested that we should have news bulletin to get information about the happenings of "Shri Ram Sharnam" at New Delhi and other places. To which Maharaj ji replied that this was not possible due to practical difficulties. He said we do not have infrastructure to do so, Maharaj ji suggested that members attending any such event i.e. Sadhna Satsang could on their return communicate & share their experiences with others of the happenings there.

Lastly Maharaj ji advised that we should maintain account of books, Malas and other things received from Delhi. The Malas given at the time of Diksha need not be paid for (Only for Jhabua, Rajasthan & Bangalore)and the remaining may either be sent back to Delhi or retained here, if required and money collected through the sale of others could be sent as and when they are sold.

Maharaj ji also suggested that do not beg donations. Money even if offered by members should be properly acknowledged by giving a receipt. Records should be maintained of the money received and the money spent. Any person is at liberty to question as to how the money is utilised.

We the members of "Shri Ram Sharnam" express our sincere gratitude and thank you Maharaj ji for having given us precious time, valuable suggestions and guidelines to be followed by us. We on our part promise that we shall conduct ourselves in accordance with your wishes to the best of our abilities.

हम सबकी आपको चरणवन्दना और जय जय राम।

devotees

Shri Ramsharnam, Bangalore