

RAM NAAM Reforming Criminals

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When Valmiki uttered “Mara Mara” repeatedly it became chanting “Rama Rama” that reformed him and he authored the epic Ramayana – a celebration for all the time. Since then Ram got manifested in iconized form; in narratives and enactment, yet civilization almost forgot the essence of eternal sound Ram, until in early part of last century Swami Satyanandji Maharaj (1861-1960), who founded Shree Ram Sharanam, re-discovered celestially the ultimate healer mantra Ram in formless state of eternal light and sound on 7th July 1925 on Vyas Purnima. Swami Dr.Vishwa Mitter, the present head of Shree Ram Sharanam, New Delhi continues the mission, who was once Asia’s first Ocular Microbiologist and served AIIMS. With acoustic of science and sacredness he has been spreading Ram Naam to millions worldwide that included hardened criminals of Indore and Ujjain Central Jail.

The experimentation of healing with Ram Naam in Jail was closely studied by me for a decade and some of the case studies I am sharing which will be an eye opener.

Ramesh belongs to Maharashtra, could not study as his parents died early and at young age he was taking care of blind grandmother as screen printer. Slowly he got befriended with bad elements of the society and started drinking. Once in a market place he fought with a person and killed him with knife. He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment but dadagiri remained his pastime in the Jail. Initially with doubt, he took Ram Naam Diksha. But slowly the Japa philosophy transformed him from a hardcore ruffian to a soft man. He took to Bhajan singing and even created cassettes. Now he had become a renowned artist and won prize from Jabalpur for his visual Ad campaign on AIDS. Though an illiterate, today he can read Gita and Ramayana. He wishes, after release he would take up Bhajan singing as career to heal people.

In another case Sarnam Singh and Shivraj Singh, who did honour killing of seven people where his daughter got married against his wish. In jail in 1997 he got Ram Naam Diksha. On 30th July 1999 he was sentenced to death. While awaiting death in isolated ward he did 18 to 19 hours Japa. He did tretaka while concentrating on the rising sun for a half an hour daily. Meanwhile, his appeal was pending in court and he was mentally preparing for death with huge intensity of Naam Jaap. On 27th January 2000 he wrote to Swami Dr. Vishwa Mitterji Maharaj. "I have got the final judgment on 25th January 2000 and with your blessings and with the blessings of the almighty the death sentence of we two brothers have been changed into life imprisonment". Such is the belief system and the impact of the sacred names as has been experienced and expressed by convict. The notorious Sadey-Sati as he was known in Jail was to become yoga teacher and created many means to heal the society.

Another life convict Dayal Singh did penance with Ram Naam and could get parole and reduction of imprisonment. There are several hundred cases where convict themselves realized that Ram Naam not only altered their aberrant mind but elevated them to find out their own talents that aims at the healing the society.

The spiritual dynamic within can be worked out so easily with Jaap philosophy remains really very mystic. But delving deep into the changing habits of the convicts and their confessions of transformation amply testify the authenticity of this phenomenon.

The concept of Japa or chanting the sacred name remains as universal practice in all religion. This has a huge potential to undo the aberration of our society be it the socio-economic or criminological.