

## SIVANANDA VIJAYA—AN INSPIRING DRAMA OF 3 ACTS

(By Sri Sundar Shyam Mukut, Hindi)

[ Translated into English by D. N. Jhingan, M.A., LL.B. ]

The purpose of this play is to inspire, instruct and elevate. We have not the least doubt that it contains all the elements to serve this purpose with an appreciable measure of success.

Moved deeply by the sin and sufferings in this world, the renowned South India Saivaite Saint Appayya Dikshitar invokes the Lord's intervention. Lord Siva promises to be born among men and awaken Humanity to the sublime purpose of life and to hasten their spiritual evolution. Eighteen generations later, the birth of Kuppuswami (Sivananda, the hero of the play) marks the advent of the promised Saviour. Urged on by the Consciousness of his destined mission, Dr. Kuppuswami renounces a brilliant secular career and turning monk, works for and brings about a world-wide awakening, inspiration and spiritualisation. In Him, the modern world sees the fulfillment of the promise given by the Lord to Saint Appayya Dikshitar, centuries ago.

We have made an earnest attempt in the present volume to provide an attractive and dramatic version of this modern saint's inspiring life of lofty renunciation and Vishwa Seva.

### DRAMATIS PERSONATE

*Appaya Dikshitar*: An unequalled scholar in Sanskrit and renowned devotee of Lord Siva.

*Narayana Bhattar*: Mahant or the Chief Priest of the great Temple at Conjeevaram.

*Four Vaishnavas*: Disciples of Narayana Bhattar.

*Narada*: Deva Rishi.

*Vengu Iyer*: A worthy descendent of Appaya Dikshitar.

*Dr. Kuppuswami (Sri Swami Sivananda)*: The Hero of this drama—Son of Vengu Iyer, first a doctor and then a Great

Saint dedicating his life to the awakening of humanity.

*Lord Siva*: Kailasapathy Bhagawan.

*Kalua*: Devoted servant of Dr. Kuppuswami

*Purnabhodha and Vishuddhananda*:

Disciples of Sri Swami Sivanandaji

*Swami Narayanananda and Swami Ramaswami*: Two Sannyasins.

*Suresh, Rajesh, Om Prakash and Rajendra*: Students of Sivananda Ashram.

*Swami Vishwanandaji*: Guru of Sri. Swami Sivanandaji and Paramahansa Sannyasi belonging to Sringeri Mutt line.

(Also some children, two boys, two citizens, sick patients, pilgrim, Nathua, Munshi, etc. etc).

*Parvathi Ammal:* Mother of Sri. Swami Sivanandaji (wife of Vengu Iyer).

*Devi Parvathi:* Consort of Lord Siva.

*Savitri and Kamala:* Students of Sivananda Ashram.

### ACT I

#### Scene 1:

Place: Gate of Conjeevaram Vishnu Temple  
Time: Morning.

Inside the temple, Arati is being conducted. In sweet melodious notes devotees are singing the Lord's Arati. All musical instruments, temple bell, conch, drums, cymbals, etc. are being played together, which produce an all absorbing sound.

(All Sing)

#### ARATI

*Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare  
Hare!*

*Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna  
Hare Hare!*

*Jeya Jeya aarati Venu Gopala  
Venu Gopala Venu Lola  
Papa vidura Navanita Chora  
Jeya Jeya aarati Venkataramana  
Venkataramana sankata harana  
Sita Rama Radhe Shyama  
Jeya Jeya aarati Venu Gopala*

*Jag ke paalan haar  
Apne jan ko bhava saagar se  
kar dete ho par*

*Prabho sharan mein jo aata hai  
woh man waanchit phal paatha hai  
Kaun nahin phir gun gatha hai  
dekh tumhen adhaar  
Jag ke palan haar*

*Khade hue hain sab nar naari  
dikhlawo he Krishna Murari  
Apni wah baanki chavi pyari  
jate hain balihaar  
Jag ke palan har*

*Toot chuki pathwaar hamari  
toophaanon ka dar hai bhaari  
Kewat ban aao Girdhari  
naiya hai majhadhaar  
Jag ke palan har.*

(Hail, Hail, Protector of the Universe!  
Leadest Thou Your own people  
To the other shore of Immortality  
He who seeks refuge in Thee  
Gets the cherished boon;  
Knowing you his own support  
Everyone sings thy praise !  
Hail, Hail, Protector of the Universe!

All Thy Bhaktas beseech Thee  
Pray show us Thy Charming Face  
And on those who do surrender  
Bestow Thy Divine Grace  
Hail, Hail, Protector of the Universe!

Let adrift in the stormy sea  
This frail boat is well nigh sunk  
Come Thou, O Pilot of life,  
Steer it safe to heaven of Bliss  
Hail, Hail, Protector of the Universe!)

(Enter Appayya Dikshitar—with bhasma besmeared on the forehead and Rudraksha mala around his neck. His face is awe-inspiring and lustrous).

**APPAYYA DIKSHITA:-**

“Sivaya Namah Om, Sivaya Namah  
Sivaya Namah Om, Nama Sivaya  
Siva Siva Siva Siva Sivaya Namah Om  
Hara Hara Hara Hara Namah Sivaya  
Siva Siva Siva Siva Sivaya Namah Om  
Bum Bum Bum Bum Namasivaya  
Siva Samba Sadasiva Samba Sadasiva  
Samba Sadasiva Samba Siva  
Siva Siva Sankara Hara Hara Sankara  
Jeya Jeya Sankara Namami Sankara  
Om Namasivaya, Om Namasivaya  
Om Namasivaya, Om Namasivaya

Sambho Mahadeva Deva—Siva  
Sambho Mahadeva Devesa Sambho  
(Sambho)

Palavanam Ratnakritam—Pala  
Netrarchishadhagta Panceeshukeetam  
Shoolashataratikootam—Shuddha  
Mardendhuchoodam Bhaje Margabandum  
(Sambho)

Ange Virajadbhujangam—Abhra  
Gangaatarangaabhiraamottamangam  
Sringaaravatikurangam—Shuddha  
Samsevitanghrim Bhaje Margabandhum  
(Sambho)

Nityam Chidanandarupam—Ninhu  
Taasesha Lokesa vairi prataapam  
Kartaswara gendrachaapam—Kritti  
Vasam Bhaje Divya Sanmargabandum  
(Sambho)

Kandarpadarpagnameesam—Kala  
Kantam Mahesam Maha Vyoma Kesam  
Kundaabhadantam Suresam—Koti  
Suryaprakasam Bhaje Margabandhum  
(Sambho)

Mandaarabhooterudhaaram—Manda  
Ragendrasaaram Mahagowryadhooram  
Sindhooradhooraprataapam—Sindhu  
Rajaadhidheeram Bhaje Margabandhum  
(Sambho)

Oh! Arati is over. Am I late? I shall have  
the Lord’s Darshan, then.

(A voice from behind the screen): Where are  
you going?

(Enter - four Vaishnavas)

KRISHNA IYENGAR: Look here! This is  
Vishnu Temple and not a Siva  
Temple.

SRINIVASACHAR: Have you wandered  
astray, please?

RAGHAVACHARY: Saivas have no business  
to come here.

VENU GOPALAN: Please go back without  
demur.

APPAYYA DIKSHITAR: This is the Lord’s  
Temple. Let me have the Lord’s  
*darshan*. Why do you stop me?

KRISH: Do you all hear what he says?

SRINI: We have heard everything. He cannot  
have *darshan*.

RAGHA: Pray, direct him to some Siva  
Temple. Then he will walk away.

APPA: What is the harm, gentlemen? I simply  
desire to have the Lord’s *darshan*.

KRISH: (*laughing*) What else could thou wish  
—the Lord’s gold ornaments? The  
temple gets desecrated by the mere  
entry of Saivas.

APPA: Are Saivas so despicable?

SRINI: (*with a cynical smile*) They are  
adorable, are they? There can be no  
comparison between Lord Vishnu  
and Siva.

RAGHA: One is the storehouse of beauty and  
the other is a mendicant besmeared  
with ashes.

VENU: Friend of Ghosts! Snake-Charmer  
playing with cobras and serpents

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APPA: Please do not speak of the Lord thus.

VENU: Why not? We do not fear anybody.

KRISH: Why should we fear? We do not take *bhang*. We take cups of ambrosia.

SRINI: It is your lot, sir, to take poison.

KRISH: There can be no comparison between the flute and the *damroo*.

RAGHA: And the trident is no weapon before the *sudarshan*.

KRISH: Please go back, dear Sir, these are the orders.

APPA: Whose orders?

SRINI: Those of our Bhattar.

APPA: Who is your Bhattar?

RAGHA: He is the *Mahant* of this temple.

VENU: He is very ill-tempered. All are afraid of his anger.

KRISH: Beware! lest you should be the victim of his wrath.

SRINI: So get thee gone, my dear Sir!

APPA: (*firmly*) I shall not move without the Lord's *darshan* (*sits down*).

KRISH: See, how he sits here.

SRINI: Shall I call the Bhattar?

RAGHA: Pray, call him Srinivas! He alone can remove this Saiva.

SRINI: (*Looking in front*) Lo, here comes the Bhattar himself.

VENU: Now shall our friend come to his senses.

(*Enter Narayana Bhattar —Vaishnava Tilaka on forehead, a golden rosary round the neck and a silk dhoti. A man of stout build, impressive face and a large tuft of hair tied up on the head. He holds a thick cudgel with silver top*

*knob. He wears a pair of wooden sandals*)

BHAT: Why are you standing here, Children? Have you received the Lord's *Prasada*?

ALL FOUR: (*after salutations*) Yes, Gurudeva! We have taken it.

KRISH: This *Saiva* has entered the temple.

BHAT: (*Looking at Appayya Dikshitar*) Narayan! Narayan! How does he come here?

SRINI: We know nothing, Guruji. We saw him enter the temple while we were returning after taking *prasad*.

RAGHA: He is so adamant in his resolve to have the Lord's *darshan* that he pays no heed at all to what we told him.

VENU: We were about to call you, Maharaj.

BHAT: Hark ye. *Saiva*! Do not dream of entering the temple. You can go back. The gate-way is open.

APPA: (*Saluting the Bhattar*) I shall go away when I have got the Lord's *darshan*. Pray, permit me to go in.

BHAT: (*gazing fiercely*) You and *darshan*? (*emphatically*) im...pos...sible!

APPA: Why, Sir?

BHAT: I need not tell you why? You cannot have *darshan* (*with raised voice*). These are my orders.

APPA: Your orders and in Lord's Temple. What do you mean, Sir?

BHAT: You are getting insolent. Behave yourself, (*to vaishnavas*) Turn him out instantly. Narayan! Narayan!! Narayan!!! (*Goes in swiftly*).

KRISH: Do you follow now what orders we have got to carry out?

SRINI: Pray, Sir, how would you like to be turned out?

RAGHA: Drag him out!

*(All prepare to catch hold of Appayya Dikshitar. A loud noise is heard. Idol of Vishnu changes into that of Siva. All the four Vaishnavas begin to tremble with fear and run away. Appayya Dikshitar goes in front of the image and repeats prayers with great devotion. )*

APPA: Salutations to Thee, O! Mahadeva,  
Adorations to Thee, Lord Viswanath.  
Prostrations to Thee, Kailasapathi,  
My homage to Thee, O Pasupati.  
Lord of Kailasa, Mahadeva,  
Lord of Bhutas, Sadasiva,  
How kind and merciful art Thou!  
I am ever devoted unto Thee.  
Thou art my sole refuge, O Lord.  
Thou art my saviour, Prabhu.  
Friend of the meek, Lord of fallen,  
Save me O Lord! Trahimam,  
Protect me, O Lord! Rakshamam.  
Infinite, Immortal Lord of Universe,  
One without a second, bestower of  
real Bliss  
Thousand salutations and million  
prostrations!  
Namo Namah, Namaste, Namo  
Namah Sivayah.

*(Being overpowered with devotional ecstasy Appayya Dikshitar catches hold of the idol's feet. Celestial light fills the temple immediately. Lord Siva appears out of the idol and slowly plays his damaroo.)*

LORD SIVA: O Appayya, dearest Devotee! I am highly pleased with you. Ask for any boon you like.

APPA: *(with choked voice)* Glory to Thee! O Umanath! I have got everything

today. What else shall I ask of Thee, O Lord! Pray, let me ever be devoted to Thee!

SIVA: This I have already bestowed on you. Ask for something else.

APPA: My Lord.....

SIVA: *(Looks with love and mercy)*

APPA: O Lord of the universe! All worldly people are miserable. Have mercy on them. *(Bows down his head).*

SIVA: *(smiling)* I know thy object. Have patience. Thy desire shall be fulfilled. In your eighteenth generation there shall be born a person to relieve the distress of worldly people. He shall be known as Sivananda. He shall guide people to real, eternal happiness through knowledge, action and devotion. He shall be endowed with My splendour.

*(Lord Siva disappears. Bhattar and his disciples enter completely nonplussed. Looking at the image of Lord Siva they are struck with wonder. All prostrate at the feet of Appayya).*

BHAT: *(with troubled look)* Please pardon me, O Venerable Saint! Unknowingly I have disgraced you. I was blind on account of ignorance. Today my eyes have been opened. Save me *(falls at Appayya's feet.)*

APPA: *(raising him up)* Why do you say so, Maharaj? I am your humble servant. You have done me no insult. Why do you ask for my pardon? Lord Vishnu appeared in the form of Lord Siva in order to remove all notions of difference. Look! Look!! How pleased He is! *(Points to the image).* Let us all sing the Lord's praise.

(All sing in Chorus):-

*Jeya Siva Bhole Bandaari.  
Hey Ashuthosha hey Tripurari.*

*Pathithon ko paawan karte ho,  
Sukh dekar dukh ko harthe ho,  
Sharanagat hain aaj tumhaari,  
Meto sare sankat bhari*

*Jataa-joot main gang biraaje,  
Shesh Nag ki mala saaje,  
Ek haath main shool liye ho,  
Ek haath dhamroo dhaari*

*Uma Ramana Karuna ke saagar.  
Naaw bhanwar main hai yah jarjar  
Paar lagaa do aakar aba tum  
Bigad gayi hai dashaa hamari*

*Glory to you O Lord Siva.  
Hail, Hail, Siva! Hail, Hail, Siva!  
Thou dost purify the fallen  
Removest distress, bestowest Bliss.  
We all take refuge in Thee.  
Do Thou remove all our pains  
Hail. Hail. Siva! Hail, Hail Siva!*

*Adorned with the Ganges Stream.  
Serpent garland round your neck  
Trident held in one hand  
And Damroo in the other.  
Hail, Hail, Siva! Hail, Hail, Siva!*

*Consort of Uma, Ocean of Mercy,  
The boat of life is caught in storm*

*Lead it Thou to the other shore,  
Pitiable is our lot.  
Hail, Hail, Siva! Hail, Hail, Siva!*

*Kailasvasi Shambhu tum ko laakhon  
pranaam  
Tum ko laakhon pranaam*

*Anga vibhuta sira ganga viraaje,  
Gale naag aur trishula viraaje,  
Bhootapishacha nikata nahin aave,  
Kailashvasi naam tumhare  
Aise bhole vale tum ko laakhon pranaam  
Tum ko laakhon pranaam*

*Kamadev ko tumane jalaayaa,  
Gayaa bhagya phir use jagaaya,  
Alakha niranjana naam kahaaya,  
Devan main badhaa deva kahagaya  
Damarudhaari Shambhu tum ko laakhon  
pranaam  
Tum ko laakhon pranaam*

*(All prostrate at Lord's feet. There is a  
loud boom. Image of Lord Siva is seen  
transformed into that of Vishnu).*

*Govinda jeya jeya, Gopala jeya jeya  
Radharamana Hari Govinda jeya jeya  
Sankara jeya jeya Gopala jeya jeya  
Umaramana Hari Sankara jeya jeya.*

**(CURTAIN DROPS)**

*(To be continued)*

Charity is a rare grace granted by God to man. Truly it  
"Covereth a multitude of sins." The secret of charity is the  
ability to identify yourself with the person towards whom  
you are being charitable. It is the ability to enter into the joy  
and sorrow of others. It is the ability to treat others as you  
treat yourself.  
—**Swami Chidananda**