

Timeless Presence

Nome

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Foreword

It is a marvel when Bhagavan Ramana appears in our waking dream. Be it a spark, which is ignited through a spontaneous meditation on Reality, or through hearing the Teaching of Nonduality for the first time and having it strike a deep cord within us, it is unmistakable. It is truly a wonder of wonders when that spark of Knowledge is kindled through constant exposure to the Teaching of Nonduality by consistently listening to it, reflecting upon it, and by deep Self-inquiry upon the Truth of our Being. But it is the most wondrous of all when Bhagavan Ramana makes his timeless presence completely known in Self-Realization.

Presented here is an expression of Bhagavan Ramana's Grace appearing in a life. It is an expression of an inner journey, a glimpse, as it were, into the nondual aspiration of a seeker and the intrinsic essence of a jnani—into the essence of Bhagavan Ramana's Timeless Presence.

This composition was penned at the request of V.S. Ramanan, President of Sri Ramanasramam in 1996. He asked the author to write an autobiographical sketch about "how he came to Sri Bhagavan" so that it could be included in a souvenir book along with other devotee's writings to commemorate the centenary celebration of the arrival of Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharshi at Arunachala. Out of respect and love of those spiritual beings so dedicated to preserving Bhagavan's Teaching and devotion to Sri Bhagavan, and for no other reason, the author responded to his request.

What is different about this autobiography is that it leaves one with the feeling that the "person" writing it is totally absent, for it is devoid of a "story" about a "life" of a nonexistent, embodied, willful character possessing an outer life in an unreal dream.

What is expressed here will convey to the reader the unequivocal eternal power of the Absolute—Sri Ramana's Presence—as well as extol the infinite love of and complete devotion to such.

It will provide the reader with a deep sense of what is meant when Sri Bhagavan says: "Self is only Being—not being this or that. It is simple Being. Be, and there is the end of ignorance."

Sasvati