



DR SHOBHA RAJU

My Encounters.. Divine!

A gentleman in jeans and a T-shirt entered my office at Annamayyapuram, laptop bag slung over his shoulder. Towering and well-built, he was. He said, "I heard of you. Just wanted to see you."

I was pondering how he entered my office without permission. He delved into profound philosophy. I observed in awe. He said, "Your 'naa inta nilachipo Govinda!' (a song which means, "Please settle down in my house Govinda!...Govinda is the popular name of Venkateswara.) is heart-touching. I am sure, He would come and settle down with you. He spoke a bit more and bid farewell, saying, "Ok bye Shobha Raju garu. I wish I could have come in Dhoti & Jubba to your serene place. Next time, I'll come accordingly."

I shared this encounter with a few people. It happened in 2003. I never saw him again at Annamayyapuram later. Subsequently, a vivid dream unfolded, featuring the same man instructing me to install Venkateswara and



Annamayya in one sanctum of a temple. Finally, the man himself stood at the center of the sanctum, where Lord Venkateswara's statue stands. I don't recognise the place but it resembled Tirupati's sanctum.

I shared the dream to an "Agama Shastra (The knowledge in temple building & its maintenance etcetera) Pandit". He said, "Always thinking and chanting Venkateswara Swami and Annamayya would naturally lead to such dreams. You need not give importance to all dreams."

The dream persisted. When I informed the Pandit again, he asserted, "Agama Shastra doesn't permit installing a human and God in one sanctum." I was disappointed. I ceased dwelling on the dream.

Surprisingly, the recurring of dream continued. I had apprehension about sharing it with the Pandit.

To my surprise, he called me one day...

(Author is a well-known musician, Devotional singer, writer and composer.) **TN**