

## A True Sadhak of Gayatri

Decades ago, there lived a great siddha in the holy town of Vrindavan. His name was Ramdas but he was popularly known as "Kathiya Baba" because the only apparel on his body used to be a loin cloth made of mat like woven wooden sticks; (wood is called katha in Hindi). People often wanted to know about how he attained such supernormal powers (siddhis). He narrated his story as under.

When I returned home after completing my education at the Guru's place, I had an intense aspiration to achieve perfection in the sadhana of the Gayatri Mantra. I commenced japa anusthana of this great mantra beneath a huge Banyan tree near our garden. On completion of 75000 japas, I heard an etheric voice guiding me to go to the Jwalamukhy shrine hill where I would be able to accomplish my sadhana. I was naturally thrilled after this transforming vision.

Jwalamukhy shrine hill was about 35-40 miles from my erstwhile home village. I started my journey with unprecedented enthusiasm. My nephew, who was almost of my age, also accompanied me. We met a saint on the way; he carried an angelic aura around his personality. I took diksha of vairagya (initiation of sacred life of a sanyasi) from him. My nephew tried to prevent me from taking this step but couldn't succeed. So he went back to our village and brought my father along. My father was shocked to see me in a sanyasi's robes and insisted that I returned to the normal worldly life. He tried by all means – with affection, with anger, emotional brain washing, etc. But I remained firm. Then he requested my guru to allow me to live as a sanyasi near my village. With the kind permission of the guru, I returned and started my single-pointed sadhana beneath a Banyan tree in a nearby forest. Day and night I remained deeply engrossed in the japa of the Gayatri Mantra. One night I had the divine vision of the Goddess in Her sublime Radiance. The Divine Mother offered to bestow upon me Her boons. Surrendering myself with absolute faith at Her feet, I told Her that I had adopted vairagya and I had no desires left and that I only prayed for Her grace. The Divine Apparition disappeared with the blessings of "So It Be...".

Kathiya Baba had no desires, no worries, no problems left after this ultimate realization of Gayatri. He was free from all bondage. Nothing was unknown to him. Supramental powers like clairvoyance, precognition, etc. were naturally aroused in him as siddhis of this great Mantra. He was able to remove all difficulties and adversities of his disciples, devotees or any one who had ever come to him with any problem. His voice was also endowed with the siddhi of absolute truth; whatever he said came to be true. As a true saint, he lived a perfectly austere and humble life despite having the power to generate any amount of resources. Some ignorant, greedy people used to think that he had preserved some magical kits or golden coins underneath his wooden loin cloth. In their blind avarice to gain his hidden treasure, they even entered in the service group of his disciples and attempted to kill the Baba. However, despite being given a dose of over ten grams of poison on three different occasions, no toxic effects were seen on the Baba. This opened everyone's eyes that this simple saint was indeed a great siddha yogi. Getting a glimpse of the aura of this great devotee of Gayatri was considered a boon by the masses.