

Mrs. Lata Jadhav, Kolhapur

|| Om Namō Bhagavate Vasudevaya ||

I, Mrs. Lata Vishwas Jadhav, reside at Rajdeep Apartment, Tarabai Park, Kolhapur. Near my residence, in the building of Datta Davjekar, also lives Mrs. Mangalatai Kulkarni, whose elder sister, Mrs. Kundatai Fansalkar (resides in Parle, Mumbai), heads a Sri Krishna Leela Kendra no.30 in her Kolhapur residence. In this Kendra, Srikrishna Mantra, Arti, Bhagwad geeta, Bhajans etc. programs are held.

My first experience is about how I started going to this Krishna Kendra coincidentally. During their morning walk, my neighbor, Mrs. Pushpa Ramdas Seth (a devoted nurse) and her husband met her childhood friend, who told Mrs. Seth about going to the Krishna Kendra every Wednesday at 4 p.m. She insisted that Mrs. Seth should also go to the Krishna Kendra. Accordingly, Mrs. Seth started going to this Krishna Kendra and soon she came to invite me to this Kendra as well and started insisting that I go to the Kendra too. But for last two to three months, due to my illness I wasn't feeling well and wasn't sure if I will be able to sit in the Kendra for long and concentrate on the arti. I used to do regular puja at home. I was also not used to going to women gatherings as I was slightly self-conscious. Because I wasn't used to talking in big groups and also due to my illness, I started making excuses for not going to the Kendra and finally told her that I would not be able to make it to the Kendra.

So Mrs. Seth would go to the Kendra every Wednesday by herself and would bring back Prasad for me every time. This kept happening for two to three months. (This event is from the year 2001). One such Wednesday, Mrs. Seth came back from the Kendra bringing me Prasad and also gave me a copy of the book, "SriKrishna Leelamrut" which she had brought with her. She gave me the book and asked me to read it so I would feel better. Against my wishes, I started reading this book. Due to my illness, I had become weak and could not sit for very long so I would read random pages from the book lying down. In this book, I read about many experiences where Lord Krishna would speak through P.P Leelatai and all these experiences touched my heart very deeply. Thus, I started developing a deep urge to meet Leelatai in-person. Since this point, I started constantly praying to Lord Krishna. I also started getting more and more desperate to see P.P Leelatai since my health had also started to deteriorate and I did not feel that I would survive from this illness. So I told my family members that it was my last wish before I died, to see P.P. Leelatai and Lord Krishna.

So when on the following Wednesday, Mrs. Seth came as usual to inquire about my health and to give me the prasad from the Kendra, I told her my wish about going to Badlapur to see P.P. Leelatai. Hearing this, Mrs. Seth said, "P.P. Leelatai is not always present in Badlapur all the time. She sometimes travels to Delhi while other times she is gone to America. So who and how will someone tell us about Tai's arrival and departure from Badlapur since Tai stays at a far off place." I was angry when I heard these words because the only thoughts that engulfed my mind were about meeting P.P Leelatai. I was desperate to meet Tai. I looked at the Krishna's photo in my home and asked him to arrange only one opportunity for me to meet Tai.

Meanwhile, after two consecutive Wednesdays had passed, on the third Wednesday, Mrs. Seth came to my house as usual from the Krishna Kendra and told me that your wish of meeting Tai will be fulfilled because she is coming to Sangli to establish a new Krishna Kendra. It is on Sunday at 8 a.m. and we have to go there by State Transport Bus (S.T) so you should be ready early on that day and we will go together. I was very happy when I heard this but due to my weak health condition, I got nervous since I may not be able to travel that far. I became very restless and started praying to Krishna continuously. My eyes were filled with tears, my mind was filled with endless thoughts, I started praying to Krishna from the bottom of my heart and was asking him "Krishna, will I be able to meet you? Please give me the strength and free me from this worry. I was crying and didn't realize when I went to sleep that night.

In the morning, I went to Mrs. Seth's home to ask her when we leave for Sangli. She replied that Leela Tai's arrival to Sangli has been cancelled. I was shocked to hear this. Seeing my disappointment, she

said that going to Sangli got cancelled because Tai is coming from Sangli to Kolhapur (here) in Nagala park at Mrs. Surekha Kulkarni 's home who resides at Chaurangi Apts to establish Krishna Kendra. She asked me to be ready at 8 a.m. because she wouldn't wait for me if I was not ready.

My happiness had no boundaries when I heard the news of Leelatai coming to Kolhapur and I rushed home and bowed before the Krishna Idol and said "Krishna! You are coming all the way here for me." My eyes were filled with tears thinking how much effort the Lord takes for his devotees.

Later, I asked Mrs. Seth what I should take with me for Tai/Krishna. She replied sternly that it is mentioned in the Kendra that not to bring anything for Krishna not even a flower. Though she said this sternly, Mrs. Seth is a very loving and helpful person. She said that but at the same time she told me not to take anything but to be ready on time.

I got up early the next day and got ready. I took lots of white flowers, rice and incense sticks etc. in a plastic bag for Krishna. Because it was the month of Shravan, I offer besan ladoos to Devi every Shravani Friday as a ritual. So I roasted the besan flour and added sugar and kept it in a steel container on the dining table. I wasn't well so I could not roll the flour into ladoos. I wasn't aware that my husband would eat this flour after coming home. While leaving for Kolhapur to meet Tai that day I rolled two ladoos from this flour and took them with me wrapped in paper. One ladoo was for Krishna and the other to eat after I had my medicine since I didn't know how long it would take at the Kendra. When my husband found out I was taking the besan ladoos for Krishna he told me that he had been eating the flour and I should not offer already tasted food item to the Lord. But still I insisted on taking them. I went to the Krishna idol in my home and said that, "Krishna! Just like Rama accepted Shabari's already tasted berries, you also please accept my ladoos which I am offering with a lot of love."

At the same moment, Mrs. Seth came to my house. My entire family and I went with her to the Kendra at Mrs. Kulkarni's home at Chaurangi apartments at Nagala Park. Mrs. Kulkarni lived on the second floor. We reached there early because we knew that the place was going to be crowded because many devotees were going to be there for Tai/Krishna's darshan. Mrs. Kulkarni and her family were eagerly waiting for Tai's arrival. She asked me and my husband to perform puja in front of the marble Krishna idol. So we offered the white flowers that I brought along to this Krishna idol. Mrs. Kulkarni told me that Tai does not accept anything so I got scared and placed one ladoo in a small dish in front of the Krishna idol. I kept the other ladoo with myself.

Meanwhile, I wasn't aware that Tai had arrived at the entrance and other women had gone to perform her padyapuja (worshiping her feet) by offering milk and flowers. As soon as I heard this, I was filled with emotions and followed the other women down the stairs next to Tai. There, I witnessed at P.P Leelatai's feet was a constant flow of milk and on her head was a shower of rose petals. Tai was slowly climbing up the stairs to come to the second floor. All the devotees were showering her with flowers. At this time, I also showered the white flowers that I had brought with me on Tai and she was looking at me but I had no clue of this at that moment. I was seeing Tai for the first time so I was completely perplexed. I knew that Krishna likes white flowers so I had brought white flowers with me.

Krishna/Tai entered the home and the room was small and filled with devotees. Tai was standing so that everyone present could get darshan. Tai started her sermon (spiritual speech) by telling devotees that they should chant the mantra "Om Namoh Bhagavate Vasudevaya." At that instance, Tai became my Guru (Teacher).

Tai asked the devotees present to talk about their experiences and she started looking at a devotee named Ms. Borade who was sitting next to me. At the same time, she was also looking at me. Ms. Borade has been going to the Krishna Kendra no. 30 for many years and she has met P.P Leelatai on numerous occasions so she courageously spoke about her experience in front all the devotees present. I don't have the courage to speak in front of so many people. All this was a completely new experience for me. Also seeing Tai in-person for the first time was also a novel experience for me. But Tai was still looking at me but I didn't say anything at that time. But in my mind, I was thinking that if Tai eats my ladoo then it will be the same as Krishna eating my ladoo and I will feel extremely satisfied.

At this time, some devotees put shawls on Tai's shoulder but Tai gave them away to other devotees sitting in the front as Prasad. An older devotee gave Tai a packet of pedas (Indian sweet). Seeing this I thought instead of putting the laddoo in front of the Krishna idol, if I would have given it directly to Tai, she would have eaten it and it would have reached Krishna. I suddenly remembered that I still had the other laddoo wrapped in paper. I immediately placed the laddoo in Tai's hands and bowed to her. At this point, Tai and I kept looking at each other. Seeing the sattvic bhav on Tai's face I was deeply satisfied and Krishna had fulfilled my wish. I have no words to express the satisfaction I derived from this experience because I got to shower flowers on Tai and also place my laddoo in her hands. Tai placed this laddoo in front of the Krishna idol. After attending the remaining event we came back home. After this, my health started improving speedily and I was completely cured.

The same evening when Mrs. Kulkarni was offering diya (light) to the Krishna idol, she glanced at the two laddoos (one placed by me and the other by Tai) and saw the symbol "Om" had been miraculously engraved on them. She was also surprised to see some wetness on the laddoos (just like someone had licked them) and she immediately called her friend from next door to witness this miracle. She also called to inform this to the Krishna Kendra. But because no one knew me or my contact information, no one could get in touch with me and so we could not witness this miracle.

After two days, as usual Mrs. Seth went to the Krishna Kendra on that Wednesday. The other devotees told her that Om had appeared on the laddoos offered by her friend (me) and Tai to the Krishna idol and these laddoos were wet just like someone had licked them. Mrs. Kulkarni offered her that Prasad. She asked her to bring me to the Kendra next Wednesday. We all want to know what is it that she did that her laddoos had Om on them. After the Kendra, Mrs. Seth came to my home and told the entire incident in detail. I was very happy after hearing all this. I felt very blessed that Krishna and Tai had not only given me darshan but also accepted my laddoos. This is an unforgettable experience for me. Even today when I think about this incident I have goose bumps on my body.

I went with Mrs. Seth to the Kendra on the following Wednesday. Looking at the Krishna idol at the Kendra, I became very emotional and tears started rolling down my eyes. At that moment, all the other devotees came to me and started asking me about my devotion for Krishna. I only told them I prayed to Krishna from my heart and I met Krishna through Tai and he lovingly accepted my laddoos which I had offered. My family and I were extremely happy and blessed to see this gathering and from that we became ardent devotees of Sri Krishna. I also started going to the Krishna Kendra regularly.



My Second Experience

I started going to the Krishna Kendra regularly and after about 8 to 10 months my daughter, Neelam, came to meet us from America. She was coming after her marriage for the first time after two years. At that time some of my neighbors started asking me why your daughter does not have any good news (news of being pregnant). I asked my daughter about this and she told me that they were not in a hurry to have kids right away and were taking precautions against unplanned pregnancy. When I heard this I told my friend Mrs. Seth about this who was also a nurse by profession. She advised me based on her vast experience that it is not good to take such precautions since it could result in complications later. When I heard this I got scared and my mental health started suffering and after my daughter left for America, I fell sick again. As a result, I couldn't attend the Krishna Kendra.

The head of the Krishna Kendra, Mrs. Kundatai Fansalkar came to the Kendra from Mumbai and was inquiring about me and started asking the reason as to why I wasn't coming to the Kendra. She asked Mrs. Seth who was attending the Kendra at that time to bring me to the Kendra. Accordingly, Mrs. Seth and I went to the Kendra and met Kundatai. She said to me, "Mrs. Jadhav why are you not attending the Kendra? You should come to the Kendra regularly." I told her that I haven't been feeling well and so I conduct puja, arti and abhishek on Krishna at home. Suddenly, Mrs. Seth said that I was doing fine

and want to hear the news of my daughter expecting to have children. Mrs Seth further explained that I have taken some kind of shock and feel that I may never have grandchildren. After hearing the whole story, Kundatai said, "You pray to Krishna with so much devotion, why will you not have grandchildren? Your wishes will come true. You will have grandchildren and for that you should come to the Krishna Kendra and pray to Lord Krishna in a group through group chanting." At that moment, a reddish-ochre colored Jaswandi flower placed on the head of the Krishna idol fell to his feet. Seeing this Kundatai said, "Look, Krishna has blessed you and offered his prasad in the form of this flower. Your wish will come true." I took the prasad and came home.

Later after two days, my daughter called me and told me that, "Mom, I have good news for you. I am two months pregnant." Hearing this news I was extremely happy and couldn't wait for next Wednesday to arise and go to the Krishna Kendra to thank Krishna for this. Truly Krishna's Leela (love) is infinite and boundless. At this moment I made a decision that if I had a grandson I would name him 'Krishna' and if I had a granddaughter I would name her 'Radhika'. Later on 14 May 2003, I had a granddaughter and what a coincidence her name selected during naming ceremony was also Radhika and thus Krishna took care of my worries.

When I went to the Krishna Kendra, I told the good news to my neighbor and all present at the Kendra. After this, I went to the Krishna Kendra for group chanting every Wednesday. Today, if I am taking an afternoon nap, I feel that Krishna wakes me up and as soon as I realize that I have to go to the Kendra I immediately get ready and go to the Kendra. Nowadays I can't wait for Wednesdays to arise and go to the Krishna Kendra and take his darshan and participate in group chanting.



In my very first meeting with P.P Leelatai when I met her I took her darshan (blessings). At this time, she gave each devotee present one photograph of Lord Krishna. She gave me one photo too but I asked Tai to give me one more photo. I wanted to send the additional photo to my daughter who resides in America. Tai gave me one more photo but she paused and looked at me. I felt embarrassed but my intention of asking for the additional photo was pure and good. Just like me, I wanted my daughter to pray to Lord Krishna with all her heart and receive his blessings in this worldly life.

When I came home with the two pictures, I showed the photos of Lord Krishna to my son, Rajesh, who had also just returned home. I said to my son, "Take these photos and get them nicely framed." Hearing this he replied, "Mom, a friend of mine laminates photos, I will get the Krishna photos laminated from him." He took the photos and gave them to his friend. Even after a lot of days had passed Rajesh did not bring the photos. So I started asking him why he hasn't brought the photos yet. I started inquiring when we would get the photos from his friend. At that time, my son told me that when he asked his friend about the photos, his friend said that he cannot find the photos. He cannot understand how the photos could get lost. I felt very sad that the photos had been lost because those photos had been given to be by Tai (Krishna) and my sentiments had been hurt. I would keep scolding my son that I made a mistake by giving him the photos. I would have gotten them framed in a frame shop. Hearing this, my son told me that he would bring me a nice Krishna photo. But I refused and told him that, "I didn't want a different Krishna photo. I got those photos from Tai herself and that is why they hold a lot of importance to me." My son also felt very bad about this since he is also religious in nature. Seeing my restlessness regarding the photos made him very unhappy as well.

After six to seven months had passed, my son suddenly met his friend on the street and he told him that, "Hey Raju, I found your Krishna photos and had them laminated, so you can come to the shop and collect them." The next day itself my son brought the Krishna photos and excitedly started yelling from outside the door that, "Mom, your Krishna photos have been found!" Once I took the photos in my hand, my happiness had no boundaries and my eyes were filled with tears of joy. I started conducting puja on these photos.

One can see that Tai has so much power. I got back the lost photos that she had given me. I gave one photo to my daughter to take with her to America. She has also hung this photo at her home because her daughter is also Krishna's blessing and Prasad only!

My son-in-law, Sudhakar Dalvi, took a few days off from work and came to Kolhapur unexpectedly to take us with him to America and he booked the flight for us on 5 May. We both, husband and wife, came to Mumbai international airport with our son-in-law to take a flight to US. We were flying on Air-India airlines while our son-in-law was on a different airline. Our son-in-law was helping us check-in our bags and to get our boarding passes but it took so long that he missed his flight. Our daughter informed us about this when she called us on our cell phone. We got scared because the plan was that our son-in-law was going to reach US early and wait at the airport for two hours till our flight arrived and then take us home in his car. So when we heard that he had missed his flight we were confused and worried about how we were going to do now when we reached US. In our minds we started calling out to Krishna for help. My daughter called again and told us not to be worried or scared and that she will make arrangements for someone to come to the airport to pick us up when we land at the US airport. She reassured us and told us that she will call again to inform us in detail about her friend who will come to the airport to pick us up. There was only about an hour left for our flight to take off from Mumbai Airport. My daughter called me within the next half hour to inform me about the name of her friend who was supposed to pick us up at the airport in US when we land. Her friend's name was Geetanjali and she lives in New Jersey and the airport is close from her place. My daughter told me that we should go with her to her place and stay there till our son-in-law will come in two days to pick us up.

Our flight took off at exactly 1:00 a.m. from Mumbai airport and reached America at 8 a.m. US time. We got off our flight and completed immigration and we were given permission to stay in America for six months. We took our bags and went to the airport entrance doorway and started looking for the girl who was going to pick us up. Suddenly, my daughter's friend Geetanjali came to us and started inquiring about us. When we asked her how she recognized us, she said that she had information about how we looked and what we would be wearing so when she saw us she instantly recognized us and she rushed to us. After this she brought us to her home. She was accompanied by her kid – Neel. Seeing him I instantly felt like my Krishna has himself come to take me home. Neel also had a slightly dark skin tone just like Krishna and he was constantly talking to us and came close to us by calling us "Grandpa-Grandma". We were thrilled that we had witnessed God himself in the form of this kid. We had lunch at her house. As soon as we had left the airport, Geetanjali had already called from her cellphone and informed my daughter about our safe arrival and we also got an opportunity to touch base with our daughter. On the same day, she asked another friend's husband to pick us up and bring us to South Windsor to her other residence and finally we reached home safely.

When my husband and I came to US, we brought with us the Krishna photo that Tai had given me. We would pray to Krishna every day. At that time, we also brought with us "Sri Krishna Vishwajanani Leelamrut" book. I asked my daughter to find out the exact address of the Vishwajanani and Krishna temple that Leelatai established in California that has been mentioned in the above the book. Accordingly, my daughter found out on her laptop that this temple is located in Los Angeles. We wished to go the Krishna temple in US and get blessings because Leelatai herself had established the Vishwajanani and Krishna idols here which made this temple very special. But this place is very far away from where my daughter resides so it was not feasible for us to go there to receive darshan.

So my daughter and I started looking online for more information on other Krishna Kendras established by Leelatai in US. During the search, we found out about a Krishna Kendra in New Jersey at the residence of Abhi Kanitkar and also found out his address and phone number. He lived closer to my daughter's residence compared to California and so we wished about going to the Kendra to get Krishna's darshan. We expressed our desire to our daughter. She said, "Let's see when we get a chance to go to New Jersey. When we go, we will definitely go to the Krishna Kendra." In a few days we got a chance to go to visit my daughter's friend in New Jersey.

We left on a Friday to my daughter's friend's place thus making sure that we could get to spend the entire weekend sightseeing in New Jersey. We decided to go sightseeing to all the tourist spots and temples in New Jersey on Saturday. At that time, I started thinking about the Krishna Kendra at Kanitkar's which I hoped would be close by from where we were and I told my wish to my daughter that, "I want to get darshan of Krishna and Leelatai so why don't you call Mr. Kanitkar and ask him his address and how far is it from our current location?" At that time my daughter told me that, "Mom, we are going to the animal safari and so we won't be able to go to Mr. Kanitkar's home. My friend stays at one end of New Jersey and we are going sightseeing to another location which is also far off and Sri Krishna Kendra is located all the way in the other end. So how will it be possible to see everything? In U.S. tourist attractions are all spaced out and we need to stay more than two days to see everything and we need to be back at home by Sunday at any cost."

Before leaving my daughter's home for New Jersey, I prayed in front of Leelatai's photo, I had brought along, that "Tai, I wish to come and take darshan at the Krishna Kendra that you have established but how to make that possible is completely known to you and I am sure from the bottom of my heart that only you will make it happen.

On Saturday, we went sightseeing in New Jersey and the next day we were going to visit places that we had already planned. But on Saturday night suddenly it started raining heavily. We had to cancel all our plans. At that time, our son-in-law said that we should go to Kanitkar's home and receive darshan of Lord Krishna. The next day (on Sunday) it was still raining heavily. We left on Sunday evening around 5 p.m. It took us a while to find the Kendra due to the rain.

We did not know that everyone was going to meet for group chanting and prayers the same evening we had planned to go to the Kendra. When we reached the Kendra, Mr. Kanitkar was himself waiting for us near the door with an umbrella in his hands. Though it was time for the Kendra, other devotees could not attend due to the rain. All of us together with my daughter's family and her friend's family entered into the temple. We took darshan of Krishna's photo and Tai's photo.

The head of the family, Abhi Kanitkar introduced himself and his family members to us and asked about our wellbeing. Because it was time to start the prayer, we first chanted 'Om Namoh Bhagavate Vasudevaya' followed by 'Om Mahan Shakti Devataya Namah' mantras and prayed to Krishna and received his and Tai's darshan. At that time, I said that Tai has infinite power. That day none of the other devotees who regularly attend the Kendra could be present. Tai got the arti and chanting done through us. I was feeling regret that this time because it was raining so heavily I could not bring anything as Prasad for Krishna and Tai. Suddenly my husband remembered that on Saturday while visiting a Ganapati temple we had bought some ladoos to take home with us. Those ladoos were in the car. Mr. Kanitkar placed one of these ladoos in front of Tai's photo.

He was very happy and felt as if he was in a trance and that he was actually seeing Tai in me! He was extremely satisfied and took my blessings and embraced me. At that same moment, I also felt like I was in a trance and thought that in the form of Abhi Kanitkar, Krishna himself is embracing me. All of us sat down and started sharing our experiences about Krishna and Tai. Time just flew and before we knew it was already 9 p.m. After he heard my experiences, Abhi requested me to write these experiences and send them to him. He said that he would post them on the website and send them to all the Krishna and Tai's devotees for their happiness and satisfaction.

He then distributed the laddoo that we placed before Krishna as Prasad and said, "Even today Krishna is attracted to your ladoos." I was very happy after hearing him say the above words. I was extremely satisfied that I received Krishna and Tai's darshan in America and my long held wish had come true.

This is "Krishnaleela"! Krishna does not want anything from you. He only wants you to pray to him from the heart with true faith, attend Kendra regularly and participate in group chanting. So Krishna can also fulfill your wishes. Praying to Krishna from the bottom of your heart means he is present amongst all of us! This is what I want to say to all the Krishna devotees through my experiences.

“Jai Sri Krishna!

Om Namo Bhagavate Vasudevaya
Om Mahan Shakti Devataya namah
Jicha Janama Krishna Krupartha jala,
Jine Vaas Krishna Bhaktith kela
Jicha hrudayi Sarvada Krishna vasati
Namaskar tya Guruleela Charanavarti
Sri Gopalkrishna Maharaj ki jai”

