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Srimad Ramayanam - jnAnam through guru katAkSam

Sabhari mOkSam is an episode in Aranya Kandam which is considered to be mOkSa kAndam.

In my earlier article, I had written about the importance of guru that gets highlighted through the interaction between Bhagawan and Sabhari. 1

Let us look at what that guru katAkSam will do.

Sabhari was a vagabond, who by chance stumbled onto Rishi Mathanga. He found that she's a clean soul and worthy of being given tAraka brahmam and offered that to her.

Sabhari enquired as to what the name meant. 2

An ideal guru is someone who gives Narayana, and so with Rishi Mathanga being one, he said that the meaning of that name (tAraka brahmam) will find its way to her abode.

When Rama and Lakshmana visited Sabhari's abode, the former enquired about the progress of her penance 3

and if it materialised.

Sabhari's jnAnam was complete with Rishi Mathanga's katAkSam and this reflected in her response to Rama.

She answered intelligently -

aDyaprAptA tapa siDDiH tava sanDarSanAn maya
aDyamE sapalam janma taptam GuruvaSca supUjitA: 4

[redacted]:

My tapas materialised upon seeing you. This happened due to guru katAkSam and my sEvA to him who predicted this event in advance.

She further added boldly 5

tvaiyi dEvavarE rAma pUjitE puruSarSaBa

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Sabhari recognised that Rama was indeed swayam brahman and used the word ‘deva’ and ‘purusha’ - indicating He was indeed PuruSOtamA.

This shows the wisdom that develops 6

once someone comes into contact with the ideal guru and increases steadily until jnAnam is complete.

Jai Sriram