16

All in Small — The Sun and the Lamp

05.11.2003

Sun was about to set. The darkness was ready to surround the world from all directions.

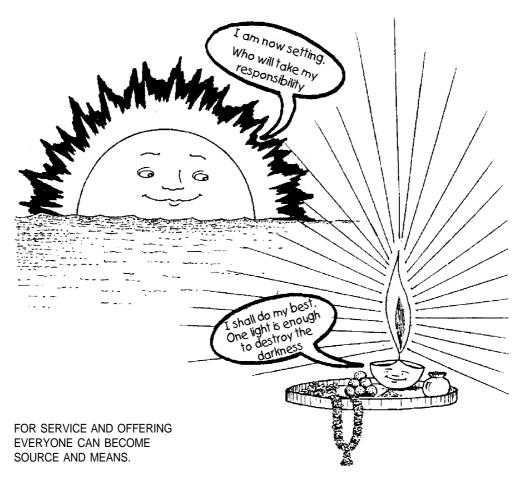
The setting sun said, "I am now setting. Who will take my responsibility?" Nobody dared to answer. Who can play the role of almighty sub, the universal eye, the supreme light, the source of all energy and the course and source of creation, contribution and conclusion of all beings?

No one dared to answer. Who can play the role of great divine Sun?

Then a small oil lamp in a hut dared and said, "I shall do my best!!"

One light is enough to destroy the darkness.

Sun looked at the lamp with compassion, wonder and said with a smile, "Oh! Little one! We appreciate your courage and confidence!"



The sun thought, "How small can fill all?!"

The story is not over.

The same small oil lamp is in the offering plate (Aarti). Aarti, the light offering was being offered in the Venkateshwara temple, Lord Venkateshwara is the supreme lord of universe. A powerful breeze came and the lamp was about to be extinguished. God said, "The lamp is going off! Who will take its responsibility?" None replied. The sun was in the horizon. The sun said, "Can I be useful?!"

God said, "Why not?!"

The sun became the universal lamp offering to God. The breeze stopped. The lamp picked up and became bright.

The lamp said to sun, "Thank you for doing my job!".

The sun said with love, "It is just a return gesture! You did my job and I did yours!".

God said, "Sunlight, lamp light, Life light and supreme light all are same. Light is light".

Sun thought, "Ordinary can do extraordinary, Extraordinary must learn to do ordinary"

Lamp thought, "I became source of service in place of sun. Sun became means of offering in my place.

At service and offering level there is discrimination of large and small,

Small is great as large.

Large is as humble as small.

For Service and Offering **Everyone Can Become Source and Means**