

Swami's Soul University Talks
Field Trip to the Jain and Shiva Temple in the Northeast
Talk at the Ashram
September 17, 2006



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Swami took the University students on field trip to the Jain and Shiva temple in the Northeast of the ashram. The first half of this talk was taken from student's notes. The second half is Swami talking to his students in the outer room of the Shiva Temple.

Swami: North Entrance Road widening it and making it one hundred yards long with an arch like at Buckingham Palace.

While walking along the road Swami made these comments: On the new land, where Swami just found the Lord Venkateshwara statue, Swami wants to build in the Southwest a Ganesh temple and around it a Tulsi garden. (holy basil) They dug down there fifteen feet deep, then all the way down to the east towards the main street. He started to build pillars for the main arch but two houses were still disturbing. The owners resist to selling their houses giving some problems. From there towards the south more houses have to go. There will be the lake. Swami pointed to the huge Neem tree where he said was the border of the property, in the northeast, where he said the lake would be.

Walking south, back up on the entrance road we took a left and walked west and south to the Gomateshwara Temple. First we walked to the small temple building that was closed. On the way to go across the threshold into the temple area sits a fairly large Nandi. Couldn't get inside but on the north ledge, outside were two small statues, one was naked Gomesteshwara, and the other had the top half destroyed.

This temple, Swami said is 3,000 years old. He said the huge stones that they used to build that temple nobody could lift them today. Coming back down the trail, we went down to the west, some steep stairs twenty feet or so. At the bottom where the steps landed, the opposite wall had four carved figures from top to bottom, Nataraj, Ganesh, Lakshmi, and Nandi. No indication what was on the other side of that wall.

We walked further south from the east, from the Jain Temple to see the new plot of land Swami just purchased. He asked how many feet they had dug out... different opinions but it was estimated around fifteen feet or so. He pointed toward the far northeast Neem tree and said that's where he planned to put the lake and he would make this new plot a garden. To the east of this new plot was a smaller plot with various vegetables, rice, and other things growing.

We stopped next to the Gopuram and looked back to the west to the Mandir and beyond. Swami said this is government's property. He asked, "You think it will fall down?" He doubted it because it looks already crumbling. He said he's still not sure whether to build the third and fourth floors on the east side of the northwest apartment because at night seeing the Gopuram from the Mandir was so beautiful. But he mentioned if the Gopuram does fall down then the building (*whether he meant just the northwest apartment building or several buildings*) would go all the way to the next plot over.

From there we walked back to the main entrance road to the Mandir but turned left (*east*) and walked to the next road and took another left (*north*). On the left side as we were walking north, there was a large rose garden. He asked how many roses and Cyndria said between 300-400. He also talked about a special tree that only grows in the forest and that he managed to bring a small one here and it grew up to the west of that rose garden. It's now about fifteen, twenty feet high. He said it was a kind of citrus tree and it's leaves healed liver problems. If the person used those leaves they could cure certain types of liver problems from alcoholism. Another of same tree was growing in the southwest of that garden.

We walked back south again and across the main entrance promenade to see the old well ruins (*the tank*) where Krishna

Devaraya use to come and bath. It's about fifty, sixty feet down to the bottom of the well from where we were standing and in the middle is a tall stone tower structure. Swami said that once he builds this area up again he can move the water down from the lake to the south above to fill up again this empty well basin.

The last place visited was to the Shiva Temple almost directly to the east of the Mandir. We were able to go inside. The entrance was to the east but steps went down to the west at the entrance. There were three main sections. Swami said 1,000 people could sit in there but if that's so, it sure would be pretty tight as a hundred of us took up almost the whole first room and the other two rooms were not any bigger than this first one.

At the entrance to the small room where the Shiva lingam sits, there's a Nandi facing Shiva with lots of kum-kum and yellow powder. It was clearly very old and gone through a lot of worshipping. The small room with the deity inside was very dark and a few bats flew out. Swami went inside and touched his hand and forehead to the Shiva Lingam inside.

Swami said that before they built Penukonda they built this Temple. In Swami's beginning days in Penukonda, he would sit in the outer room where we all sat today with him. It was so dark, and hundreds of bats were in the inner chamber - not even possible to go into that inner chamber.

Swami's talk with us in the outer room of the Shiva Temple:

Swami: We are sweating even it's the rainy season. Who is my master, Paul?

Paul: Dattatreya.

Student: Jesus.

Student: Palm leave books.

Student: Brahma consciousness.

(All answers were, "No.")

Swami: Who gives the wrong answer, you lose one year austerities power.

Student: Jesus.

Student: Nature.

Student: Five Elements

(All answers were, "No.")

Swami: Who is the master to Shiva? Who is the parents to Shiva? Vishnu has parents, Brahma has parents, Ganesh has parents... Has Shiva parents? Has Shiva a master?

Student: He is his own master.

Swami: No. You have to discuss more then it's possible to come out.

Student: Brahaspati is the master to all devatas.

Swami: No. Can one thousand people fit in here? On the rocks there is a lot of information. It has to come out. *(referring to the wall behind him)* Think his character, his instruments he's carrying then you can get the answer.

First the entrance was there *(in the middle east with height in the east)*. Then they made the entrance in northwest then it went down. This Penukonda Vishnu temple, Shiva temple, Mother Divine temple, Jain temple, Ganesh temple, Hanuman temple, to the straight to the northeast - huge Hanuman statue is there. This place has it's own fragrance.

Hampi is more sculpture art, musical temple, chariot, this is straight power - JC, all bosses worked with this place. *(Penukonda)* We have evidence. Especially this temple has amazing information. This and Tirumala temple can challenge the globe. Inside on the walls the three thousand years writings are there, then two thousand years, fifteen hundred years, one thousand years, five hundred years - different statements with the year signs are there.

(Swami wants to restore that now, bring back the information)

Swami: With one group I tried to learn the Telugu, but... On top of the mountain in a cave is Mother Divine temple. They rebuilt now... in the paper they announced it. Did you read it?

Students: No.

Swami: What's going on around you should know.

Student: We can't read Telugu.

Swami: Somebody can translate.

End of Talk