

37. The Presence of Śiva and Śakti in Sages and Avatārs

On account of multiple afflictions in the *Maharṣi's* case, *Mokṣa* was accompanied by the cessation of the activity of the Divine Mother so that in this case of *advaitic* Realization, there was no scope for any kind of 'mission' for the *Maharṣi*, as some *Avatārs* — his illustrious contemporaries, *Mahātmā Gandhi* and *Śrī Aurobindo* — had.

In the *Maharṣi*, only *Śiva* was left after *Mokṣa*; the only remnants of *Śakti* were *Jñāna Śakti*, with *Ichhā Śakti* and *Kriyā Śakti* being rendered practically void. With the Divine Mother returning to her consort *Śiva*, and with the play of *māyā* and duality thus coming to an end, there was no opportunity whatsoever for *Ichhā Śakti* and *Kriyā Śakti* to have any manifestation. By contrast, in the case of his contemporaries *Mahātmā Gandhi* and *Śrī Aurobindo*, there was the functionality, mission, and relationship with the world as the 'other' on account of *Śakti* still being active. Thus, these *Avatārs* were never fully on the *Nivṛtti mārga*, which was the *mārga* of *Śrī Ramaṇa Maharṣi* as well as of *Śrī Nisargadatta Maharaj*. This differentiation in the presences of *Śiva* and *Śakti* in the charts of Sages and *Avatārs* is extremely important for understanding who they were, how they functioned, what they taught, and how they lived through their earthly sojourn.

As *Śakti*, the consort of *Aruṇācala Śiva*, had to return home to her beloved, how she related to her beloved as *Śrī Ramaṇa Maharṣi* is best portrayed in the Divine Mother's own words from a work on *Durgā Saptasatī*:

I dance, and all that you perceive are its manifestations. If you like you can watch me dance, or if you like you can make me stop. He who can make me stop, I make him a seer, a man of wisdom, one of intuitive vision, my husband, Lord Śiva, the consciousness of infinite goodness. (Saraswati Invocation)

It was *Śrī Ramaṇa Maharṣi*'s destiny that the Divine display and the sportive play of *līlā* and *māyā* of the Divine Mother was called to a halt in the field of his life for the highest spiritual welfare of the whole world.