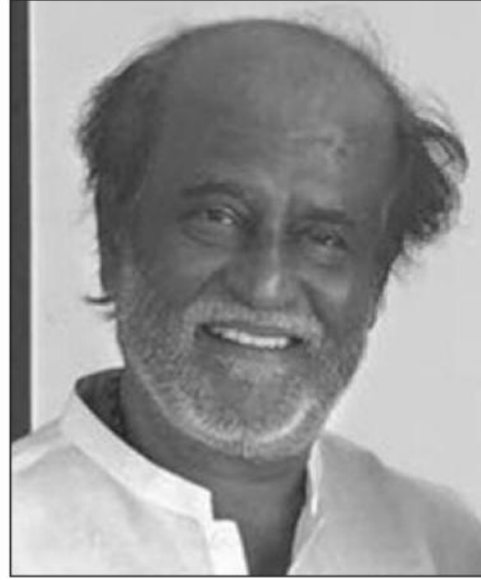


# FOREWORD

It was in Malaysia while I was shooting for *Kabali* that I met Mohan Swami for the first time. It was a very busy time in my life. Since it was a long stay in Malaysia, a lot of people wished to meet me directly and have a photograph taken. One day, Mohan Swami had an appointment to meet me. I had decided to spend about 10 minutes with him as my day was already packed with appointments. As soon as I saw him, he instantly hugged



**Rajinikanth**

me, and I too instinctively hugged him back. I felt like I was hugging a dear old friend. It surprised me, this had never happened to me before. There was a strange energy that was attracting me to him. I could not believe my ears when he told that he was a devout disciple of Swami Rama and that Swami Rama would always stay with him whenever he visited Kuala Lumpur. I too am an extremely devout disciple of Swami Rama. I started visiting the Himalayas only after reading his spiritual book, *Living with the Himalayan Masters*. I had tried in vain to meet him for a long time. I later learnt that he had attained *Mahasamadhi* in 1996. To this day, it pains me that I have never had the opportunity to meet him.

I was yearning to meet someone who had known Swami Rama closely. Until now, I had not had a chance to meet that person. We spoke for almost one and a half hours about spirituality and Swami Rama. I realized how long it had been only after I was told that many people were waiting outside for me. I asked for Mohan Swami's permission to visit his house after shooting the next day. Mohanji who was even busier than I was, readily accepted. I was very distracted during the shooting of *Kabali* the next day. I could not

wait for the shooting to wrap up in order to visit his house. Shots which would have usually been okayed in a single take took about 10-15 takes on that day. As the director was trying to figure out what was happening to me, all I could do was wonder how long it would take for the shooting to finish. Having somehow completed the shooting, I reached his house. He was already waiting for me at the entrance of his house. It was a palatial house, actually, more like a palatial temple. There was an idol of Lord Ganesha at the entrance, a Shiva Linga inside, a 7ft high idol of Goddess Mahishasuramardini, 4ft high idol of Madurai Veeran and a photograph of Swami Rama in the foyer. The house was filled with spirituality. I was mesmerized by what I saw, especially the idol of Madurai Veeran. I had never seen one of that size before.

Just as I was wondering when he would take me to his Gurudev's room, almost as if he had read my mind Mohan Swami beckoned me to the room. He knew that without seeing that room, my mind would not be at ease. He asked me to spend as much time as I needed in the room and that he would wait outside. He told me that Swami Rama had left a *Rudraksham*, the size of an apple given by his Guru, Bengali Baba to him to safeguard. Mohan Swami also mentioned that a lit lamp was placed next to it 24x7. What I had just heard, gave me goose bumps. I remember reading about a *Rudraksham* in the book, *At the Feet of the Himalayan Masters* Vol. 1. I asked him if I could touch the *Rudraksham*. Mohanji said "Yes, *you* can definitely touch it", and he put a stress on the word *you*. I did not understand why he had put a stress on that particular word.

I entered the room and it was very dark, the only illumination coming from a small lamp. I could see a small cot and a single chair in the room, it felt like I was entering a Himalayan cave. I felt like Swami Rama was right there, next to me. There was silence everywhere. It was very still. From deep within this silence, I could hear the sound *OM*, it felt like the sound was audible only to me. The room was filled with a sweet fragrance that I have never smelt before. I touched Swami Rama's cot and paid obeisance to it with all my heart. Having also paid my respects to the chair Swami Rama had used I went to the lit lamp. I noticed the *Rudraksham* given by Guru Bengali Baba near the lamp. I froze. I felt like I had received

an electric jolt. It was like I had just seen a snake. I knelt and paid my respects to Bengali Baba and Swami Rama. My hands out of their own volition placed the *Rudraksham* upon my head. I don't remember what happened next. I merged into the darkness, there was no sound, no feeling, no body, no mind, only complete and absolute darkness. Was this the Maha Kali? Had I become one with Kali? My eyes were closed and just for a few seconds there was blinding flash of light akin to a lightning. I started shivering and opened my eyes. The room looked different to me. My body and mind felt fresh and relaxed, like I had slept for 15 straight hours. There were tears in my eyes. I experienced an unexplainable bliss. I placed the *Rudraksham* upon my head once more, returned it to its original place and exited that room. Mohanji who had been sitting outside on a sofa, came and held my hands with a big smile. Neither of us spoke for about 2 - 3 minutes, I am unable to explain what we shared in those few minutes. I thanked him and asked him if I had kept him waiting for a long time. He told me that I was inside the room for 28 minutes but I felt like I had been inside for only 5 minutes.

We went downstairs, reached the living room and spoke about worldly affairs. It was only then that I realized that he was a successful businessman and that his social circle consisted of some high ranking officials in the Government, Chief Ministers and Prime Ministers. He dismissed my query about why he had not mentioned how influential and respected he was and instead insisted on speaking about spirituality.

It was 11 pm, it had been four and a half hours. I thanked him profusely and took his leave as I had shooting the next day. I could barely sleep that night. Mohan Swami's face, the words he spoke, the thoughts of Swami Rama and the *Rudraksham* kept haunting me. I was distracted during the shoot the next day too, I felt like I was separated from a loved one. I wished to meet him and see the *Rudraksham* again. After the shooting, I checked with my driver to find out how far his house was. I asked my driver to take me there when he informed me that it was not far away. On my way there, I called Mohan Swami and informed him that I was coming to his place. He told me that he was also thinking about me and that he was very happy that I was coming to his place. He was in a meeting

elsewhere and asked me to proceed to his place and told me that he would leave immediately and reach soon. The people at his house welcomed and seated me. He arrived a little while later and was surprised to see me sitting there. He told me he had expected me to be inside Swamiji's room.

I told him that I was hesitant to go without him being present. He took me to Swamiji's room and asked me to meditate alone for some time. He told me he would get ready and join me later, and left the room. I meditated for about 15 minutes and then joined him in the living room. I started speaking to him about my personal affairs. I told him about my economic situation, political affairs, my future plans and discussed things with him that I had not even told my wife or my closest friends. I was surprised by how candid I was with him, being able to talk with him like that, which gave me a sense of peace and calm. He too was very candid with me. I was stunned when he told me that he was going to give up the material life and travel to the Himalayas in November and aspired to take up *sanyasa*. He told me that Swami Rama who had attained *Samadhi* would come in the flesh and initiate him into *sanyasa*. Mohanji had asked Swami Rama when he was in the body to initiate him into *sanyasa* but Swami Rama had told him the appropriate time had not yet come and that he would tell him when the time is right.

Mohanji, in Swami Rama's last days, asked him again to initiate him into *sanyasa*. Swami Rama rebuked him and asked him to have faith and trust in him. Swami Rama told him that even if he were not in his body, he would come back and initiate him into *sanyasa*. He added that the time is not right and that Mohanji had still not completed all his worldly duties. Swami Rama then told him that He would himself call him once his duties have been completed. In this age of science and technology, people reading this might wonder if Swami Rama can really come back and initiate Mohanji into *sanyasa* but we believe that this will happen for sure.

I have never been jealous of anyone before, but for the first time I felt jealousy because of Mohanji. I sincerely prayed to my Gurus and God to enable me to leave behind my money, recognition, fame, desire and marriage and to receive the same boon that had been bestowed upon Mohanji.

I asked Mohan Swami why he had not written a book about the days he had spent with Swami Rama. To which he replied, that he had been writing one for the past 9 to 10 years and that he would complete it soon. He told me that he would send a manuscript to me once it had been completed and requested me to give my feedback. A few days later he sent the manuscript just like he had said he would. The manuscript blew me away. I did not know at that time, what he was going to name the book. It was like reading another *Living with the Himalayan Masters*.

*Living with the Himalayan Masters* is about the experiences that Swami Rama had when he was a disciple with his Master and other enlightened souls. And this book is about the experiences that the disciple, Mohan Swami had with Swami Rama.

I would like to give you a brief introduction about Swami Rama before I talk about this book.

Swami Rama was born with the blessings of Bengali Baba who lives in the Himalayas. Bengali Baba is the disciple of Mahavatar Babaji. Bengali Baba adopted Swami Rama and raised him in his own cave, in the Himalayas. He also sent Swami Rama to many great souls living in the Himalayas and trained him in all the techniques from *Parakaya Pravesam* (moving from one body to another) to *Sri Vidya*. Bengali Baba also sent Swami Rama to study at Allahabad University and later to Oxford University in London. He wanted Swami Rama to be the conduit between science and spirituality and adopt as his disciples, the people living in foreign countries who wanted to find themselves and God. He also wanted Swami Rama to teach them about the truth of life, the secret of birth and death, and the path to realize God. There are innumerable divine secrets and extraordinary powers (*Brahma Viththai*) in the line of Yogis from the Himalayas. Swami Rama learned and gained expertise in these, and not only preached but also practised what he had learnt. He established many *ashrams* and centres in various countries. Apart from these, under the orders of his Guru, Swami Rama also established a state-of-the-art hospital and medical college spanning over several hundred acres near Dehradun and Rishikesh. To me, Swami Rama is another Vivekananda.

I would not be able to do justice to this book even if I write about

it for 200-300 pages. Mohanji's book is filled with exciting anecdotes, moving experiences, magical happenings and spiritual stories. This, to me also contains everything one needs to know about social, spiritual and everyday life. Mohanji's writing seems like that of experienced and established writers. When I asked him how he could write like this, he informed me that *he* did not write it and that it was his Guru Swami Rama who enabled and guided him to do so.

The episode of Madurai Veeran Swami's soul entering the body of Mohan Swami has been written splendidly. It was also exhilarating to read about Mohan Swami's labourious effort to reach Mount Kailash in the Himalayas. He was at the foothill but was low on energy and will power and struggled to walk further. He had also fallen sick during the journey. At that moment of pain, he thought of his Guru, Swami Rama and asked "Why did I struggle so much and come here?" Why did you summon me here? Prove to me that you are really here". While thinking about this and praying, he saw a cloud suddenly appear across the clear blue skies above the peak of Mount Kailash. The cloud then took the shape of *OM*. Swami Rama thus made Mohan Swami realize that He was present.

Mohanji, during Swami Rama's final days, when he was sick, asked Swami Rama why a person like him who had a number of extraordinary powers would not heal himself. To this, Swami Rama replied, "This is nature's way of getting rid of this body and it has manifested as a disease. The time has come for me to leave this body. I should not stand in its way. Moreover, the *siddhi* and the powers that we get from our penance should not be used for selfish purposes. This is the Tradition and the way of life of the Himalayan *siddhas* passed down from one generation to the next."

Swami Rama then told Mohanji that he would show something amazing. He shrunk down from his height of 6.2 feet to about 3 to 3.5 feet in front of few of his bewildered disciples and Mohan Swami. He had lost his hair, his skin was shrivelled and he appeared like a bag of bones. Swami Rama looked at them and with a smile on his face transformed himself back into his original self. The entire episode lasted over six hours. This book is peppered with many such unbelievable yet believable and phenomenal incidents performed by Swami Rama.

This book is Swami Mohan's gift to this society. I offer my heartfelt thanks to him for having written this book. You would find nothing but the truth in every word of this book. If anyone with an interest in spirituality reads this book, their involvement in spirituality would increase a thousand fold. I do not have the slightest doubt in believing that even if an atheist reads this book, he/she would turn to spirituality.

Jai Gurudev! Om Shanti, Om Shanti, Om Shanti. ■

**Shri Rajinikanth**  
**Chennai**  
**November 2016**