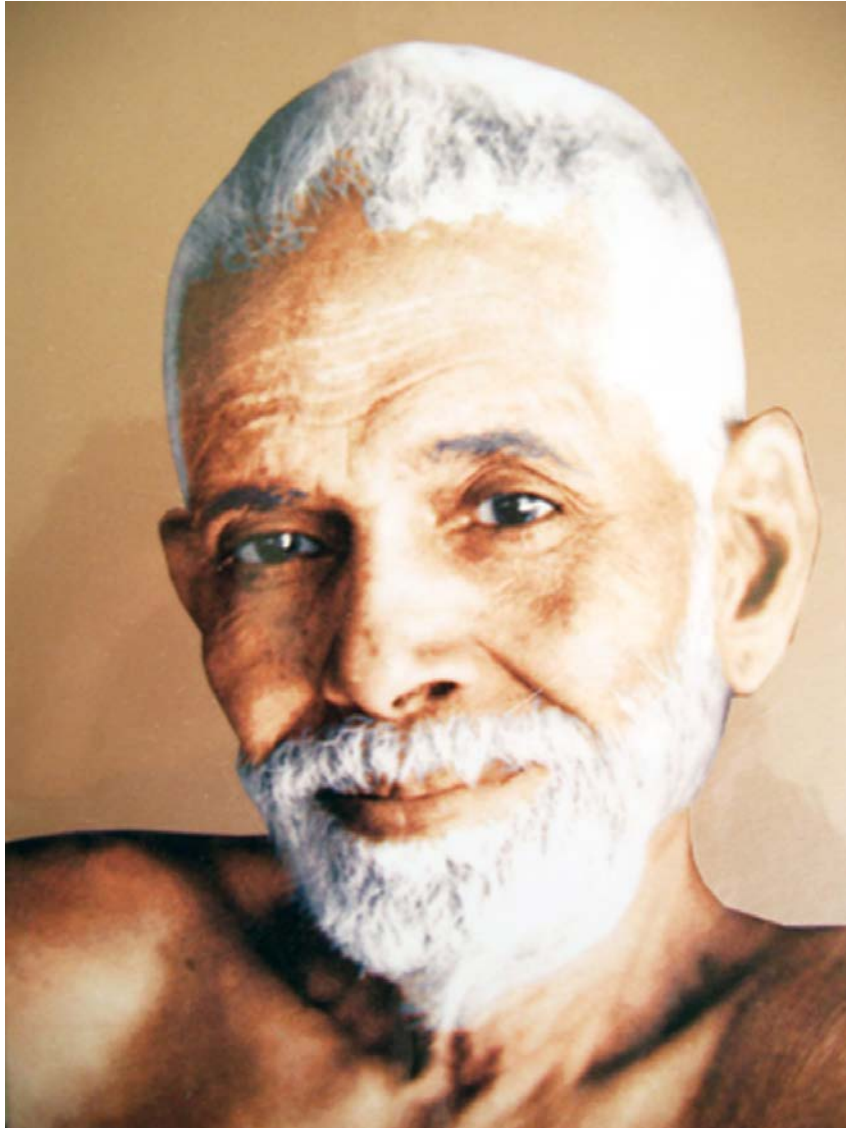


Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi

1879-1950



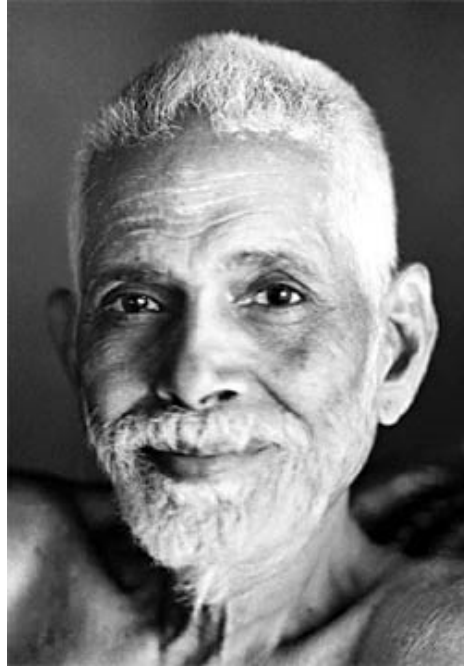
Biographical Analysis

Vibha Hariharan

Written May 2023

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Unai/yē/māt/ri
Ō/dā/dulat/tinmēl
Uru/diyā/yiru/pāy
Arunā/chalā.

Sit firmly in my mind, lest it elude Thee, Oh Arunachala!
Change not Thy nature and flee, but hold fast in my mind, Oh Arunachala!

Biographical Overview

The period between mid-1800's to mid-1900's was a time that the Indian freedom struggle was at its zenith culminating in freedom from British rule in 1947.

This was also a time of great social transformation resulting in the breakdown of conventional social structures, beliefs and practices. A time also for the revival of nationalistic spirit and reinstatement in all people the pride of being Indian, which had eroded from years of subjugation.

Interestingly, this was also time of advent of many spiritual leaders who greatly influenced the political, social, national and spiritual dimensions of the country.

It was in this milieu that Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi was born as Venkateshwara to Sundaram Iyer and Azhagammal. Sundaram Iyer was a court pleader, astute and ambitious. Azhagammal was very devout, particularly to Lord Dakshinamurti, the Aadi Guru.

Venkateshwara, who was erroneously registered as Venkataramana in his school records enjoyed a very normal upbringing and was initiated into learning at age 7. Sundaram Iyer, in his desire to educate his children in the English medium sent them to live with his brother Subbu Iyer in Dindigul and thereafter to Madurai.

Venkataramana's life took a turn when in his 16th year he heard of Arunachala! At age 17, he had a death experience which caused him to ask of himself 'Who am I?' and through this inquiry, attain self-realization. The same year, he embarked on a journey to Tiruvannamalai in search of Arunachala.

From age 17 till his passing in at age 71, he lived in Tiruvannamalai, never once separating from his beloved hill and Lord. The self-realization that he experienced at age 17 was a constant through his life. He is regarded as a jivanmukta – one who has experienced liberation and an inner sense of freedom while living.

During his birth, a blind lady perceived him surrounded in light. During his passing, many devotees saw a bright light shooting skyward. He experienced a burning in his physical form, a force (Avesham) that was with him always starting from the time of his death experience at age 17. Lord Shiva is said to have manifested as a column of light and then as the sacred hill Arunachala.

Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi as he came to be known, broke all conventions in his spiritual journey. He did not have a guru to initiate him into the spiritual path, nor did he take on disciples or establish his own school of thought. The only path he propagated was self-inquiry.

Self-realization is said to come from arduous practice of Jnana (knowledge), Bhakti (devotion) or Karma (action). Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi attained self-realization first. Knowledge, devotion and action came later. He is also unique in that he converged Jnana, Bhakti and Karma margas (paths).

His life was steeped in self-absorption and deep meditative states to the extent of losing complete awareness of his body for extended periods of time. He dwelt in silence. Many experienced diksha in his presence through his eyes, in silence. He is considered an avatar of Lord Dakshinamurti, the primal teacher who expounded his teachings in silence.

Biographical Essence

1st Septennial (0-7 years)

Motif: Unfolding; Gentleness

- Birth in Tiruchuzi on Arudra, 30 December 1879
- Blind woman perceived light
- Father court pleader, Mother devout
- Helped around the house, gentle
- Initiated into learning at age 7 with the Upanayanam

Venkateshwara was born on 30 December 1879, the day of Arudra which is celebrated in glory of Lord Siva. A blind woman saw him surrounded by light and foretold that he was an avatar. This was a significant prediction. He being named after a sanyasi uncle is also significant considering developments later in life. He lived a normal, happy childhood.

2nd Septennial (8-14 years)

Motif: Movement; Play

- Joined village school (Tamil medium), Venkataramana in school records
- Recognized as one with the golden touch; playful
- Deep sleep undisturbed even when beaten by friends, deep meditative states
- Sent to live with uncle Subbu Iyer to pursue schooling (English medium)
- Father's demise
- Swimming in river Vaigai

This was a joyful period for Venkataramana. Although he was separated from parents at the age of 9/10 years marking the Rubicon, this did not impact him deeply. His father's passing at the age of 12/13 marking end of childhood, while a setback, did not disturb him. His deep sleep and meditative states are indicative of tendencies in later life.

3rd Septennial (15-21 years)

Motif: Arunachala! Death experience and Self-realization

- Significance of Arunachala! study of Periapuranam
- Death experience, self-realization through inquiry, solace in Meenakshi Amman temple
- Journey to Tiruvannamalai
- Deep meditative states, Sahaja Samadhi, silence
- Mother and brother's visit, first upadesha
- Ascent of Arunachala, study of texts

This marked a transformation from a playful child into an intense seeker. Mention of Arunachala by a relative was the first turning point. His experience of Periapuranam seems indicative of the path of Bhakti in later life. Spontaneous self-realization through death experience followed by self-inquiry was the next turning point. Journey to Tiruvannamalai in search of Arunachala was the

final turning point. The journey appears as a grand design, destined to happen for the union of Ramana with Arunachala. Deep meditative states to the point of losing awareness of his physical body and absorption in silence was central and due to his single-minded pursuit of the Self. Meeting with his mother and brother and his refusal to go back home at age 18, marks the 1st Lunar Node.

4th Septennial (22-28 years)

Motif: Silence

- First teaching in writing
- Satchitananda through convergence of Jnana, Bhakti and Karma
- Encounter with Kavya Kantha Sri Ganapati Shastrigal
- Became known as Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi

His meditative states and silence continued and intensified during this period. His silence was so complete, it was difficult for him to speak even occasionally. His first teaching was in writing as answers to questions posed by a disciple. His self-realization through meditation and devotion to Arunachala integrated Jnana and Bhakti margas. His Zero Point at age 28 happened when he was pronounced a Bhagavan and a Maharishi severing all ties with his childhood.

5th Septennial (29-35 years)

Motif: Rebirth; Return

- Encounter with Frank Humphreys
- Death experience

Frank Humphreys was the first westerner to visit Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi. When he was of age 33, corresponding with Christ Years, he experienced another death experience. He saw a curtain of pure white light descend 3 times after which his heart and lungs stopped functioning. After about 15 minutes, it seemed like he was shot with a bolt of electricity and his heart and lungs resumed their functioning. This marked a turning point in his life as after this experience he began to respond to the external world after many years of seclusion.

6th Septennial (36-42 years)

Motif: Compositions

- Mother and brother's visit
- Mother's sanyasam
- Five hymns to Arunachala
- Deterioration of mother's health

Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi's 2nd Lunar Node at the age of 37, saw the return of his mother and brother to Tiruvannamalai and his initiation of her into sanyasam. During this time, in a departure from teaching in silence, he composed hymns to Arunachala of which the Akshara Mana Malai which he sang as he circumambulated the Arunachala Hill is very renowned. His compositions are believed to be written during ages 38/39 marking the Crisis of Meaning.

7th Septennial (43-49 years)

Motif: Settling

- Mothers passing
- Beginning of Sri Ramanashram, engagement with ashram activities
- Love for animals, settlement of disputes

Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi's mother's death at age 43 corresponds with Mid-Life Crisis. This was also the time when Sri Ramanashram came into being with the construction of his mother's Samadhi. His love for all life forms is evident in his connect with animals and birds with whom he communicated, resolved disputes and even liberated.

8th Septennial (50-56 years)

Motif: Meeting

- Experiences of people
- Meeting with Paul Brunton
- Meeting with Paramahansa Yogananda, Somerset Maugham, Arthur Osborne

This septennial saw Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi meeting people, many of whom experienced divinity both in him and in themselves. A significant encounter with Paul Brunton at the behest of the Acharya of Kanchi led to Brunton's 'A Search in Secret'. At age 56 during his 3rd Lunar Node, he met with many world leaders and spiritual guru's.

9th Septennial (57-63 years)

Motif: Accessibility

Not much is written about Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi during these years. Sri Ramanashram continued to become a place of deep spiritual significance. People continued to throng the place to be in his presence.

10th Septennial (64-70 years)

Motif: Preparation

- Cancerous lump in the arm, surgeries

A lump was discovered in his arm at age 69 which was surgically removed. The lump became cancerous and despite 4 surgeries, could not be contained. Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi continued to dwell within separating himself from his physical pain. People gathered in Ramanashram in even greater numbers for his diksha.

11th Septennial (71 years)

Motif: Shedding; Divine Union

- Siddhi
- Shooting star

Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi attained siddhi on 14th April 1950 at 8.47 PM. Many people who had gathered in Sri Ramanashram saw a shooting star blaze through the sky at the time of his passing. He is regarded as a jivanmukta - one who realized their true nature while living.

Biographical Analysis

Temperament

The temperament that emerges in Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi's life during the ages 7-14 is Sanguine. This temperament however is evident only in this septennial.

During this time, he was outwardly focused, had many friends, was playful and risk taking, many a times swimming in the raging waters of Vaigai.

He adapted to changing circumstances including separation from family and the passing of his father.

Soul Type

The primary soul quality that is evident is the Sun quality of the Radiant Balancer, wanting nothing for himself, always dwelling in self-realization. His radiance was recognized and reflected by the people around him.

The other soul quality that emerges is the Saturn quality of the Spiritual Investigator, radiating his inner nature into the universe. His inward focus, depth, silence and constancy of the existential question stayed with him through his life.

Mirroring

Mirroring is seen in his association with light, both during birth and during his passing. During his birth, a blind woman recognized the child surrounded by light and proclaimed him an avatar. At the time of his passing, many people who had gathered in Sri Ramanashram saw a shooting star blaze through the sky.

Turning Points

The first turning point at age 16 was his encounter with a relative returning from Tiruvannamalai. His mention of Arunachala established in Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi a deep desire and longing for Arunachala.

The second turning point at age 17 was his death experience resulting in self-realization. This remained with him all through his life.

The third turning point was his journey to Arunachala. The journey seemed like a grand design putting Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi firmly on the path of his destiny. He remained in Tiruvannamalai from age 17 till his passing at age 71.

The final turning point at age 33 was his second death experience when he experienced blinding white light descending 3 times after which all his bodily functions ceased for 15 minutes. A bolt of electricity seemed to surge through him after which his heart and lungs resumed. After this episode, he seemed to begin connecting outwardly.

Rhythms

Significant biographical milestones are -

2nd Septennial: Rubicon (separation from family) and end of childhood (father's passing)

4th Septennial: Zero Point (becoming of a Bhagavan and a Maharishi)

5th Septennial: Christ Years (second death experience)

6th Septennial: Crisis of Meaning (composition of 5 hymns)

7th Septennial: Mid-Life Crisis (mother's passing)

Lunar Node 1: Call of Arunachala – journey to Tiruvannamalai (union); leaving home (parting) – meeting with mother and brother (meeting)

Lunar Node 2: Meeting with mother and brother (meeting) – initiation of mother into sanyasam (parting)

Lunar Node 3: Meeting with world leaders

There seems to be a rhythm in his death experiences -

Age 16/17 – First death experience - inwardness

Age 33/34 – Second death experience - outwardness

Age 68/69 – Cancer and preparation for passing - ascent

Patterns

There is strong pattern of death experience. The first two death experiences were also very significant turning points. The identification of a cancerous lump in his arm resulted in his preparation for death

Themes

Some of the themes in Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi's life were –

Connect with Arunachala; connect with light and heat which is also a manifestation of Arunachala

Death experiences

Self-reliance in all matters spiritual, inquiry, silence, self-realization

Karmic Context

Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi's life mission seemed very evident starting as early as his birth when he was prophesized to be an avatar. His states of deep sleep and meditation in his childhood were indicative of the developments later in life.

From the age of 16, his life unfolded very quickly from the time he heard of Arunachala. His death experience caused him to spontaneously become self-realized. His journey to Tiruvannamalai followed soon after. It seemed like the universe conspired to design his journey. He never left Tiruvannamalai and never moved from his state of self-realization.

It seems like he incarnated solely for realizing his true nature. His life held no distractions.

He propagated no teachings and did not believe in the guru-shishya tradition. Rather, he broke all conventions by advocating inquiry as the only means of realizing the self, taught through his life that the path to spiritual realization is unique and that we are own guru's.

Silence was a big aspect of Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi's life. He is believed to be an incarnation of Lord Dakshinamurti, the primal guru, a manifestation of Lord Shiva who taught through the medium of silence.

Bibliography

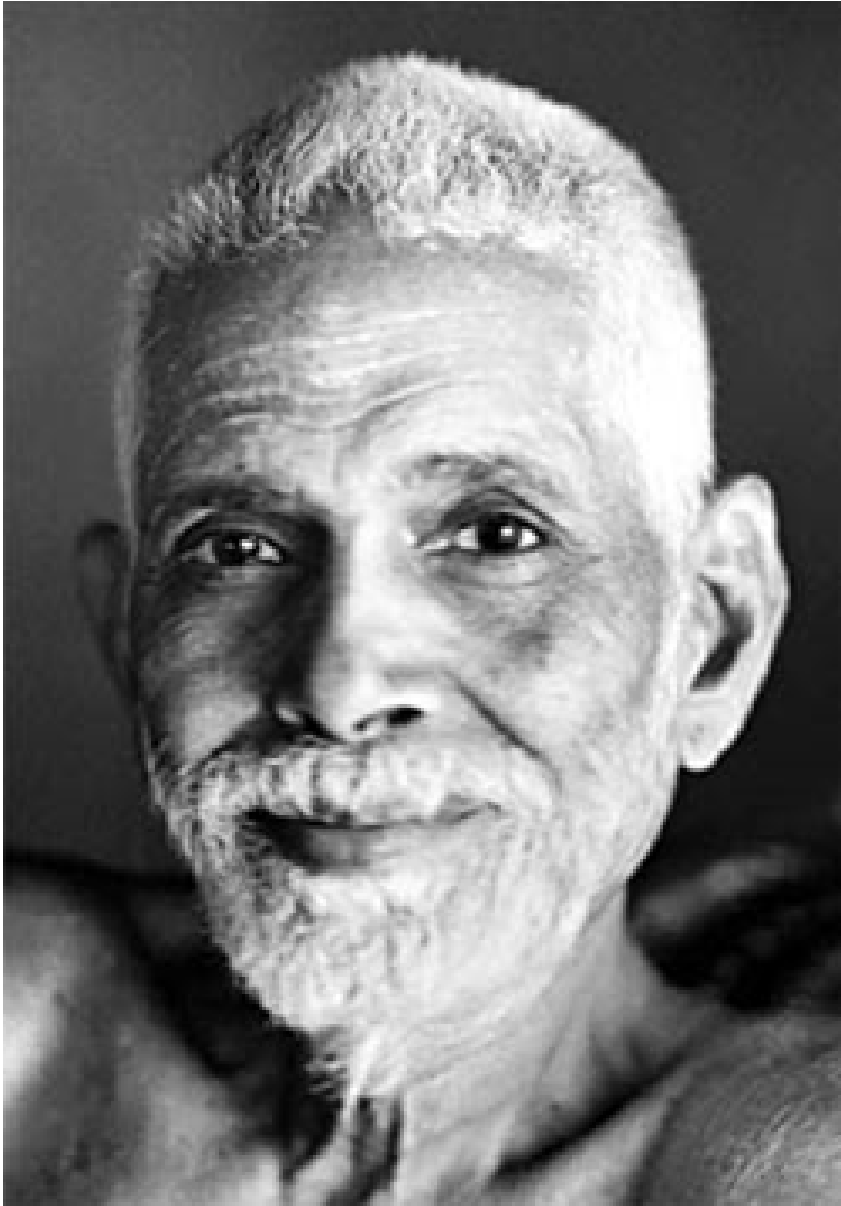
Sundaram, Pingali Surya, 8 January 2003, Sri Ramana Leela, A Biography of Sri Ramana Maharishi, V. S. Ramanan, Sri Ramanashram, Tiruvannamalai, India

Translated from Telugu Original by Bhikshu, Krishna, 1936, Sri Ramana Leela.

Life Chart / Life Panorama – **Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi** from Sri Ramana Leela – Original in Telugu by Krishna Bhikshu, Edited and Translated by Pingali Surya Sundaram

Vibha Hariharan

1 st - 21 st Life Year:		22 nd - 42 nd Life Year:		43 rd - 63 rd Life Year:		64 th - 84 th Life Year:	
Motif / Essence (01-07): <u>Unfolding, Gentleness</u> ☐ Moon		Motif / Essence (36-42): <u>Compositions</u>		Motif / Essence (57-63): <u>Accessibility</u>		Motif / Essence (64-70): <u>Preparation</u>	
☆ 30/12/1879 ↓ 29/12/1880 1	Birth – Tiruchuzi, village deities entering temple, Arudra Blind woman perceiving light – birth of an avatar 2 nd of 4 children, named Venkateshwara after sanyasi uncle	42 30/12/1920 ↑ 29/12/1921 ↑		63 30/12/1941 ↑ 29/12/1942 ↑		↓ 30/12/1942 ↓ 29/12/1943 64	
↓ 30/12/1880 ↓ 29/12/1881 2	Parents – devoted. Mother's devotion to Dakshinamurthi	41 30/12/1919 ↑ 29/12/1920 ↑	Deterioration of mother's health	62 30/12/1940 ↑ 29/12/1941 ↑		↓ 30/12/1943 ↓ 29/12/1944 65	
DPH ↓ 30/12/1881 ↓ 29/12/1882 3		40 30/12/1918 ↑ 29/12/1919 ↑		61 30/12/1939 ↑ 29/12/1940 ↑		↓ 30/12/1944 ↓ 29/12/1945 66	
↓ 30/12/1882 ↓ 29/12/1883 4		39 30/12/1917 COM 29/12/1918 ↑	The five hymns to Arunachala Akshara Mani Malai – union of human soul with the divine Upadesha Saram, Ulladu Narpadu	60 30/12/1938 ↑ 29/12/1939 ↑		↓ 30/12/1945 ↓ 29/12/1946 67	
↓ 30/12/1883 ↓ 29/12/1884 5		38 30/12/1916 LN2 29/12/1917 37.2	Skandashrama cave Mother's sanyasam and instruction	59 30/12/1937 ↑ 29/12/1938 ↑		↓ 30/12/1946 ↓ 29/12/1947 68	
↓ 30/12/1884 ↓ 29/12/1885 6		37 30/12/1915 ↑ 29/12/1916 ↑	Visit by mother and brother	58 30/12/1936 ↑ 29/12/1937 ↑		↓ 30/12/1947 ↓ 29/12/1948 69	Cancerous lump in the arm
↓ 30/12/1885 ↓ 29/12/1886 7	Upanayanam – initiation into learning Quick to grasp, excellent memory	36 30/12/1914 ↑ 29/12/1915 ↑		57 30/12/1935 ↑ 29/12/1936 ↑		↓ 30/12/1948 ↓ 29/12/1949 70	Surgical removal of lump; 4 surgeries
Motif / Essence (08-14): <u>Movement, Play</u>		Motif / Essence (29-35): <u>Rebirth, Return</u> ☐ Sun 2		Motif / Essence (50-56): <u>Meeting</u> ☐ Jupiter		Motif / Essence (71-77): <u>Shedding and divine union</u> ☐ Neptune	
↓ 30/12/1886 ↓ 29/12/1887 8	Village School – Tiruchuzi (Tamil Medium) Erroneously entered as Venkataramana in school records	35 30/12/1913 ↑ 29/12/1914 ↑		56 30/12/1934 LN3 29/12/1935 55.8	Visits by Paramahansa Yogananda, Somerset Maugham, Mercedes de Acosta, Arthur Osborne	↓ 30/12/1949 ↓ 29/12/1950 71	14/4/1950 at 8.47 pm – shed his mortal coil Shooting star Dakshinamurthi? Skanda?
↓ 30/12/1887 ↓ 29/12/1888 9	One with golden touch Play Deep sleep	34 30/12/1912 ↑ 29/12/1913 ↑		55 30/12/1933 ↑ 29/12/1934 ↑	A Search in Secret India by Paul Brunton	↓ ↓ 72	
RUB 30/12/1888 ↓ 29/12/1889 10		33 30/12/1911 CY 29/12/1912 ↑	Vision impairment, white bright curtain – 3 times Heart and lungs stopped for 15 minutes Shock. Heart and lung function resumed	54 30/12/1932 ↑ 29/12/1933 ↑		FRY ↓ 73	
↓ 30/12/1889 ↓ 29/12/1890 11	Move, with uncle Subbu Iyer Hindu School – Dindigul (English Medium)	32 30/12/1910 CY 29/12/1911 ↑	Frank Humphreys – first westerner	53 30/12/1931 ↑ 29/12/1932 ↑		↓ ↓ 74	
PRP 30/12/1890 ↓ 29/12/1891 12	Move, with uncle Subbu Iyer Scott Middle School – Madurai Spontaneous deep meditative states	31 30/12/1909 CY 29/12/1910 ↑		52 30/12/1930 ↑ 29/12/1931 ↑	Self-Realisation: The life and teachings of Ramana Maha- rishi by B.V Narasimha Paul Brunton's visit at the behest of Paramacharya	74.4 LN4 75	
↓ 30/12/1891 ↓ 29/12/1892 13	18/2/92 – Father's demise Swimming in Vaigai	30 30/12/1908 ↑ 29/12/1909 ↑		51 30/12/1929 ↑ 29/12/1930 ↑		↓ CY2 76	
↓ 30/12/1892 ↓ 29/12/1893 14	American Mission High School – Madurai	29 30/12/1907 ↑ 29/12/1908 ↑		50 30/12/1928 ↑ 29/12/1929 ↑	Experiences of people – of Ramana and of themselves	↓ ↓ 77	
Motif / Essence (15-21): <u>Arunachala! Death experience & Self-realisation</u> ☐ Venus		Motif / Essence (22-28): <u>Silence</u> ☐ Sun 1		Motif / Essence (43-49): <u>Setting</u> ☐ Mars		Motif / Essence (78-84):	
↓ 30/12/1893 ↓ 29/12/1894 15		28 30/12/1906 ZPC 29/12/1907 ↑	Kavyakantha Sri Ganapati Shastrigal – upadesha on self- enquiry – 'Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi'	49 30/12/1927 ↑ 29/12/1928 ↑	Old hall in Sri Ramanashram	↓ ↓ 78	
↓ 30/12/1894 ↓ 29/12/1895 16	'Arunachala!' Study of Sekkilar's Periapuranam – divine union Awakening of awareness	27 30/12/1905 ↑ 29/12/1906 ↑		48 30/12/1926 ↑ 29/12/1927 ↑		↓ ↓ 79	
↓ 30/12/1895 ↓ 29/12/1896 17	16/7/96 Death experience – force, enquiry, self-realisation Change, turmoil, burning – solace in Meenakshi temple 1/9/96 Arunachala! Journey to Tiruvannamalai, design	26 30/12/1904 COT 29/12/1905 ↑		47 30/12/1925 ↑ 29/12/1926 ↑		↓ ↓ 80	
↓ 30/12/1896 ↓ 29/12/1897 18	Arunachala Temple – renunciate , deep meditative states Patala lingam – sahaja samadhi , silence , body oblivion Sheshadri Swamikal, many care givers – Palaniswamy	25 30/12/1903 ↑ 29/12/1904 ↑		46 30/12/1924 ↑ 29/12/1925 ↑	Love for animals – resolution of their quarrels, Lakshmi the cow	↓ ↓ 81	
18.6 30/12/1897 LN1 29/12/1898 19	Deep meditative states, changed locations – crowd Uncle Subbu Iyer's demise Visit by family, mother and brother – first written upadesha	24 30/12/1902 ↑ 29/12/1903 ↑		45 30/12/1923 ↑ 29/12/1924 ↑		↓ ↓ 82	
↓ 30/12/1898 ↓ 29/12/1899 20	2/9/99 Ascended Arunachala Deep meditative states, changed locations - crowd	23 30/12/1901 ↑ 29/12/1902 ↑	First teachings – answers to 14 questions of Sivaprakasha Pillai – 'Who am I?' Convergence of jnana and bhakti: sat chit ananda	44 30/12/1922 ↑ 29/12/1923 ↑	Involvement in ashram building projects, kitchen	↓ ↓ 83	
↓ 30/12/1899 ↓ 29/12/1900 21	Study of texts and translations	22 30/12/1900 ↑ 29/12/1901 ↑		43 30/12/1921 MLC 29/12/1922 ↑	19/05/22 Mothers demise, tomb Beginning of Sri Ramanashram	↓ ↓ 84	



Unai/yē/māt/ri
Ō/dā/dulat/tinmēl
Uru/diyā/yiru/pāy
Arunā/chalā.

Sit firmly in my mind, lest it elude Thee, Oh Arunachala!
Change not Thy nature and flee, but hold fast in my mind, Oh
Arunachala!

[Akshara Mana Malai](#)

Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi



Septennial 1 – The unfolding

Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi was born as Venkateshwara to Sundaram Iyer and Azhagammal. He was born in Tiruchuzi on December 30, 1879, on the day of Arudra which is celebrated in glory of Lord Siva.

A blind woman perceived him surrounded by light and foretold that he was an avatar. This was a significant prediction. His being named after a sanyasi (renunciate) uncle is also significant considering developments later in life.

Sundaram Iyer was a court pleader, astute and ambitious. Azhagammal was very devout, particularly to Lord Dakshinamurti, the Aadi Guru – the Primal Teacher.

Venkateshwara lived a normal, happy childhood. Helped around the house and was initiated into learning at age 7 with the Upanayanam (investiture of the sacred thread)

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Septennial 2 – Play

This was a joyful period for Venkataramana. He was 2nd of 4 children. He joined village school (Tamil medium) and was erroneously enrolled as Venkataramana in school records.

He was recognized as one with the golden touch.

He was sent to live with uncle Subbu Iyer in Dindigul and then Madurai to pursue schooling in the English medium at the age of 9/10 years marking the Rubicon.

His father's passing at the age of 12/13 marked the end of childhood.

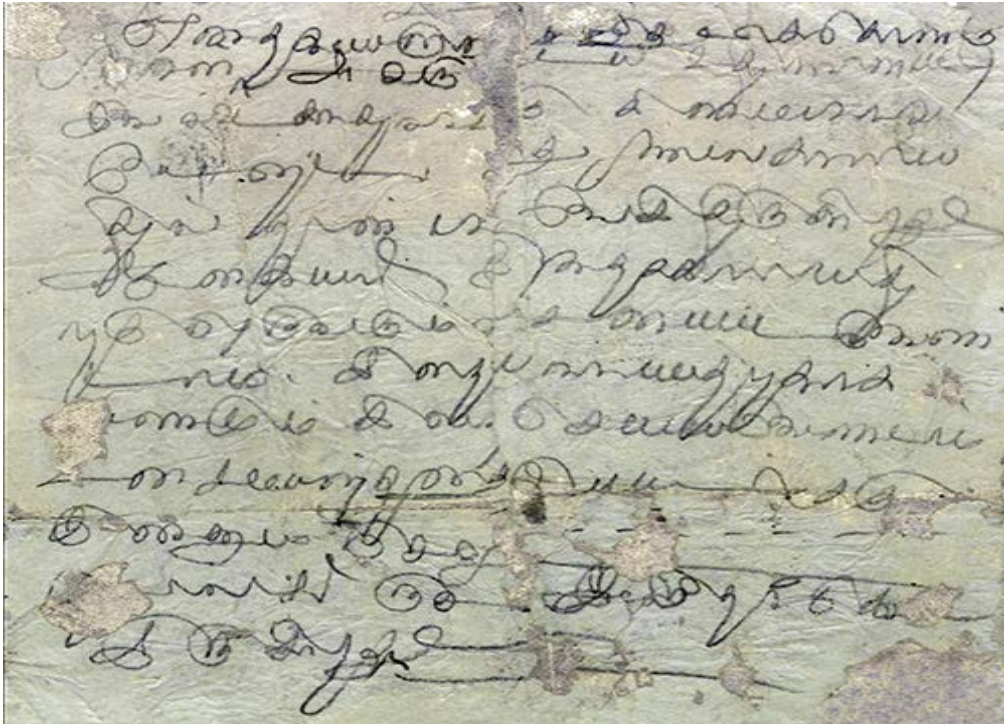
His deep sleep and meditative states are indicative of tendencies in later life.



Scott's Middle School



American Mission High School



Septennial 3 – First death experience

Venkataramana's life took a turn when in his 16th year he heard of Arunachala. He was deeply moved by Sekkiars's Periya Puranam.

At age 17, he had a death experience which caused him to ask of himself 'Who am I?' and through this inquiry, attain self-realization. He found solace in the Meenakshi Amman temple.

The same year, he left home on a journey to Tiruvannamalai in search of Arunachala leaving a letter behind for the family not to go in search of him – the journey was as if by design.

In Tiruvannamalai, he entered deep meditative states (Sahaja Samadhi) and dwelled in silence to the point of losing awareness of the body.

His mother and brother visited him and implored him to return home – and his response marks the first upadesha.

Septennial 4 – Silence

His meditative states and silence continued and intensified during this period. His silence was so complete, it was difficult for him to speak even occasionally.



His first teaching was in writing, as answers to questions posed by a disciple which later came to be known as Vichara Sangraham.

At age 28, Kavya Kantha Sri Ganapati Shastrigal, an ardent disciple pronounced him a Bhagavan and a Maharishi and he came to be known as known Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi severing all ties with his childhood.

His self-realization through meditation and devotion to Arunachala integrated Jnana and Bhakti.

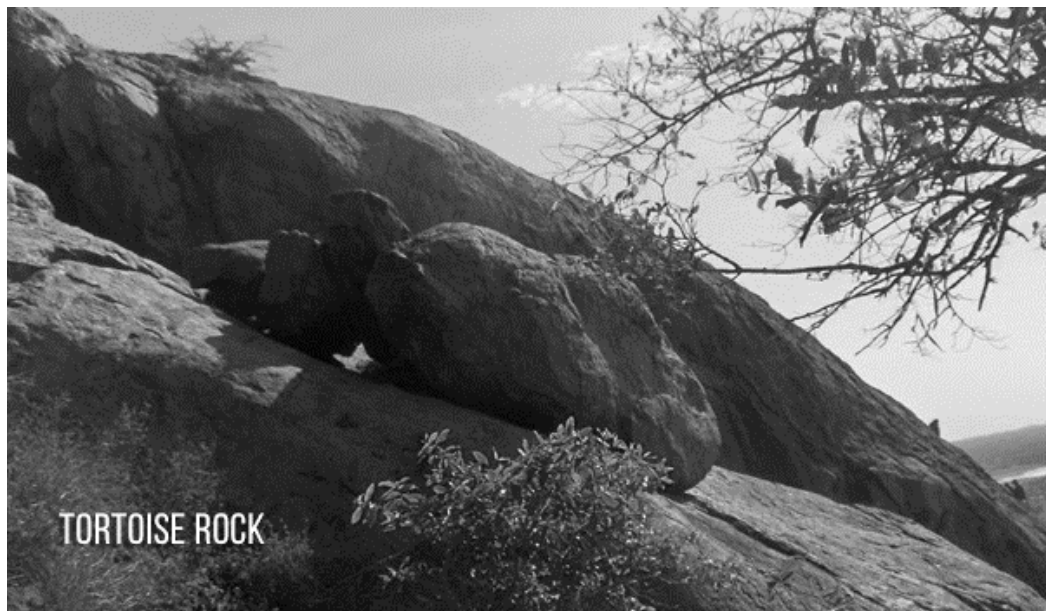
Septennial 5 – Second death experience

When he was of age 33, he experienced another death experience.

He saw a curtain of pure white light descend 3 times after which his heart and lungs stopped functioning. After about 15 minutes, it seemed like he was shot with a bolt of electricity and his heart and lungs resumed their functioning.

This marked a turning point in his life as after this experience he began to engage with the world after many years of seclusion.

Frank Humphreys was the first westerner to visit Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi.



TORTOISE ROCK



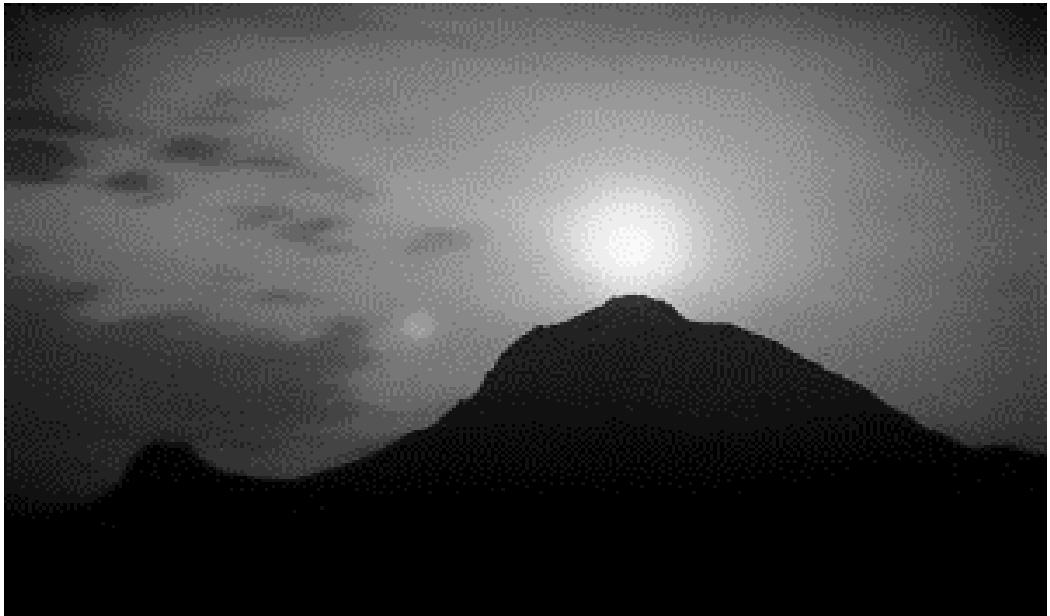
Septennial 6 – Compositions

Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi's at age 37, saw the return of his mother and brother to Tiruvannamalai and his initiation of his mother into sanyasam.

During this time, in a departure from teaching in silence, he composed 5 hymns on Arunachala of which the Akshara Mana Malai which he sang as he circumambulated the Arunachala Hill is very renowned.

His compositions are believed to be written during ages 38/39.

This is also the time when his mother's health started deteriorating.





Septennial 7 – Settling in

Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi's love for all life forms was evident in his connect with animals and birds with whom he communicated, resolved disputes and even liberated.

His mother attained samadhi when he was 43.

This was also the time when Sri Ramanashram came into being with the construction of his mother's Samadhi.

He was engaged in ashram's workings.





Septennial 8 – Meeting the world

This septennial saw Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi meeting people, many of whom experienced divinity both in him and in themselves.

A significant encounter with Paul Brunton at the behest of the Acharya of Kanchi led to Brunton's 'A Search in Secret India'.

At age 56 he met with many world leaders and spiritual guru's – meeting with Paramahansa Yogananda, Somerset Maugham, Arthur Osborne.



Septennial 9 – Ramanashramam

Not much is written about Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi during these years.

Sri Ramanashram continued to become a place of deep spiritual significance.

People continued to throng the place to be in his presence.





Septennial 10 – Preparation

A lump was discovered in Sri Ramana Maharishi's arm at age 69 which was surgically removed.

The lump became cancerous and despite 4 surgeries, could not be contained.

He continued to dwell within, clearly separating himself from his physical pain. People gathered in Ramanashram in even greater numbers for his diksha.





Septennial 11 – Divine Union

Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi attained siddhi on 14th April 1950 at 8.47 PM as devotees sang Akshara Mana Malai.

Many people who had gathered in Sri Ramanashram saw a shooting star blaze through the sky at the time of his passing.

He is regarded as a jivanmukta - one who realized their true nature while living.

Biographical insights

Turning Points

The first turning point at age 16 was an encounter with a relative returning from Tiruvannamalai. His mention of Arunachala established in Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi a deep desire and longing for Arunachala.

The second turning point at age 17 was his death experience resulting in self-realization. This remained with him all through his life.

The third turning point was his journey to Arunachala. The journey put him firmly on the path of his destiny. He remained in Tiruvannamalai from age 17 till his passing at age 71.

The final turning point at age 33 was his second death experience when all his bodily functions ceased for 15 minutes. A bolt of electricity seemed to surge through him after which his functions. After this episode, he seemed to begin connecting outwardly.

Biographical insights

Biographical Milestones

2nd Septennial: Rubicon (separation from family) and end of childhood (father's passing)

4th Septennial: Zero Point (becoming of a Bhagavan and a Maharishi)

5th Septennial: Christ Years (second death experience)

6th Septennial: Crisis of Meaning (composition of 5 hymns)

7th Septennial: Mid-Life Crisis (mother's passing)

Lunar Node 1: Call of Arunachala – journey to Tiruvannamalai (union); leaving home (parting) – meeting with mother and brother (meeting)

Lunar Node 2: Meeting with mother and brother (meeting) – initiation of mother into sanyasam (parting)

Lunar Node 3: Meeting with world leaders

Biographical insights

Mirroring

His association with light, both during birth and during his passing. During his birth, a blind woman recognized the child surrounded by light and proclaimed him an avatar. At the time of his passing, many people who had gathered in Sri Ramanashram saw a shooting star blaze through the sky.

Patterns

Age 16/17 – First death experience - inwardness

Age 33/34 – Second death experience - outwardness

Age 68/69 – Cancer and preparation for passing - ascent

Themes

His connect with Arunachala was ever present. Arunachala is the manifestation of Lord Siva as a column of light

His 3 death experiences were each very significant and deeply transformative

His single pointedness and self-reliance in all matters spiritual leading to inquiry, silence, self-realization



Karmic context

Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi's life mission seemed very evident right from his birth

His connection with Arunachala was steadfast from the age of 16.

It appears that he incarnated solely for realizing his true nature. His life held no distractions.

He advocated inquiry as the only means of realizing the self – Who am I?

Silence was a big aspect of Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi's life. He is believed to be an incarnation of Lord Dakshinamurti, the primal guru, a manifestation of Lord Shiva who taught through the medium of silence.

Teachings

That which rises as 'I' in the body is the mind. If one inquires as to where in the body the thought 'I' rises first, one would discover that it rises in the Heart. That is the place of the mind's origin. Even if one thinks constantly 'I', 'I', one will be led to that place. Of all the thoughts that arise in the mind, the 'I' thought is the first. It is only after the rise of the "I-thought" that other thoughts occur.

What exists in truth is the Self alone. The world, the individual soul, and God are appearances in it like silver in mother-of-pearl. These three appear at the same time and disappear at the same time. The Self is that where there is absolutely no "I" thought. That is called "Silence". The Self itself is the world; the Self itself is "I"; the Self itself is God; all is Siva, the Self.

Grace is the Self. That is not to be acquired: you only need to know that it exists.

In the end everyone must come to Arunachala.

Acknowledgement

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Photographs

<https://www.sriramanamaharshi.org/>

Akshara Mana Malai

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