



CAN I CHANGE MY LIFE

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Can I Change **My Life?**

By
AiR
Atman in Ravi



AiR - ATMAN IN RAVI

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By
AiR
Atman in Ravi
Ravi V. Melwani

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

AiR - Atman In Ravi

*Started with Nothing,
Became Something...
Achieved Everything,
Only to Realize, we are Nothing!*



AiR — *Atman* in Ravi, is an Awakened Soul, Happiness Ambassador, Transformational Author, Singer and a Philanthropist. He is on a mission to help people discover the way to Eternal Happiness through Enlightenment.

AiR lived a life of success, fame, fortune and achievement. But that was before he took the road less travelled. He was an iconic entrepreneur who transformed retailing in India, only to walk away from the mega retail empire he had created. He shut down his business when he was 40 and started making a difference doing - Humanitarian, Inspirational and Spiritual work. AiR opened destitute homes known as AiR Humanitarian Homes spread across Bengaluru, that today, care for over 500 homeless and needy people - their food, clothing, medicines and hospitalization. They are all a part of the AiR family!

Like anybody else, AiR started his life being religious. He built a Shiva temple in 1995. Subsequently, inspired by his Guru, he Realized that God lives in the temple of our heart and he changed the name of the temple to Shivoam Shiva temple. Now, he doesn't pray *to* Shiva but prays *through* Shiva, to SIP, the Supreme Immortal Power that is nameless and formless, birthless and deathless, the Divine Power that is everywhere, in everything.

His Realizations resulted in his own metamorphosis as he Realized that we are the Soul, the *Atman*, a part of the Supreme Immortal Power. He let go of his given name and called himself AiR – *Atman* in Ravi, which means, the Soul embodied as Ravi. AiR, now, lives as an instrument of God, doing His Divine Will.

On his mission to spread Eternal Happiness through Enlightenment, AiR has founded the AiR Institute of Realization to reach out to the global community of seekers. He has also established the AiR Centre of Enlightenment which is envisaged as an Abode of Spirituality, especially for seekers who are new in their Spiritual journey, eager to learn and explore Spirituality and evolve on their path towards Enlightenment. Not restricted to seekers of Enlightenment, it also welcomes and gives various pursuits to those who seek joy, peace, happiness and solace.

Based on his Realizations, AiR has authored over 80 books, composed and sung about 1450 *Bhajans* and written several blogs, quotes and poems. He conducts Spiritual Retreats and organizes talks to help people evolve on their spiritual journey. He is a TEDx speaker and is often invited to speak at

several organizations, corporates and universities. He conducts daily webinars on Zoom, Facebook and Instagram Live to help people Realize the ultimate purpose of life – Enlightenment. AiR believes that success cannot lead to happiness; only happiness can lead to success. To him, happiness has three peaks – Achievement, Fulfilment and the ultimate peak, Enlightenment, where one is liberated from all misery and sorrow and attains Eternal Bliss in the Consciousness of the Truth.

*If you have any questions on
Happiness, Suffering, Life, Death, Rebirth, Karma, Liberation,
Enlightenment or anything related to Spirituality,*

YOU CAN DIRECTLY



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1

BOBBY'S LIFE

*Angel, Angel, of the sky.
Where are you? Please come by.
Bobby doesn't want to cry!
Help me give it another try.*

Bobby lay in a bed on this autumn day of 2020. When Bobby had opened his eyes a few days ago, he had realized that he was in a hospital. He had turned around to see his parents in tears, saying a prayer. '*Thank you, Lord, for saving our son.*' He wasn't able to speak. But slowly he had started recollecting that one day, when he was with his college friends, he had met with a serious accident. He had been in the ICU, in a coma for weeks. Doctors had lost hope, but now, Bobby was out of the coma and was on the road to recovery.

In a few weeks, Bobby became healthy and was discharged. While in the hospital, Bobby had spent a lot of time talking to an Angel that used to appear to him. We all know that Angels do not really appear to talk to people. Bobby was one rare, blessed Soul who could actually communicate with a Divine Angel. It was a secret between Bobby and the Angel. But every time Bobby called out to the Angel, the Angel would appear. It had all started when Bobby was in his teens. He would share his personal troubles and worries with the Angel, and the Angel became his guiding light.

Bobby had joined college. He was 18 at that time. Unlike others, he was not sure what life should be. His parents said something, and the teachers something else. But Bobby had gone on to live a very special life. He had achieved all the success one could dream of and enjoyed all the pleasures of this material world. But then, like anybody else, Bobby had gotten carried away by his name and fame. Power and money had led him to sin. His end had been tragic, but unlike anybody else's, it was followed by Divine magic.

When somebody dies, they carry their Karma into a new life — this is the truth. That is why we don't choose our birth and how and where we come on earth. It is all Karma. But Bobby was very special. He had a unique blessing — to live again as Bobby. Nobody would believe this! But Bobby had got another chance to live as Bobby! And God knows from where this Angel used to come, but whenever Bobby called out to the Angel, the Angel would appear and he had been able to change his life as if by magic with an Angel's wand.

Bobby didn't even know the name of the Angel. '*What's your name, my dear Angel?*' once he had asked. The Angel had replied, '*What's in a name, Bobby?*'

*I come from the sky.
I want to make you fly.
I want you to climb high.
I don't want you to cry!*

Bobby and the Angel had spoken so many times. The first time the Angel had appeared was when Bobby had been heartbroken. He had been in love with Rita since they were 13.

They used to be in the same class. When he was 16, he had asked Rita, *'I love you. Will you marry me?'* Rita had replied, *'Bobby, I really like you too. But I am sorry. I love somebody else!'* Bobby had been in tears, and he had called out in pain. That was the first time that the Angel had appeared. The Angel told Bobby, *'Love is Divine. It will be if it is meant to be.'*

If you love someone, let her free.

If she comes back, she is yours.

If she doesn't, she never was!

Bobby, grateful for this guidance and Divine magic, had moved on and focused on his life and career. He had become successful and it seemed as though each success had the Divine grace of the Angel. Years passed by and Bobby went from one peak of success to another. But somehow, he hadn't got the life formula right. He ended up doing wrong deeds and cheating people.

That day, as Bobby was breathing his last, he cried, *'Oh Angel, nothing is mine! All my hard work has been wasted!'* The Angel appeared and told Bobby, *'You are calling out to me after so many years. When you wanted success, you called me and I guided you. But did you call me thereafter? You forgot me, Bobby! Now, what can I do?'* Bobby wept, *'I am sorry, my dear Angel. Now what will happen to me?'* But then the Angel, he couldn't see.

Bobby had passed away. He had been reborn and was now called Rahul. He was born in a slum. But little did Rahul know that once upon a time, he was Bobby. It was when he was 13, the same age as when the Angel had appeared to Bobby, that Rahul got a flash of his previous life as Bobby. Rahul was in tears, as he had nothing to eat. He remembered the Angel and called out, once again.

*Angel, Angel, of the sky!
Where are you? Please come by.
Rahul suffers, and Rahul cries,
Come to me from the skies!*

The Angel appeared again and Rahul was overjoyed. Somehow, he believed that there was hope. And just like when he was Bobby, Rahul started talking to the Angel.

'Why was I born in a slum, dear Angel?' The Angel explained, 'It is your Karma, your deeds. When you were Bobby, you did not create good Karma. Your bad Karma brought you into a slum, as Rahul.'
'Oh no!' said Rahul, 'I want you to give me another chance, dear Angel. I want to change my life.' The Angel said, *'You can't. You have to live as Rahul and do good Karma to return in a good life.'*

Rahul spent a few years trying to make his life work. But nothing seemed to be going right. He had thoughts of committing suicide when he cried out to the Angel again in desperation, *'Oh Divine Angel, you guided me when I was Bobby. But I forgot you. Please don't punish me. Forgive me, my Divine Angel and give me another chance.'* Rahul had cried out several times, but nothing had happened. One day, as he was contemplating committing suicide, the Angel appeared and said,

*Dear Rahul, don't you die.
I will give you another try!
You will be Bobby, please standby,
Trust me, and please don't cry!*

When Rahul went to sleep that night, he woke up as Bobby the next morning. 'Was that a dream?' wondered Bobby. When he woke up, he was surprised that he was back in 2020, when he was in college. He could clearly recollect his success after 2040 and how he had died in 2060. It was 2078, when he was Rahul in the slum, just about to commit suicide. How was he back in 2020 as Bobby? He realized that he had met with an accident. And so, he called out to the Angel and the Angel appeared.

*Dear Bobby, here am I.
You wanted another try.
Don't just live and then die,
Stop and find out, 'Who am I?'*

Bobby then started to live a life of good Karma. He didn't pay too much attention to the Angel again but focussed on living a good life. Bobby completed his life of good deeds and ultimately, had a peaceful death. But was this the end? No.

Bobby was then reborn in the house of a millionaire in Hong Kong. His parents named him Roger and Roger knew nothing about the fact that once he was Bobby.

Roger was 13 when he recalled that he was once, Bobby. He also recalled the episode of him living with bad Karma and then dying and then being born in a slum. Some memories were very clear. He was Rahul and wanted to commit suicide, and the Angel had appeared and given him a chance to live again as Bobby.

Now, Bobby was Roger. He was happy as the son of a millionaire, with all the comforts and luxuries of life. But as

Roger grew up and went through his teenage years, he saw misery and suffering all around him. He would occasionally call out to the Angel. The Angel seemed to love him, whether he was Bobby or Rahul or now, as Roger. When Roger was 70, he was fed up with the materialistic life that came to him, which was an outcome of the good Karma he had done in his second life. He called out to the Angel and said, *'Is this the reward for my good Karma?'* The Angel explained, *'When you did bad Karma, you were born as Rahul in the slum. Because of your prayers, you got a Divine chance to live as Bobby again. And you did good Karma. Now you are Roger, and you have everything in life. What is there to complain about?'* But Roger cried, *'There is suffering all around me, my family, my friends. This whole world is full of suffering. The doctor has announced that I will soon die. Is there no way out?'* The Angel said, *'Yes, you can change your life.'* But Roger questioned, *'How can I? First, I was Bobby, and then, I was born in a slum. How I suffered, my dear Angel, you know it. I don't want to suffer again.'*

Roger had lived through a millionaire's life in Hong Kong. Now he was about to die and he cried to the Angel, *'Save me, dear Angel. I beg you to give me another chance.'*

Everybody doesn't get a chance to live their life again. But somehow, this Angel had loved Bobby so much that he had given Bobby other chances at life. But now the Angel told Roger, *'You had a chance, Roger, to make the best of your life. But you wasted it. A human life is precious. We are not just meant to live and die. The purpose is to find out, 'Who am I?' I can no longer grant you your wish to going back to Bobby. What you must do now, you have to do as Roger.'*

God's Angel doesn't come to all, and it is very rare to get a chance to live again. Bobby was blessed to get out of the life in a slum. The next time around, he wanted to get out of a millionaire's life. But his time was up. Roger wondered what lay ahead. While Bobby was blessed, do we really get such a chance?

The Angel explained everything about life and told Roger, '*You have no more chances left.*' The Angel reminded Roger how he had done bad Karma in his first life and was born as Rahul in the slum. Then, he had done good Karma in his second life and was born as Roger, a millionaire in Hong Kong. This was his third and final chance. There were no more chances. The Angel said, '*I will never see you again. I will never come back to you. I cannot give you another chance to change your life.*'

Roger wondered what was so special that the Angel came to him and had come to him as Bobby and Rahul. Is it because, as Bobby, his grandfather had taught him to pray every day? Putting this thought aside, Roger called out to the Angel again. He so desperately wanted the Angel to return, but there was no sign of the Angel. '*What should I do?*' wondered Roger, as he went under his blanket and closed his eyes, hoping that the Angel would return. But this time around, the Angel did not appear.

What would Roger do? What would you do? Would you do things differently if you Realized the Truth about life? If you wanted to be free from being born on earth?

2

THE BEGINNING

It all started in the autumn of 2020 when Bobby had joined college. His parents had chosen computer technology as his subject for they were sure that a tech-career would be good for Bobby. When Bobby spoke to his teachers, he found so many super specializations. He could choose artificial intelligence or just software engineering. Some of his friends were choosing cyber security and project management. Bobby was very clear. He wanted to do artificial intelligence because he believed that this was the thing of the future.

Bobby was 18 and what had made Bobby's life special was the Divine magical relationship he had with an Angel. When Bobby was 13, he had his first vision of the Angel. Bobby's grandfather was a man of great faith. He taught Bobby to pray. Was it prayer or just Divine grace that the Angel first appeared to Bobby? '*This is a secret,*' said the Angel in Bobby's first meeting with the Divine being. Bobby was in awe. He had read tales about Angels and fairies, but not even in his dreams had he imagined that he would be blessed to meet an Angel. In the beginning, the Angel was just like a friend, talking to Bobby and guiding Bobby. That is what made Bobby select a good subject in college.

Angel, Angel, what must I choose?

What will give me a great career, my muse?

Do give me just a few clues,

So, I can be in the news!

Every time Bobby called out to the Angel, the Angel would come and bless Bobby with his guidance.

Before he knew it, Bobby had a great offer. He had finished college and in his campus recruitment, he was offered the position of joining a team that would create new options in AI. Not only would he have to capture the thought of a person, and then reveal their destiny, but he would also be a part of the human flight project that would make people fly from their home to anywhere in their AI suit.

Bobby was excited. He got to work. He was good at his job and he progressed well in his career. Soon he got married. It was not easy for someone to find an intelligent guy like Bobby, earning millions, just out of college. Bobby's life was sorted. He was having fun. His company had offices all over the world. He helped his wife find a job in Educational Technology. That got her grounded in Bangalore, which was Bobby's hometown. Bobby travelled the world. It had been his dream to see the world and he was living it. He went to London, New York, Sydney and Tokyo. He and his wife were blessed with three lovely children. It was challenging for Bobby to balance time and work. Before he even realized it, the children were all grown up and up on their feet. Their mother, Sandra, had done well to teach them as Bobby had no time for them with his work commitments and his busy schedules.

'Life is hectic,' Bobby told Sandra one day, 'and if I have to be successful, then you must take care of the kids, so I can earn.' Sandra was a devoted wife. She had grown up in a small town called Madurai and she did not have many dreams like Bobby. She happily agreed to take care of the house and the children, as

Bobby continued his career in advanced technology. There was no dearth of money. But those who make money for the first time in life are protective not to lose it. So, Bobby was very possessive of his cash and bank accounts.

Bobby had some friends in the office. After a hard day's work, they would invite Bobby over for a drink and Bobby became a part of that club. There were office parties and social events all across the world. One day, in Paris, in one of the bars, Bobby fell in love with a French girl and decided to live in with her, in a suburb in France. Sandra was in the dark; she had no clue about this. *'Why do you travel so much these days?'* she asked Bobby. Bobby snapped back at her, *'Do you think it is easy to make so much money?'* Bobby was guilty. Deep within he knew, he was cheating.

One day, Bobby called out to the Angel. It was after quite some time because Bobby had become so busy in his life.

*Angel, Angel, in the skies!
I feel guilty about my lies!
I have won many a prize,
But in life, how can I rise?*

The Angel appeared and told Bobby, *'Haven't you heard what the scripture says? What would it gain a man, if he gained the whole world but lost his own soul?'*

Bobby pondered on his life. He was in this mad chase trying to become an ace. But he was so lost in the race that by now, he was caught in a maze! He had all the things money could buy,

but he was full of regret, shame and guilt. He knew that his habits had taken him away from the ethics he had grown up with. The more money he made, the more he was lost in the world of glitz and glamour. He was so lost with what wine he would drink in the night that he lost sight of the Divine. But life was such!

Bobby's friends told him, *'Bobby, don't think of all this too much. Life is short. Let's have fun!'* And so Bobby had fun, till his life was done. Success gives pleasures and achievement gives name and fame, and Bobby had so much of it. However, he lost the connection with Sandra and the kids. Slowly, they became like strangers. He was so lost in his work and his pleasures that he would even forget their birthdays and important occasions. The family had enough money to keep them occupied and so, they enjoyed the pleasures Bobby gave them. They also became used to his absence. But of course, it was painful for Sandra. When there used to be a celebration like one of the children's birthday and friends would ask Sandra, *'Where is the birthday boy's father?'* Sandra would cry, locking herself in the washroom. But what could she do? She trusted Bobby. Never could she imagine that he had a house in France just as he had affairs with several women around the globe.

Coming from a humble background, Sandra was innocent, trusting and could not even imagine that her husband would cheat on her. But success has a price to pay. Making money doesn't come easy. It leads one into a world where all is fair in love, in war and in success.

Sandra was a strong believer in Karma. One day, when she saw Bobby involved in a legal battle, trying to bribe officers to help

him win, she warned him, '*Bobby, this is bad Karma.*' Bobby told her, '*You keep your Karma to yourself! I know how to live in this drama.*' Sandra was hurt. But because she had given up her job after Bobby's success, she had become dependent on him. She regretted her decision and now, had no choice other than to be a housewife, taking care of the kids. With her own background of high ethical standards, she taught the children good values and never let them get a whiff of how Bobby lived, of his drinking, smoking and partying. She had made it a point that there would be none of this in their house. Therefore, Bobby's vices had no influence on the children.

Before Bobby could realize, he was celebrating his 50th birthday and it was so strange that the family, Sandra and the kids seemed to be just other guests. Bobby had also invited his girlfriend and other women that he had been close with. It was then that Sandra saw Bobby's French girlfriend and his Italian sweetheart and so many other women she had never seen before. They were all over Bobby, hugging him, kissing him. Sandra was taken aback. She was heartbroken. She realized that she didn't even know who Bobby really was.

Bobby was a rich man. He was one of the world's most known software techies. He had more money than he could spend. Little did he realize that this was the end of his relationship with Sandra and the kids. The very next day, Sandra left home with the kids and took up a job so that she could be independent. The kids knew very little of their father. From the time they grew up, it was only their mother who had come with them to school, to their sports events and their parent-teacher meet. They had a faint memory of their father, but to them, he was more 'Bobby, the rich man'!

While Bobby tried to call Sandra and the kids back, he was too caught up with his work and too enamoured with the pleasures of life. To him, his evening whiskey and his friends at the casino were far more important. Every morning, when he would wake up, he would focus on his business and in the evening, live his life lost in the pleasures of the world. He remained a rich man. But when it came to his health, he was a poor man.

Very soon, Bobby developed kidney problems and before he realized it, both his kidneys failed. Bobby was nearly 60 years old and he still had many women who would woo him. But little did he realize that they didn't love him, rather, they just wanted his money. His friends kept the connection for their needs were being met. But Bobby suffered undergoing kidney dialysis and being admitted in hospitals, in different parts of the world. He could not give up his drinking habit and the pleasures that made him a prisoner. Bobby remembered the Angel and cried out to his heavenly friend,

*Angel, Angel, of the sky,
This is Bobby, I am about to die!
Why, O Angel, must I cry?
Please help me, please come by.*

The Angel always appeared to Bobby and though Bobby had forgotten the Angel and hadn't call out to him in years, when Bobby called out now in anguish, the Angel appeared. 'Bobby,' said the Angel sadly, '*You were blessed with everything that a man could dream of. But you lost the golden opportunity of this very special life. Now, you will die, and you will return to earth in a rebirth. You will have another life to live. In this life, you have done bad*

Karma, and you can't escape that. You will have to pay the price. Bobby will be gone! But you will be born in a new body. You did not spend your life Realizing the true meaning and purpose of it. And now, it is too late! You are in your final moments.' And so, as Bobby cried in pain and suffering, he left this mortal world. Before his final breath, Bobby regretted all that he had done with Sandra and the kids, with his colleagues whom he cheated, with all the unfair evidence he gave in courts, and the countless manipulations he did to make his business succeed. He begged the Angel for forgiveness in those final moments. But the Angel said, *'I can't help you. It's your Karma.'*

'As you sow, so shall you reap,' said the Angel to Bobby. Bobby was full of tears and filled with fears. He would soon lose all that was known and all that he did own, and he would enter a realm of life that was unknown. *'Where will I be born?'* asked Bobby. The Angel said, *'As per your Karma. Whatever you did on earth, will decide your rebirth!'* In a moment, Bobby was gone!

To the world, Bobby had died. But in reality, Bobby had only departed. In fact, he left the body of Bobby and moved on to another life. He experienced the transition, the transformation in a subtle existence that most of us don't experience. But Bobby was special. He was blessed by God's Angel. He could see himself depart from this mortal world! Alas, he never Realized that he was the immortal Soul. Discarding one costume of Bobby, ME, the Mind and Ego of Bobby, the software of his human computer, started to zoom to another womb! To the world, Bobby was dead. But Bobby now Realized the Truth in his head.

3

BOBBY'S REBIRTH IN A SLUM

One day, a little boy was born in a slum. There was jubilation as the family celebrated the arrival of a new one. They could not afford a hospital. A midwife delivered the baby and amidst the cries of the little one, there was the beating of the drums. Did anybody know that this was Bobby? Bobby had died. But the one who was Bobby, the one who had passed away, who had departed, didn't disappear into thin air. Because of his bad Karma, his deeds, he was born in a slum. To the world, this was the little baby's destiny. But it was only much later that Bobby Realized that he had caused this to happen. It was not chance or serendipity. His deeds became the seeds that blossomed into this new life in a slum.

This time around, the young boy was called Rahul. The life of Bobby was over when he left the body of Bobby. In this new costume of a little slum baby, Bobby didn't even know that he was starting a life as Rahul in the slum.

Time rolled and before he could Realize it, Bobby, now reborn as Rahul was finishing his teenage years. It was a struggle, going to the slum school and then, not being able to afford college education. Life in a slum is not easy and Rahul struggled day after day. Even if he wanted to go to the toilet, he would have to stand in a queue because there were only community toilets that were shared by the people in the slum. In his slum, for every 50 people, there was one toilet and so,

very often, Rahul would cry in pain, controlling his urge to use the washroom. But this was just one of the many problems. When it rained, his hut would leak and water would enter from the alley. Even his little pets, the slum dogs, would squeeze into the tiny hut that housed 5 people in about 100 square feet. One who lives a normal life would be aghast thinking how this is even possible. A small corner of this hut would have a little nook to cook.

For Rahul, it was impossible to study because there were no proper lights and he didn't go to a proper school. Whatever little education he got, was barely enough for him to start working. He started working when he was less than 10 years old. He had to carry loads to earn a few Rupees that helped in his family's survival. Other than that, he had to take turns in cleaning the slum and the common toilets. Rahul suffered beyond words. He would often curse his destiny and look up at the sky and cry and ask why he suffered. But he didn't have a clue.

Whenever Rahul stepped out of the slum and saw people zooming in cars and motorbikes, he would wonder what their world was like. His clothes were so tattered that he often felt ashamed to go out of the slum. After all, if you have a bath once a week, it is not easy to look good. When Rahul saw somebody have a coke, he would wonder when he would get a chance. When the sun used to go down, he would follow his pet dogs into the huge garbage can and pick up leftover bottles and cans and foodstuff which he would share with his pets. Starvation was a daily routine and he would barely have enough to eat. Clean drinking water was a dream. And so, Rahul grew up day after day.

Something Divine made Rahul go to the slum temple and pray every morning. Then, before he slept, he would spend a lot of time talking to God. In his helpless state of affairs, he rarely missed a night without crying his heart out in the temple. After one such night, he returned to his hut and fell asleep.

That day, as Rahul laid in bed and had tears in his eyes, it seemed like God was answering his prayers. An Angel appeared as if by a Divine vision and spoke to Rahul. *'Rahul, do you remember that you were Bobby? You cheated your wife and children. You committed every possible sin to make you rich and famous, but ultimately all that brought you into this life in a slum.'* Rahul was stunned as he lay still. He could then see the flashback of his previous life, how he had lived as Bobby, till the last day, when his kidneys failed and he had died. He didn't know how long he was in a trance, but it seemed like years before he gained consciousness and returned to the Angel. His past life zoomed by, super-fast forward! It had all started when he was in college. He saw all that he did, how he had worked hard and succeeded. But then success and achievement had corrupted him. He regretted cheating Sandra and the kids and wished he had not started drinking which costed him his kidneys and ultimately, a painful death. After all those flashes, Rahul zoned out, only to return in the presence of the Angel.

Do we get a chance to get a vision of our previous life? We don't! But this kid was special. Somehow, he had a Divine connection with God. As Rahul, the one thing he did every day was go to the temple. Even when he was Bobby, there was not a day when he forgot to pray. Was it his faith in God that brought God's Angel to him and made him reflect on his past life? Just as the Angel had appeared, he disappeared leaving Rahul awestruck.

To Rahul, the episode with the Angel was a rude shock. It awakened him to his life as Bobby and how, his Karma made him appear as Rahul in this dreaded slum. Now he was helpless. What could he do? He couldn't do anything but suffer. He cried and spent more time in the temple, talking to God. In the temple, Rahul spent many nights reflecting on his previous life as Bobby. Why did he for God's sake discard his family and get lost in the material world? What made him get carried away by that French girl that started his downfall and created more bad Karma? His smoking, his drinking, everything appeared to him as he cried in regret. But what could he do? It was too late. He couldn't change his life, could he? Bobby had lived and died, and now he was Rahul in a slum.

By the grace of the Divine, Rahul recalled how the Angel could perform miracles. Maybe, he thought, the Angel would change his life, and free him from all his suffering. And so, one day, he called out to the Angel again,

*Angel, Angel, of the sky!
I was Bobby, then why did I die?
Why must Rahul live in the slum and cry?
I don't understand, tell me, 'Why?'*

The Angel appeared and made Rahul understand the secret of life. When we die, we leave one body and return in another. The moment one is gone, one is reborn. 'We don't choose our birth, do we?' asked the Angel, 'How were you first born as Bobby and now, as Rahul?' Rahul said, 'Bobby was lucky and it was my sheer bad luck!' 'It was not your luck,' replied the Angel, 'It was your Karma, bad deeds as Bobby. So, you were born in a slum. You will suffer and cry till you die.' 'Oh no!' cried Rahul, 'Of what use is

such a life? It is better that I end my life. I can't suffer anymore.' The Angel explained that suicide was not a solution. *'Rahul, are you happier or is the lame dog in the slum happier?'* *'Of course, I am, but my life has too much suffering.'* *'Remember Rahul that if you commit suicide, life can be even worse,'* said the Angel. Rahul had tears in his eyes when he recalled all his bad Karma, all that he did when he was Bobby and now, he was suffering.

As Rahul, he had been a good kid. He had done nothing wrong. But just because he had sinned when he was Bobby, he was suffering now as Rahul. Rahul wondered how this could be fair. By now, he had grown up in the slum and the suffering and the learning of life made him ready to face the world as a young adult. But how could he? What did he have? He had nothing. No education, no skills, no opportunities. Only tears!

The one thing that Rahul treasured now was the Angel. It appeared whenever he called out and was always ready to talk.

Angel, Angel, of the sky!
Help me be Reborn. Help me die!
Or transform my Life, give me a chance,
I want to be Happy! I want to dance!

The Angel appeared and told Rahul, *'Your life is in your hands. What you do is your Karma. They become seeds that will bear fruit. What can I do?'* Rahul cried and asked the Angel, *'Show me a way or give me another chance to live as Bobby. I promise I will do good Karma. I will not sin. But I cannot live in this slum and suffer!'* The Angel replied, *'That is not possible!'* Then said Rahul, *'I have no option but to end my life!'* *'No!'* said the Angel, *'You can work hard and change your life around.'* *'How can I?'* asked Rahul, *'I have*

passed my teenage years and have no educational qualifications. Must I just suffer, cry and die? Then it is better I die now!'

Rahul begged the Angel, 'Oh, heavenly Angel, please give me another chance. I promise I will never do bad Karma.' And so, the episode between the Angel and Rahul repeated practically every day.

The only thing Rahul did now was to spend hours in the temple, talking to God and praying. He fulfilled his responsibilities in the slum and did a little work to keep him going, but his focus had shifted on the regrets of living as Bobby and doing bad Karma. Now he was facing the result of those bad deeds and he was full of regrets, shame and guilt. He prayed to God and asked for forgiveness. 'Show me a way, Lord!' cried Rahul.

Each day in the slum was a day of torture, not just poverty. Every possible misery rained in the slum. Little did Rahul Realize that he was a special creation of God, that he was monitored by God's Angel, and this was a lesson for him to learn the meaning of life. Only in novels, in books of fiction could Rahul imagine that he could be transported back and given a chance to live again.

Amidst all the suffering, Rahul had complete faith. He trusted God and he knew God's Angel could help him. He was just contemplating ending his life, when he had his very last vision of the Angel dancing and singing to him.

*Rahul, you are a special boy.
God doesn't want you to cry.
God will reverse your life trauma,
This time around, do good Karma.*

4

THE SECOND INNINGS

It was 2020 once again and Bobby was fast asleep. He had had a vision of living as Rahul for two decades and how he had spent 40 years, living and dying as Bobby. Little did he Realize that the Angel had brought him back to college, to restart a new life as Bobby.

When Bobby woke up the next morning, it seemed he had a long dream. He had spent 40 years of his life struggling with his wife and his children and ultimately, his kidney failure. Then he had died, and he remembered how he was born as Rahul. It all played like a movie in front of his eyes. That entire episode of living as Rahul in the slum, zipped by in fast forward and Bobby was startled to wake up as Bobby once again. As he had learnt from his family and friends, he had met with an accident but was now on the road to recovery.

Bobby got up and washed his face and touched his body all over to be sure he was really Bobby. Then he cried out to the Angel

*Angel, Angel, of the sky!
Thanks for not making me cry.
This time around, I will fly high.
Please be with me, be nearby.*

People do not get a chance to live life again. Whatever change we have to make in life, we have only one life to live. But here

was Bobby, blessed by the Angel. He was able to reverse his life, re-live his life after living and earning as Bobby and dying and being born as Rahul in a slum. God's Angel wiped out 60 years of his existence, from 2020 to 2060, when he lived and died as Bobby and once again, from 2060 to 2080, the 20 years thereafter he lived as Rahul. Now, the Angel brought him back to 2020, back to when he was Bobby in college.

Bobby folded his hands and bowed down his head in gratitude. Nobody gets such a chance to reverse time and live life again. Bobby was blessed. He could see a life of suffering when he was Rahul at 20 and for the years ahead, how he would suffer and cry. But here was the Angel, who with his magic wand, reversed Bobby's life as Rahul, reversed his bad Karma of 40 years and brought him back to college when he was 20. This Divine magic is unheard of, but as they say, *'With God all things are possible!'* There is no logic to this. It was Divine magic. Bobby did not have words to express his gratitude. He only had tears. He cried and cried in joy that he was not Rahul, who had to wait in a queue to use the washroom, who had to suffer without a shower for days and who had nothing to eat. He was so grateful, that he was blessed. All the bad Karma he did after Bobby's success was forgiven. What more could he ask for?

Now, Bobby had to make a choice. Bobby remembered everything that had happened. How he had made money, how he had cheated his wife, how he had treated his children, and even duped his company. Bobby wanted to change all this bad Karma and so he started living an ethical life of morals and values.

For a moment, Bobby was perturbed. He had to start all over again, all those years of struggle to make it to the top. And so, he called out to the Angel and asked the Angel, *'Could I not fast forward my life to 2040 where I had finished making all my money and success?'* The Angel replied, *'If you do that, then you have no option but to suffer and die and be born in misery. Would you prefer that?'* Bobby was shaken, *'No! Never!'* he said, *'I will work hard and remake my life. Bless me my dear Angel and do come whenever I call you.'*

Bobby got to work. This time he chose the same profession of computer science, but other than that, he changed everything. He changed the kind of friends he chose, and he vowed not to drink. It was his habit of drinking that had made him attract bad company. Bobby worked hard and succeeded. In fact, he worked harder and developed his skills in several domains. He opened his own company and taught his team ethics and values, something he had learnt in his journey of 60 years that was reversed.

Whenever Bobby wanted to share his afterlife experience with his near and dear ones, he would remember the promise he had given the Angel. The Angel had warned Bobby that if he ever revealed to anybody that he was born as Rahul in the slum, then, that day, when he slept as Bobby, he would wake up as Rahul in the slum! Bobby was scared and zipped his lips when it came to revealing his life story. To the world, he was Bobby, just as he was in his first innings. It was as though his life from 2020 to 2060 was nothing but a dream. It never happened! It seemed like he had never got married and never had kids. The Angel's Divine reversal reversed everything. The whole world went back 60 years and Bobby could not

fathom how this could have ever happened. But for Bobby, it was real. His life of 40 years from college to his grave was in his memory and he hadn't forgotten anything. But the unique fact was this, that only he remembered what had happened from 2020 to 2060 and thereafter, how he lived as Rahul from 2060 to 2080. Now, back to 2020, the world seemed unaware of the 60 years that Bobby had exclusively spent in his life of bad Karma.

This time around, Bobby got married to a friend in college. Priyanka, his wife, loved him very much and he loved her too. They had 2 boys and Bobby decided that Priyanka should not work and she agreed. She would take care of the children as Bobby would work hard. Years passed by and Bobby would balance his work life and family. He paid attention to teaching his children, not just what they had to learn in school but also the ethics and values that he wanted them to imbibe so that they do not make the same mistakes that he did.

Bobby's focus in this renewed life was to do good Karma. Nothing else mattered to him. What mattered was not committing sin, but accumulating a good Karmic account that would make sure of a pleasant destiny on earth and a harmonious rebirth. Therefore, Bobby became very socially responsible. He would take Priyanka and the boys every Sunday to a home for the underprivileged. They would visit schools for the blind and shelters for the disabled. Bobby's boys never liked going to the homes of the mentally challenged. It was too much for the little boys to digest! But Bobby taught them to count their blessings and serve those who were so unfortunate.

In fact, Bobby taught Priyanka and the kids the biggest lesson he had learnt in life – *As you sow, so shall you reap*. Everything that happens in life is because of the Law of Karma. The fruit on the tree appears because of the seed we plant. So, our destiny depends on the deeds that we do. There is nothing like luck, he taught his kids. We pluck what we plant. He also told them the truth of how somebody can be born, deaf, dumb or blind because of bad Karma. He was very careful not to reveal his personal experience of being born as Rahul in the slum. He kept the promise he had made to the Angel, though he had quite forgotten the Angel as he was busy living his life and doing good Karma.

While Bobby had two adorable pets, two Shih tzu pups at home, he would take his boys out whenever possible to feed the street dogs. One day he asked his sons, *'Why do you think that our dogs are treated with royalty, have so much love, comfort and luxury, but the street dogs have barely enough to eat?'* By now, the boys knew the answer, *'Karma,'* they said.

Bobby's life continued and he was very cautious not to do bad Karma. One day, when he was having ice creams with Priyanka and the kids at a very busy kiosk, he paid Rs.200 for the ice creams that costed Rs.150. Instead of getting the change of Rs.50, he got Rs.350. Priyanka smiled and said, *'It's our good luck! The ice-cream vendor has given us more money than we paid!'* The poor ice cream vendor had thought that Bobby had paid Rs. 500 and returned the change accordingly. Bobby stopped and returned the money to the vendor explaining to him his error. The poor man was so grateful. But Priyanka was surprised, *'That's not our problem, isn't it Bobby?'* But Bobby replied, *'If we knowingly take away his money, it's our bad Karma.'*

Remember, Priyanka, that life is like a boomerang. What goes around comes around. We must not take a poor man's money. Karma will make us repay it many times multiplied. Never play with Karma, for if you build a Karmic debt, not only will you suffer in this life, but you will be born again to suffer.'

Bobby never cheated at his workplace. He never cheated paying taxes. He never cheated his customers, his vendors or manipulated his team. He had learnt how Karma works. Every deed that we plant is like a seed that will bear fruit. It's the Law of Cause and Effect. Every action becomes a cause and there is no way we can escape. Whenever Bobby was confronted with making a choice, which involved achieving success, but doing bad Karma, he would choose the opposite. He would let go of achievement and do good Karma, knowing that bad Karma has a heavy price to pay. This did not mean that Bobby was demotivated. He was only inspired to work harder and in fact, he earned more money in his second innings than in his first. Living an ethical life, he was able to build the same values in his team and attracted vendors and customers based on his good Karma. He Realized that it was not necessary to cheat to be successful and finally, it hardly mattered how many zeros were in his bank statement. In the end, when he died, everything would become a zero anyway! Is it that only Bobby knew this because he had experienced one episode of life and death? No! We all know it, but unfortunately, we don't Realize this Truth.

Happiness doesn't come from making money. In fact, it comes from spending it! But most people are doing otherwise. Bobby had Realized that it was better for him to give before he was gone because when we are reborn, what matters is not what we

accumulate in the bank, but what we spend for good causes, before our end.

Bobby continued to live and give. His entire life mantra was – *Be happy and make others happy*. He advocated charity, philanthropy and goodness to everyone he met. Bobby was respected by all those who knew him, for the good life he lived.

One day, suddenly Bobby remembered the Angel and called out to him.

*Angel, Angel, of the sky!
Where are you? Please come by.
I have lived a life of good Karma,
Hope I will not face trauma!*

The Angel appeared to Bobby and said, *'No doubt, you have done good Karma. This is much better than the sin that stopped you from winning a good life. Whoever does good Karma, will be rewarded a good life. But Bobby, have you found the purpose of life on earth? Why did you get this human birth?'* Bobby was confused because he had never pondered on this. All he had contemplated was good Karma rather than bad Karma. Now the Angel was telling him something new. What should he do?

Bobby tried to speak to several people on what is the purpose of life. He found most people living just to have fun before life was done. He found that most of the world would zoom from the womb to their tomb. Therefore, most people would suffer on earth and then suffer in another rebirth. Bobby knew all this without a doubt. He had experienced it. But now, he had done

good Karma. Four decades of his life had gone by without a sin. Even if he was walking and he found some ants on the path, he would try not to walk over them in order not to kill them.

When Bobby learnt that killing animals was a sign of cruelty, he gave up eating meat and ate plant-based meat alternatives. He taught his family that killing flies and cockroaches in the house was bad Karma. Rather, if cleanliness was maintained, there would be no pests to kill.

Bobby's life was a life of high morals and values. He dreaded the thought of being born in a slum, but he was confident he wouldn't.

As Bobby was living through his final breaths, he remembered the Angel and how God's celestial being had given him a chance to live again. He knew one thing for sure, that Bobby would die, but he would fly into the sky. The moment Bobby was gone, he would be reborn. Little did he know where his new journey would start.

As Bobby reached those final moments of life, he handed over whatever he had to the people who deserved it, living a life of peace and bliss. Then one day, he passed away.

5

BOBBY'S REBIRTH AS A MILLIONAIRE

When Bobby opened his eyes, he was a little baby in the house of Pamela and Smith, a millionaire couple in Hong Kong. It was his good Karma that he was not born in a slum like Rahul was. He was named Roger and grew up with all the comfort and luxury.

The moment Bobby was gone, the next moment he was reborn. The body dies, but ME, the Mind and Ego, carries Karma and returns to earth in a rebirth. That is why Bobby was first born as Rahul in poverty — it was because of his bad Karma. By the grace of the Angel, he was able to re-live his life and do good Karma. Now, he seemed to be blessed to be born in a millionaire's household. He grew up as Roger, but as a child, Roger had no recollection of him being Bobby or Rahul.

But when Roger was in his teens, in a most unusual manner, he had a flashback of how he was Bobby and then, Rahul. Now he was Roger! He also started observing the world around him and wondered, *'Is this why I did all the good Karma as Bobby? Was it just to be born in this plastic, material world?'*

Many kids who are born in wealthy families, do not really value the gift of their prosperity. Somehow, they take it for granted. If they experienced living in a slum, even for one day, they would be grateful for their life. But being oblivious to the misery and suffering in the world, most rich kids have no value for money and the precious things money buys. Some of

them, however, soon get bored of their wealthy life and instead, treasure the simpler things of life, or the little things they can't do because of living overprotected lives. Roger was one such kid who grew up in a posh house, driving expensive cars and traveling around the world in business class.

But what did Roger see? He saw so much stress and anxiety in his family. There were arguments and fights over wealth and property, and although they had more than they needed, greed overtook their need. Everybody was preoccupied with thoughts of what the next car would be, the next house they would invest in, the next private jet that they were going to buy. Instead of enjoying the things they had, they were more interested in how they could impress the world with their success and achievement.

Roger was fed up with all this. His teenage years were very different from those of his siblings and cousins. He wished for peace, rather than pleasure and would often spend time in solitude, reflecting on what life was all about. He was grateful for material things that he and his family had, but he knew that something was missing.

One day, Roger was driving past a slum when he suddenly stopped the car. It seemed as though he could remember his miserable life as Rahul. It wasn't crystal clear, but as if déjà vu, he could feel the struggles and experiences of living in the slum. Slowly, he started recollecting his life as Rahul, those 20 years he had spent in the slum. He remembered how miserable he had been and how he intended to commit suicide. Then, his reflections took him back to Bobby and he remembered the Angel.

*Angel, Angel, of the sky!
Where are you, please come by.
I have everything, then why am I sad?
What is the way for me to be glad?*

The Angel appeared. It was the first time that Roger was meeting the Angel in this garb of Roger. However, on meeting the Angel, he instantly recalled how he was Bobby and how he had done bad karma. Then, he had been born as Rahul. He remembered the blessings of how he returned back to being Bobby. He recalled living a life of good Karma. Now he Realized that he was born in a millionaire's house because of his good deeds. The Angel asked Roger, '*Aren't you far happier now? You did such good Karma in your second chance as Bobby, and you have earned this luxurious life.*'

'Yes, Angel', said Roger, 'But I am still unhappy. There is so much stress and anxiety around me. There is greed, jealousy and hate. While I am not in the slum where I suffered, every day I still suffer because there is no contentment and fulfillment in my family.'

The Angel asked Roger to recall, '*Remember, when you called out to me, as you were aging as Bobby. I had told you that you had done good Karma, and you will be born in fortunate circumstances, which you are now blessed with. However, I had clearly told you that the purpose of human birth on earth is to discover the purpose of why we are here. You did not do that Roger. Wish you had done that.*'

Roger recalled and remembered the Angel's words. He also remembered how he tried speaking to several people on what the purpose of life is. Unfortunately, nobody could guide him and so, he didn't do it.

*Angel, Angel, of the sky!
I tried to find out, 'Who am I?'
I searched for the purpose of human birth,
But nobody knew what it was on earth!*

The Angel smiled with Roger's submission and said, '*Did you ask me for the purpose? Did you make an effort to discover who am 'I' and why am I here? You were so busy doing good Karma that you did not bother to find out what life is all about.*' Having said this, the Angel left.

The Angel's words made a big impact on Roger. While he was happy that he was not suffering like the poor, he was sad that he had not grabbed the opportunity of Realizing the Truth from the Angel.

Roger could see what life seemed to be. He would live and die and be reborn and this would go on and on. He didn't want to be caught in this continuous cycle of dying and of being born again. By now, he understood this clearly. Why do people come to earth? Why did he get a human birth? It was all Karma, his actions. When he did bad Karma, he was born as Rahul in the slum. When the Angel gave him another chance, and he did good Karma, he was born as Roger, to his father who was a millionaire. Again, he would do Karma and die, and be reborn. This would go on and on. He didn't want this to happen.

Roger Realized that he may become a very rich man. He may make a lot of money. But he was aghast that he was repeating his life's story as Bobby. Only this time, he was much richer. He could already see himself doing lot of bad Karma in managing all his millions. He was intelligent enough to forecast that after

all his bad Karma, one day, he would die. The thought of suffering like Rahul in the slum paralyzed Roger. He couldn't move. He started to cry.

Angel, Angel, please come by.

Please don't make me suffer and cry!

I don't want bad Karma and then, die.

Bless me to find out, 'Who am I?'

Roger now was very sincere about living a life that had meaning and purpose. He wanted to be free from the cycle of Karma. He wanted to be free from all misery on earth and he did not want another rebirth. He knew what it all meant. He was rich and famous when he was Bobby. But when he died, he couldn't take a pin with him. He was born like a beggar in the slum as Rahul without a penny. He was tormented just thinking of repeating this cycle. And so, he cried out to the Angel again and again to help him transform his life.

Angel, Angel, in the sky!

I have everything that money can buy.

But I don't just want to cry and die!

Won't you help me? Please come by.

The Angel came back to Roger and explained to Roger, 'You did good Karma and you have been born as a millionaire. This was your choice.' 'No!' exclaimed Roger, 'You did not explain to me clearly the purpose of my life'. 'Yes,' the Angel replied, 'Because you did not ask. When you were growing richer as Bobby, after experiencing the slum as Rahul, I mentioned to you about finding the purpose of life, but you did not take me seriously.'

Roger cried, 'Dear Angel, please be kind to me, have pity on me. Of what use is all this money and wealth, if ultimately, I am going to suffer.'

Save me dear Angel. It is your fault for giving me birth in this wealthy house. You should have helped me to be free from the cycle of Karma.'

The Angel explained to Roger, *'It is not my fault. Everything is controlled by Karma. Just like the seed you plant decides the fruit on the tree, the deed you plant decides your destiny. Your destiny as a millionaire is because of your deeds. Because of your good Karma, they became seeds for a life that is free from suffering. Would you rather live as Rahul in a slum?'*

'Oh no!' said Roger, 'But I want to discover the purpose of life and be free from the cycle of Karma.' The Angel guided Roger, *'Sure you can! You can choose to live a life of meaning and purpose and be free from Karma.'* *'How can I do that?'* questioned Roger, *'I am in a wealthy family, and they will not allow me to take one step away from my business and my work. I am helpless, dear Angel. You know that. Help me please.'* *'What can I do?'* said the Angel.

Roger begged the Angel, *'Give me another chance. When I was suffering as Rahul in the slum, you blessed me to return as Bobby and to change my life from bad Karma to good Karma. Now, give me another chance. Let me go back to being Bobby and I will discover the purpose of life as you guide me.'*

The Angel said that this was not possible. *'To be able to live life again is not a part of God's plan. If you want to change your life, you change it now. You have a willpower, and you can change,'* said the Angel. Roger cried and begged, *'Please dear Angel, if you make me Bobby, I will be free enough to discover the purpose of life. Just one more chance and I promise I will not make a mistake this time.'*

The Angel refused to heed to Roger's wish and asked Roger to transform his life as Roger as it was not possible to become Bobby again. But Roger refused to accept this. He believed that God would forgive him, and the Angel could transform his life again. He prayed and wished, but nothing happened.

As Roger suffered each day and as he kept talking to the Angel on how he was a victim of his own actions, his own Karma, Roger wished that he had learnt a little more from the Angel so he could finally achieve his goal. The Angel was kind and gave a hint to Roger, *'If you truly yearn for God, you may get a chance to reverse your life again.'* And then, the Angel disappeared!

Roger knew of his previous births. He was special. He knew he was Bobby and then, how he suffered as Rahul. He knew how he came to be Roger, but now he begged God, *'Just one more chance, let me be Bobby and I will live my life the way you want me to.'*

Roger called out to the Angel several times, but the Angel did not appear. However, the voice of the Angel guided Roger with a message – *'Roger. Find out who you are and why you are here. Find out what is your purpose on earth.'*

Roger was so keen to follow the Angel's voice, but he was trapped in this life as a millionaire. He did not get a moment away from his duty of success and achievement. It was only when he used to go to bed every night that he used to call out to his Angel. When the Angel never appeared, he started calling out to God, *'Help me God. Free me God. Give me another chance.'*

Roger was of the belief that he could become Bobby again and then, he would transform his life. Little did he Realize that he needed to transform his life as Roger. His chance of reversing life was over. He was lucky that the Angel was still guiding him, though the Angel was not appearing anymore. But he could talk and listen to the Angel. The Angel told Roger, *'If you want to change your life, you can. Every human being is blessed with willpower and intellect which is exclusive to humans only. If you are sincere, Roger,'* said the Angel, *'you can transform your life.'* But Roger did not lose hope.

6

ROGER'S QUEST

Weeks passed by and they became months and years. But there was no sign of the Angel. Roger kept calling the Angel.

*Angel, Angel, of the sky!
I am calling you, please come by.
I just want another try,
So, I can find out, who am I.*

Roger cried to the Angel and to God, '*Just give me one more chance to be Bobby again, and I promise I will discover the purpose of life.*' This became Roger's daily prayer, but nothing happened. Roger didn't give up. He would call out to the Angel and to God every night.

One day, the Angel appeared and told Roger, '*You can change your life. But you cannot be reborn as Bobby. It was a miracle that God let you reverse your life from Rahul in the slum to Bobby. Never ever has God reversed 60 years in time. It was only for you that God reversed existence by 60 years. This cannot happen again! If you want to change your life, change your life as Roger and I will help you to go on a quest and discover the purpose of life.*'

Roger finally agreed and asked the Angel, '*What is the quest I must go on?*' The Angel said, '*You have to find out the answer to two important questions -*

1. *Who am I?*
2. *Why am I here?'*

Roger decided that he would go on a quest. He didn't want to struggle and live, and he trusted the Angel. If the Angel told him that he could transform his life as Roger, he believed it. He gave up the hope of being reborn as Bobby again. He called out to the Angel and told the Angel, *'It is so difficult to live as Roger, when I Realize I was once Bobby and then Rahul. It is tormenting to live with all those memories.'* The Angel explained to Roger, *'You are blessed Roger. Nobody on earth Realizes so easily that they have moved from one body to another. You are unique. You are specially blessed. You know for sure that you lived as Bobby. You also recall each day that you suffered as Rahul. Now, although you are a millionaire, you are unhappy. You must contemplate – who are you in reality. Are you Roger? Or are you, Bobby? Or are you, Rahul?'*

Roger went into deep contemplation. For the first time ever, he asked himself this question, *'Who am I in reality? I was Bobby and then Rahul and now I am Roger. One day, Roger will die, and people will destroy Roger's body. They will say that I passed away. But I know for sure that all my bad Karma will make me return to earth in a rebirth. I have experienced this before. First my bad Karma brought me as Rahul. Then, my good Karma brought me as Roger. But still I suffer. Who am I in realty?'*

Roger tried to answer this question, but he could not. One day, he asked the Angel. The Angel always answered Roger instantly. It was as if Roger had a hotline and on the tap of the button, he could talk to the Angel, even though the Angel never physically appeared to him anymore. *'How can I understand who am I, dear Angel? Help me,'* said Roger. The Angel explained, *'How does a computer work?'* Roger replied,

'When the software is loaded into the hardware, the computer starts to work.' The Angel asked Roger, *'Can the hardware work without the software?'* *'How is that possible?'* said Roger. *'Can the software work without the hardware?'* the Angel asked again. *'Impossible!'* replied Roger, *'You need both hardware and software for the computer to work.'* The Angel queried again, *'But what if there was no power supply, no battery, no UPS? Can a computer work?'* Roger questioned, *'How can a computer work without power?'*

The Angel explained, *'We human beings are also like the computer. The hardware is the body. The software is the mind, and the power supply is the Soul.'* Roger had never thought of this. For the first time ever, he was contemplating his life, just as if it was a computer. He understood that his body was the hardware and his mind, the software. But what was the Soul? So, he asked the Angel and the Angel explained, *'The Soul is the Spark Of Unique Life. It is the Soul that gives us power to live. The moment the Soul departs, there is death, for there is no breath!'*

Roger was lucky. He could reflect on how Bobby had died. When the Soul left Bobby, Bobby's life was over. But then, why was Bobby reborn as Rahul? He took the question to the Angel.

The Angel explained, *'When we die, only the body dies. The one who was alive carries his Karma, his good deeds or bad deeds and is reborn as per Karma. When you were Bobby, you did all that bad Karma, and therefore, you were born as Rahul in the slum. Then, God blessed you with a miracle and you were given a chance to change your Karma. Normally, nobody in this world can live their life again. But you were special. When you did good Karma as Bobby in your second innings, you were born as Roger in a millionaire's house.'*

Roger understood everything, but he still could not get a clear picture. What is life all about? We live. We do Karma. And we die. Then, we come back again! Again, we live and die, and we are reborn. And this goes on and on. Confused, he asked the Angel again. The Angel explained, *'This is the Leela, the drama called life. Because you think you are Roger, you will continue to do Karma, and one day, you will die. Then, you will return again and again. But if you Realize you are not Roger, Roger's body is just like a costume you are wearing to settle the Karma done by Bobby, who you were before, then you will Realize that you are the Soul, the power, not the hardware or the body, not the software or the mind.'*

The Angel knew for sure that Roger was sincere in his quest and so, the Angel took a step forward and explained to Roger. *'Have you ever seen the mind, Roger? Of course, you have thoughts, but where is the mind? How does it look like? What is its shape?'* Roger pondered hard. He thought of the brain, but he knew the brain was the hardware, the body. But the mind? He had never seen it. Bobby had a mind and Rahul had a mind. And now, Roger had a mind. But what is this mind? Roger could not find! Then he contemplated the analogy of the Angel. Can software exist without the hardware? Impossible! The software is something you load on the hardware for a computer to work. *'Do we need to load the mind in the body for the body to work?'* he asked the Angel.

The Angel explained, *'Intelligent thinking, Roger! But the human-computer works a little differently. In this computer, the software comes first. Then the hardware is created around it. Think about it. Your hardware as Roger, this body came afterwards. When you were Bobby and you died, the body was destroyed. You left Bobby and you were reborn, 9 months before the birth date that is on your birth certificate. Who was born? It was ME, the Mind and Ego of*

Bobby that was born as Roger. When Bobby did bad Karma, ME, the Mind and Ego was born as Rahul in the slum. When Bobby did good Karma, you were born as Roger. Isn't it simple? You are not Bobby. You are not Rahul. You are not Roger.' 'Then, who am I?' blurted out Roger.

Roger spent weeks and months asking the question every day. 'Who am I? Who am I? Who am I?' There was no answer! Then, he begged the Angel, 'My dear Angel. Please give me a clue! How can I find out who am I?'

The Angel obliged and said, 'If you want to know who I am, then find out who I am not.'

Roger had a new question to answer. 'Who am I not? Am I Roger or am I Bobby? Or am I Rahul?' Roger Realized that he was none of these. He was the one who lived as Bobby. Then he appeared as Rahul. And now, it looked like he was Roger. He Realized very simply, he was not this hardware, this body that was called Bobby, Rahul or Roger.

'Aha!' Roger said, 'Now I know I am ME, the Mind and Ego that appeared in Bobby, then Rahul and finally, now in Roger.' He took his answer to the Angel. The Angel said, 'Yes, you are absolutely right. You are not the body that is Roger or was Bobby. You are the subtle mind and ego, that was born as Roger because of your Karma. But think of it. One day, will Roger die?'

'Yes', Roger replied. 'Then what will happen? Then ME, my Mind and Ego will carry Karma and be born again.' 'Absolutely,' said the Angel, 'And this cycle will be repeated again and again. But you did not find out the answer to the question – Who am I?' 'I just did' said Roger, 'I am ME?' 'And what is ME?' asked the Angel, 'Where is

this ME?' 'It is the software of my existence,' replied Roger. 'Sure,' said the Angel, 'but have you ever seen the ME?'

It was not so easy for Roger to find out who he was not. Was he the ME, or no? He got confused and called out to the Angel. *'Oh Angel' he said, 'I am sure I am not this body, for it will die and return to ashes. Am I not ME, the Mind and Ego that carries Karma and is reborn?' 'We all think we are ME,' explained the Angel, 'And because we think so, we carry our Karma from one life to another. But in reality, there is no Mind and Ego, ME. It is an illusion.'*

Roger was flabbergasted. How could there be no Mind and Ego, ME? How could the body work? He understood that there was a power supply, probably the Soul. But could the body work with the Soul, without ME, the Mind and Ego? He tried hard to answer the question, *'I am not the body. I have a Soul. But am I not me?'* For many days he contemplated. *'If there was no ME, then who would be reborn?'* he took the question to the Angel.

The Angel explained, *'Not everybody in this world can Realize who am I. Less than 1% even try. You are one blessed person, Roger. You are on the verge of Realization, of Enlightenment. You just need a little push. You need to realize that there is no mind, no ego. It is just an illusion.'*

'But then,' said Roger, 'if there was no mind and ego, then who would carry Karma and be reborn? It was the ME of Bobby that was reborn as Rahul because of bad Karma. Then with Divine grace, Bobby did good Karma and when Bobby died, the ME was born as Roger. How can there be no ME?' he questioned the Angel.

The Angel explained, *'Out of ignorance, we think, 'I am I.' We think we are the mind. So, we become ME, and we create Karma. But*

when we realize there is no ME, then there is no Karma. Then there is no need to be born again. If you realize you are not Roger, Roger is the hardware and ME, doesn't exist, then who are you, Roger?' Roger thought a lot and asked, 'Am I the Soul?' 'Bingo!' said the Angel, 'You got it!'

While Roger had answered the question, 'Who am I?' he had not realized it properly. Despite his busy schedule and running his father's business, he used to spend hours trying to study books, contemplating, 'Who am I?' He was passionate about it and though he was trapped in a material world, his aspiration was for the spiritual world. His latest contemplation was – 'I am not the body. There is no mind and ego. I am the Soul.' He thought a lot. ME, the Mind and Ego, was the cause of his birth and his suffering. It was the mind that was creating fear, worry, stress and anxiety. It was the ego that was creating anger, hate, revenge and jealousy. But neither was he the mind nor the ego. Still, he suffered! 'Why?' he questioned the Angel.

The Angel explained to Roger, 'Every human being suffers, whether we do good Karma or bad Karma. Of course, if we do bad Karma, we have to pay for it – you have experienced being born as Rahul in the slum. But even when Bobby did good Karma, you were born as Roger. But still, you are suffering. Anybody who is born, suffers. This is because of our ignorance, because we think we are the Mind and Ego, ME. The mind and ego, makes us suffer. But in reality, there is no mind and ego. It appears due to our ignorance. It is like an illusion. Have you seen a rainbow, Roger? It appears. You can even take a picture of it. But you can't catch it. It is like a mirage. As long as we are ignorant, we will be the Mind and Ego, ME and we will do Karma and be reborn. When we Realize that there is no mind and ego, only then, will we Realize that we are the SOUL, the Spark Of Unique Life. Every human being has life, from the moment we are

conceived, 9 months before our arrival on earth, till the ultimate moment of death. Some people call this life force Spirit, Soul, or Atman. The names may differ, but it is a Spark Of Unique Life. Every living creature has a Soul. But we human beings don't realize that we are the Soul, not the body that is created from the 5 elements of nature and at death, will return to ashes. We are not the body. We are not the mind. Then who are we?'

Roger seemed to get that flash of inspiration. I am not the body that is called Roger. I am not the Mind and Ego, ME that drives Roger to act. I am that Spark Of Unique Life, the Soul, the life that is in Roger. While Roger got the answer to the question – 'Who am I?' he was still a little bit confused. He had not Realized the truth, 'Who am I?'

In Roger's day-to-day life, there was much anxiety and stress. The challenges of his wealth, his family and his social connections robbed his peace and tranquillity. Being committed to the quest, Roger would meditate for hours every morning and evening. His quest used to make him contemplate all the conversations he had with the Angel. This evening, he decided not to sleep. He wanted to realize the truth. Filling a flask full of coffee, and after taking an evening nap for 2 hours, Roger was fresh and ready to start his meditative contemplation.

'I was Bobby. I did bad Karma. Bobby died. I was born as Rahul, and I suffered. I was blessed to go back to being Bobby. And I did good Karma. I was then born as Roger. Who am I? I am not Bobby, Rahul or Roger. I am the one who was first Bobby, then Rahul and now Roger. But that one who I think I am, doesn't exist. If I continue to think I am that, the mind and ego, then I will be born again and again and I will suffer. If I realize I am not ME, the Mind and Ego, I am the Soul, then I will be free from Karma and after Roger, I will not be

reborn.' The clear picture seemed to crystallize. *'I am the Soul, not the body, not the ME.'*

Suddenly, there seemed to be a flash of light within Roger. He was no more worried about dying, for he was sure, he will not be born again. He was born because of Karma that belonged to the ME. But he realized that the ME was just an illusion. It didn't exist. He was ignorant and so he suffered. Now he had realized he was the Soul. Roger stayed in silence for a length of time he didn't measure. But he remained in that Consciousness, it seemed for ages! He woke up the next morning in total peace and bliss.

He suddenly felt that this whole drama of life was just an illusion. People are born and people die because they don't Realize, *'Who am I?'* We create Karma and the cycle goes on and on.

But the truth is, we don't have to be caught in this cycle. We can be free only if we realize we are not the body, nor the Mind and Ego, ME. The Realization is that we are not the body that will die. We are not the mind that we cannot find. We are not the ego that says, 'I'; it is a lie. We are the Divine Soul. Roger smiled. At least, he had succeeded in the first part of his quest. He had Realized, *'Who am I?'*

7

WE HAVE TWO OPTIONS

Roger's quest continued. It was not over. At times, he would forget, '*Who am I?*' He thought he was Roger. Whenever he would tell somebody, '*I am Roger,*' he would pause and reflect, '*Was I Roger?*' He knew that earlier, he was Bobby and then, for 20 years, he was Rahul. Then he realized and changed his statement. He would now say, '*My name is Roger.*' He was clear that one day, Roger would die and if he did not get the Realization, '*Who am I?*' he would return, either with good Karma or bad Karma. He shuddered at that thought because he did not want to return. He called out to the Angel,

Angel, Angel, in the sky!

I am afraid one day, I will die.

I don't want to suffer when I am reborn,

And Oh God, this will go on and on.

The Angel's voice was loud and clear. '*Roger, who will be reborn? If you still have not realized that you are not Roger, you are the Soul, the Spark Of Unique Life, then you are still ignorant! Then, you will not only live and cry and die, but you will return to earth in a rebirth.*' '*My sweet Angel,*' said Roger, '*that is why I called out to you. I don't want to be born again and again and suffer. I have had enough as Bobby and Rahul and Roger. Please save me. What is the way out?*' The Angel explained,

*As long as you don't understand this life drama,
You will be born and suffer trauma!
You have to transcend all Karma,
Realize the truth, go beyond Dharma.*

'Please explain this to me,' said Roger, 'I do not understand.' 'Dear Roger, if you are caught in the cycle of Dharma, if you believe in the earthly duties and responsibilities that you have, then, you have no option but to experience trauma. You will continue to do Karma and you will be reborn,' replied the Angel. 'Tell me Angel, what is the secret to be free from Karma?' asked Roger. The Angel said, 'The secret is to realize that you are not the one doing the Karma; you are not the body, mind and ego. Then, the Karma is not yours.'

Roger had some very important work to do that day and he got busy with his duty, his *Dharma*. There was stress and anxiety at work and so, there was trauma. He remembered the Angel's words much later that all this was a drama and he had to be free from all Karma. But how could he be free from Karma? *'Every human being has to do Karma,'* he thought. It may be good Karma or bad Karma, but there was no way to be free from Karma. He was sure of that, so he called out to the Angel.

*Angel, Angel, from Karma how to be free?
Every human being must act to be.
As long as we are alive, we must do a task.
How to be free from Karma, this I ask.*

The Angel's voice boomed loud and clear without any delay.

*As long as you are Roger, you think,
You will suffer, as you live and blink.
You will do Karma and you will sink,
The nectar of wisdom, you must drink!*

'What is this nectar of wisdom, dear Angel, which if I drink, I will be free from thinking and blinking and sinking in Karma?' asked Roger. The Angel said, 'You have forgotten it so soon.' 'I am sorry, dear Angel. But tell me one more time please and I shall never forget the same again,' said Roger.

'If you think you are Roger, then, you will do Karma, and you will die and you will be reborn. But if you realize you are not Roger, just like you are not Rahul and you are not Bobby, you will be free from Karma. You are the only one in the world who can so clearly see how you came as Bobby and Rahul and now Roger. But still, you are thinking that you are Roger. Do you not realize that you are not this body? One day, it will go. Do you not realize that you are not the Mind and Ego, ME? Have you forgotten the human computer? You are the Soul, the Spark Of Unique Life. Did we not discuss all this, Roger? Have you forgotten?' said the Angel. 'Yes, dear Angel I do remember. But what does all this mean?' The Angel replied,

*If you think you are the body, ego and mind,
You will be reborn again, you will find.
But if you Realize you are the Divine Soul,
You will be free from rebirth, that's your goal!*

Roger let these words repeat in his ears, several times like an echo, till he memorized them and understood the meaning again. *'So, Angel, what does it mean? Tell me clearly please. I am so lost as I am caught in thought,' said Roger. 'First,' said the Angel, 'beware the rascal mind.' 'What?' asked Roger.*

*Roger beware the rascal mind,
It's sure to make you blind!
In thoughts, as it makes you grind.
The truth will be left behind.*

Roger was shocked. In the business world, it is the mind that is king. It is in charge of everything. But here was the Angel telling him that his mind was the cause of his suffering. He trusted the Angel completely and tried to understand what the Angel was saying. 'Roger,' said the Angel, *'Don't just think with the mind. Discriminate with the intellect. Still the mind. Kill the mind! And be in Consciousness. Then, you will understand what I am saying.'*

In fact, it was true that hitherto, Roger's mind was wandering in so many areas, so many thoughts. But now, he was thoughtless. He believed he was in Consciousness. *'Tell me, dear Angel!' He continued,*

*What is the truth, I must know!
What is the truth about this show.
I don't just want to come and go,
How to be free, I want to know!*

The Angel replied clearly, *'Roger, you have two options. Either you will live and die and create Karma and return to earth in a rebirth or you will realize – I am not 'I'. I am not the body that will die. I am not the mind which I cannot find. I am not the ego that repeats the lie of 'I'. If you realize this, what you are not, then, you will realize you are the Soul. The Soul has no Karma. It is a Spark Of Unique Life. It is Divine energy. In the moment of death, you will be free from the cycle of rebirth and will not return to earth.'*

Roger was flabbergasted. *'Oh Angel, please explain this to me one more time.'*

*If you realize I am not 'I',
You will not be reborn after you die.
I am not the body, the ego or the mind,
This Realization you must find!*

Roger seemed to know this so clearly. Why then was he confused, he could not understand! He knew for sure that Roger will die. He knew that he was not this body, because he had changed so many bodies. He also understood so clearly that there was no mind. Nobody has seen the mind, it just appears to exist, but in reality, it is only thoughts. And then, he was also clear that if he was not the body and mind, then how could he be the ego? It was foolish of him to think I am 'I'. It was so crystal clear that he was that Spark Of Unique Life, Soul, as the Angel had told him. That Soul had given life to Roger, the moment Bobby was gone! In that moment, Roger was born. The body of Roger was created over 9 months in his mother's womb. He could see so clearly that when he was Bobby and Bobby died, he moved from being Bobby to being Roger, only because he had Karma. If there was no Karma, then he would not have been born. He was born as Rahul and suffered in the slum because of bad Karma. Now he was born as Roger in Hong Kong because of good Karma. But he could not understand why Bobby did not realize that he was the Soul. He tried to think hard and called out to the Angel again.

*Angel, will you please tell me why,
Bobby died, then he came back as 'I'?
Why Bobby from Karma could not be free?
Why did he return as the Mind and Ego, ME?*

The Angel said, 'My dear Roger, 99% of the people in this world are ignorant. They are unable to see the truth. 1% of people are visually blind. They cannot see. 99% are spiritually blind. They cannot Realize that we are not the Mind and Ego, ME. Don't you remember Roger, when you were Bobby and did bad Karma, you were born as Rahul in

the slum? Then, you had begged and cried, and the Lord had given you another chance in a rare miracle. Then, you did good Karma, and you were born as Roger. Don't you remember it? Now again, if you create Karma, good or bad, you will be born again. You will never be liberated from this cycle. You will never be united with the Lord. You need Realization, my dear Roger.'

Angel, I beg you, give me Realization.

Please, please I want Liberation.

With the Lord, I seek Unification.

Save me from Reincarnation!

'My dear Roger,' said the Angel, 'I cannot give you Realization. You have to realize. It is not like some knowledge you can get in a college. You need to overcome ignorance and realize the truth. Your goal is to realize you are the Soul. It is to realize that you are not the body, mind or ego. It is very simple, Roger.' 'But why?' questioned Roger, 'Why is it that 99% of the world does not realize this?' The Angel laughed and said, 'If everybody Realized this, then this world would come to an end. If everybody got Enlightened, then nobody would take rebirth and there would be nobody on earth. So, this drama will go on Roger,' said the Angel. Roger was in deep contemplation.

That evening, Roger locked himself in a room to contemplate the two options that the Angel had told him. There was no doubt that one day, he would die, just like Bobby died. This he understood clearly. If he realized he was not Roger, not the body, not the ego and mind, he was the Divine Soul, then, in the moment of death, he would be liberated from the cycle of Karma and rebirth and his Soul would be united with the Lord.

If he did not realize that he was a Soul, then he would live in ignorance as Roger, till Roger died. He would accumulate Karma and in the moment of death, his mind and ego, would return to earth in a rebirth, just like Bobby was born as Rahul in the slum because of bad Karma and the second time, as Roger, the millionaire's son.

Roger could see very clearly – option 1 and option 2. Option 1 was Realization. Option 2 was Reincarnation. Option 1 was rare. People did not Realize the Truth. Option 2 was common. The whole world was living with option 2 – birth, Karma, death and then, rebirth and this was going on and on! *'The world is ignorant, but I am not,'* thought Roger, *'I will realize the truth. I will not be reborn.'* He could see both options clearly and he chose the option of Realization, Liberation and Purification. Looking up at the Angel he asked, *'Angel, Angel, have I understood both the options right?'* *'Yes,'* said the Angel, *'But you need Realization. It comes from Purification and Illumination. You have already purified your thoughts. You need that light of illumination. It is called Enlightenment.'*

'When,' questioned Roger, *'will I get Enlightenment?'* The Angel replied, *'When you start living as the Soul and stop living as Roger.'* *'How can I stop living as Roger?'* he questioned. *'Ha ha ha,'* laughed the Angel, *'You have not realized that you are not Roger, just like you are not Bobby and Rahul. When you realize this, Roger, then, you will attain freedom from rebirth. If not, you will return to earth and again, you will call out to me. Look at me, I am liberated. I have been united with the Lord. You can too, if you choose the first option – Realization. If you don't, the second option is by default. There will be Reincarnation, whether you like it or not. The only choice is that you can either do good Karma or bad Karma and your Reincarnation will be according to your Karma. But if there is the*

Realization that you are the Soul, then there is no Karma, then there is no Reincarnation.'

In that moment, as the Angel was speaking to him, a bright light was glowing and Roger could feel that he was Enlightened with the Truth. Up to now, he *knew, he had understood* that he was not Roger. But today, he had *Realized* it. He had Realized in simple terms that he could live and die, and be gone, and be reborn, or he could live as the Soul and never die again. The body of Roger is sure to die, but he was not that body. He was not Roger. He was, 'The Soul in Roger' – SIR. He was a spark of SIP, the Supreme Immortal Power.

The Angel had explained to him once how each Soul is unique. It is a Spark Of Unique Life. It comes from SIP, the Supreme Immortal Power and goes back to SIP, just like a wave comes from the ocean and goes back to the ocean. Unfortunately, the world thinks of God as somebody who has a name and form. But God is SIP. God is a Supreme Immortal Power, and we are a speck of SIP, a Soul. Roger knew this, but today, he had the Realization. He suddenly felt that his wings that had been, for so long, tied by strings were now open, and he could fly in the sky as he realized, I am not 'I'. I am not Roger, I am SIR - Soul in Roger.

Roger not only knew of the 2 options. He had Realized the Truth and he could feel that he was free from the cycle of Reincarnation as today's Illumination led him to Realization.

8

THE REALIZATIONS

As Roger woke up the next morning, he decided to buy a notebook and write down all his Realizations. He looked for a book that was thick enough and that had 5 parts. He ultimately found a book in which he started writing. The first part, he called – My Life as Bobby. He titled the second part – Rahul's Life. He then used the next part to talk about his life as Roger. On the fourth part, he wrote – Realizations of Life. And left the last part blank.

Roger then decided to go away for 2 days on a retreat. When the office told him there was a lot of work to do, he told them, '*I have some work which is more important.*' They wondered what that was. With a smile, Roger left just by himself. He switched off his phone and drove up the mountains where there was a small resort not many people used to visit. He booked a room for 2 days, for he knew that he had a lot to contemplate. He wanted to introspect on the lives that he personally had experienced and he wanted to chart out his life, as it should unfold. He was clear that if he missed two days of business meetings, the money he would lose hardly mattered. But if he lost 2 days of reflection and introspection, he would lose life itself.

Suddenly, Roger found life to be so much more precious than the millions that surrounded him. While he was a seeker of truth, all the years that went by as Roger, were so lost in the

glitz and glamour of the material world. Suddenly, he had that Realization with the Angel that all this was just a show. He was just an actor. And one day, he would go! The most important thing to know is that nothing is ours. Nobody is ours. Then, why waste our life chasing trinkets and the trivialities of the material world?

Roger started driving. It took him 4 hours to reach the resort on the mountain top. Luckily it was a weekday, and there was hardly anybody around. He got into his cozy room, which had a beautiful table and chair, overlooking the valley. He also had a sit-out where he could rock on a chair, enjoying the breeze and the trees. Making himself a cup of coffee, Roger sat in silence doing nothing. His challenge was to do nothing in the next 2 days, so that everything that transpired in life would emerge.

After his coffee, Roger went to work. He wasn't hungry as he had eaten before leaving. He started contemplating the first part of the book. He wrote – Realizations as Bobby. Roger kept writing bullet points that would make him understand the flow of his life when he was Bobby. What did he write?

Bobby was blessed. He had 2 lives. Nobody lives twice. Why did Bobby get to live his life again? Bobby was born in 2000. In 2020, he went to college. He went on to make money and amassed a fortune, but he did bad Karma. He cheated everybody, his wife, his kids, his colleagues. One day, he died. Bobby was then reborn in a slum.

When Bobby realized that his bad Karma had made him suffer in a slum, he called out to the Angel and begged to be given

another chance. In a rare miracle, God, through the Angel let Bobby return to 2020 in college. When Bobby had woken up one day, he had realized that he had been in a serious accident but was recovering and healing. Then, Bobby lived a life of good Karma and ultimately, was born as Roger, a millionaire in Hong Kong.

What did Bobby achieve in his life, thought Roger. Roger stopped for some time and went out of the room to enjoy the stillness of nature. After a while, when he came back, he flipped to the second part and started introspecting on the life of Rahul. He had tears in his eyes, just thinking about Rahul, how much Rahul had suffered. The slum was so pathetic, he didn't have enough to eat and drink. He didn't even have a decent washroom. Just thinking about Rahul created a churn in Roger's stomach. How could one ever be born in such circumstances? There was so much pain and suffering. Wasn't God cruel? The thought surfaced, but immediately, his Consciousness scratched that line. He had Realized that Rahul was suffering due to Bobby's bad Karma. Rahul was none other than Bobby, just in a new body. Rahul was not suffering because God was cruel. Rahul's suffering was because of Karma.

Roger went on writing about Rahul's suffering, till that whole part of the book seemed to be over. On the last page he wrote - Nobody should do bad Karma to suffer like this. People should realize that every bad deed will become a seed that will bear fruit. We can't escape Karma. Part 2 of the notebook was over.

Roger was happy that he did not have to write more about Rahul. But as he started writing about himself, in the life of a

millionaire, he thought that while Roger did not suffer like Rahul in the slum, Roger had a different kind of stress and anxiety that kept him unhappy. The memories of Roger were fresh, and he started writing vigorously on all that his life was about. The whole world thinks that all that there is in life is success and achievement, name, fame, money and pleasure. But Roger realized, surrounded by so many rich people, that money was not everything. Of course, money was important, and it was better to be born as Roger, a millionaire, than Rahul, in poverty. But was Roger much happier than Rahul? Roger was not so unhappy and miserable, but while he had a lot of pleasure, there was no real happiness.

As Roger finished summarizing his life as Roger, he looked at the 3 lives that he had lived. His life as Bobby, his second life as Bobby, his life as Rahul and his life as Roger. He smiled that he actually had 4 lives, which he remembered. He paused for a moment and wondered what he was before Bobby. He shuddered at the thought of being somebody after Roger. As he kept looking out of the window, he realized that the sun had set, and it was time for him to go for dinner. It was a long day and he thought that he will wake up early and then reflect on these 4 life stories.

The next morning at dawn, Roger woke up very early to resume his retreat. He opened part 4 of the book, Realizations and started contemplating. This was the most important day in Roger's life. He felt that there was nothing more important that he had ever done, than what he was going to do now. And so, he started writing down the various Realizations he had over the 4 episodes of life that he had experienced.

Life is Karma. Everything that happens to everybody in life is Karma. Roger's millions were Karma. Rahul's poverty was Karma, and Bobby's good and bad life, was also Karma. We come to earth and take birth because of Karma, not because of God and not because of our parents. God does not interfere, and our parents have a very small role to play. Each one of us has our own Karma. It is not connected to the Karma of others. Roger had realized this over the 4 lives he had lived. While we are connected to people, our Karma is independent.

We must Transcend Karma. Life is not just about doing good Karma and not doing bad Karma or committing sins. Even if we do good Karma, like Bobby did, we will be reborn. Everybody born, suffers and therefore, while we must definitely choose good Karma over bad Karma, our ultimate goal is to be free from all Karma and be free from the cycle of death and rebirth.

Ignorance stops us. We human beings are ignorant. We remain fools because of what we were taught in our schools. We just believe the lie that God lives in the sky. We are taught that success is happiness and so, we follow the herd. We don't fly like a bird to discover the truth that happiness is success. We don't know who we are in reality and why we are here. Therefore, we just live, we cry, and we die! And finally, we are reborn. This goes on and on.

All these Realizations were not coming from some books that Roger had read. These were his personal experiences over the lives he had lived.

We must discover our purpose. As long as we just live chasing pleasures, success and achievement, we will be lost in this

world. Before we Realize it, we will die and then, we will be reborn. The cycle will go on and on. Unless we discover the purpose of life, we will experience pleasure and pain, sun and rain, loss and gain, as the merry-go-round of life goes round and round, again and again. Roger paused to realize how his life had zipped by from womb to tomb. It was just a zoom! It was only when he was Roger that he started thinking about the purpose of life. Although Bobby had a second innings, he just moved from bad Karma to good Karma. Rahul was so stuck in the slum, that he never had a chance of thinking about the purpose of life.

Roger reflected as he sipped his morning tea. There are so many people in this world who have nothing to eat. They struggle to survive. How can they discover the purpose of life? He then paused and questioned why this world was so unfair. Soon, it dawned upon him that people suffer because of their own Karma. Our Lord, the Creator is not cruel. We suffer because of our ignorance. Anybody can overcome ignorance and Realize the Truth.

As Roger continued to write down the Realizations, it dawned upon him that this journey of discovering life's purpose was not easy. First of all, we only have one life to live. And in that one life, if we slip into a materialistic world, we are going to be caught in an eternal cycle of suffering. Therefore, we must be very cautious not to be ignorant and create bad Karma as slaves of our desires and greed. To Roger, the picture was clear. All the Realizations were there in front of him. He had Realized the Truth. But what about the rest of the world? They have no remembrance of experiences from their previous life. They don't carry any memories of their past Karmic account.

Somehow, Roger was blessed that he remembered the life he had lived as Bobby and Rahul.

Life must not escape us. The biggest challenge according to Roger is that life escapes us. Before we realize, we are gone and we are reborn, and this goes on and on! It is a big challenge to be still. For this, our mind we must kill. As long as we are caught in thought, we will never Realize the Truth of *'Who am I and why am I here?'* Anybody living life, must not let life escape. While our first challenge is to do good Karma and not bad Karma, our ultimate goal is to Realize we are the Divine Soul and to be free from all Karma.

Roger got very engrossed in all his Realizations. For a moment, he stopped and moved to the last part of the book, which he felt now was the most important. How should I live my life? – he wrote in the last part. Roger had Realized the Truth. He was not Roger. He was the Divine Soul. He appeared as Roger because of Karma and now that he had realized that life was nothing more than drama, he would be free from all trauma. If he wanted to be free from all misery and pain, he had to live as the Divine Soul. And so, Roger started writing bullet points.

1. I am not Roger. My name is Roger.
2. One day, Roger will die, but I will not die.
3. I am not this body that is constantly changing.
4. One day, this body will return to ashes.
5. My mind is my biggest enemy.
6. My mind is nothing but a bundle of thoughts.
7. The mind inflates ego to become ME, the Mind and Ego.

8. In reality, I am the Soul.
9. The Soul is a Spark Of Unique Life.
10. The Soul is birthless and deathless.
11. Every 'body' has to die.
12. One day, Roger will die.
13. If I have good Karma, I will be reborn in happy circumstances.
14. If I have bad Karma, I will return to suffer.
15. I have to be free from all Karma.
16. How can I be free from Karma?
17. I have to realize that the Karma is not mine.
18. I am the Soul and the Soul has no Karma.
19. The Mind and Ego, ME is an illusion.
20. Ignorance causes ME, the Mind and Ego to appear.
21. My goal is to live as the Soul, not as ME.
22. At death, one of two things will happen. If I live as ME, I will be reborn. If I live as the Soul, I will be liberated.
23. I don't want Reincarnation. I want Liberation.
24. My challenge is not to live as the body, mind and ego.
25. Why should I live as the body and mind, which I am not?
26. I suffer because of ignorance and desire.
27. I realize today that I am not 'I'.
28. I realize that I will never die.
29. When the Body dies, I will be free.
30. Roger will die, but I will not be reborn.

31. When Roger dies, I will be Liberated.
32. At death, I will be United with God.
33. God is not God. God is SIP.
34. SIP is the Supreme Immortal Power.
35. My Soul will become one with SIP.
36. I have just one goal, to live as the Soul.

As Roger read through the bullet points, he had written, he felt so light and relieved. He did not realize that he had been called 3 times for breakfast and he had not even had a shower. Quickly getting ready, he decided to reflect on his Realizations after his breakfast.

Roger had to return in the evening and he decided to skip lunch. He spent an hour in silence and then returned to his desk, where his precious notebook lay. He opened a new page and started writing again, 'MY FUTURE LIFE' and he let the pen flow. It was as if he was not writing.

1. I am nothing.
2. I am just an instrument.
3. I am a speck of Divine energy.
4. I am a manifestation of God.
5. I have suffered for many lives before.
6. I don't want to die and be reborn again.
7. I want to become one with the Divine.
8. This world is a *Leela*; it's a drama.
9. This world is *Maya*, a Cosmic Illusion

10. We human beings appear different, but we are one.
11. We are not the different bodies that we wear.
12. We are all Divine Souls.
13. The Soul is a Spark Of Unique Life.
14. The Soul gives us breath till our death.
15. Ultimately, all Souls become one.
16. Therefore, ultimately, we are all one.
17. Everything in this world is made up of energy.
18. Everything is SIP, the Supreme Immortal Power.
19. I want to be liberated and be one with SIP.
20. I will not be a slave of my body and senses.
21. I will not let my mind make me blind.
22. I am not this ego that says 'I'.
23. I am not 'I'.
24. I will never die.
25. When this body dies, I want to be free.
26. I will not return as the Mind and Ego, ME.
27. I will merge with the Divine Energy.

Roger paused again. His Realizations had taken shape. He was Enlightened with the Truth, and he resolved he would never return like Bobby did, as Rahul or Roger. He would be Liberated and United with SIP. Having made this resolve, he packed everything into his bag and only carried his notebook, his Life Book, in his hands. All his Realizations were in this book and for the first time, he found this book to be more valuable, more precious than all the millions he had, all the properties, all the gold and diamonds. All this, his wealth, his

assets and jewels, were ephemeral, temporary. They did not belong to him. One day, Roger would die, and he would have to leave behind the body of Roger like Bobby did. But he was peaceful and blissful, for he had realized the truth. For the first time ever, he was fearless. Not only did fear disappear, but there was also no stress and anxiety. He was filled with peace and tranquillity.

Roger tried to remember many things that he would write in the book after he reached home. He was now driving, but tried to remember the points that he had to write in the book that night.

1. I shall accept everything without protest.
2. I shall surrender the future to SIP.
3. I shall live in Consciousness.
4. I shall not have desires and passions.
5. I will live my Realizations.
6. I am not 'I'. I am SIP.
7. I will live as an instrument of SIP.
8. I will see SIP in all, serve people and love them as SIP.
9. I will be disconnected from the world and connected to SIP.
10. I shall spend time in silence, in retreat more often.

As Roger reached home, he didn't get down from the car. He first captured these 10 points in the notebook, lest the rascal mind forgets it and smiling with peace and bliss and joy, he walked into the house, a completely new man, transformed and renewed.

MY LIFE'S STORY – A WORD FROM THE AUTHOR

While I was not fortunate like Bobby to live 2 lives, nor did I have an Angel as my guiding light, my life too went through several transformations before ultimately, there was a metamorphosis. I had been a businessman for 25 years, from the time I was 16 years till I was 40 years old, before I took an exit and lived a life of fulfillment for 8 years. Thereafter, for the last 10 years, I have lived as the happiest man in the world and I have tried to help people discover the way to Eternal Happiness through Enlightenment.

The first 15 years of life were like any child's life. There was nothing significant. It was in my teens that I started an unconventional advertising agency. I worked very hard and at that time, I was just out of school and moving to pre-university years. I was just 18 years old when I earned enough money to pay the deposit for my first car. Wow! What a feeling! Then, it was time to join my father, whose family business had split and been divided amongst the siblings. I brought modern retailing to India and changed the way retailing was done, much before organized modern retail hit the country. I made millions and my business grew multi-fold. Finally, after 25 years of success after success, I had this flash – What is the Purpose of life?

Through my 4 decades, right from the time I was a teenager, I used to serve people on the street. When I saw people

suffering, destitute, abandoned, hungry, on the street of Bangalore, I would pick them up from the street and help them get back on their feet. I continued to do this even when I was practically working all day. But this gave me far more fulfilment than all my achievements. Contentment creates a lot of peace, much greater than pleasure that one gets from success and money. I set up charitable homes that today care for over 500 destitute and abandoned people, of all religions, ages, castes.

I also found a lot of fulfillment in my faith, my belief in God. I set up a huge temple which became not just a religious, but a tourist destination.

So, by the time I was 40, I had done all of this. Then came the golden opportunity, where I could shut down my business, become debt free and enjoy my life.

It was my passion to see the world. I started travelling and wanted to visit 200 countries. I went from Switzerland to Finland, from New Zealand to Iceland. Ultimately, I even went to the 7th continent that only a few travel to, Antarctica, where I played with the penguins. My life was exciting. I had visited 120 countries by then. But one day in 2012, my Spiritual Mentor, my Guru, Dada Vaswani, who left the earthly world in 2018, asked me the question - Will you go from country to country only to ultimately die or will you stop and Realize the Truth, 'Who am I?' I had spent 25 years with my Master, and he had guided me to live a good life. He taught me the meaning of good Karma. But in 2012, after about 2 decades of being with him, the last 5 years I spent with him, were what truly transformed my life. He led me from that second peak of

Fulfillment that I was on, to the third and final peak, Enlightenment.

For the first 25 years of my life, I was just going from one success to another. Whatever I touched, seemed to turn to gold. But what did I achieve? Success, money and achievement! The price I was paying to achieve success was huge. I was accumulating so much bad Karma, cheating one and all in my life journey. But I was blind because of my mind. I went on and on, not realizing that my cup of life was getting empty, as my cup of wealth was getting full. Ultimately, I would have lot of money, but no life left. I realized what a fool I had been. *Happiness doesn't come from earning money. It comes from spending it. But most people are doing otherwise.*

The story of money is very funny, because in the end, we can't take with us even a penny! Still, we spend our entire life earning and earning, and ultimately, all we do, is leave everything behind. What we earn, others will burn! But we don't learn this simple truth! We just live and we die, but we don't realize the answer to the question, 'Who am I?' We arrive and one day, we are gone. We will then be reborn, and this will go on and on and on. I could see this right in front of my eyes as my life was speeding through like a rollercoaster from when I was 16, till I was 40.

Then, one day, it happened. I shut down my business and shocked the world. Why would a successful and rich businessman suddenly shut shop? I was fortunate to Realize that success is not happiness, happiness is success. We are spending our entire life trying to be successful, when in reality, we are creating stress and anxiety and before we realize, our life is over! I was fortunate to Realize this, just as I was fortunate to have a Spiritual Master to guide me.

Most people live life in a standard format or pattern. After we are born, we learn, then we earn, and ultimately, we are buried or we burn, only to return! This cycle goes on and on. How many of us Realize that the purpose of life is to be free from this cycle of suffering? I am grateful that I was one who did.

To summarize, my life was 25 years of pleasure, followed by 8 years of peace. Thereafter, the next 10 years were about living with a purpose. My first 25 years were spent scaling the peaks of achievement. The next 8 years were living blissfully on the plateau of contentment and fulfillment. Thereafter, I went on a quest for the Ultimate Peak of Enlightenment.

I started my quest on the auspicious day of Buddha Purnima in 2012, when in a public gathering, my Master locked his gaze with mine, and asked, *'Have you started your search, your quest, your Talaash?'* I asked him later what that meant, and he explained that the Purpose of our life is to discover the 'Purpose' of life. For one year, I tried doing something about it, but it was exactly on the Buddha Purnima of 2013, when my Master once again, in a public gathering, locked his eyes with mine and asked, *'How much have you progressed in your Talaash, your quest, your search?'* That day changed my life. I decided to stop wandering from country to country because when I showed my Master a picture of me playing with penguins in Antarctica, he laughed and he said, *'You are blessed, no doubt. You have so much faith in God that you had the rare privilege of building one of the world's best Shiva temples. The Divine grace is upon you, which enables you to take care of so many people in your destitute homes. You achieved so much success, but when there was a Divine call, you had the courage to shut down your business. You have everything, but still your humility makes you learn every day.'*

Now it's time to go on the final journey of life and to discover the purpose of your existence.'

My Master was my greatest treasure of life. He was the most important person in my existence. He held my hand and took me, step by step towards the ultimate destination. Words cannot describe my gratitude to my Master. If it was not for my Master, my Guru, I would not have shut my business. I would have continued to live and suffer, cry and die, making money, which I would ultimately leave behind. He led me on a quest to discover the most precious treasure of life. He led from me temporary and ephemeral pleasure to tranquillity and peace and ultimately, to the purpose of life. Without him, nothing would have been possible.

As my Master guided me to start my quest, I decided to leave everything I was doing, to a dedicated team and went on a retreat, carrying with me dozens of books, of all the religions and theologies and philosophies of life. My journey led me to several Realizations. Many of these Realizations appear in this book through the story of Bobby, Rahul and Roger. The 3 characters in the book, are the 3 stages of my life that I encountered. At first, I lived like Bobby, doing lot of bad Karma. I didn't die like Bobby, nor was I reborn in a slum like Rahul. But in this very life, I experienced my good Karma and bad Karma before I went on a quest for the Realization of the truth. The character of Roger is what I experienced after going on my *Talaash*, my quest.

My life story is a true story. It is not a metafiction, where Bobby dies, and the Angel gives him life again. But the story of Bobby, Rahul and Roger is nothing but the truth, that has been

experienced by me in my life. When I started my quest, I had 9 questions that I wanted answers to:

1. What is the purpose of Life?
2. What is the truth of birth, where do we come from?
3. Death is a reality, but where does the deceased go when we depart?
4. Are heaven and hell a reality?
5. Is there life after death?
6. Does the Law of Karma really work?
7. Is there something like a Soul?
8. Who is God, where is God and what is God?
9. What is Enlightenment and Liberation?

I started finding answers to these questions, just as people would be fixing a jigsaw puzzle. One by one, the pieces fell into place. But it was on the 31st of August, 2014 that I got my Spiritual 'Aha'. It was an awakening. All my Realizations led me to be Enlightened with the Truth, which was very simple. I am not the body that will ultimately die. I am not the mind that we cannot find. I am not the ego that says, 'I', it's a lie! I am the Divine Soul, the Spark Of Unique Life. I come from SIP, the Supreme Immortal Power, and I will go back to SIP. I do not accumulate any Karma because I am not 'I'. I am nothing! SIP is everything. I am the Divine instrument of SIP. I live in total acceptance and surrender. All these Realizations and more, culminated in my several transformations leading to a metamorphosis. From being Ravi, I became AiR - *Atman* in Ravi.

Since 2014, I have made it a mission to help people discover the way to Eternal Happiness through Enlightenment. I have everything. I seek nothing. Having realized the purpose of my life, I have made it my purpose to help others discover their purpose.

Today, I am living in this body, in the 58th year. The body is 57 years old, but I Realize that I am not 'I'. I am not this body, it will die. I am the immortal SOUL, that Spark Of Unique Life. When this body dies, if the grace of SIP, the Supreme Immortal Power is upon me, then I will not have to return to earth in a rebirth. I will become one with the Divine. But this will only happen if I continue to live with an Enlightened Ego. If I became a slave to my body and its senses, if I let my mind make me blind, then Liberation, I will leave behind! I seek and desire just one thing – to be United with SIP. There is nothing else on my lip! I don't want to slip. I am on this trip to SIP, and I will not get off the ship till it reaches the destination. After having Realized the Truth, I now live as a Liberated Soul. If one does not slip, they will be United with the Divine. But if the path we skip, then we will return to earth in a rebirth, and this will go on and on, as we are reborn based on our Karma. I Realized I have no Karma because I have Realized I am nothing! This body is made up of 5 elements empowered by the Soul. The Soul is nothing, but SIP energy and the 5 elements are ultimately nothing but the Power of SIP.

Even scientists have covered this in their latest experiment under the branch of Quantum Physics and Quantum Mechanics and recorded it as the Wave Particle Duality. What the scientists have discovered is that every particle of matter is in essence, nothing but energy. Therefore, ultimately, this

whole universe, which is nothing but particles of matter, is nothing but energy. This is what science has been saying for decades, for centuries, that the world is filled with dark energy and dark matter and the scientific world barely knows 5% of what the universe is all about. Spirituality has been saying this for thousands of years, that the world is a manifestation of the Divine. Everything that appears in this world is nothing more than a Divine projection and so, everything is a manifestation of SIP, the Supreme Immortal Power. While science is at loggerheads with religion, as religion is full of mythology and fairy tales and thus, science and religion have no synergy, there is great synergy between science and Spirituality as both agree that this entire universe and everything in it is nothing but energy.

There are many great Saints who have said similar things. *Vivekananda* and *Ramakrishna Paramahansa*, *Ramana Maharshi* and *Adi Shankaracharya* are a few to name. There are many more. They all believe in this Truth that has filled this book. For that matter, even some Western scriptures agree with the principle, '*As you sow, so shall you reap.*' The scriptures say that the Kingdom of God is within, that God lives in the temple of our heart. Unfortunately, while we may read all this and accumulate knowledge, Realization and Enlightenment don't happen in a college. This is an experience that is Divine. This is an individual and personal inner voyage. Unless one goes on a quest to discover, '*Who am I and why am I here?*' one will never be Enlightened with the Truth.

Having been blessed to live thus far and evolving from achievement to Enlightenment, it is my mission to help people

discover what true happiness is. Happiness is not just pleasure or even peace. It is discovering our true life-purpose. As I experience that state of Truth Consciousness, known as *SatChitAnanda*, I try to help people overcome all suffering and sorrow and to live in the present moment, not shuttle from yesterday to tomorrow. I try to help people overcome fear, worry, stress, anxiety and depression, anger, hate, jealousy, regret, shame and guilt. I show people the way to live with faith, hope, trust and enthusiasm, courage, confidence, compassion, forgiveness and optimism. Ultimately, it's all a choice. Either we can choose all the joy, peace and love that life has to offer or we can lose this treasure called life.

The life of Bobby, Rahul and Roger should inspire us, though it is only a work of metafiction meant to switch on the light within. But my life is not a piece of fiction. It is a real story. May it inspire you to go on a quest and to discover answers to life's two most important questions, '*Who am I and why am I here?*'

*Most of us Live our Life in Haste.
Many of us, our Life we Waste.
Some of us, the Truth we Taste,
With Peace and Bliss, we are Graced.*

EPILOGUE — YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE TOO

The gift of life is unique. We don't know where it came from. But many of us ask the question, '*Why live?*' This question is not relevant. We don't have a choice. Our life is a result of past actions. It is an effect of a previous cause. We can ask the question, '*How can we live?*' but not '*Why live?*'

This world is such a beautiful place but isn't it sad that many of us live miserable lives? We can choose to be glad, but we remain sad! We can re-choose to rejoice, but we fail to choose, and we lose this beautiful gift called life. Not only do we cry as we live till we die, but when something goes wrong, we just look up at the sky and ask, '*Why?*' We don't find out, '*Who am I?*' and we don't find out, '*Why are we here?*' Thus, this treasure called life is ruined, seeking pleasure because we believe that pleasure is happiness.

Our life belongs to us. We can live our life the way we want to. We can't control what happens to us. But we can control our reaction to what happens. What is happening in our life is our past Karma. It is based on our past actions which are done and this, we cannot change. But our present actions are a choice that we can make. The human being is the only species who is gifted with the willpower and an intellect that can discriminate and choose. A dog or a frog, a cat or a rat, cannot choose how they will live life. Just like a butterfly, a bee or a tree, they must just exist till they die. But man can choose. He is not bound to

the ground. He has wings with which he can fly in the sky. But if he ties his wings with strings, things like superstitions, dogmas, rituals and the fairy tales of mythology, then man will crawl through life without being Enlightened and Liberated.

What is the purpose of life? The purpose of life is to discover the purpose of life and every human being has the same purpose – to be liberated from the cycle of death and rebirth, just as this will liberate us from all misery on earth. The way to do this is Enlightenment. The path is called Spiritual Awakening. But unfortunately, we are so lost in this material world that we get caught in thought and the purpose of life is soon forgot!

The whole world believes that life is about success and achievement. They think that both are synonymous. They believe in what they are taught in school and so, they remain a fool, running behind pleasure and happiness. They don't realize that success is not happiness. In fact, the opposite is true. Happiness is success. But chasing after achievement that only gives pleasure, they fail to attain peace which is the very foundation of happiness. Of course, we must be successful, but what is true success? It is not the name and fame we get out of the game called life. Even if we collect all the money in the world, we may not be happy. If success gave happiness, then all the successful people in the world would be happy. But alas, this is not true. We find that the most successful people in the world commit suicide. If monetary wealth created happiness, then, the rich should be glad, not sad. What we don't realize is first, the pursuit of success creates a lot of stress and anxiety, and thereafter, after being successful, there is fear and worry. Therefore, success as commonly understood, is not the purpose of our life.

What then is the purpose of our life? The true purpose of our life is to evolve from scaling the peak of achievement, to living in a plateau of fulfillment. Here, pleasure will be replaced by peace. One can live life with noteworthy success. But instead of running behind name and fame, one can live pursuing their dreams and passions, and not running in this mad race, trying to become an ace, getting lost in the chase, and ultimately, being miserable in the maze. One can instead choose to live with grace. We have a choice. We can choose pleasure or peace. We can choose achievement or fulfillment. Unfortunately, most of us choose achievement and in the bargain, we create bad Karma. And not only do we destroy this present life, but we also plant seeds through our deeds that will destroy our future destiny. But we have a choice. We can change. We can choose.

Very few amongst us take an exit from the highway of achievement to a path of contentment and fulfilment. We let our need become our greed and we remain miserable indeed. But this is our choice. We can change this. But we cannot reverse our life. That is fiction! The fact is what is done, is done. Good or bad, we have to pay the price, whether it is in this lifetime or the next. But there is hope. If only we can choose the third and ultimate peak of success, Enlightenment, then we can go beyond achievement and fulfillment.

What is Enlightenment? The world thinks that Enlightenment is a very complicated subject. They think that Spiritual Awakening needs one to renounce this whole world and live in the forest or mountains, eating leaves and berries. But this is a myth. Enlightenment means to bring in the light. The only challenge is that we have to switch on the light within, not

outside. Deep within us there is darkness. It is the darkness of ignorance, and our goal is to light the light within. Every human being has been given 9 openings and sometimes, this is referred to as the city of 9 doors. The 9 doors are the two eyes, two ears and two nostrils. Then, our mouth, our organ of excretion and organ of procreation. None of these 9 doors or openings look within. Therefore, we do not discover the kingdom of God that is within. God lives in the temple of our heart, but we search for God in a temple or church! How will we ever find God?

Have you heard the story of the musk deer? The deer spends its entire life in search of the musk whose fragrance creates a frenzy for the deer. In that ecstasy of searching for the musk, the deer explores the dangerous cliffs of the mountains and ultimately, falls and dies. The hunters below know the secret. They cut open the stomach of the musk deer and retrieve the precious musk from its own navel. The source of the fragrance was all along inside. But the deer was searching outside! Similarly, our source of happiness is within. The Divine that we are all seeking is within us. But we live and die, believing the lie that God lives in the sky. Enlightenment is all about switching on the light within and realizing the truth. But that is a choice.

Each of us has a life to live and how we live will decide how happy we will be. If we live an ordinary life, chasing the pleasures of this world, we will attain momentary pleasure, but we will not attain eternal bliss. As we live as the body, mind and ego, we will suffer the physical pain of the body, we will experience the misery of the mind and we will be agonized by the anguish of the ego. Everybody who lives with ignorance, suffers this triple suffering on earth. None of us can escape

physical pain as we fall and grow tall. But there is a way to be free from the misery of the mind. We can eliminate fear, worry, stress, anxiety, regret, shame and guilt. We can overcome anger, hate, revenge and jealousy that is caused by the ego. As long as we live, thinking we are the body, mind and ego, we will suffer this triple suffering on earth. Not just that, we will return in a rebirth and our suffering will go on and on, as we are reborn.

We have a choice to be free from all suffering. If only we realize that we are not this body, mind and ego that suffers, we are the Divine Soul, then, this Enlightenment will liberate us from all suffering. The truth is we are the SOUL, the Spark Of Unique Life. We are not the body that will die. We are not the mind we cannot find. The ego that says 'I' is a lie, but we exist. Unless we go on a quest, and put all our beliefs to test, we will never realize that we are the Divine SOUL, the Spark Of Unique Life.

This Realization is Enlightenment. It starts with Self-Realization and goes on to God-Realization. It is the purpose of every human being that exists. But unfortunately, we don't Realize this and so, we suffer.

In this book, we read about Bobby and how Bobby did bad Karma at first. Then, Bobby was born as Rahul in a slum. This was because of bad Karma. As a part of the fiction, Bobby begged to be given a chance to reverse his life and the book shows how his life was rewound by 60 years. This is a fairy tale, it's not true. Nobody can re-live their life like Bobby. The analogy of the Angel was just to communicate the truth of life. If we don't want to be born like Rahul in a slum, in poverty and suffer, then it is up to us to live like Bobby in his second innings. When Bobby lived a life of good Karma, he was born as Roger

in Hong Kong as a millionaire. Whether we are born as Rahul in a slum or Roger in a millionaire's house, does not depend on luck. It depends on our Karma. But not all of us understand this drama.

In the book, Bobby is not happy even as a millionaire. Isn't that the truth of life? The so-called rich and successful people are miserable. We hear of many of them going through depression and some of them contemplate suicide. Why do we hear of so many celebrities ending their life? This should inspire us to make the right choice. This book tells us the various options that we have to live. But it is for us to choose. Remember, we have only one life to live. We can't live it again. But we can make a choice and we can change. We must do it today. Tomorrow will be too late! *For every 'Today' that goes by, is the 'Tomorrow' that we talked about 'Yesterday'.* Soon life will be over and if we don't make the choice and don't change, then in that moment of death, when we lose our breath, we will be gone, only to be reborn.

This book should inspire us to change our life. This book reminds us to choose achievement, fulfilment or Enlightenment. We can choose pleasure or peace, or like the rare few, we can search for our purpose. Very few people go on a quest and realize the truth about life. But we can. Nobody stops us. But if we don't choose, then we will lose the opportunity.

If we want to change our life, we need the help of a Spiritual Master, somebody who is spiritually awakened, one who is truly Enlightened. Sometimes, such a person is called a Guru. But every Guru may not be Enlightened. Therefore, we must find the right mentor, who can help us on this path of

Enlightenment or Spiritual Awakening. We need to find somebody who can show us the way to attaining our ultimate purpose. However, this is an inner voyage, and all the Guru can do is to help us go within. If we believe that somebody can by magic make us realize God, or make us Enlightened, it is yet another lie. We must beware in finding the right spiritual guide. Otherwise, we will be lost in the jungle of life.

Finally, we must not believe in myths and fairy tales and let our life escape us. We must start our quest, our Talaash, our search. Otherwise, our precious life will soon be over. Are you waiting for an Angel to come from the sky, to give you another chance to change your life and live again? It won't happen. You must change your life today. You have the opportunity to choose. Whether you do good Karma or bad Karma, you will be born again. But if you learn the truth like Bobby did ultimately in his final chance at life, you can be liberated from all misery on earth and from the cycle of death and rebirth and you can be united with the Divine. The choice is yours. If you want to change, you can. Otherwise, you will just change your body and return to earth again and again.



AiR - ATMAN IN RAVI

Can I Change My Life?

Life is a treasure. It is precious. It comes to us but once. Once it is over, it is over! The river does not pass its path again. So, it is with life. In this novel, an Angel reverses life and gives the central protagonist an opportunity to re-live. But this is just a metafiction. However, the inspiration one can get from this story is powerful enough to make us stop now and transform our life.

Yes, you can change your life. Your life is in your hands. But don't wait for an Angel like Bobby did. Don't think that God will give you a chance to rewind your life and re-live it. This book will trigger you to make that change today so you can choose to live a new life. You can change the circumstances of your life if you change your actions. And the time to change is now!

This book is a metafiction based on the life story of
AiR - Atman in Ravi, who experienced many
transformations in his life until ultimately, there was a
metamorphosis. A crawling caterpillar evolved into a
beautiful butterfly. You can change your life too!



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