

The vibhuti

Swami was about fourteen years old and attending college, when He called me at work. "Do you know Aunty, today *vibhuti* has appeared in my room"? He sounded quite confused and didn't understand what was happening.

I told him not to worry, that we would visit his room with our family after work to see what was happening. When we arrived, everyone was amazed to see *vibhuti* covering the room and coming out of the walls. Everyone at first thought it was damp flakes coming from the walls themselves. An aunt who lived in the same yard tried to wipe the *vibhuti* off with a cloth but was unable to do so and felt dizzy. When she went back to her own house, the pavement in front of the door was also covered with *vibhuti*. Swami's mother was shocked and surprised at what was happening. But soon after the appearance of the *vibhuti*, people came from the neighbourhood, surrounding areas and soon from all corners of Mauritius to see for themselves the miracles that were taking place.

When Swami was about thirteen or fourteen we went to visit him in his home. The elders were chatting away in the lounge and all the children were gathered in Swami's room. Ten or eleven children were jumping up and down on the bed. They had switched off the light, but were all excited by the *vibhuti* that Swami was materialising in abundance and sprinkling on them. They had *vibhuti* all over their heads, faces and bodies. When we turned the light on, the room looked like a fog of *vibhuti*. It was three in the morning, and the children were still up having fun.

Soon after, Swami convinced his father to start building a temple next to the house. In a very short time, with the help of volunteers from all over the island, the temple was completed and was properly inaugurated. Swami organised various activities and programs, including *bhajans* twice weekly and *bhajan* classes for children, who were given the opportunity to learn *bhajans*, prayers and other religious ceremonies and rituals.