

# A TALK WITH VIROCHANA

*on school, japa and onigiri.*

*Heidi: Okay, now you are what, eight and a half years old? Can you tell me a little about your normal day, what time do you wake up and then what do you do?*

*Virochana: I wake up at 6.30 am, I brush my teeth and take a bath. Then I do my japa, from maybe 7am to 7.45*

*And then you do little agni also?*

*Yes, I do Agnikāryam and after I dress, eat breakfast and be ready at 8.10 when the school bus comes.*

*I heard you changed to a new school this year. How do you like the school now?*

*I find it nice, better than the last school. They will take me on trips and there is a nice dance practice for the school day, a Hanuman dance!*

*And you have some Sanskrit classes too, right?*



*Yeah, we have Sanskrit, Kannada, English, Social, Science, Library, tabla...*

*Oh tabla and you really like tabla?*

*(He is drumming very often...)*

*Yeah!*

*I take the bus and I come home at 4.45pm, and I wash my legs and hands, and then I eat something. Some days I go swimming (to the temple pond) and I read something or do homework. Then I take a shower and I do japa and small agni karya. Sometimes I read for exams and then we have dinner. I brush (my teeth) before going to sleep.*

*And what time do you usually go to bed?  
10pm or 10.30pm*

*Oh, much later than us. We often sleep by 9 pm but then we wake up at 4 am. So you like the evenings and go to sleep when appa (Guruji) and amma (Bhavya) are going, it's your free time. And then all your life here, there have always been students coming and going on and off. What do you think of this?*

*It's nice, I can play more. And they will make yummy foods!*

*Different food? People are coming from different countries and they make some special food?*

*Yeah! I like tofu, bread with cheese, miso soup, onigiri...*



*And what do you think of our philosophy classes?*

I like it, it is good.

If Appa is telling some stories, I like that! Now today (on Sundays), Appa is having philosophy class in kannada, of Bhagavad Gita! But my friend won't come now, her mother has some exam for sanskrit. She is a sanskrit teacher in my school and she comes on Sundays. But I think next month she will come again when she finishes the exams and we can play with my friend.

*What are the things that you like to do with students or you have learned to do with students?*

I learn swimming now with Brendan and before that with Martin and Monika. Yeah, and then so many things to do with students. Playing, reading english and reading story books with Heidi aunty.

In monsoon when it was still raining a little bit, we put this oven with a fire on and we cooked pizza. It was so good!

*Ah, what are your favorite foods?*



Photo: [Coni Hörler](#)

Pizza, burger and Finnish bread, tofu, and also many Japanese things, yeah, soba noodles and miso.

*And how many times have you been to Japan already?*

Three times. Yeah, next year we will go again.

*Last April 2025, you had your upanayana (thread ceremony), how was that? And Now you do your Sandhya Vandana. How is it now?*

It is good. Before I was telling shloka, now I am doing japa. Before I was so excited to do japa. Now, I'm also excited and afterwards I feel a little calm.

Tonight I will go to the temple (for the evening puja) with my father. (said proudly but with a shy smile)

*Oh really, How do you feel there and have you been inside?*

I feel happy. No, I haven't been inside yet or touched Him (Shankaranarayana statue). I need to learn some more mantras.

*Ah, I see. Well that sounds like a very good reason to learn more mantras.*

Yes! (Enthusiastically, while wearing an orange little dhoti, pani panche)

*Can you tell me more about your feeling of happiness?*

When I go there with appa, I feel happy, in my chest, in my heart. I feel happy because I'm close to God.

*And later I look from the balcony how our guruji, the priest and appa, is walking barefoot on a temple path with his white pancha on. He is carrying a tray of offerings and a flashlight. A little boy in orange is following, almost running, happily and full of energy, in a way only little boys can be. A moment later I hear the temple bells. Blessings from Shankaranarayana are echoing, to all of us who are willing to open even just a little bit of our hearts. I can almost see the little boy smiling and bowing down in front of Shankaranarayana.*

*And so tradition goes on.*