



**SAKTHI FOUNDATION - Uni5 EDUCATION**  
**INCARNATION OF BAKTHA MEERA**  
[Translated article from Kalki – Tamil weekly magazine - 1944  
Deepawali special]

**Introduction:**

We are admiring M.S.Subbulakshmi as a pioneer in Carnatic music who has lived a complete life. She is the symbol of real woman. She is the true 'Baratha Rathna' - Gem of India. Her life has taught many values, lessons of music and spirituality to mankind. For all her success she has tamed her wandering mind under the guidance of Mr.Kalki, Mr.Sadhashivam [her husband], Mr.Rasikamani T.K.C - Tamil scholar, Freedom fighter Rajaraji and many others.

She underwent tremendous spiritual transformation parallel with her husband under SriKanchi Mahaperiyawaal and Sathya Sai Baba.

It is all our mind makes happy and sorrow!  
This is true!

***But when the mind gets shifted to the intellect level and tastes the bliss of being aware our life becomes happy and meaningful on Earth.***

In this article we are going to see how a movie about the great Saint Singer Meera Bai got mega hit all across the nation. The reason behind may be the direction, music, camera, art work and many other things. But the article written by Kalki Sri.Krishnamurthy in **1944** about Meera film shooting is a lesson for modern directors, artists who pour their money and efforts. The value based personal life an artist impacts the art form.

M.S.Subbulakshmi acted as Meera Bai. People saw her as Meera's incarnation just not because of the costume or bajans which M.S sang. But something other than that made Indians to respect her. The viveka with spirituality has directed M.S to first choose that divine character.

Meera and M.S were the same in their awareness level. They did not get attached to any materialistic pleasures. Both of them served the mankind through their music skill and cleaned the spiritual way for future progress of the society. But M.S is much more gifted than Meera to have a spiritual husband who has taken sincere steps in making her perfect to attain the ultimate bliss of truth through her music. Let us listen to Kalki....

**Kalki Sri.Krishnamurthy writes,**

" 3 stories were narrated to M.S to choose any one out of them for her film performance. She has chosen Meera and she was also firm in her choice. But to perform that role she has to undergo many obstacles and tough time. She has accepted them and lived as Baktha Meera!

It is her choice to undergo such sufferings while doing the Meera film. It is just because of her perfection. She and her husband want to be perfect and she gave up all her personal likes and dislikes when the shooting started.

She could not suit herself as Meera wandering in Vrindhavanam and Yanmuna when Koovam River with old Moor market of Madras became the shooting spot.

M.S said, ***"I have to visit the places where Krishna lived. I have to see the places where Meera searched for Him. By this I can connect myself to her. Otherwise I cannot commit for this***

**film!"** She was very stubborn in this.

By understanding her spirit the director Ellis .R. Dangan researched a book called "Rajasthan" with 1000 pages. He made special efforts to design the costumes and ornaments like Rajputs. His effort was great.

The director says, "I agree to her, we need to go across many places especially Vrindhawan and Dwaraka where Meera lived the most to bring reality and perfection "

It was world war emergency time. Restrictions prevailed everywhere. Around 20 people associated with movie started their train journey. Baby Radha [M.S's step daughter] acted as child Meera also went to see those places.

### **Vrindhawan invited Meera...**

First the crew visited Vrindhawan where Krishna lived in his early ages and where Meera wandered in search of him. M.S sang the famous Meera bajan "**Vrindhawanaki mangala leela**" which made the citizens to admire her voice, dedication and devotion. She also performed a procession as Meera singing many bajans with many devotees. Next day her bajans were appreciated for their deep bakthy all across the town.

We can imagine how much she must have connected that place, Krishna and Meera with her ownself which gave her the devotion and perfection. Devotional mind with imagination when links with awareness becomes spiritual by more inter connectivity.

### **Krishna saved Meera...**

Meera tried to end her life by jumping into Yamuna river. This scene got shot. There were many dangers like wild turtles, water currents and M.S also faced an accident. In Meera's life when she jumped onto the river Krishna came as boat man and saved her. In M.S case when the boat came near her, her head got hit with the boat and she started sinking. Immediately the boat man saved her. Krishna has once again saved this lady for us!

### **Meera in Jaipur...**

After that the crew went to Jaipur where they enjoyed the huge houses and richly decorated walls with colors and rare stones. Shooting started at 'Puranaa gaat' where there are many corridors and gardens with beautiful halls made of marbles. The most famous song "Kaatrenelay varum geetham" got shot here. M.S involved herself with natural mood as Meera and lived as Meera in that palace.

In this context Dewan Sir Misra Ismaylin and his wife along with many other royal ladies of Rajput families attended the shooting. They were pleased with Meera.M.S's way of real acting and assisted her in dressing and makeup. They insisted the director to release the movie in Hindi also.

### **Meera is her own fort...**

Now the crew members are at Sithur fort. This is the place where Meera and her husband Rana lived. There is a Krishna temple build by the king for his beloved wife Meera. M.S sat before that deity and sang many Meera bajans. Everyone connected themselves with the past. Few were in tears of divine mood. M.S said that Meera has sat before this Krishna and composed many bajans. Immediately the priest went into Trans and started dancing for her songs.

### **Meera in Udaipur...**

Rulers of Mevar with Udaipur stood against the Muhals and today with British. They were known for their dedicated work and patriotism. Even today the present noble family is celebrated as "Maha Raana". With his special permission boating scene was shot in Udaipur Lake. Royal march past with



elephants has also been arranged for the film. M.S.Meera made a divine impact in Raanaji's mind about Meera Bai. She performed 4 hours concert before him. She sang many Hindusthani songs also.

### **Meera in Gujarath state...**

Art director welcomed the crew to Gujarath where M.S gave several concerts before public which has inspired them towards Meera Bai. From there the whole crew left to Dwaraka to shoot the climax. Meera has to sing and enter into the temple and shed her body. When this scene was taken M.S performed Meera Bajans in many streets of Dwaraka where devotees joined with her. Finally she entered into the temple and sang the last song and fainted. She was able to connect herself with the soul of Meera Bai and Lord.

### **Conclusion**

In this context, we need to think about M.S's spiritual expedition which was made not only to act but also to experience a great saint's life. Both of them have conquered their mind. Both of them has deviated their mind from involving in materialistic needs. Bopth of them searched the inner truth through music. We feel the long term

Meera film making gave a chance to M.S to touch the past and put herself with her atman to understand various spiritual lessons and realize the oneness of all. People of India will relish the divinity of Meera through M.S soon when the film gets released.”

Om Sakthi!