

## Pibare Rama Rasam

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“Drink the sweet nectar of the Name of God,” urges every one of the great devotee composers of India. The significance of the Name is beyond the conceivable limits of a human mind. Likewise, these saints also point to us that the sweetness of Name is also equally inconceivable.

There is no match to the opulence of God’s Name, just as there is no match to the opulence of God Himself.

The great saint, Sri Sadashiva Brahmendrar sings, “Pibare RAma rasam, rasane pibare RAma rasam’, meaning, “drink the nectar of Rama Nama.”

The great Mahans had Nama integrated so intricately into their daily life, that it was no different to them than their daily pursuits. We may ask, “Eating and sleeping are essential for living, since eating gives us energy and sleeping gives rest, and these are key factors towards a healthy lifestyle. What essentials does Nama bestow us with, to qualify as an integral aspect of our daily life?”

Sri Thyagaraja very mellifluously answers this question in his krithi “RAma kathA sudha rasa pAnamoka rAjyamu jESunE.” (to drink the nectar of Rama’s stories and Name is equal to ruling a kingdom). Sri Thyagaraja goes on to say in this Kirtan that Nama bestows the fruits of all the *puru-sharthas* (pursuits of human life—namely *dharma* or righteousness, *artha* or wealth, *kama* or desire, *moksha* or Liberation); that it is the verily abode of courage, bliss and comfort; that it is the boat that rescues all of us from the deadly ocean of Samsara; and finally, that it is the destroyer of all ills of Kali.

Sri Annamacharya asks us all, “ChAladA hari nAma smaraNAm rutamu tamaku, chAladA hita vaina chavu lella nosaga?”

(Chanting the name of Sri Hari bestows the nectar of happiness. It bestows beneficial tastes. Is this not enough for you?)

Sri Purandara Dasa shares with us his blissful experience of sweetness of drinking the nectar of Nama - “RAma nAma pAyasake Krishna nAma sakkare, viTTHala nAma

thuppava kalasi bAya chapparisirO.” (Mix the sweet payasam of Rama’s name with the sugar of Krishna’s name and ghee of Vittala’s name and relish the tasty combination with your tongue.)

Another flavor of Nama is shared with us by Bhadrachala Ramadasar. Bhadrachala Ramadasar was imprisoned for 12 years for using the Nawab’s revenues towards the reconstruction of a temple for Sri Rama at Bhadrachalam. But despite his suffering, he remained in a state of complete surrender to Lord Rama, referring to him as

“Deenadayalo” (the great compassionate One). In these 12 years, he composed some of the finest *krithis* and poetic verses praising Rama Nama, which are collectively known as Dasaradhi Shatakam. Even while suffering in prison, he sings, “O RAma nee nAmam Emi ruchirA, shrl rAma nee nAmam entha ruchirA...Rama..” (O Rama, how sweet is Your Name, what sweetness It has!” In the stanzas of this song, the great saint compares Rama Nama to delicacies that we relish, like Madhu rasam, butter, curds, grapes, dates and others; he also speaks about how the “tasty” Name is one that is enjoyed and constantly chanted by those such as Hanuman and Shiva; one that guarded bhaktas such as Gajendra, Prahalada and Vibhishana; and one that is sung by divine musicians such as Narada and Tumburu.

Our own Guru Maharaj, HH Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji also sings the same in his kirtan, “Radhe Radhe endraal thithikkuthey naaku...” (When I chant the name of Radhe, how sweet my tongue tastes!)

This description of the Name as being “tasty” by saints is common across all eras, languages and geographic regions. It truly makes us wonder that perhaps there is some truth to this statement that has been reiterated time and again by saints down the ages.

But it often happens that even after hearing

and reading mounds about the power and sweetness of Nama, many of us wonder how to inculcate Nama into our daily lives. Either we worry about any fallacies we may commit while chanting or we are perplexed by opinions of people around us. Sri Muralidhara Swamiji answers this concern very strikingly by referring to Oothukadu Venkata Kavi’s krithi,

“Arumaiyena vandha piravigalo pala Ayiram tandAlum varumo

Adhalin yAr enna sonnAlum, anjAdhey nenjamey, aiyar karunaiyai pAdu’.

(Though you have taken several thousands of births, and even if you give thousands of coins, would this chance ever come again? Hence, no matter what anyone says, fear not and sing the praise of Lord Krishna.)

Oothukadu further says,

“Discarding the fruit, after peeling the rind, didn’t a devotee offer him just the rind? (Vidura) A fistful of flattened rice, didn’t the all-knowing one Eagerly receive it from the one who offered it? (Sudama) After bearing the penance of ripening didn’t (she) further test and taste them before offered it to him? (Sabari) – This world might say a myriad things but we should respond with “Why should I care!”, Recite his thousand names and sing the praise of Lord Krishna!”

Thus the beauty and bliss of Nama is one that transcends the boundaries of rules, apprehensions and doubts. Let us all therefore, follow the footsteps of these mahatmas like Andal, who appeals to us,

“thUyOmAi vandhu nAm thUmalar thUvitthozudhu, vAyinArpAdi manadhinAl sindhikka

pOya pizhaiyum pugutharuvAn nindranavum

thlyinil thUsAgum cheppElorempAvAi,”

And relish the nectar of Nama.

Uma Ranganathan, Houston, TX



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## Houston (US) Nama Dwaar Turns Three

With the Grace of Bhagavan Sri Krishna and HH Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji, the “Hare Rama.. Hare Krishna” Mahamantra has been chanted everyday for the last 3 years at USA’s very own Namadwaar Prayer House.

This Namadwaar, the only one in the western hemisphere thus far, was inaugurated open on Feb 28, 2010 on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu’s *jayanthi* day.

- ◆ *The Namadwaar is open to all, irrespective of religion, race, nationality, gender, caste or creed.*
- ◆ *The Mahamantra will be continuously chanted within the Namadwaar, and those who enter the Nama Dwaar are also requested to continuously chant or listen to the chanting.*
- ◆ *Prayer requests can be placed in a prayer box; prayers will be conducted regularly for these requests.*
- ◆ *Satsangs, Gopa Kuteeram children’s programs and Srimad Bhagavatam classes and study circles are conducted regularly at Namadwaar.*

281-402-6585 or [houston.god@godivinity.org](mailto:houston.god@godivinity.org).

## The Power of Nama Sankirtan

All the scriptures of *Sanatana Dharma* strongly proclaim that in this Age of Kali, chanting the Divine Names of God (Nama Sankirtan) is the easiest way to attain God.

*kalau kalmasHa chittAnAm  
pApa dravyOpa jvinAm |  
vidhikriyA vihInAnAm  
gatir gOvinda kirtanam ||*

*(In this Kali Yuga, where the mind is impure and the living is earned through sinful means and where living by prescribed rules is difficult, the only way to liberation is singing the Holy Name of God!)*

The chanting of Divine Names is a free path. It has absolutely no rules and regulations. Nama Sankirtan can be done by anybody, anytime and anywhere. It involves no cost. It requires no paraphernalia. **Yet it is an extremely powerful path that can fulfill worldly desires as well as lead one to the very Lotus Feet of the Lord.**

The Upanishads have specifically prescribed the Mahamantra—

***Hare Rama Hare Rama  
Rama Rama Hare Hare  
Hare Krishna Hare Krishna  
Krishna Krishna Hare Hare***

—as the mighty weapon that will fight the evils of this age of Kali, the medicine that will cure us of our ills and purify us, and the *Kalpataru* that will fulfill all our wishes.

Nama Sankirtan of an *eka Nama* (a single Divine Name) is very potent for several reasons:

- ◆ It quietens the mind and makes it one-pointed. And only a quiet mind can experience peace and happiness.
- ◆ It helps increase attention and strengthens the mind.
- ◆ It is a remedy for personal ills and sorrows. Prayers performed with Nama Sankirtan, and specifically the Mahamantra, are extraordinarily powerful. The experiences of devotees all over the world, who perform prayers with Mahamantra Sankirtan, are a standing testimonial to the potency of the Divine Name.
- ◆ Even a single repetition of the Divine Name obliterates all our sins, as proved time and again in the lives of saints like Sri Bhagavan Nama Bodendra Swamigal.
- ◆ Finally, Nama Sankirtan is the easiest way to obtain the Grace of the Lord.

While mental repetition of the Divine Names leads to the good of the individual, chanting the Divine Names out loud purifies the singer, the listener and the very place where the chanting is done. Constant chanting of the Names in the same location verily manifests divinity in that place.

*It is for this reason that Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji advocates group chanting of the*

### What is Nama Dwaar?

Nama Dwaar literally means “the Portal of the Divine Name”. It is a path to the Supreme through *Nama Sankirtan*—chanting of the Divine Names.

Nama Dwaar is an initiative under the guidance of HH Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji for the propagation of Nama Sankirtan, especially of the Mahamantra, as a way to provide material as well as spiritual upliftment to humanity at large, leading to peace and universal brotherhood.

Constant chanting of the Mahamantra automatically ensures divine presence. Prayers done in such precincts are undoubtedly fulfilled. **This is Nama Dwaar, a prayerhouse where the Mahamantra is incessantly chanted.**

***Numerous such Nama Dwaars have been (and continue to be) established in various parts of India and the world.***

*Mahamantra. And it is with this purpose in mind that several Nama Dwaars have been (and continue to be) established the world over.*



## Chaitanya Mahaprabhu

Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was born to Sachi Devi and Jagannath Mishra on February 18, 1486 in a town called Navadweep. He used to be fondly known as Nimai. He had an elder brother by the name of Viswarupa. Even when Nimai was a child, Sachi ma used to say "Hari bol" (Chant "Hari") to console him whenever he cried. This shows the attraction that young Nimai had for the Lord's name.



By the age of 12, Nimai had mastered all scriptures and was a renowned scholar in Navadweep. He was well versed in grammar and literature and nobody could win him in debate or literary discussion. He started a school after his father's demise. At his mother's insistence he married Lakshmi Devi and later, when she passed away, he married VishnuPriya.

Nimai met his Guru during a visit to Gaya, and a transformation came over him. He realized that everything in the world was contained in the Name of Krishna. He closed his school and gathered a few devo-

tees in Navadweep and spent all his time and energy doing Nama Sankirtan (singing the divine names of the Lord), and losing himself in *bhakti*. Nimai later took sanyasa (renounced the world) and was given the name of Sri Krishna Chaitanya (fondly called Chaitanya Mahaprabhu by his devotees). He then traveled all over India on foot and spread the Divine Names of the Lord.

There is one incident in his life which shows clearly the purpose of his incarnation. When Mahaprabhu was doing Nama Sankirtan in Navadweep, some people could not tolerate it. So, they wrote to the Kazi (the officer-in-charge) falsely accusing Mahaprabhu. On receiving the complaint, the Kazi passed a rule forbidding Nama Sankirtan. Srivasa Pandit, one of the earliest devotees of Mahaprabhu, and in whose house their satsangs used to happen, was really worried. Meanwhile Mahaprabhu was reading the story of Lord Narasimha, the avatar of Lord Vishnu who had emerged from a pillar to save his devotee Prahalad. On listening to this story, Mahaprabhu went to a state

of trance and went to the house of Srivasa Pandit. Mahaprabhu let out a roar like Lord Narasimha and said, "Srivasa! How can you feel scared to perform Nama Kirtan? I have come to show the path of Nama Kirtan to the people of this Age. I shall request, beg, fall at each one's feet; I shall even threaten and even beat them so that the Mahamantra comes out of every lip. Do not be afraid. Perform Nama Kirtan!"

Mahaprabhu then walked up to Srivasa's grand daughter who was then a small baby and touched her saying, "Narayani! Chant the Nama!" The six-month old baby which had not even learnt to talk, clapped her hands and chanted names of the Lord.

That very night the Kazi had a dream in which he experienced a lion attacking him. When he woke up with a fright, he found scratches on his chest as if a lion had indeed attacked him! He at once realized his mistake and lifted the ban on Nama Kirtan.

This incident clearly shows that Chaitanya Mahaprabhu incarnated on the earth to show the path of Hari Nama Sankirtan.

- Anusha Ramesh, San Jose, CA

## Kids' Quiz - Namadwaar Trivia

Sri Muralidhara Swamiji:

1. What is 'Namadwaar'?

- A. An initiative aimed to spread the divine names of the Lord
- B. An initiative aimed to provide shelter to the poor
- C. An initiative aimed to provide free education of deserving children

2. Name the mahatma who founded the Namadwaar concept:

- A. Sri Papa Ramadas
- B. Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
- C. Sri Muralidhara Swamiji

3. Name the first place where continuous Mahamantra chanting was initiated by Sri

B. Madhurapuri Ashram

C. Sivakasi

4. Name the first Namadwaar that was established outside India

- A. Australia
- B. Singapore
- C. USA

5. In which city in USA is Namadwaar located?

- A. San Antonio
- B. Manvel
- C. Corpus Christi

6. How many Namadwaars are functional outside India (as of March 2013)?

- A. Three (Malaysia, Singapore, USA)
- B. Four (Malaysia, Singapore, USA, UK)
- C. Two (USA and Australia)

7. What special occasion marked the inauguration of Namadwaar in US?

- A. Ratha Saptami
- B. Chaintanya Mahaprabhu Jayanthi
- C. Ekadasi

8. How many Namadwaars have been established across the world (as of March 2013)?

- A. Nineteen
- B. Twenty
- C. Twenty one

Compiled by Ramya Srinivasan, CA

Answers:

1-A, 2-C, 3-B, 4-B, 5-B, 6-B, 7-B, 8-A



## ATLANTA - GOPA KUTEERAM - CRAFT SESSION



## ATLANTA - SATSANG AT AHOBILAM MUTT



## SAN ANTONIO



## MINNEAPOLIS—RADIO TALK BY BHAGYAJI



## DALLAS - BLOOD DRIVE



## RALEIGH SLOKA RECITAL EVENT



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Houston:

**March 28-31 - Namadwaar Anniversary celebrations**—satsangs, nagara sankirtan and cultural programs

Contact: 281-402-6585

### Minneapolis:

\* **Mar 27, 7 - 8 PM** - Mahamantra meditation & chanting series at Amanae & Frequency Brilliance Center. Contact: 612.345.6044

\* **April 1 & 2:** Global Heritage Camp at Excelsior elementary School. Contact: priyasubs@gmail.com

### Atlanta:

**April 23, 9 - 12 Noon** - Akhanda Mahamantra Sankirtan.

Contact: 404.788.7391

Weekly satsangs are held regularly in the following regions:

*Atlanta, GA; Bay Area, CA; New England area; Chicago, IL; Cortlandt Manor, NY; Dallas, TX; Houston, TX; Milwaukee, WI; Minneapolis, WI; Orlando, FL; Richmond, VA; San Antonio, TX; Seattle, WA; Saskatchewan, Canada*

A Telecon satsang is held every Fri evening and Tele-Bhagavatam discourse is telecast every Tue evening, both at 8:30 PM CST. Anyone is welcome to attend. Ph: 605-475-4000, Passcode: 131581

Gopa Kuteeram (kids' programs) & Srimad Bhagavatam study circles are conducted in various cities.

Email [newsletter@godivinity.org](mailto:newsletter@godivinity.org) for more info.

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