

## HE WHO FLOODED THE WORLD WITH THE LORD'S NAME

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Our scriptures say:  
*kalau kalmasha chithAnAm pA-  
padravayopa jlvInAm |  
vidhikriya vihlnAnAm gathi: govinda klr-  
tanam ||*

"In the age of Kali, when all human beings are afflicted with various forms of mental illness and lead a sinful life, singing Govinda's names is the sole means to salvation."

*Nama sankirtan* (singing Lord's names) is shown as the apt path for Kali Yuga. One might ask, why Nama sankirtan? In our day-to-day affairs, we tend to look for the easiest or the simplest of the available options. So, in the spiritual path also, when following rigorous austerities is next to impossible, why not adopt the easiest way to attain the feet of the Lord? How difficult is it to say the names, "Rama", "Krishna" or "Hari"?

Saint Tyagaraja sings, "*Chakkani Raaja Maargamulundaga Sandula Dooraneelee Oo Manasaa!*" It means, "Oh Mind! When there is the royal path, why choose the bylanes?" This royal path to salvation is Nama sankirtan.

And, to establish this path as the apt *dharma* for the Kali Yuga, Lord Krishna himself incarnated as Chaitanya Mahaprabhu in the 15<sup>th</sup> century AD. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu lived on this earth for 48 years. But, in those 48 years, he reached out to millions of people and transformed their lives.

Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was born to Sachi Devi and Jagannath Misra on the full moon day during the month of Phalgun in a town called Navadweep. He was given the name Viswambar. Fondly, he was known as Nimai. As a kid, whenever he cried, his mother had to sing "Haribol" to soothe him and calm him down. As a result, the Divine Names constantly resounded at his house.

By the age of 12, he mastered all the scriptures and became a renowned scholar in

Navadweep. During this time, his father passed away. So he started a school in Navadweep to support himself and his mother. At his mother's insistence he married Lakshmi Devi and later, when she passed away, he married Vishnupriya.

From 12 years till he turned 24, he practiced *grihastha ashrama* (life of a householder). He met Iswara Puri Maharaj in Gaya and received *mantra upadesha* from him. This incident transformed his life!

After he returned from Gaya, he closed his school for good and gathered a few devotees in Navadweep and spent all his time and energy doing Nama sankirtan, and chanting the Mahamantra. At the age of 24, Mahaprabhu took *sanyasa* and received the name Krishna Chaitanya. He traveled all over India on foot and spread the Divine Names of the Lord in each of the towns he visited. By the age of 30 he finished all his travels and he spent the last 18 years of his life in Puri continuing to do Nama sankirtan.

When we read or hear Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's life history, it is quite evident that spreading the Divine Names was his mission. But there is one particular incident in which Mahaprabhu himself states 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 of the town) falsely accusing Mahaprabhu. On receiving the complaint, the Kazi passed a rule forbidding Nama sankirtan. Srivasa Pandit, one of the earliest devotees of Mahaprabhu, was really worried but hesitated to inform Mahaprabhu. As he worriedly contemplated the situation in house, he suddenly heard a roar and saw Mahaprabhu at the door. He realized Mahaprabhu was in the spiritual mood of Lord Narasimha. In that spiritual mood, Mahaprabhu commanded

Srivasa Pandit to worship Him. An overwhelmed Srivasa Pandit did as he was told, with great reverence.

After the worship was over, Mahaprabhu let out another roar and said, "Hey Srivasa! Why do you worry? The sole purpose of my birth is to establish Nama sankirtan as the way to salvation. In order to reach that goal I will coax, cajole, plead, beg and even fall at people's feet requesting them to chant the Names of the Lord. I want every living being on this planet to chant the Divine Names. And if somebody is a hindrance to this goal, I will not hesitate to tear him to pieces!"

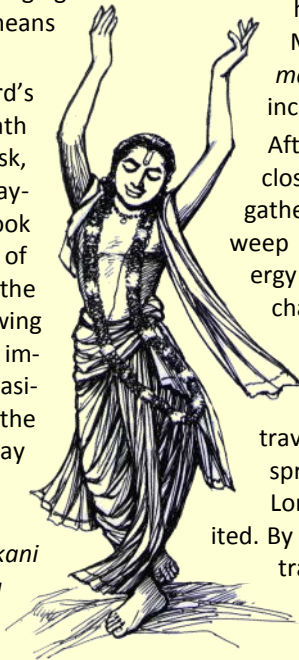
He then said, "Do you know My power? I can make anyone chant the Lord's Names simply by wishing it!"

Saying this, he patted Srivasa Pandit's six-month old granddaughter, Narayanee, who was sleeping in the cradle. And, a miracle happened! The six-month-old baby who had not even learnt to talk started singing the Names of the Lord.

Following this, Mahaprabhu became his old self. Then a huge *nagara sankirtan* (singing the Lord's Names on the streets) led by Mahaprabhu was conducted in Navadweep. All the people, including the ones who had complained against Mahaprabhu participated and happily chanted the Mahamantra. The Kazi apologized to Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and revoked the rule against Nama sankirtan.

It was Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's vision that the Mahamantra should resound from all the corners of the world. On the auspicious occasion of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's jayanthi which falls on March 8, 2012, let us all pray to Him to fill our lives with the Divine Names of the Lord.

**Sowmya Balasubramanian, Fremont, CA**



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## Sanatana Dharma —The Universal and Eternal Way of Life

The entire edifice of Indian philosophical thought, known as *Sanatana Dharma* is founded firmly on the Vedas. *Veda* means wisdom, knowledge or vision. It is the perennial wisdom of ages. Vedas are the original scriptures of Hindu teachings, and contain spiritual knowledge encompassing all aspects of life. They can be really supposed to be the basic constitution of all religions. Humans did not compose it, and they have stood the test of time.

Sanatana Dharma, a perennial philosophy, is said to be the breath of the Lord, and hence is natural and ubiquitous. It extols love towards God and hence it is the supreme *dharma*, by which the heart of man achieves his highest welfare. It is Eternal Faith. Though it is very vast and exhaustive, at the core of Sanatana Dharma, we can find four fundamental doctrines, namely:

The entire perceptible universe, with all its diversities consisting of every animate and inanimate object of creation, is only the manifestation of ONE single Divine Ground, and apart from that they are all nonexistent.

Human beings can, not only acquire knowledge about this Divine Ground by the study of scriptures, observation, reasoning and infer-

ence, but can also realize Its existence by a direct communion with it through contemplation and meditation.

Man possesses a double nature of which one is a phenomenal ego confined to the body, mind and intellect, and the other is a higher Ego, which is the Eternal Self, surpassing the limitations of all earthly concepts of self-identification. It is possible for man, through spiritual practice and Divine Grace through the Guru's blessings, to realize his identity with the Supreme Eternal Self.

Man's life on earth has only one end and purpose; and that is to realize his identity with the Eternal Self and thus attain the undivided, unitive knowledge of the Supreme Truth.

Sanatana Dharma is really meant for all and it is above religion; it envisages that every individual should attain the Self and thus bring about the welfare of humanity.

Moreover it says, "*bhagavatha vidhathraya kreyathe tat sarvamhi shubhayathe*", meaning in short, every action of the Supreme Power and Creator is only for the good of its every creation.

Reader's contribution  
MPR Nair, Houston, TX



### Answers and beyond... Spiritual questions answered by Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji

**Q. I have read in one of your messages that we should not be susceptible to emotional injuries that others might inflict upon us or emotional influence that others might try to wield on us. How to grow into such a state?**

- A.** 1. Try to see Krishna in them and in everybody.  
2. Accept all the happenings around you as His divine plays.  
3. Put yourself in the other person's shoes and think how you would act.  
4. Act with wisdom/discrimination (*viveka*) always.  
5. Whenever you are emotional, refrain from taking any critical decisions. Allow yourself to calm down before taking any decision.  
6. Whenever you take decisions, ensure that the decision is driven by the brain and not by the heart. If the latter comes into play, it ends up in a mess.  
7. Control your emotions through *asanas* and simple breathing exercises.  
8. Be cheerful always and always remember that the sky is your limit. Small incidents in your day to day life should not affect your cheerfulness.

**Q. Sri Veda Vyasa was born during Krishna's time. So, the Vedas must have been divided into 4 during this time. But there is a reference to Rigveda, Yajurveda in Ramayanam itself. Please explain.**

**A.** We know that there are 18 chapters in the Bhagavat Gita. Now someone splits each of these 18 chapters into a book each, and publishes 18 books. By doing so, does the fact that these chapters exist as titles in the wholesome work called Bhagavat Gita not exist anymore?

Likewise, the 4 portions of the Vedas existed since eternity. Rig Veda contains mantras for inviting the Devas for the sacrifices and some prayers. Sama Vedas is Rig Veda set to a tune. Yajur Veda Mantras deal with the procedure of the sacrifices (*yagnas*).

It is said in Srimad Bhagavatam that Veda Vyasa, foreseeing that the people in Kali Yuga will not be capable of learning and preserving the entire Vedas, separated them into the four sections and assigned ownership to each section. That does not mean that these four sections did not exist earlier.

**For more such answers by Sri Swamiji, or to ask a question of your own, please visit the Nama Dwaar website at [www.namadwaar.org](http://www.namadwaar.org).**



## Vibhishana's Surrender to the Lord

Lord Hanuman went to Lanka in search of Sita devi. There, after he met Sita devi, he allowed himself to be captured by Ravana's army. In Ravana's court, he was teased, troubled, and finally ordered to be killed.

Vibhishana was Ravana's younger brother. Although a *rakshasa*, he was righteous and a great devotee of Lord Rama. When he saw Hanuman, a messenger of Rama, being treated cruelly and about to be killed by Ravana, Vibhishana stood up for Hanuman. He reminded his brother about how a messenger should be treated by a king, and especially that he should not be killed. Moreover, he advised Ravana to release Sita devi.



Ravana scoffed at Vibhishana, but changed his mind about killing Hanuman. Instead he set Hanuman's tail on fire, which eventually led to the whole city of Lanka being burnt down by Hanuman.

Later, as Rama's army reached the other shore and was planning to cross the shore to Lanka, Vibhishana once again requested his brother to release Sita devi and warned him against fighting with Rama. But Ravana did not listen to Vibhishana as he was swollen with pride of his power and valor.

Vibhishana, now disgusted with Ravana's obstinacy, and strengthened by the fact that his Lord Rama was very near, left his brother's kingdom and

went to take refuge in Sri Rama.

As Vibhishana and a few of his loyal *rakshasas* came flying across the sea to Rama's camp, Sugreeva and other monkey warriors became suspicious. When Vibhishana introduced himself and asked to see Rama, they reported his arrival to Rama with immense doubt about his intentions. They told Rama that he was probably Ravana's spy.

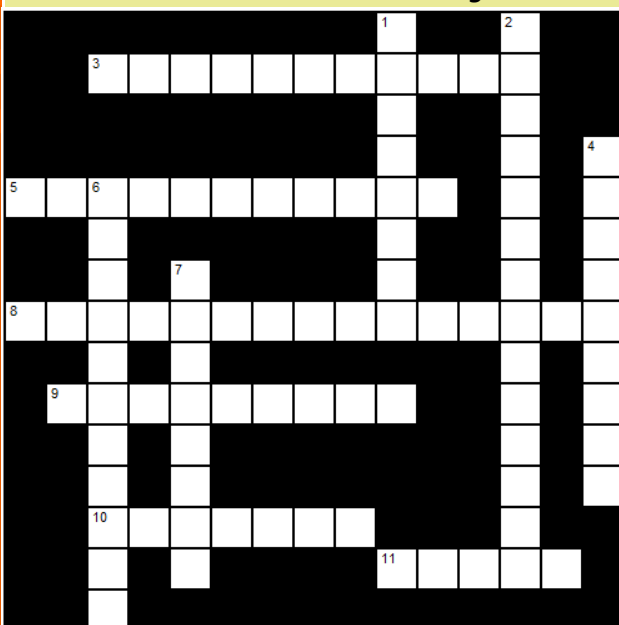
However, Rama knew Vibhishana's heart. He asked every one of His advisors about what action He should take. Everybody told Him to send Vibhishana away, except Hanuman who took Vibhishana's side.

Sri Rama was overjoyed and said that He would never refuse anyone who took refuge at His Feet. Saying so, He accepted Vibhishana's complete surrender and showered His grace and compassion even on a *rakshasa*.

Yamini Kelappan, Chicago, IL

## Kid's Crossword — Chaitanya Mahaprabhu Trivia

**Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was one of the great saints who gave away the precious Hari nama to the entire mankind. This year, his jayanti falls on March 8, 2012. Let us see how much we know about this great soul.**



Mahaprabhu (11)

5 The birth name of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu (11)

8 Chaitanya Mahaprabhu embraced sanyasa under the guidance of this Mahan (15)

9 Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's Guru (9)

10 Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is considered as incarnation of this Lord (7)

11 Alias name for Chaitanya Mahaprabhu that refers to 'born under a neem tree' (5)

### Down

1 Alias name for Chaitanya Mahaprabhu that refers to

golden color in Sanskrit (8)

2 Father of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu (14)

### Across

3 The friend and disciple of Chaitanya

## Kids' Artwork



Kishori Prakash, 8 yrs, Chicago, IL

4 Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's mother (9)

6 Composed by Chaitanya Mahaprabhu in Sanskrit (11)

7 The birth place of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu (8)

Compiled by:

Ramya Srinivasan, San Jose, CA



## News and Events

### Virginia - Feb 3rd - 5th



A two-hour interactive session with the students at the University of Virginia was conducted by Sri Poornima ji on Feb 3rd. On Feb 4th, the first Gopa Kuteeram session was started in Virginia in the presence of Poornima ji at the residence of Sri Ramanan/Smt Sridevi ji. A talk on "Blissful path to everlasting bliss" was given by Sri Poornima ji in the Hindu Center of Virginia on Feb 5th.

### North Carolina



On Feb 12th, satsang was conducted at the residence of Sri Narasinga Rao/Smt Veena Rao in the presence of Sri Poornima ji, where she discoursed on the importance of being in a Satsang by citing examples from the life-history of Sant Soordas. Now, regular Nama Sankirtan satsangs have started in Cary, North Carolina.

### CT, NY, NJ - Feb 16th - 19th



GOD New York chapter conducted a series of satsangs at different locations. The satsangs varied

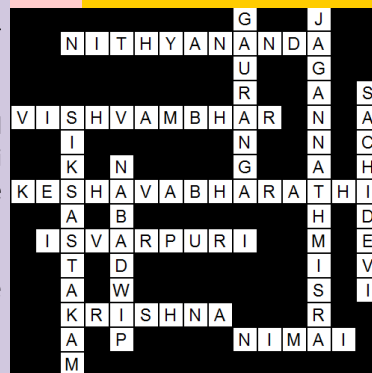
from interesting interactive sessions, kids workshops to discourses on **"The greatness of Bhagavatha dharma and the glories of chanting the divine names of the Lord"**. In the kids workshop she explained the importance of inculcating *mental strength* from childhood; an easy means of achieving which is chanting the Mahamantra. Around 23 kids participated enthusiastically.

### Boston - Feb 24th - 26th



On Feb 24th, the Boston Gopa Kuteeram satsang organized a kids program at the residence of Sri Rajasekhar/Smt Ranjani Rajasekhar. The kids beautifully rendered classical dance, shlokas, bhajans and kirtans. They also enacted a play on - **"Sabhari Moksha"** depicting how the grace of Guru and Rama Nama can transform and liberate a soul. The next day Sri Poornima ji discoursed on "Guru—The greatest Sadhana" at the Dwarakamai temple. Around 50 people listened to her with sheer attention. On Feb 26th, she expounded on the greatness of Bhagavatha Dharma at the Hindu Temple of New Hampshire in Nashua. She narrated the "Ambarisha Charitra" in detail which was well received by all.

### Crossword Solution:



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Sri Poornimaji's satsangs

##### Dallas - Swarna Jayanthi celebration

##### & Madhura utsav

Mar 15 -18 - Discourses by Poornimaji at Karya Siddhi Hanuman Temple, Frisco, TX

Mar 24 - 25 - Mass Prayer at DFW Hindu Temple, Irving, TX

For more info call (830)-446-3325.

##### Milwaukee - Madhura Utsav

Mar 30 - Apr 1 - Discourse by Poornimaji at Hindu Temple of Wisconsin. For more info call (262)-264-5938

##### Michigan & Chicago Satsangs

Apr 3rd to Apr 13th

For more info contact

shreedevi\_bharath@yahoo.com/

chicagogopakuteeram@gmail.com

**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; 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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3363 Bel Mira Way

San Jose, CA 95135

Phone: 1-(830)-4GOD-USA

Feedback email: [newsletter@godivinity.org](mailto:newsletter@godivinity.org)

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**Newsletter team:**

**Content**—Aravind TRA, Latha Kumanan, Lekshmi Nair, Narayanan Sathiamoorthy, Nair MPR, Nisha Giri, Nithya Rajesh, Ramya Srinivasan, Shalini Kellappan, Sriram Ramanujam, Sowmya Balasubramanian, Sujatha Sankar, Yamini ZivanPrakash.  
**Illustrations**—Sripriya Sarathy.