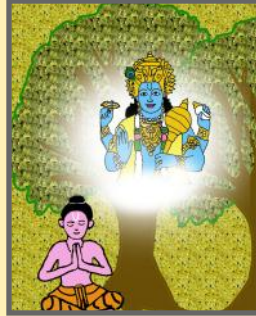


## Perseverance: Victory is Always Thine

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Srimad Bhagavatam is so called not only because it contains the stories of Bhagavan but also because it is filled with stories of *bhagavatas*, the devotees of Bhagavan. These stories illustrate to us the qualities needed to attain Bhagavan and the state of those devotees. The fourth canto of Srimad Bhagavatam thus illustrates the quality of perseverance, through the popular story of a young devotee of the Lord, Dhruva; perseverance and determination which won the little boy the highest – Guru's grace, Bhagavan's *darshan* and His abode.



When Dhruva, the son of King Uttanapada's spurned first wife, found out that the king was his father, he was filled with the desire to be with him. The five year old walked fearlessly to the court and tried to sit on his father's lap. But he was thrown out by his stepmother who spitefully advised him to propitiate the Lord to be born in her womb first before trying to sit on the throne.

Wounded by the sharp words, Dhruva ran, full of hurt, anger and tears, to the safe hands of his beloved mother. She pacified him, and virtuous as she was, asked him not to think ill of his stepmother. Instead she encouraged him to worship the Lotus Feet of Sri Hari, the Father of the Universe, who was the only One who could truly wipe out his sorrows, protect him, and make him ascend the throne.

As soon as he heard these words from his mother, Dhruva, though only 5 years old, set out to the forest to see Bhagavan. A Guru always crosses the path of a true aspirant. And when he does, he first tests the aspirant's resolve in the path towards God. Thus it was that Sage Narada came upon the little Dhruva walking determinedly alone in the forest.

When Narada found out that the boy was going in search of God, he immediately asked him to return to the kingdom. He warned of the dangers of the forest. Dhruva was undeterred. Narada offered to take him back and speak to his father so that Dhruva could sit on his lap. Dhruva asked if Narada would be there the next

day if his stepmother pushed him out again. Narada tried to convince Dhruva that unhappiness and discontentment result from one's own actions, and that one should remain satisfied at all times, accepting the sorrows and joys as Providence. Dhruva did not buy the argument even for a second. Then Narada warned Dhruva that the Supreme Lord was hard to reach even for yogis who practiced rigorous penance for numerous births. Dhruva said that with the Guru's grace, anything was easily possible. Little Dhruva had won the heart of Narada with his love, determination and perseverance. He had passed the test.

Dhruva faced many deterrents. He had to leave the secure and nourishing surroundings of his loving mother to tread the unknown and unsafe grounds of wilderness. His resolve and initial enthusiasm were tested with his Guru's words asking him to return and accept everything as fate. Finally, the complexity and uncertainty associated with his desire (to see God) was itself a profound impediment. Yet there was nothing in the entire world that could change the heart of this young boy. His perseverance ultimately won him his Master's grace.

Overjoyed with 5-year-old Dhruva's honest resolve in this highest path that is uncared for by millions in this world, Sage Narada took Dhruva under his wing, initiated him and described to him the form of the Lord, thus installing Him in Dhruva's heart. He then told him where to go, what to do and what to ask Bhagavan when He appeared before him – *satsanga*. In essence, the Guru took care of and guided every little step of the aspirant who had nothing in his quest to start with, except his strong determination and resolve.

The rest is history. Dhruva persevered in his penance, following his Guru's instructions. Subsisting only on fruit first, then only grass and leaves, then only water, only air and finally attaining complete control of breath, Dhruva stood like a pole on one foot contemplating on the image of Bhagavan installed in his heart. Thanks to his Guru's grace and his unrelenting, strong perseverance, Dhruva was able to

## Learnings from Srimad Bhagavatam

attract the attention of Bhagavan in merely five months.

The most compassionate Bhagavan descended to Madhuvana to see the young Dhruva, whose determined penance had thrown the entire cosmos off-balance! Pleased with him, Bhagavan blessed him immensely, granting him a long reign and at the end of it, a special abode in the skies as the Dhruva *nakshatra* surrounded by the *Sapta Rishis*, thus giving him the permanent *satsanga* he had asked for.

Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji, in his work, *Kali Dharma Undiyar*, says "*dhukkam varuvathum iravainin aruLAIE, virakthi vaLaravE unthlpara! vArAthAyin vINE unthlpara!*" (It is only due to deep compassion of the Lord that sorrow strikes a person; so that he may develop dispassion to the world and turn his attention to the Lord. If this does not come, then life would be in vain!)

So, one should **strive** to attain the Lord. Can there be a clearer paradigm of how unwavering one should be when it comes to attaining Bhagavan, than what the five-year-old Dhruva has shown?

Lekshmi Nair, Houston TX

### Sri M K Ramanujam



Sri M K Ramanujam ji, a senior disciple of HH Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji, will be touring the US between September and December 2013.

He will conduct spiritual discourses, Madhura Utsavs, Youth Leadership programs and more in various cities across the USA. Please see Page 4 and [www.godivinity.org](http://www.godivinity.org) for schedule.

### Inside this Issue

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## Cherished Memoirs 4

*This series chronicles sweet experiences recounted by the devotees of HH Maharanyam Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji as well as some divine experiences of Sri Swamiji himself. These articles are translations from the series, "Madhuramaana Mahaneeyar" that is published every month in Madhuramurali Tamil monthly magazine.*



### Hanumanji in the Sky!

Some devotees from Ramamoorthy Nagar in Bangalore themselves offered some land in the area to our Mission. At first, it had been decided to build a temple for Lord Panduranga there. For many days, Sri Swamiji had been worriedly saying, "There are so many Veda *patasalas* that are being run. Itihasas and Puranas are also as important as the Vedas. But there is no

Itihasa/Purana *patasala* to propagate their teaching."

In the future, thousands of people should take our Puranas the world over and propagate the path of Bhakti; with this goal in mind, it was decided to start an Itihasa/Purana *patasala*. It was

named Veda Vyasa Purana Patasala, and the responsibility for running it was given to Sri Sankaranarayanan of Bangalore. Under his leadership, a trust was established and construction work began. In the *patasala* premises, first a compound wall and borewell were constructed.

One day, when Sri Swamiji was returning from Panchavati (Maharashtra), he came to that location in Bangalore. There he sat down in *dhyana* for a while. "This place has a strong *sannidhyam* (divinity) of Sri Hanuman. Hence it is a temple for Hanumanji that should be built here," he said. At that point, the sky was completely

clear.

Suddenly, right above the spot where Sri Swamiji said that the deity of Hanumanji should be installed, a large cloud appeared, the like of which had never been seen before. It was distinctly in the form of a flying Hanumanji carrying a mountain. It remained that way for a while. The face, hands, tail, mountain, the body and legs, everything came together in exact likeness of Hanumanji. After a while, the cloud dispersed and disappeared.

*(The work on this temple was begun in right earnest immediately by Bangalore satsang members, and the kumbhabhishekham for the Sundara Anjaneya temple, in the Veda Vyasa Purana Patasala premises, was performed by Sri Swamiji on April 25, 2008. The temple is located in NRI Layout Kalkere, Ramamoorthy Nagar, Bangalore.)*

**Translated from Madhuramurali, Tamil monthly magazine, Feb 2009 issue**

## The Lord's Answer

There was an illustrious devotee in Guruvayur by name Poondhaanam. He was so devoted to the Lord that Lord Guruvayurappan would converse with him everyday.

In the same town, there was a person who was afflicted with a grave disease. No medicine could cure his disease and this made him a dejected person. One day, he approached Poondhaanam and told him about his disease. He requested Poondhaanam to ask Sri Guruvayurappan if he would be cured of his disease.

That night, when Poondhaanam spoke to Lord Guruvayurappan, he asked the Lord if the person's disease would be cured. The Lord told Poondhaanam that the disease would not be cured.

The next day Poondhaanam met the ailing person and told him what the Lord had said. No sooner did he hear about Lord's word that he would not be cured than he burst into tears. He cried all day that even the Lord had forsaken him.

That was when the man met Kroorammai. Kroorammai was a very humble devotee of

the Lord who hailed from a very poor family. Although she did not have any status in the society, she possessed a special status in Sri Guruvayurappan's heart. Lord Guruvayurappan would talk to her regularly as He did to Poondhaanam.

Kroorammai heard this person's story and assured him that she will take his case to the Lord. The next morning, with an enthusiastic mood she came down to greet the ailing person. She said, "The Lord spoke to me. When I asked Him about you, He has asked you to chant the Divine Names, 'Achyuta Anantha Govinda' continuously and your disease shall be cured!"

The ailing person's joy knew no bounds when he heard that he could be cured. He immediately caught hold of the Lord's instruction and chanted the Names incessantly. As the Lord had predicted, eventually, he was cured.

He went to the residence of Poondhaanam and told him what had happened. He said, 'You lied to me! Lord Guruvayurappan has indeed cured my disease!'

Poondhaanam felt very sad on hearing this.

He could not bear the allegation that he had lied. He wept to

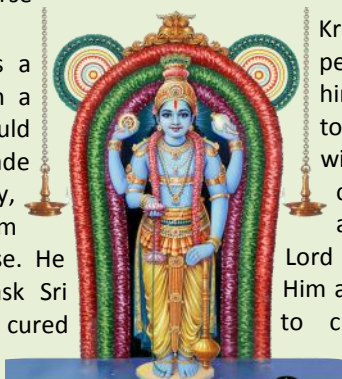
the Lord, "Oh! Guruvayurappa! Was it not you who had told me that he would not be cured? Today, I am being blamed of uttering falsehood. Did I really utter a lie? Is this fair?" He kept crying at the feet of the Lord.

That night, Sri Guruvayurappan spoke to Poondhaanam and pacified him. He said, "It was I who told you that he will not be cured. There is no doubt about it! You had come to me and bluntly posed a question if that ailing person would be cured or not, as one would do to an astrologer and I replied to you appropriately. But what did Kroorammai do? She asked me, 'Oh! Guruvayurappa! Today a devotee came and asked me if his disease would be cured. Lord, with your grace, is there anything that is impossible in this world? Pray tell me what he should do to be cured!' and I told her the way!"

Children, what do we learn from this story? God definitely hears everyone of us and answers our wishes when we pray to him sincerely. So, whenever we chant the Divine Names and say our prayers, we should be careful to ask the right thing to the Lord.

**Source: [www.namadwaar.org](http://www.namadwaar.org)**

**Story Time**







## Madhura Geetam - Bharata Pradakshina 4

Lanka, he stopped

His Holiness Maharanyam Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji has composed several hundreds of kirtans glorifying various deities and depicting different bhavas of a devotee, from praise and enjoyment, friendship and motherhood, to love and intense prayer. These kirtans are all being compiled by his devotees under the title—*Madhura Geetam*.

Sri Swamiji has also composed many kirtans on various kshetras or places of pilgrimage around India.

In this series, we will go on a pradakshina of Bharata desha as we present, each month, a kirtan composed by Sri Swamiji on a particular kshetra, starting from south India and then going north.

### Srirangam Sri Ranganatha

Srirangam, a beautiful island-town located in the middle of River Kaveri is the foremost among the 108 Divya Desams.

It is also known as “*bhooloka Vaikuntam*” (*vaikunta on Earth*).

The presiding deity, Lord Ranganatha, is found reclining on his serpent Adi Sessa. Lord Ranganatha along with His “*Ranga Vimanam*” (the *gopuram*) manifested of His own accord, and was first worshipped by Lord Brahma and later by Lord Rama in Tretha Yuga. Rama handed over Lord Ranganatha to Vibheeshana. Vibheeshana flew from Ayodhya with Lord Ranganatha and the Ranga Vimanam. On his way to



briefly on the banks of Kaveri. Another king, Dharma Varma, who had been performing devout penance to bring Lord Ranganatha from Ayodhya was overjoyed to see the Lord on the banks of Kaveri and requested Ranganatha to stay. Lord Ranganatha acceded to his request and decided to stay but promised Vibheeshana that his gaze would always fall on Vibheeshana's land. Till this day, the deity can be found facing south towards Sri Lanka.

The temple, by itself, is an architectural marvel. The main shrine is ensconced within 7 concentric rectangular structures that philosophically represent the 7 chakras of the human body.

Innumerable devotees have sung songs on this Lord. 11 of the 12 Azhwars have sung praises of Him. Andal worshipped Him in *sringara bhava*, married Him and merged with Him here at Srirangam.

Our Swamiji too has sung many songs on this deity. This month's song, “*Ranganatha Parabrahmane*” is set in Kanada raga, a raga ideal for bringing out *kaarunya rasa*. This song extols the virtues of Lord Ranganatha and seeks His blessings.

### Ranganatha Parabrahmane

Ragam: Kanada

Thalam: Adi

#### Pallavi

*ranganAtha para brahmaNe namah*

#### Anupallavi

*bhuloka vaikunta kshetra rAjah*

*ranganAyika hridaya ullAsah*

#### Charanam

*ubhaya kAveri madhya vAsah  
uttama bhAshyakAra Ashritah  
utsAhena sadA katAkshah  
unnatha yoga shayanah*

*sapta prAkAra madhye rAJa rAjah  
sakala vaishNava jana mohakah  
shankara sevita sarasija charaNah  
sadA utsavaih Ananditah*

*godAnAyaka parimaLarangah  
kAmapUritah tava darshaNena  
dhanvantarinA nitya sevita charaNah  
dhIna muraLidharah tava pakshameva*

#### Meaning:

##### Pallavi

Salutations to Ranganatha theParaBrahma

##### Anupallavi

The king of *bhooloka* Vaikunta

One who shines in Ranganayaki's heart

##### Charanam

One who resides amid the diverging Kaveri  
One worshipped by Sri Ramanuja  
One who enthusiastically casts his  
constant, merciful gaze

One reclining in a yoga posture

A king seated amidst the 7 concentric  
temple pathways

One who attracts all Vaishnavas

One whose Lotus feet were worshipped by  
Shankara

One who constantly enjoys *utsavams*

The pleasant-looking consort of Andal

Desires are fulfilled just by looking at you

One whose feet are worshipped daily by  
Dhanvantri

This helpless Muralidhara is on Your side

**Sowmya Balasubramanian, Fremont, CA**



Krishna faced  
many demons

during His avatara. The lucky ones who died in  
His hands were Liberated, while other unfortu-  
nate ones were not. Let's test your knowledge  
about the names of some of these demons.

#### Across:

- 1 He was the ruler of Magadha and Kamsa's father-in-law
- 5 She came to Brindavan to kill babies
- 8 This demon took the form of a handcart
- 9 The son of King Bali who had 1000 arms
- 10 He came as a huge bull with sharp horns
- 11 The horse demon who came to Brindavan
- 12 Lord Krishna's uncle
- 13 The demon who joined Lord Krishna and Balarama in a game of jumping and tried to carry away Balarama

## Krishna and the Demons - Crossword Puzzle

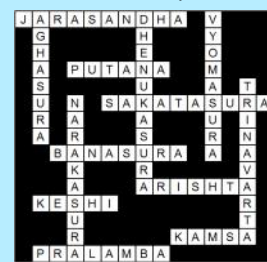
#### Down:

- 2 The demon who came to Brindavan disguised as a giant python
- 3 He lived in Talavana forest in the form of a donkey
- 4 He disguised himself as a cowherd boy and joined the hide-and-seek game with Krishna and Balarama, and abducted the cowherd boys
- 6 He came in the form of a tornado
- 7 This demon was the son of Mother Earth

#### Compiled by

**Ramya Srinivasan,  
Bay Area, CA**

#### Solution:







## News & Events

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the power within...

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Dallas, TX	Nov 22-Dec 3
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Sri M.K. Ramanujamji

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