

## The Virtue of Truthfulness

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### Infinite Ways to Infinite Bliss

Excerpts from the discourses/writings of HH Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji of Chennai, India.

In order to see God, one must have at least one of these three qualities - tread unflinchingly on the path of Dharma, be utterly truthful or have unshakable faith. If one does not have even one of these three qualities, He will certainly not have God's vision. In *Srimad Bhagavatam*, when the gods sing praises of Lord Krishna who is in Devaki's womb, they extol him as the very form of Truth. It is no exaggeration to say that Truth is verily the Lord.

There was a great saint and devotee of Lord Muruga by name 'Sri Pamban Swamigal' who lived in the last century. He led an extremely dispassionate life. Even while in family life, he would perform his *japa* and meditation thrice every day. His family was very much worried at his staunch devotion and renunciation. They feared that he may forsake the family and embrace austerity to become a *Sanyasi* (renunciate).

One evening, he sat alone on the terrace of his home meditating on the divine form of Lord Muruga. His heart, melted in love for the Lord,

instinctively desired to go to Pazhani (a Muruga temple in South India) and see Lord Muruga. As he came downstairs after his meditation, he told his family members of his intention to go to Pazhani. His words got his family members doubly worried. 'He is already immersed in *japa* and meditation. In this state of dispassion this pilgrimage to Pazhani will only turn him into a *Sanyasi*', they feared. They approached a neighbor of theirs, who would mingle freely with Swamigal, and shared this idea of Swamigal with him. They supplicated him to talk Swamigal out of undertaking the journey.

The neighbor approached Swamigal and tried to convince him to give up the idea of going to Pazhani. 'It is not wrong to utter a lie for something

good', thought Swamigal and lied to him that it was verily Lord Muruga who wanted him to come to Pazhani. Because it was the Lord who had summoned, no one dared to stop him.



Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji

That night, Swamigal went to the terrace for meditation. Then, suddenly the sky lighted up as if a million lightning bolts had struck. From within, Lord Muruga's voice

was heard, 'Did I ask you to come to Pazhani?' Swamigal was stunned on hearing this. The voice continued, 'I don't wish that lies be uttered even for good deeds. You may not come to Pazhani until I Myself summon you!' The voice faded away.

Respecting this, Swamigal did not go to Pazhani even once during his lifetime. Not only that, he has sung songs unto Muruga beseeching Him to invite him to Pazhani at least once.

This incident verily shows us how important it is for us to be truthful.

*(Translated from an article published in June 2009 Tamil Madhuramurali magazine)*

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## Cherished Memoirs 15 - The Essential Instruction

*This series chronicles interesting experiences recounted by the devotees of HH Maharanyam Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji. These articles are translations from the series, "Madhuramaana Mahaneyar" that is published every month in Madhuramurali Tamil monthly magazine. Sri Vishnuratha Bhagavata pens this week's article.*

### The Essential Instruction

Sri Sri Swamiji visits Govindapuram often and stays at Chaitanya Kuteeram for few days. On June 14<sup>th</sup> this year, He visited Chaitanya Kuteeram in Govindapuram and even as he stepped into the hall, mentioned that the place had a divine sanctity.

While performing Mahamantra Kirtan, Sri Swamiji kept repeating the verse "kAlakshepo na karthavyah" and asked me to repeat it as well. "When our end is near, the Lord of death, 'Yama' would confront us. He would not budge even if we plead saying 'I missed performing Nama Kirtan. Please give me **GRACE TIME**!' We don't know when death will strike us down. Even while alive, we are unaware if we will be healthy forever. Today when we are fit enough to chant the Divine Names, let us better chant!"

Sri Swamiji continued, "Many toil hard for their living – a few break rocks, a few lift heavy loads, some lay roads and others

clean toilets. A few hold important offices and hence work day and night. For us though, the Lord has bestowed all comforts only to enable us to chant His



HH Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji

Nama. In spite of all this, if we do not chant, we are but hypocrites!"

In order to reduce my weight, I took to doing some

physical workout. Sri Swamiji said, 'Don't starve yourself so much that you don't have enough energy to chant. That is not our way of life. Like Saint Purandaradasa says, eat well so as to have abundant energy to chant Nama!'

It is only in human birth that one can wash away his sins incurred in numerous births by rites and rituals, charity, penance, taking a dip in holy rivers, pilgrimages, *Japa*, meditation, *kirtan*, *parayana*, cow-worship, serving the Lord and His devotees etc. In spite of getting the rarest human birth, people only sin more rather than accruing merits. By merely following the easy path of Nama Kirtan, sins can be obliterated. Alas! There are no takers."

As I sang an Abhang that bore the line,

'Mukhe tuje Naama santhaancha darshana', Sri Swamiji remarked, "this implies having the Divine Name ever on the lips and constantly being in the company of Sadhus. Merely singing this Abhang without actually chanting the Divine Names will only render a nice beat for the song and nothing more!" He asked, "Do you chant when you travel to nearby cities to shop for groceries? Do you chant when you take a recess and go home?" "The Divine Name should fill your entire body", He said.

When we went to the Adhishtaanam (Samadhi) of Sri Bodendraal, Sri Swamiji said, "Balakrishnananda Swamigal is the embodiment of Srimad Bhagavatam, Guru Bhakti and affinity for Nama, all in one!" As we circumambulated, we noticed a piece of upper garment cloth (traditionally worn by men) which laid there. It was clean; perhaps left behind unintentionally by someone prostrating. But no one, in spite of noticing it, bothered to care for it. Pointing to the cloth, Sri Swamiji said, 'When the life force leaves us, your and my body will lay just like this, uncared for. That is the worth of this body. Chant as much possible when alive!'

*From July 2014 issue of Madhuramurali  
Translated by Viji Ramakrishnan, Dallas TX*

### The Two Obstacles

Once a wealthy old lady was living by herself in a city. She was a stingy person. She would not heartily give even a rotten apple to a beggar. However, her only aim was to attain heaven after death!

One day, an old hungry Sadhu entered her house and would not leave until his hunger was appeased. The lady was confused and did not know what to do. Finally she gave him a piece of rotten carrot.

After a few days, suddenly one day Yama, the God of death, stood before her and said, "I have come here to take you to hell. You have not done one good deed in your life." Immediately she retorted, "You are mistaken, Sir. I am eligible to go to heaven.

Pray look at your account books again. Five years ago, I did a selfless service - I donated a carrot to a Sadhu!" Yama referred to his books and conceded. Apologetically, he said to her, "You please wait outside your house. In a few moments, a golden carrot will descend from above and reach your hands. Hold on to it tightly. It will take you to heaven. But remember! you should never let go of it."

The old lady groomed herself up for the 'journey' and soon the golden carrot descended. She held on to it and it rose up like a balloon. Seeing this, a nearby vegetable vendor held on to the old lady's legs. Seeing this, another person held on to the vegetable vendor's legs. This went on and on. Each one held the other's legs and it seemed like

a long human chain was flying in the air.

The lady did not realize this until she held on to the carrot. She was happy because she was flying high. When she was about to reach the gates of heaven, she felt that she should see the world once again and looked below. She was angered at the sight of a long human chain following her. She said, "Get down! Leave my feet! I am the only person eligible to go to heaven." Saying so, she touched her chest with both her hands, thereby letting go of the carrot. With all the people, she fell back to earth!

Children, remember! 'I' and 'Mine' - these are major obstacles for a spiritual aspirant.

*Source: www.namadwaar.org*



## Madhura Geetam - Bharata Pradakshina 15

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

### Tirupati - Lord Srinivasa

With the dawn of the age of Kali, misdeeds and wrongdoings were rampant and spirituality was on a decline. The Lord, out of compassion decided to come down on Earth and stay here to relieve pain and suffering. As a result, he manifested as Lord Srinivasa of Tirupati in a wondrous tall form with four arms. Sporting the holy conch and disc in His upper hands, his lower left hand rests on his waist and His lower right hand (called 'Varadahastam', the boon-granting hand) points to His feet. It appears as if He invites us to take shelter under His feet and promises that the ocean of birth and death will then be only knee-deep and easy to cross!

Many a Mahan have sung the Lord of this foremost 'Divya Desam'. Sri Sri Swamiji too has visited Tirupati and sung numerous kirtans on the Lord. One such kirtan is "Sesha girimaham..." in which he describes the astonishing form of the Lord. The lyrics

are presented here.

### Seshagirimaham gachchami

**Ragam: Huseni**



**Pallavi**

seshagirimaham gachchAmi  
srInivAsam drakshyAmi

**Anupallavi**

keshAdi pAda mohAnAkAram  
keshavasUri bhaktaparipAlam—drashTum

**Charanam**

sadA ramA vAsita vakshasthalam  
saptagiri shikhare gambhIravAsam  
sundarabAhum mAIAIankrutam  
shankachakradharam katihastham—  
drashTum

makarakundaladharam mohita manmatham  
nikaravaibhava rahita kshethra nivAsam  
punyashlokam pundarikAksham  
sharaNyabhaktajana pratyaksha daivatam  
— drashTum  
chArukapolam sUnAsam  
varadahastam aravindacharaNam

and the  
meaning

makuTAlankruta mohanahAsam  
mraIdharapriyam pltavasanam—drashTum

**Meaning**

**Pallavi**

I am going to Seshagiri!  
I shall behold Lord Srinivasa!

**Anupallavi**

Who has an attractive form from head to toe  
Who protected the devotee Kesavasuri—to see Him...

**Charanam**

In whose bosom Lakshmi ever resides  
Who lives majestically atop the seven hills  
Who has beautiful arms and sports garlands  
Who holds the conch and the disc and has  
His hand on His waist — to see Him...

Who wears the fish shaped earrings  
Whose beauty attracts the Lord of Love  
Who lives in a place whose fame is unparalleled

Who is glorified and who has lotus-like eyes  
Who is the Lord manifest of all who  
surrender unto Him — to see Him...

Who has beautiful cheeks and a beautiful nose  
Whose hands bestow boons and whose feet are lotus-like  
Who wears a diadem and sports an attractive smile  
Who is Muralidhara's favorite and who wears yellow garments — to see Him...

- Sowmya Balasubramanian, San Jose CA

## Crossword - Indian Independence Day

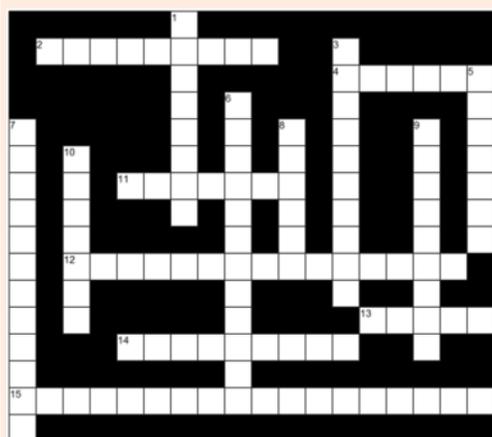
11 India's National

8 The Sanskrit term that was used by Gandhi for 'non-violence'

9 Wife of Gandhi

10 Another name for 'People of God' that was popularized by Gandhi

**Solution:**



**ACROSS**

- 2 The city in which Sabarmati Ashram is located  
4 India got its independence in this month

Anthem was originally written in this language

- 12 The first prime Minister of India  
13 The fabric that was made popular by Gandhi  
14 Birthplace of Mahatma Gandhi  
15 He composed India's National Anthem

**DOWN**

- 1 The first two letters of India's National Anthem  
3 Gandhi's father's name  
5 Indian Flag is commonly known by this name in Hindi  
6 India gained independence from this country  
7 The wheel in the Indian Flag is known by this name



**GURU POORNIMA CELEBRATIONS!**

**News & Events**

**DALLAS, TX**



**HOUSTON, TX**



**CHICAGO, IL**



**BOSTON, MA**



**RICHMOND, VA**



**SEATTLE, WA**



**LI'L GOPAS CAMP - CYPRESS, TX**



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