

Mother Power

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As children everywhere around the USA return to school and to all their weekly classes (including Gopa Kuteeram classes conducted by GOD), mothers everywhere are busy planning their young children's 'future' so to speak. What classes do they attend? What do they learn? What skills do they focus on?

We know that obviously the Mother exercises a large influence on the child's external life. But it is also a truer fact that the same Mother – knowingly or unknowingly – exercises an even

deeper, long-term influence on the child's attitude, nature, behavior and most importantly, outlook on life.

A young child is all ears and eyes for its mother. What the mother says – about the child, about the world, even about others – goes inside. What the mother does – her attitudes and outlook – goes inside. In essence, the mother is the first guru of a child, simply by being the mother!

In the Mahabharata, Bhishma speaks of the glory of the mother in the Shanti parva. He says, "A teacher who imparts genuine knowledge is more important than ten tutors; the father is more important than ten teachers of genuine knowledge; the Mother is more important than ten such fathers. There is no greater guru than the mother." (Conversely, it is a fact that an *uttama* Guru also dons the role of a loving mother!)

An interesting story—of Queen Madalasa—narrated in the Markandeya Purana, illustrates the influence the mother wields over her child's attitude.

Madalasa was the queen of King Ritdhvaj. When their first son Vikrant was a baby in the cradle, the hands of the mother Madalasa rocked the cradle

even as she sang words of Jnana to calm the crying baby.

She sang, "Suddhosi bhuddhosi niranjanosi..."

'suddhosi' means ever-pure, immaculate; 'buddhosi' means ever-awakened, illumined; 'niranjanosi' means spotless.



So she sang, "O child, you are a pure soul with no real name. Your body is merely a vehicle made of the 'pancha kosas'. Why do you cry, my son, when you are the blissful Atman and not the body?" She fed the child

with the milk of wisdom. As she suckled the baby her thoughts were 'you are the pure Atman'.

Madalasa was herself a Self-Realized soul hence her words had great effect on the baby. As she kept illuminating her little son with spiritual knowledge through her cradle songs, the son grew up with wisdom. The young prince, highly dispassionate, left the kingdom and moved into the forest to engage himself in severe penance. A second son was born to Madalasa who was named Subahu. Madalasa brought him up in the same way as she had her first-born. Subahu also grew into a great renunciate and left home in search of *jnana*. The same happened with Shatrumardan the third son.

The king was deeply concerned about the way his sons were giving up the kingdom and going away into the forest.

"Who will take care of the kingdom after me?" was the constant worry of the king. He, therefore, told his queen to spare their fourth son for him so he could take up the reigns of the kingdom after him.

With the king's permission she chose the name for their fourth son. She named him 'Alarka'. To this son Alarka

the mother Madalasa sang songs of valor that would make a great warrior king of him and enable him to protect his kingdom and make it prosperous. In him she sowed the seed of care for others. She taught him to regard other women as his mother and to think of the Lord to destroy wicked thoughts. Thus Alarka grew up to be a righteous king and a mighty warrior.

Mother Madalasa demonstrated that a mother wields great influence over the child from the start and imparts noble thoughts. She guides his life towards righteous living – be it spiritual or worldly.

As mothers, let us be aware of our immense responsibility in bringing up our children, moulding their attitudes and behavior, and most importantly, rendering them spiritually strong to lead a fear-free life of love and happiness.

Nirmala Giri, Chennai, India

Nisha Giri, 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 October and December 2014. He will conduct spiritual discourses, Madhura Utsavs, Youth Leadership programs and more in various cities across the USA. Please visit www.godivinity.org for detailed schedule.

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Madhura Geetam - Bharata Pradakshina 16

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.

Tiruvallur

50km from Chennai, on the Chennai-Tirupathi highway, is the town of Tiruvallur - a DivyaDesam. Here, the Lord is known as Veera Raghava Perumal. He is found lying on Adishesha with Lord Brahma sitting on a Lotus originating from his navel. His consort is Goddess Kanakavalli.

Legend says, the town got its name, Tiruvallur, because Lord Vishnu came down as a Brahmin to his devotee Saalihothirar's house and requested him for a place to spend the night. In Tamil, "thiru" refers to Lord and "vul" means a place and hence, the name Tiruvallur.

Tirumangai Azhwar and Tirumazhisai Azhwar have visited Veera Raghava Perumal temple and sung His praises. Sri Swamiji has also composed a beautiful song on the Lord. The song set in the raga Kedaram describes the Lord's beauty and prays for devotion at His feet. The lyrics and the meaning are presented here.

**Veera Raghavo
Vijayathe**

Raagam: Kedaram

veera rAghavo vijayate
vaidehi ramaNo vijayate
pitruvAkya pAlana utthama putrah
brAhmaNa sevana dhriDa vratah
brahmAdi sevita sarasija charaNah
bhaktAkArshaka pAvana chAritrah (veera)

kanakAbharaNa bhUshita paTTAbhirAmah
gajarAja rakshaka gambhira hrudayah
kanakavalli nAyakah sundararUpah
karuNA kaTAKsham satatam karotu me
(veera)
hanumanta pUjita Ananda rUpah
Ashritajana rakshaNa satya sankalpah
ananya bhaktim dehi tava charaNe me
Ananda muralldhara priya deva (veera)

Meaning

Victory to Sri Veera Raghava
Victory to the consort of Vaidehi



The great son who kept his father's word,
who took a firm vow to serve Brahmins,
whose lotus feet were served by Lord Brahma
whose pure character attracts his devotees

Gold ornaments decked coronated Rama!
The brave-hearted One, who was worshipped by the king of Elephants
The consort of Kanakavalli with a beautiful form
Pray bestow your merciful grace on me!

The blissful one who is worshipped by Hanuman
The Truthful One who protects the surrendered
Pray bestow me unswerving devotion to your Feet
The favorite Lord of the blissful Muralidhara!

- Sowmya Balasubramanian, San Jose CA

Sri Krishna Kavacham

This is a prayer for protection—of all the parts of our body, on all sides and at all times. This *stotram* was originally published in the November 2013 issue of Madhuramurali Tamil monthly magazine.

- श्री कृष्ण कवचं वक्ष्ये श्री कीर्तिं विजयप्रदं ।
कान्तारे पथि दुर्गे च सदा रक्षकरं नृणाम् ॥
- स्मृत्वा नीलाम्बुद श्यामम् नीलकुञ्चित कुन्तलं ।
बर्हिपिञ्छ लसन्मौलिं शरच्चन्द्र निभाननम् ॥
- राजीव लोचनं राजत् वेणुना भूषिताधरं ।
दीर्घपीन महाबाहुं श्रीवत्साङ्कित वक्षसम् ॥
- भूभार हरणोद्युक्तं कृष्णं गीर्वाण पूजितं ।
निष्कलं देव देवेशं नारदादिभिरर्चितम् ॥
- नारायणं जगन्नाथं मन्दस्मित विराजितं ।
जपेदेवमिमं भक्त्या मन्त्रं सर्वार्थ सिद्धिदम् ॥
- वसुदेव सुतः पातु मूर्धानं मम सर्वदा ।
ललाटं देवकीसुतुर्भूयुगं नन्द नन्दनः ॥
- नयनौ पूतना हन्ता नासां शकटमर्दनः ।

यमलार्जुन हृत् कर्णौ कपोलौ नागमर्दनः ॥

8. दन्तान् गोपालकः पातु जिह्वां हैयङ्गवीनभृत् ।

ओष्ठं धेनुकजित् पायादधरं केशि नाशनः ॥

9. अक्रूर सहितः कण्ठं कक्षौ दन्तिवरान्तकः ।

भुजौ चाणूरहारिर्मे करौ कंसनिषूदनः ॥

10. वक्षो लक्ष्मीपतिः पातु हृदयं जगदीश्वरः ।

उदरं मथुरानाथो नाभिं द्वारवतीपतिः ॥

11. रुक्मिणीवल्लभः पृष्ठं जघनं शिशुपालहा ।

ऊरू पाण्डवदूतो मे जानुनी पार्थसारथिः ॥

12. विश्वरूपधरो जङ्घे प्रपदे भूमिभारहृत् ।

चरणौ यादवः पातु विष्णुः पात्वखिलं वपुः ॥

13. दिवा पायाज्जगन्नाथो रात्रौ नारायणः स्वयं ।

सर्वकालमुपासीत सर्वकामार्थ सिद्धये ॥

14. इदं कृष्णबलोपेतं यः पठेत् कवचं नरः ।

सर्वदार्ति भयान्मुक्तः कृष्णभक्तिं समाप्नुयात् ॥

(To read the meaning of each verse, view this article on G.O.D. website at—<http://godivinity.org/sri-krishna-kavacham/>)



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News & Events



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Apart from weekly satsangs in numerous cities across the USA, 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

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