

The One Solution for All Our Troubles

For free distribution only. Not for sale. To receive this newsletter by email, send request to newsletter@godivinity.org

Excerpted from HH Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji's Mass Prayer talk on Jan 1, 2015

An important message, and a beautiful blessing in the end for us all!

“Mahans (saints) promulgate only the path that is the need of any particular Age. Srimad Bhagavatam is said to be the Purana that one has to take refuge in, in the Age of Kali. In *Bhagavata Mahatmyam* (text speaking about the greatness of Srimad Bhagavatam) , Sage Narada comes down to earth as soon as Kali Yuga is born, and wanders about taking note of the condition here.

He is asked for money to have darshan of God in a temple; he is asked for money to sprinkle holy water from a river on his head! He is shocked and runs away in fear!

Bhagavata Mahatmyam begins with Narada fleeing out of fear and encountering Sage Sanatkumara. When Narada narrates his experience to the sage and his three brothers, Sanatkumara says, “How can people find a way (for redemption) if great souls like you give up? What would be their state if no one shows them a way out?”

He then adds, “There is a holy text known as Bhagavatam. Go around the earth and discourse on the Bhagavatam to all. That is verily the succor for people.” Thus speaks Sanatkumara to Narada. Bhagavata mahatmyam is narrated as the dialogue between these two.

Well! Who are Sanatkumara and Narada? Sanatkumara is one of Lord Brahma's four firstborn sons, a pure Jnani who does incessant japa of Hari Nama. And Narada is one who constantly goes around the world and is aware of the state of the world and its people.

It is easy for someone who has shut himself up in a room and performed yoga, dhyana or yaaga to say that that path is the only succor for all. But how are the people in the world today? The man and the lady of the house wake up early in the morning, rush to the office travelling in a crowded train or bus, toil there under stress to complete the projects given, return home to help children in their school work, nurse them when they fall sick, shop for and meet the various expenses of the household, etc.

Even such people have to find a few moments to think of God. What is the way for such people? Nobody stops you from

doing yaaga or yoga or dhyana; but would it suffice if only you and you alone reach ashore? Should one be indifferent to the state of others?

Hence, one like Narada wanders all over the world and sees people living in Metropolitan cities like Mumbai or Bengaluru in multi-storeyed buildings, and rushing here and there all through the day in order to earn their living, returning home late evening and falling on bed physically and mentally tired. Hence they show the way for him: ‘Utter Rama! Utter Krishna! That would suffice!’

It is not I who says this. ‘*Tasmaat shastram pramaaNanthE...*’ In the Gita, Bhagavan says ‘speak only with testimony from Shastra’. Bhagavata shastram says ‘In Kali Yuga, Nama kirtanam would alone suffice’!

We saw Narada and Sanatkumara. Taking up these two as two characters we find that, moving amidst various kinds of people and families, various kinds of places and countries, Narada desires to show them all a way out of misery: a way that is supported by shastras and is not merely his opinion; thus Narada shows a way through Sanatkumara, who is a jnani and embodiment of the shastras.

Next we move into the Bhagavatam. Here, we find that Parikshit had only seven days to live. He desires to attain *moksha* (Liberation) within seven days. Through Nama kirtan (chanting the Name of God) one can attain Moksha in seven days... or even in seven minutes! This is a crash course.

As the scriptures say, in this Kali Yuga men are short lived, lazy, dull-witted and unfortunate. As man's span of life is short in this Kali Yuga one cannot complete sadhana of dhyana or yoga in his lifetime. [For those who practice these sadhanas] You will be born again and again and continue the practice and in some birth you will attain the fruit. But if you do Nama kirtan you can attain NOW and HERE – in this birth.

Does your life run on *vidhi* (fate) or by the Lord? This is verily in your hands. One's life runs as per the sins and merits earned by him. There is not even an iota of doubt



in this. But do you desire absolution from your sins and the Lord's Grace to work?

It was karma that had pulled Draupadi into the court! She was going to be dishonored in the court. At that time if she had cried, “Oh why have I been

pushed to this state?”, her fate would have done its work. Instead, Draupadi cried out “GOVINDA!” and Bhagavan Nama took over and worked. If you moan and cry, “Why this state for me? What have I done to deserve this?”, you will have to undergo the hardship. But if you desire that God interferes with your fate, you should not entertain any doubt: Only if you hold steadfast faith in the Nama you have taken up, in the Deity you hold on to, in the Guru you have sought refuge in, will the Guru or the God or the Nama save you.

Bhagavan Nama can indeed work beyond our fate. When we suffer some small ailment we take a simple medicine. When the ailment is serious we undergo severe treatment for a long period of time. Therefore, in order to wipe out the *prarabda* (result of past actions) in our life we have to keep on chanting Nama.

This is not difficult at all. One need not forgo food or sleep. There is no need for solitude. No separate time needs to be allotted for this. If there is Nama constantly on the tongue you will be blessed with anything you seek – be it moksha or darshan of the Lord or siddhis or removal of worldly troubles. But you have to constantly chant the Nama with faith and perseverance. CONSTANTLY.

On what basis can I have faith in this? Mahans have shown this path! Rishis have spoken of this! Shastras speak of it! It can never fail you. Place the faith on them with the thought ‘How can a way spoken and shown by them fail?’ and keep doing Nama kirtan.

So in this New Year may all of us earn self-confidence, courage, may we be blessed with the *shakti* to work, may the Lord be ever beside us, may we chant Bhagavan Nama always!

This is only a part of the extract. To read the entire excerpt, please go to www.godivinity.org/the-one-solution-for-all-our-troubles/



Cherished Memoirs 20

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.

A Guru is Always Aware!

Once, Sri Anupindi Subramaniam, who was studying Yajurveda in Hyderabad, was assessed by Sri Mallikarjuna Somayaji in Vijayawada. He performed extremely well in the test. Impressed, Sri Mallikarjuna Somayaji asked him, "Will you come and join Sri Guruji's (Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji) veda patashala in Chennai?" Anupindi Subramaniam agreed, and in order to obtain Sri Swamiji's permission to join, he went to Bangalore in 2003 during Samrajya Pattabhishekam function. As he was not sure of Sri Swamiji's response, he went to Bangalore without even taking any clothes or other things with him. Upon meeting Sri Swamiji, Sri Swamiji asked him to recite a *panchati*. When he recited it, Sri Swamiji immediately said, "Go right away with Sri Mallikarjuna Somayaji to Chennai and join the Veda patashala there. You can get all the things you need at the patashala itself." He who joined the patashala as a student then, is now a teacher there - Brahmasri Anupindi Ganabadigal.

The very next year after Anupindi joined as a student, he along with four other students were supposed to appear for a Vedic examination. But a function was also scheduled at the same time as the exam, and as a result, none of them could go. Anupindi wanted to attend the examination desperately. He inquired of his teacher but his teacher said, "When nobody is going, how can you alone go? Still, I will give you a suggestion. Tell Sri Guruji that you are being called to your hometown for 10 days

and then go to the examination instead." Anupindi did not have the heart to utter a lie, that too, to Sri Swamiji Himself.

But Sri Swamiji did not give a chance for something like that to take place. As Anupindi approached Sri Swamiji, prostrated and broached the topic of his trip, Sri Swamiji said, "Are you going for the examination? Good. You will do well".

On hearing this, Anupindi was taken aback. Even though Sri Swamiji knows everything without being informed, the casual way he asked about it without showing that he knew, was what was very surprising. And just as Sri Swamiji had blessed him, Anupindi excelled in his examinations.

Anupindi's parents live with his brother in Hyderabad. Once, his father wished to buy a house in Hyderabad. With all the money he had, his father paid the down payment and also completed the registration. But he could not make the rest of the payment. No bank was ready to lend him money. Anupindi also tried, but to no avail. Since his father could not get any loan, he called Anupindi (in Chennai) to tell him that he had decided to cancel the registration. Anupindi was very sad on hearing the news, so he tried approaching the bank once more, but had to face the same disappointment. He went to Premika Bhavanam (Sri Swamiji's satsang place in Chennai city) with a heavy heart.

Sri Swamiji had not been informed of any of this. But on seeing Anupindi, Sri Swamiji called him alone and asked, "Anupindi, were you not able to get a bank loan? Don't worry. Everything will be all right." As soon as Anupindi heard these words, tears rolled down his cheeks. Surprisingly, the very next day, they got a solution to their problem and Anupindi's father was able to buy the house.

injured his arm, and since then, he could not be involved in Sri Swamiji's *kainkaryam*

(service) like before. Last month, he lamented to his fellow Veda patashala teachers, "I do not know if I will ever get a chance to do *kainkaryam* for Guruji again!" Even without him telling Sri Swamiji anything about this, that very afternoon Anupindi was called in by Sri Swamiji for *kainkaryam*. Elated, Anupindi kept recounting this incident.

In June of 2006, Sri Swamiji asked Brahmasri Anupindi Subramaniam Ganabadigal to be a teacher at the patashala. Considering this to be his greatest fortune, he has ever since been serving as a teacher at the patashala.

Whenever Sri Swamiji performed japa at the Ashram, Anupindi used to sit alongside and perform japa. Once, seeing Sri Swamiji performing japa continuously through day and night for 18 hours straight, Anupindi thought to himself, "Nama is chanted here all the time. Guruji has no personal wants. Why then does Guruji perform such intense japa and dhyana?" As he continued to think like this for the next four to five days, Sri Swamiji then called him and explained, "I don't have any needs. The japa I do and the Nama being chanted here (in the Ashram) are all only for the welfare of all the people who come here. When they (people) come to the Ashram and pray, all their prayers will be fulfilled. Whatever problem they have, will be solved. All this (japa and Nama chanting) is only for that!"

Original Tamil article by Dr. A Bhagyanathan, Jan 2014 issue of Madhuramurali

Translated by Sankar Ganesan, Dallas TX



HH Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji

Kid's Quiz - Thyagaraja & Purandaradasa

This time of the year sees the Aradhana days of both Sri Thyagaraja as well as Sri Purandaradasa. Here is a quiz on these great saint-composers.

1. What does the word 'Thyagaraja' mean?

- A. King of comforts
- B. King of knowledge
- C. King of renunciation

2. What did Sri Thyagaraja propagate to the world through his kirtans?

- A. Knowledge
- B. Devotion [Bhakti]
- C. Music Awareness

3. Name the Pancharatna kirtan composed by Sri Thyagaraja in Sanskrit

- A. Jagadananda Karaka

C. Sadhinchene

4. Which king invited Sri Thyagaraja for a career at the royal court?

- A. King of Vijayanagar
- B. King of Thanjavur
- C. King of Maharashtra

5. Who came down as Sri Purandaradasa at the advent of Kali Yuga?

- A. Lord Brahma
- B. Lord Shiva
- C. Sage Narada

6. In which other language did Sri Purandaradasa compose his kirtans, apart from Kannada?

In 2012, Anupindi

B. Dudukugala

A. Sanskrit

B. Hindi

C. Telugu

7. On which Lord did Sri Purandaradasa compose his Kirtans?

- A. Lord Rama
- B. Lord Shiva
- C. Lord Krishna

8. When is the Aradhana of Sri Purandaradasa?

- A. Thai Amavasya
- B. Thai Poomam
- C. Thai Ekadasi

Compiled by Ramya Srinivasan, San Jose CA

Answers:

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



Madhura Geetam - Bharata Pradakshina 20

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 and back.

Kanchipuram

This month we will be visiting the holy town of Kanchipuram. One cannot explain the holiness of this town in words. It is one of the seven mokshapuris (towns that bestow liberation) and the only mokshapuri in South India.

Lord Vishnu appears famously in Kanchipuram as Varadaraja Perumal, which is a *divya desam kshetra*. The Varadaraja Perumal shrine itself is situated on a small



hillock known as Hastagiri and devotees have to climb 24 steps to have darshan of the Lord.

Another specialty of this temple and deity is the famous Garuda *sevai* (vahanam) during the annual *brahmotsav* celebrations, which is special among all Garuda *sevais* and is also mentioned by Sri Swamiji in his kirtan below.

Kanchi kshetra and Sri Varadaraja Perumal were also the home of Sri Ramanujacharya, who spent his formative years in this holy town, worshipping and serving Varadaraja Perumal. In this article, we will see a beautiful kirtan of Sri Swamiji, on Varadaraja Perumal in Kaanada raga.

Varadarajam Bhaje

Ragam: kAnada Talam: Adi
varadarAjam bhaje devAdi rAjam bhaje

kAnchi kshetra vAsinam vAnchita
phalapradam
ranjita bhakta jana manohara rUpam
vegavati tIraStitham veda paripAlakam
prapanna rakshakam dAnava shikshakam
garuDARUDam karuNA svarUpam
muralldhara puNya tharu phalitam

Meaning

Sing of Varadaraja, sing of the King of gods!
He resides in the holy town of Kanchi, He bestows all boons one wishes for
His beautiful form captivates the hearts of his charmed devotees
He lives on the banks of River Vegavati, He is One who nurtures the Vedas
He protects the one who surrenders and castigates the demons
He is mounted on Garuda, He is the embodiment of compassion
He is One who yields fruits from the tree of Muralidhara's merits!

Sowmya Balasubramanian, Fremont CA

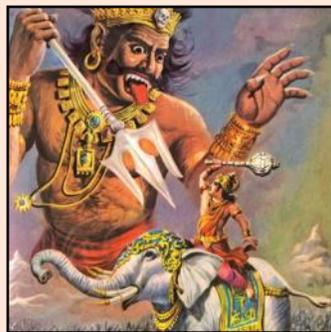
Vritrasura - A Demon by Birth but a Devotee at Heart

Once Indra, the king of the devas, insulted his guru, Brihaspati, by ignoring him when the latter entered his court. On seeing this, Brihaspati decided that Indra should be taught a lesson; so he disappeared from Indra's sight.

Indra and other devas depended on Brihaspati to do the proper yagnas to keep them in their glory and to keep the asuras away from heaven. When Indra could not find his revered guru, he and the other devas grew weaker. The asuras, seizing the moment, attacked heaven and usurped Indra's throne, sending the devas fleeing from their home.

Indra realized his mistake and bitterly repented for what he had done. He and the other devas, not knowing what to do, approached Brahma for advice. Brahma said, "O Indra, you have committed a grave sin by disrespecting your guru. As a result, you have become weak. But, there is a way out. Vishwarupa, the son of Tvashta, is a great sage. You can regain your powers if he agrees to be your guru and do the proper yagnas for you."

The devas, overjoyed, humbly went to Vishwarupa and said, "O great sage! You are our only refuge. We have lost our home to the asuras. Kindly be our guru and guide us so we can attain our former glory." Vishwarupa was a little reluctant to



accept. But seeing the plight of the devas, he felt sorry for them and accepted their offer. With Vishwarupa doing the proper yagnas for them, the devas regained their former glory and won back heaven from the asuras.

However, during the yagnas for the devas, whenever Vishwarupa poured ghee into the sacrificial fire to preserve the devas' glory, he also secretly poured ghee for the asuras. He was related to the asuras on his mother's side and hence he was sympathetic towards them. When Indra came to

know of this act of Vishwarupa's, Indra became very angry and immediately beheaded him.

When Vishwarupa's father, the great sage Tvashta, heard what happened to his beloved son, he decided to seek revenge on Indra. With his yogic powers, he created Vritrasura, a terrifying demon with fiery eyes and a lolling tongue. Even though Vritrasura had a terrible form, he was a great devotee of Sri Hari because of his previous birth.

With the asuras following him, Vritrasura charged into heaven. The devas were terrified and took refuge in Sri Hari. Sri Hari, pleased by their having come to Him, appeared before them and said, "I am very pleased with you. To defeat Vritra, ask Sage Dadichi to give you his backbone. Make a

weapon for Indra

out of the backbone with which to use against Vritra."

The devas then, approached sage Dadichi and asked for his backbone. Sage Dadichi, who was also a great devotee of Sri Hari, heartily said, "You can gladly take my backbone. This is all Hari's will." With that, the sage went into samadhi (state of oneness with God) and the devas obtained his backbone. They created the Vajrayudham (thunderbolt) with the backbone. Indra lifted it up, and with a surge of confidence, charged into heaven on Airavata, his white, four-tusked elephant. Vritrasura, not a bit surprised by Indra's entrance, gave him a terrible blow, which sent Airavata and Indra sprawling. Vritrasura then picked up Indra and gobbled him up. But Indra slashed his way out with his Vajrayudham. He then cut off Vritra's right arm.

Vritra, knowing that he was going to die soon, called out with immense devotion to Sri Hari and said, "O Lord, I am waiting for you like a baby sparrow would wait for her mother, like a calf would wait for the cow, like the wife would wait for the husband!" He then addressed Indra and said, "O Indra! Strike me down so I can be reunited with my Lord." And when Indra struck Vritrasura down, a bright light came from his body and merged with Sri Hari.

Thus, in this beautiful story, Sri Hari shows us how much he loves his devotees, no matter who they are.

- Purushothaman Ram, 11 yrs, Redding CA

Kids' Contribution



News & Events



SRI RAMANUJAM JI'S SATSANG - SEATTLE, WA



VAIKUNTA EKADASI/NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS



GOPA KUTEERAM ANNUAL DAY



DALLAS



NAMADWAAR, HOUSTON



ORLANDO



ATLANTA



DETROIT



VIRGINIA



GLOBAL NAMA RELAY



CHICAGO, IL



RICHMOND, VA



DALLAS, TX



MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Upcoming Events!
 Namadwaar's 5th Anniversary Celebrations
 * Mar 5 - 8.
 * For more info visit www.godivinity.org

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

Published by:
 **Global Organization for Divinity**
 3363 Bel Mira Way
 San Jose, CA 95135
 Phone: 1-(830)-4GOD-USA
 Feedback email: newsletter@godivinity.org
 Visit our websites:
www.namadwaar.org and www.godivinity.org

Newsletter team:
Content—Aravind TRA, Latha Kumanan, Lekshmi Nair, Narayanan Sathiamoorthy, Nisha Giri, Ramya Srinivasan, Sankar Ganesan, Sriram Ramanujam, Sowmya Balasubramanian, Viji Ramakrishnan, Yamini Zivan Prakash.
Illustrations—Sripriya Sarathy.