

## All Knowledge Finally Converges at the Feet of the Sadguru!

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**February 18:** the world was blessed twice on this date with the birth of great Masters! First in 1486 when **Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu** was born, and 350 years later, in 1836 when **Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa** was born!

**Chaitanya Mahaprabhu** was the ocean of wisdom; a Vedic scholar par excellence. He was an expert in all *shastras*; was crowned as the most learned scholar ever; and everyone feared facing him in a debate. But such a great scholar - one fine day - threw away everything and declared that simply chanting God's Name would suffice. After that, he himself constantly chanted 'Hare Krishna Hare Rama' and reveled in love of God.

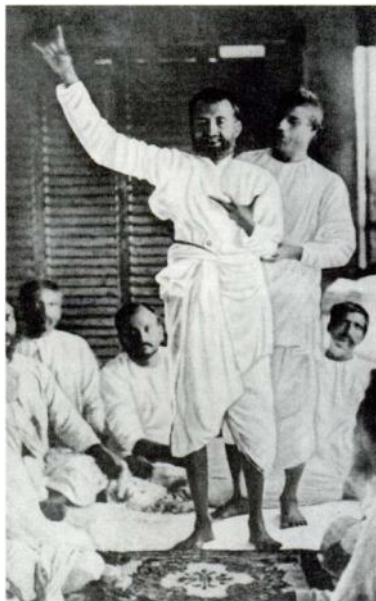
He had studied and mastered everything and was highly knowledgeable. But he realized that none of that was going to have any impact on the ultimate goal of life. All of this knowledge has to finally take us to God's Feet. That is the whole point and purpose. Else such study is all in vain. That is what he wanted to show us.

Though he was a highly learned scholar he does not have any composition to his credit. He has written only one *stuti* known as 'Shikshaashtakam' that sings the glory of

Mahaprabhu were all highly learned scholars. The list includes Advaitacharya, Vasudeva Sarvabhouma, Srivasa Pandit, Murari Gupta, Sanatana Goswami, Roopa Goswami and numerous others. They were all lions in their own domain. One of them was the greatest Tarka vidwan in the country in his time; another was the greatest Vedanta vidwan of his time. All



of them had their own group of followers. But every one of them surrendered to Mahaprabhu. When we look at the picture of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu chanting Nama along with Nityananda, we find a whole lot of great scholars around them. But all of them threw up their hands and declared "all this learning is of no use if the Lord's Name does not come on my tongue!" Giving up everything, they chanted Nama blissfully. So, all the *shastras* converged at Mahaprabhu's feet.



**Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa** too exhorted his disciples to chant the Divine Name and showed them that love of God was the purpose of life. But he was the exact opposite of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. He could barely even write his own name! He was uneducated.

But take a look at the list of his disciples – Swami Vivekananda, Swami Brahmananda, Swami Saradananda, Swami Ramakrishnananda, Keshab Chandra Sen (the leader of Brahma

Samaj), Surendranath Mitra, Girish

Chandra Ghosh (the father of Bengali

theater) and many others.

They were all highly educated. They were the cream of modern intellectuals of India. They knew all about modern sciences. They were erudite scholars of their Age! They knew literature, science and arts; but all that worldly knowledge came and converged at the feet of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa!

It is indeed a great contrast! All scriptures at the feet of Mahaprabhu and all modern day education at the feet of Ramakrishna Paramahansa! And what did both of them teach? Simply love for God and the greatness of His Divine Names.

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### Sri Poornima Kumarasami



**Sri Poornimaji**, a disciple of Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji, is an excellent speaker who is adept at presenting

philosophical, spiritual, devotional and inspirational subjects in a wonderful and interesting manner. She will be in the USA between March and June 2015. She will conduct spiritual discourses and satsangs, Vasanta Utsavs, Bhagavata Retreat programs and more in various cities across the USA. Please visit [www.godivinity.org](http://www.godivinity.org) for schedule.

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## Cherished Memoirs 21

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

### Let the Power of Motherhood rise!

**C**haitanya Mahaprabhu Namabhiksha Kendra's Mahila Mandali (women's wing) organized a mass prayer session in Tanjore and conducted it in a grand fashion. Smt. Savitri Ramakrishnan worked day and night for this event and Smt. Gita Dandapani supported her throughout the event. Sri Swamiji graced the occasion and addressed the gathering.

Sri Swamiji started his address with Bharathiyar's words, "One must have done penance to be born as a woman" and "We will shun the madness (ignorance) that treats women badly".

"Swami Vivekananda said, 'The main reason why India has not made rapid progress is because we belittled the power of women.' Once Sister Nivedita, who was

a foreign national and worked along with Swami Vivekananda, visited Tamil Nadu. During her visit, a freedom struggle movement had been organized. Subramanya Bharathi came alone to participate in the movement. Seeing him alone, Sister Nivedita said, "Why did you not bring your wife Chellamma to the struggle? A struggle movement without any women will not succeed." Bharathi accepted this."

Further Sri Swamiji said, "In our religion, we worship all the gods along with their consorts. In *Srimad Ramayana*, Ravana who desired only Sita, met his downfall. Similarly, Surpanaka who desired only Lord Rama got her nose severed. Hanuman, who desired Lord Rama and Sita together, is living forever as a *chiranjeevi*. This shows that gods must always be worshipped along with their female consorts."

Sri Swamiji then said, "Karaikal Ammayar, Avvaiyar, Andal, Janabhai, Sakubhai, Meera, Saradamani and other such great



HH Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji

women devotees have worshipped Bhagavan." He then narrated the life history of contemporary devotees - Matha Janaki, a great devotee of Sri Ramana Maharishi from Tanjore, and Andavan Pitchai from Chennai.

"Sage Yagnavalkya's highest philosophy of *jnana* was intended for his wife." "Tulasi das attained *jnana* because of his wife's word." "Bilvamangala was transformed by the words of a woman called Chintamani and became an ardent devotee of Lord Krishna." "Lust, anger and fear are the three obstacles to attain liberation. These obstacles can be overcome easily if one worships the deity as one's own mother. The reason is that one does not feel lust, anger or fear only towards one's own mother. That divine mother is *Brahmavidyaswarupini* (embodiment of *Jnana*)." Sri Swamiji ended his discourse by saying, "Let the power of motherhood rise and bestow all auspiciousness on this world."

*Original Tamil article by Dr. A Bhagyanathan, Jan 2008 issue of Madhuramurali  
Translated by Sankar Ganesan, Dallas TX*

### Kid's Crossword - Prema Bhaktas



devotee with whom Lord Panduranga did household chores  
**7** Child devotee who was born in asura clan but had immense love for Lord Hari  
**9** This great devotee was sent by Lord Krishna to meet the Gopis with a message  
**10** A great saint who is revered as an incarnation

devotees even today—has grown in the spot where her body was buried

#### DOWN

- 1** Sanskrit word for 'Divine Love'
- 2** Saint who composed 'Gita Govindam' depicting the divine love of Radha Krishna
- 6** A devotee from Srivilliputur who had intense devotion for Lord Krishna
- 8** She is considered the epitome of Krishna bhakti in Brindavan
- 11** Devotee of Lord Krishna from Rajasthan who loved 'Giridhari'

*Compiled by  
Ramya Srinivasan, San Jose CA  
Solution:*



Feb 14 is celebrated everywhere as the Day of Love. Let's test your knowledge of great devotees who had the highest divine love towards God.

#### ACROSS

- 3** Great Azhwar who remained speechless and in samadhi under a tree for 16 years
- 4** Devotee who merged with Srinathji at the first sight after dancing in front of the Lord
- 5** Adopted daughter of Sant Namdev and a

of Lord Krishna and was born in Nabadwip, West Bengal

- 12** A great sanyasi who would sing and dance for Sri Krishna and composed the famous 'Krishna Leela Tarangini'
- 13** The third consort of Lord Vishnu who is the epitome of divine love
- 14** A woman devotee of Lord Panduranga who attained oneness with Him in his sanctum. A tree - that is hugged by





## Madhura Geetam - Bharata Pradakshina 21

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.

### Tirutangal

About 500 kilometers south of Kanchipuram, which was the holy kshetra we visited last month, is the town of Tirutangal. Geographically, this town is located in the Virudhunagar district, about 3 kilometers from Sivakasi and about 20 kilometers from Srivilliputhur, the birth town of Andal. Tirutangal is a *divyadesam* and the temple is found on top of a hill called Tangal.

The main deity of the temple, is known as Ninra Narayana. As the name suggests, the Lord is found in the standing posture. His consort, Goddess Lakshmi is known as 'Sengamala thaayar'. She has a separate shrine and interestingly, she is also found in the standing posture. Goddess Bhoomi and Goddess Neela are also present here.

Legend of the temple says that once the three consorts of the Lord had a small argument about who was superior.

Goddess Lakshmi came down to the "Tangal" hill and did penance. The Lord was pleased with her and deemed her superior. Since, Goddess Lakshmi came and did penance here, the place came to be known as Tirutangal.

Among the Azhwars, Bhootataazhwar and Tirumangai Azhwar have sung hymns on this holy town. Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji too has composed a beautiful song in Raga Simmendramadhyama describing the virtues of the Lord. The lyrics and the meaning are presented here for you to read and enjoy.

### Ninra Narayana

**Raga:** *Simmendra Madhyamam*

ninra nArAyaNA - tirutankAlil

ninra nArAyaNa maN tindra nArAyaNA

andrivvulagam aLanda nArAyaNA

puLLinVAi piLanda nArAyaNA

tavamiyatrum lakshmi nArAyaNA -  
ninravAre

kundrinmel ninra kuraiyondrumillAdha  
nArAyaNA

panrivuruvAi vandha bhUmi nArAyaNA

kandrinam mEitta murall nArAyaNA



### Meaning

Lord Narayana who stands - in Tirutankal  
Is the Lord Narayana who once ate mud

He is that Narayana who measured the world (with his Feet)

He is that Narayana who tore open the mouth of a bird (Bakasura)

He is the Lord Narayana of Lakshmi who performed severe penance - while standing  
He is that Narayana who stood on the hilltop without any blemish

He is that Bhumi Narayana who came as a Boar

He is that Murali Narayana who herded cattle

*Sowmya Balasubramanian, Fremont CA*

### Opportunity in Disguise

Long ago, a king ruled a far away land. Although he ruled his kingdom well, he felt that his citizens had become lazy. He wanted to test this. So, one day, he had a boulder placed on an arterial roadway that connected the palace to the marketplace. He then hid behind a huge banyan tree by the road and watched to see if anyone removed the rock.

Time passed by. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by. Although they saw the rock as a barrier on their way, they found a way around it and walked past it. An impatient few returned, blaming their luck for having encountered the rock and a few others loudly blamed the king for not keeping the roads clear.

None did anything about getting the stone out of the way.

Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant lay down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. He requested other passers-by to give him a hand, but all of them mockingly smiled at his 'foolish' attempt and walked away.

After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the king indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway.

The citizens learnt a lesson – **every obstacle is truly an opportunity to**

improve ourselves.

Rather than whining about it or distancing ourselves from it, we must face it with optimism and overcome it. The very experience will make you a stronger person.

*Source: www.namadwaar.org*

**Kids' Contribution**

### Nama Anubhava

Once when I was in Dallas, I got flu. As a problem, I couldn't go to utsav. When my father called me on the phone, he told me to go and pray that I should recover soon. I went downstairs and prayed by saying the Mahamantra 16 times. The next day I felt better and I found out my father's advice worked.

*- Madhura Sriram, 7yrs, Houston TX*



## News & Events



### MAHAMANTRA PRAYER RELAY BY NAMADWAAR, HOUSTON

A 48-day Mahamantra relay was commenced in Houston on Jan 16, where devotees are going daily to different houses in the Houston area to chant the Mahamantra for 30 minutes. The satsang commences with a brief 10 minute talk on the greatness of Nama sankirtan and 30 seconds silent prayer for everyone present, followed by 30 minutes of Mahamantra chanting. The Mahamantra graced about 41 homes in about a month. The relay - whose purpose is for the auspicious Mahamantra to shower its blessings on as many people and homes as possible - will be continued for 48 days and will culminate fittingly on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's jayanthi day, March 5th 2015, which is also the 5th anniversary of Houston Namadwaar.

### ANDAL KALYANAM - RICHMOND, VA



### GOPA KUTEERAM, DALLAS TX



### GOPA KUTEERAM KIDS AT SENIOR CENTER



### Upcoming Events!

**Houston - Namadwaar's  
5th Anniversary Celebra-  
tions Mar 5 - 8**

**Sri Poornima ji's satsangs:  
Atlanta - Sri Ram Navami  
Celebration Mar 20 - 28**

For more info visit  
[www.godivinity.org](http://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 cir-  
cles are conducted in various  
cities.**

**Email [newsletter@godivinity.org](mailto:newsletter@godivinity.org)**

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