

## Greatness of Kainkaryam

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Love is an essential ingredient in service. In fact, it is the only ingredient.

For to love, is to serve.

We naturally serve when we love. When we love our children, we

serve them. When we love our spouses, we serve them. When we love our parents, we serve them. When we love our job, we serve the employer. When we love a cause, we serve it.

Srimad Bhagavatam says,

*sa vai pumsAm paro dharmo yato bhaktir adhokshaje*

*ahaituki apratihata yayAtmA suprasdati*  
The supreme occupation [dharma] for all humanity is that by which men can attain to loving devotional service of the great Lord. Such devotional service must be motive-less and uninterrupted to completely satisfy the self.

Among all kinds of service, *kainkaryam* – service to God, Guru and their devotees – is indeed the highest. However, the difference between this and other kinds of service is that this *kainkaryam* is bestowed, not taken up.

The Guru chooses how He has any particular *kainkaryam* done, and through whom; and in most cases, he picks the one who is least qualified for that role. That is the greatness of the Guru. Because it is then always obvious that it is only the Guru who worked through the disciple, as the disciple by himself was completely incapable of that role.

Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji says, "Kainkaryam and bhakti cannot be separated. Kainkaryam done without love is simply 'work'."

But the beauty is that *kainkaryam* leads naturally to bhakti.

Srimad Bhagavatam says:

*shushrUshoh shraddhadAnasya vAsudeva-kathA-ruchi*

*syAn mahat-sevayA viprAh puṇya-tlrtha-niṣevanAt*

This sloka says that by wholeheartedly serving devotees who are completely free of vice, one gains affinity for listening to the stories of the Lord, which is the easiest means to develop bhakti.

*Kainkaryam* is the greatest blessing one can get. When we look at what great devotees ask time and again to Bhagavan, it is only for *kainkaryam*.

The foremost bhakta of Sri Rama is Hanumanji. He is the epitome of bhakti to Bhagavan and always has the Lord's Name on his lips. And what does Hanumanji do? Always serves the Lord.

Vritrasura, a terrible asura who came to kill Indra, was really a great devotee at heart. In the famous Vritrasura Chatusloki – four beautiful verses that are filled with intense bhakti – in the very first sloka, Vritrasura says:

*aham hare tava pAdaika-mUla dAsAnudAso bhavitAsmi bhUyah manah smaretAsu-pater guNAm te grNIta vAk karma karotu kAyaḥ*

Oh my Lord, **shall I be reborn as a servant of Your servant** whose only shelter is to be at Your lotus feet? May my mind always remember Your wonderful qualities, may my words always praise You, **and may my body be always engaged in working for You!**

The Gopis, who are the very embodiments of love for Bhagavan, ask only for His *kainkaryam*.

*tan naḥ prasIda vrjinArdana tEnghri-mUlam*

*prAptA visrjya vasatIs tvad-upAsanAshAh tvat-sundara-smita-nirIkshaNa-tlvra-kAma taptAtmanAm purusha-bhUshaNa dehi dAsyam*

O vanquisher of all distress, please show us mercy. To approach Your lotus feet we abandoned our families and homes, and we have no desire other than to serve You. Our hearts are burning with intense desires generated by Your beautiful smiling glances. O jewel among men, please make us Your maidservants.

Even Lord Krishna's consorts – Rukmini Devi, Satyabhama, Jambavati, Kalindi and others, the queens of Dwaraka, who all

had the great fortune of being married by the Lord Himself, only aim to remain forever as His servants. One consort says, "I am His maidservant." Another says, "I am the one who sweeps His residence." A third prays, "May I always wash His feet and remain in servitude!"

Loving service pleases Bhagavan like nothing else.

Sri Krishna Himself says to Sudama, "I, the Soul of All Beings, am not as satisfied by ritual worship, a new life, austerity or self-control as I am by faithful service to the Guru!"

How great then is this loving *kainkaryam* that exalted devotees crave for and Bhagavan Himself extolls! And how fortunate are those who – though entirely incapable – have been bestowed, out of His compassion, with the fortune of performing some kind of service to Him.

**Nisha Giri, Houston TX**



### 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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*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.*

### Why God incarnates?

One day, during satsang, Sri Swamiji gave a discourse on Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa. In the discourse, he stated that Sri Ramakrishna was the incarnation of Lord Vishnu and that he who incarnated as Rama and as Krishna in his previous births, has now incarnated as Ramakrishna.

At that point, someone asked our Sri Swamiji, "You said Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa is the incarnation of Lord Vishnu. Similarly, people say Saint Thyagaraja is the incarnation of Sage Valmiki. And that Purandaradasa is the incarnation of Sage Narada. Likewise, we attribute all the staunch devotees of the Lord as either an incarnation of the Lord himself or some sage. On analyzing this, two questions arise in me. First, can an ordinary person like me attain the state of eternal bliss or undergo the supreme divine experiences they underwent?"

Second, if they are Bhagavan themselves, then why should they yearn and cry for Bhagavan?"

For this, Sri Swamiji replied, "Even a little child watches the television for hours together. It enjoys listening to cine music and even hums them. When it comes to sports, it enjoys watching them as well as playing. But, it is impossible to make the same child participate in a Bhajan session or make them listen to the stories of the Lord. What is the reason for this? When a lamp is lit, the flame always points upward and water flows downwards. Likewise it is the nature of human mind to always go outwards in worldly pursuits.

Everybody desires to see the Lord directly. But we do not long or cry for the Lord. Sometimes, we do stand in front of the Lord and shed tears. Do you know the cause for that? Reflecting on our problems and our inabilities causes self-pity and as a result, we shed tears; not because of the desire to see the Lord. I completely

understand when you say that you are unable to shed tears thinking about the Lord.

We can sit, stand or clap hands as we wish. But we cannot cry whenever we want to. Then can we get ourselves to cry? While it is certain that one cannot see God without pining for Him, the human heart seldom



HH Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji

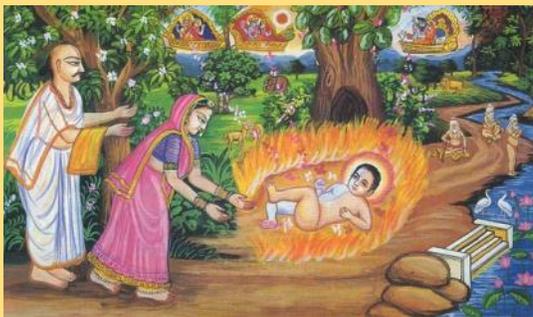
longs for Him. Then how does one get the yearning for God and cry for Him? It is only by getting into contact with who truly yearn and weep for Him. That is why, the Lord Himself, incarnating on earth, weeps or longs for the Lord and, passes on this divine longing to all those who come in contact with him during his time on Earth. Since man's mind is not naturally inclined to long for the Lord, God himself manifests on Earth, weeps for the Lord and creates the longing in the minds of men as well. That is why God incarnates on Earth; and sheds tears for God." replied Sri Swamiji.

*Original Tamil article by Smt. Jayanthi Janakiraman, Jan 2006 issue of Madhuramurali monthly magazine  
Translated by Viji Ramakrishnan, Dallas TX*

## Sri Vallabhacharya

Srimad Bhagavatam says "kalau kalau bhavishyanti Narayana parAyanAh"-the devotees of the Lord come down to the

earth to show the path of Bhagavata Dharma. The Lord sends his devotees who are Avatara Purushas to spread the glory of Bhagavata Dharma. Sri



Vallabhacharya was one such Avatara Purusha. He came from an Andhra family of scholars. His father was Sri Lakshmana Bhattar and mother was Illamma and they were living in Varanasi.

There was a legend in their family that when the family completes '100 Soma Yagas', the lineage will be blessed with a divine child.

It was the period when Mughal invasions

were causing the Hindus to run for their lives. Lakshmana Bhattar and Illamma, who was pregnant, fled from Kasi and started moving to South India. Illama delivered a baby boy in Champakaranyam forest in

Madhya Pradesh. The baby did not show any signs of life. They thought that the baby was dead and left the baby in the forest with deep sorrow. That night the Lord came in Sri Lakshmana Bhattar's dream and told them

that the baby was alive. Immediately the parents rushed to the forest to get the baby. They saw the entire place was surrounded by fire and that a snake was protecting the little child who was alive. Illamma rushed through the fire and it gave way like how Yamuna gave way to Vasudeva. The child was rescued and he was named Vaishvanara and Sri Vallabha. He was the youngest child. He had an elder

brother named Sri Ramakrishna and two sisters Savitri and Saraswati.

The day Vallabhacharya was born was the day that Srinathji (*murthi* in the form of Govardhana-dhari) was discovered by Sri Madhavendrapuri, another great saint. Srinathji later became Vallabhacharya's puja murthi.

The child grew up to be a very intelligent boy and learnt all the scriptures very quickly. He also earned the title "Bala Saraswati" because of his mastery in scriptures. He got married to Akkamma Devi and had two sons Gopinatha and Vittalanath.

Sri Vallabhacharya had many disciples among whom were Surdas who was a famous poet, Krishnadas, Kumbhandas and Paramanandadas. Sri Vallabha put these disciples to serve Lord Srinathji. Sri Vallabhacharya's Jayanthi falls on April 15, 2015.

Sri Vallabhacharya's path is known as Pushti Marga, the path of Grace.

*Meera Srinivas, 9 yrs, San Jose CA*

Story Time



## Madhura Geetam - Bharata Pradakshina 23

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.

### Vittalapuram

About 70 kilometers south of Chennai, very close to Mahabalipuram is the town of Vittalapuram. This town is known for the temple of Sri Premika Vittala, which was constructed in the 16th century during the reign of Krishna Deva Raya, by one of his chieftains, Kondaya Deva Chola Maharaja. Sri Premika Vittala is found standing with both his hands on his hips. An interesting feature of this temple is, the Lord here is accompanied by both his consorts, Satyabhama and Rukmini. Usually, in Vittala temples, only Goddess Rukmini is seen standing next to the Lord.

Panduranga or Vittala loves to hear *nama sankirtan* (singing the names of the Lord). So, as part of everyday worship at the temple, the Lord's names are chanted continuously. Similarly, Ashada Ekadasi (the ekadasi that falls in the month of Ashada) is

considered very special for Lord Panduranga and is therefore, celebrated in a grand manner here.

The temple is now being maintained by the Archaeological Department of Tamil Nadu. Sri Muralidhara Swamiji visits Vittalapuram regularly and especially, on Ashada Ekadasi. On one such occasion, Sri Swamiji composed a beautiful song on Lord Premika Vittala set in Karaharapriya raga. The song and its meaning are presented here for you to read and enjoy!

### Bhagyodayam

**Raga:** Karaharapriya

*bhAgyodayam mama devadeva  
pAlita charAchara pANduranga  
tava darshanam nayanAnandam  
tava bhAshaNam shravaNAnandam  
tava sparshaNam paramAnandam  
tava Alinganam premAnandam*

*tvameva mama janaka:  
tvameva mama janani  
tvameva mama sadguru:  
tvameva mama swAmi*



*samudrarAja  
sevita charaNa  
sarasa  
muralidhara  
mohana rUpa*

### Meaning

What a good

fortune has come about, my Lord of the Lords  
Oh! Panduranga! The one who sustains the world.

Your sight is a feast to the eyes  
Your words are a feast to the ears  
Your touch is eternal bliss  
(And) your embrace bestows bliss filled with divine love

You are my father  
You are my mother  
You are my spiritual teacher  
You are my Lord

(Your) feet was worshipped by the king of ocean

(You are) the enchanting One for the longing Muralidhara

**Sowmya Balasubramanian, Fremont CA**

## Quiz - Sri Vallabhacharya

1. Pooja murthi of Sri Vallabhacharya

- A. Shiva Linga
- B. Srinath ji
- C. Durga Devi

2. Name the birth-place of Sri Vallabhacharya

- A. Champakaranyam forest
- B. Panchavati
- C. Chitrakut

3. Srinathji was first found in

- A. Govardhana Hill
- B. Tirupathi
- C. Kasi

4. Name the famous composition by Sri Vallabhacharya glorifying Lord Krishna

- A. Madhurashtakam
- B. Krishnashtakam
- C. Sikshatakam

5. Name the father of Sri Vallabhacharya.

- A. Ramabrahmam

6. Who was Sri Vallabhacharya's mother?

- A. Illamma
- B. Sachi Devi
- C. Bhuvaneshwari Devi

7. Name the commentary that was written by Sri Vallabhacharya on Srimad Bhagavatam

- A. Sursagar
- B. Subhodini
- C. Deivathin Kural

8. What is the other name for Sri Vallabhacharya that means 'Agni' [God of Fire] ?

- A. Vivekananda
- B. Vaishvanara
- C. Valmiki

9. Name the philosophy of worship that was propounded by Sri Vallabhacharya.

- A. Dwaita
- B. Pushti Marga
- C. Visishtadvaita

B. Jagannath Misra  
C. Lakshmana Bhattar

10. Name the disciple of Sri Vallabhacharya who was blind, but was a great saint and a poet.

- A. Krishnadas
- B. Paramandadas
- C. Surdas

11. Name the son of Sri Vallabhacharya who took care of Lord Srinathji's temple

- A. Vittalanatha
- B. Gopinatha
- C. Gokulanatha

12. Name the devotee of Sri Vallabhacharya who led a dasi, Ranjani, to surrender and merge into Lord Srinathji.

- A. Kumbhandas
- B. Krishnadas
- C. Paramanandadas

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

**Answers:**

1 - B, 2 - A, 3 - A, 4 - A, 5 - C, 6 - A, 7 - B, 8 - B, 9 - B, 10 - C, 11 - A, 12 - B



## News & Events

### SRI POORNIMAJI'S SATSANG IN ORLANDO, FL



### NAMA SAPTAHAM IN RALEIGH, NC



### SRI RAMA NAVAMI CELEBRATIONS ACROSS US



### UGADI CELEBRATIONS IN RICHMOND, VA



### PADUKA PRAVESHAM IN IRVING, TX



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.

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