

## Faith is greater than God!

For free distribution only. Not for sale. To receive this newsletter by email, send request to [newsletter@godivinity.org](mailto:newsletter@godivinity.org)

**F**aith is defined as the complete belief we have in someone or something. It is essential for pursuing worldly goals as well as in spiritual practice. Faith is, in fact, the fundamental requirement for Bhakti.

When one does not have faith, even if God Himself comes and stands in front of him, he will not believe that it is God and instead imagine it to be a trick.

But when someone has faith, he can see God even in a mere stone.

That is why Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji and many other Mahatmas too, say, "Faith is greater than God himself."

It is easy to claim that one has faith when everything is going according to his wish. But it is true faith only when one has that same belief and trust even when situations are not conducive.

Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji says in his work, *Kali Dharma Undhiyar* – "Sharanagathi seitharkum vishwasam vendum, sollarku elidham endru undipara; seivarku aridham endru undipara".

*Even for complete surrender, one needs faith. This is easy to say, but difficult to practice.*

Faith comes naturally only when we know something to be true. The great devotee Prahlada's father tried to kill him several times by throwing him into the ocean, pushing him off a mountain, throwing him into fire and so on. But Prahlada did not bat an eyelid whatsoever as he had complete faith in the Lord that whatever happened to him was His will. Later, when Hiranyakashipu asked Prahlada if the Lord was present in the pillar, Prahlada boldly replied that the Lord was indeed there and prostrated to the pillar. And Lord Narasimha immediately came out of the pillar to make the words of His devotee true! Such was the greatness of Prahlada's faith; he knew God's existence and protection as the Truth!

In the same *Kali Dharma Undiyar*, Sri Swamiji also says – "Sathiyam, Dharmam, Vishvasam enbadhil ondru kuda illamal – undipara, Kadavul aridham endru

*undipara."*

*To be able to attain God, one has to either adhere strictly to the truth or follow dharma perfectly or have complete steadfast faith. Without at least one of these, it is difficult to attain God.*

King Harischandra always spoke the truth. In the end, God himself came to him. The Pandavas always treaded the path of Dharma. Lord Krishna was there with them throughout. Similarly, if one has steadfast faith, one can see the Lord.

Once there was a very learned man who had a very average disciple. The disciple did not understand the lessons the learned man taught. But he was very obedient. The disciple would take care of daily chores in the Ashram and any other tasks his master gave him. Everyday, the master gave him some rice and grains to cook his own food. And the only instruction the master had given him was to give the food to Lord Krishna to eat before he ate it. The disciple took the instruction literally and on the first day, he waited for the Lord to come. He waited and waited. The day was almost over. The disciple was faint with hunger. Yet, he decided to wait. Finally, as the disciple was almost about to collapse, the Lord came as a 12 year old boy and ate his food. He left some for the disciple and promised to come the next day. What gave this disciple—who could not even understand his master's lessons—the vision of Lord Krishna and the fortune of partaking of His leftovers? It was simply his faith in his Guru's words. Guru is God in human form.

Sage Matanga was a great sage who, before leaving the mortal world, gave the Rama nama to his devotee Sabari. He asked her to constantly chant the Name and said that Lord Rama would come to

her doorstep. Sabari had complete faith in her Guru's words and waited for the arrival of Lord Rama. Everyday she cleaned her house and collected fruits and berries to give to Lord Rama, in case he came that day. But He did not come for many many years. Yet Sabari continued the same

practice every day because she knew that her Guru's words will never fail.

After several years, just as her Guru had said, Lord Rama indeed stood at her doorstep!

When we hear about the unflinching faith of these devotees, we too long for that faith in the Lord.

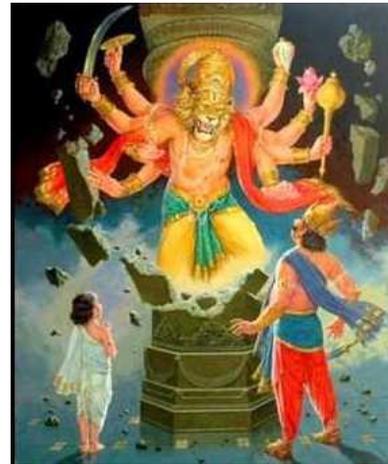
But is it even practically possible, considering the doubting nature of our minds? A slight hint of a problem in our lives... and the mind immediately questions the very existence of the Lord! If that is the case, how can common people like us develop this steadfast faith?

Manickavasagar says in Tiruvachagam, "Avan aruLale, avan thAL vaNangi."

*(I pray to him only by his grace)*

Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji too assures that steadfast faith is possible only by God's grace. Then what should we do? The only thing we need to do is pray deeply and sincerely to the Guru or God to bless us with steadfast faith and devotion towards them.

**Anusha Ramesh, London, UK**



### Inside this Issue

<b>Cherished Memoirs - 24</b>	Pg 2
<b>Quiz Time - Narasimha</b>	Pg 2
<b>Madhura Geetam - 24</b>	Pg 3
<b>Kids' Story -Who has a place in heaven</b>	Pg 3
<b>News and Events</b>	Pg 4



*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.*

### In the Complete Care of a Guru!

Those who frequent Sri Swamiji's Premika Bhavanam satsangs in Chennai would certainly recognize Sri Prem. One can see him melodiously render Mahamantra Kirtan there with utmost love, not to mention his tremendous love for Sri Swamiji. "If I am alive today, it is only because of Guru Maharaj", he would often say, "Whether or not I understand the profundness of this statement, it is the truth!"

We shall see how, by Sri Swamiji's grace, he recovered from a very grave accident that he encountered.

On the first day of July in 2011, Prem paid his routine visit to Premika Bhavanam to offer his salutations to Guru Maharaj and headed to his office in his motorbike. He had to cross Anna University in Guindy to go to work. At the entrance of the University, in the rush-hour traffic, all of a sudden, a bus ran over his leg. Prem tried to get his leg out after the bus stopped, but it was jammed under the wheels. Passengers from the bus stepped out and tried to lift the bus to relieve his leg but in vain. Eventually they pushed the bus backwards and got his leg out.

His left thigh was ripped and the skin on his stomach and arms had peeled away. The identity card and the helmet he was wearing were missing. His clothes were torn apart and his motorcycle was crushed. In that

melee, someone found his mobile phone and handed it over to him.

Prem had no relatives in Chennai. His mother had passed away a few years back and his father lives in Tirupati. It was Guru Maharaj who came to Prem's mind instantly. With his left hand, he somehow called Sri Giri at Premika Bhavanam and asked him to pass on the word to Sri Swamiji that he had met with an accident. In between, he constantly kept repeating "Gurunatha", "Gurunatha"!



HH Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji

At that time I (Dr. Bhagyanathan) was at Premika Bhavanam and I immediately informed Sri Swamiji. Through Prem's mobile phone, I got in touch with the ambulance crew, who had arrived and learnt their assessment of the situation. They said that they could admit Prem in a government hospital or a nearby private hospital.

I got in touch with a satsang member Sri Arunachalam who lived near Adayar and recounting what had happened to Prem, requested him to help out. Leaving all his work, he immediately rushed to see Prem. On the way to the hospital he told Prem that he was also a devotee of Sri Swamiji and that he was there on Dr. Bhagyanathan's behest. "This hospital is well known to me, and there is nothing to worry," he reassured Prem.

The doctors who examined Prem opined that firstly, it was hard to save the leg. "Let us see if the leg heals. Then later bother about whether he would be able to walk. Nothing can be affirmatively said now," they said. Indeed, it was a truly gruesome accident. What can be said when in peak traffic, a bus under full load runs over someone's leg? Survival itself is rare. Even if he does, he may be physically challenged. Would he ever return to normalcy? Even if he does, how

many years would it take! Unfortunately, time waits for none! This is what the doctors had said in their language, and it is true indeed. But what actually happened was a miracle of all miracles!

As Prem was carried in a stretcher into the hospital, he was surrounded by ten to fifteen people--all of them being Sri Swamiji's devotees! It went to show how the entire satsang was like a single family. None of them were related to Prem and yet, the dedication with which they served Prem showed the extent of love and brotherhood our Guru Maharaj had inspired in their hearts.

When one places his prayer to Sri Swamiji, He does not merely stop with blessing the devotee. He would constantly inquire with the devotee amidst all his busy schedules. Truly, his concerned inquiry verily reduces the impact of the suffering to a large extent. This is the undeniable experience of every satsang devotee. One cannot comprehend how Sri Swamiji is able to dedicate time for this, given his puja, spiritual discourses, scripture recitals, pilgrimages, mass prayers, constantly meeting new devotees, Ashram administration, Utsavs, temple renovations and a host of other activities!

Despite all of this, he would get in touch with the concerned individual and bless him. Each individual's experience is a testimony to this fact.

With Prem too, it was no different. Sri Swamiji often visited Prem. He sat beside him and inquired, "How are you?". He also asked other devotees to visit Prem. He ensured that Prem got the best treatment in the hospital. Prem was completely immersed in Sri Swamiji's love.

After Prem was discharged from the hospital, Sri Swamiji himself visited his house and performed Mahamantra Kirtan.

(Continued on Page 3)

## Lord Narasimha—Quiz

May 2 was Lord Narasimha's jayanthi this year. Let's test your knowledge about this unique incarnation of God.

1. What is the form of Lord Narasimha?
  - A. Half lion and half human
  - B. Human with a boar face
  - C. A fish

2. Narasimha was the \_\_\_\_\_ incarnation in the Dasavatar(10 avatars) of Lord Hari

- A. First
- B. Fourth
- C. Tenth

3. Lord Narasimha appeared from \_\_\_\_\_

- A. The ceiling of the palace
- B. A pillar
- C. A tree in the palace garden

4. Name the deity who gave Hiranyakashipu the boon that made him very powerful:

- A. Lord Indra
- B. Lord Shiva

C. Lord Brahma

5. During which part of the day did Lord Narasimha kill Hiranyakashipu?

- A. Dawn
- B. Night
- C. Dusk

6. Name the star in which Lord Narasimha's incarnation took place

- A. Swathi
- B. Rohini
- C. Pushya

7. Which little boy did Lord Narasimha crown as the king of all bhaktas?

- A. Dhruva
- B. Prahlada
- C. Sudama

8. What name of God did this little boy chant always?

- A. Narayana
- B. Shiva
- C. Vasudeva

Compiled by Ramya Srinivasan,  
San Jose CA



## Madhura Geetam - Bharata Pradakshina 24



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.

### Parikkal

Around 200 kilometers from Chennai is the temple town of Parikkal. This town is famous for an 1800 year old Lakshmi Narasimha temple.



The main deity is Narasimha and is believed to have appeared of his own accord ('swayambhu').

The temple was built by a king called Vasantharaja. The legend is that the king who was being troubled by a demon called 'Parakalasa' did a penance to Lord Narasimha and requested Him to kill the demon. Lord Narasimha killed the demon but was in a ferocious mood. So the same king prayed to Goddess Lakshmi to calm the Lord's anger. Goddess Lakshmi complied to the devotee's request and pacified the Lord.

The king believed that he got the vision of the Lord only because of the demon. So the place was named after him.

Sri Swamiji has written a beautiful song in Tamil language on Parikkal Narasimhar set in the 'Bhairavi' raga. The lyrics and the meaning are presented here for the readers to read and enjoy!

### Deivam Kaaneere

Raga: Bhairavi

deivam kANire parikkalil  
vAzhum paramanai kANirE

hiraNyanai vadaitu bAlakanai kAkkum  
arimugam koNDa achyuthanai kANirE  
parivuDan bAlakanai maDimel  
amarttirukkum  
prahlAda varadanai kANirE

tuLaba mAlai tulanga vitRirukkum  
mangaLa mUrthiyai kANirE  
sogam pokkiDum moham tavirtiDum  
yoga narasimhanai kANirE

mangaLam aruLiDum amangaLam  
azhittiDum

mAlolanai kANirE  
karangaLil Ayudham charaNa kamalangaLil  
pAdukam  
muraLidharan araN kANirE

### Meaning

Oh Ye! Behold the Lord at Parikkal  
Behold the Supreme who lives (at Parikkal)

The One who slayed Hiranyakashipu and protected the boy (Prahlada) -  
Behold that lion-faced Achyuta!  
The One who, with compassion, invited the boy to sit on his lap -  
Behold that Prahlada Varada!

The One wearing a Tulasi garland -  
Behold His auspicious form!  
The One who removes our sorrows and our delusions -  
Behold that Yoga Narasimha!

The One who blesses us with auspiciousness and destroys inauspiciousness -  
Behold that Maalola!  
The One who bears weapons in His hands and wears sandals on His Lotus feet  
Behold that Lord of Muralidhara!

Sowmya Balasubramanian, Fremont CA

### Who has a place in heaven?

Once a scholar, a priest and a peasant stood at the gates of heaven. The guard at the entrance stopped them and said, "To enter heaven, list the good deeds you have done."

The scholar answered, "I am a highly learned scholar and have all the *shastras* (scriptures) in my fingertips. Therefore, I have every right to enter heaven!"

The guard replied sternly, "You know the scriptures inside out. But you have not put into practice all that you have learned. You are, therefore, unfit

to enter heaven. You may go back."

Next, the priest stepped forward. The priest exclaimed, "Don't you recognize me? It is because of my numerous *yagnas* (sacrifices) that even the gods of heaven obtain their food and nourishment. I have acquired immense *punya* (merits) by performing these sacrifices. Since I have led a life as per the scriptures, I ought to have a place in heaven."

Quietly hearing the priest's haughty response, the guard replied, "You have performed numerous *yagnas*, but they were done only for your own benefit. A

selfish man has no place in heaven!" Thus the guard refused entry to the priest too.

Finally, it was the turn of the peasant.

With folded hands and bowed head, the peasant responded hesitantly, "O great one, I am a simple peasant and I have offered food and water to all the hungry and thirsty travelers who passed by my home and field. This is the only small good deed I have done. I don't know if I deserve to enter heaven."

Hearing this, the guard smiled and said, "You are the only one who deserves to enter heaven.

walk like any of us. Above all, he does not suffer from any permanent physical handicap. Can you fathom the depth of this?

Prem wonders if this is the meaning of the divine hymn "*annaiyaai athanaai ennai aandidum thanmaiyam*" (as a mother, a father, the One that leads me). He realizes that this was possible only because of the

You have taken effort

to remove the sorrow of people around you. *Heaven can be attained only by helping those in need."*

The guard opened the gates and permitted the peasant alone to enter heaven.

Compassion towards all is the highest virtue. We, the children of God, should be selfless and live a meaningful life by helping those in need without any condition.

(Adapted from the book "*Tulasidhalangal*", by HH Sri Muralidhara Swamiji)

sheer grace of Sri Swamiji.

One cannot explain the grace that Guru Maharaj bestowed on Prem. I fully comprehend when Prem says, "I pray for everlasting truthful devotion at the lotus feet of Gurunatha!"

Original Tamil article by  
Dr. A Bhagyanathan,  
Madhuramuralii July 2012.

### CHERISHED MEMOIRS — continued from Page 2.

On Gokulashtami day, while thousands of devotees were eagerly waiting for His *darshan*, Sri Swamiji said, "Today is Gokulashtami. Prem will want to see me," and headed to Prem's house first. With care, Sri Swamiji arranged for his physiotherapy, nurse assistance, nutritious food,

soft bedding and everything else that was needed.

If devotees came and sat in front of Sri Swamiji, He would send them to visit Prem and chant Mahamantra, telling them that Prem would otherwise feel lonely. While the doctors had predicted a 3-4 year recovery time, Sri Swamiji made Prem sit up and walk in four months! Today, he is able to sit or



## News & Events

### SRI POORNIMAJI'S SATSANG IN HOUSTON, TX



### VASANTHOTSAV IN NAMADWAAR, HOUSTON, TX



### MAHAMANTRA WRITING CONTEST WINNERS!



1. Sahana, 3 yrs, Plano TX
2. Aahana, 3 yrs, Plano TX
3. Gaushika, 3 yrs, Plano TX
4. Sidharth, 5yrs, Plano TX
5. Pranav, 7 yrs, Morrisville NC
6. Smrithi, 7 yrs, Frisco TX
7. Vaibhav, 11 yrs, Morrisville NC
8. Prathamesh, 12 yrs, Dallas TX
9. Ramaa, 14 yrs, Cleveland OH

### Upcoming Events!

#### Sri Poornima ji's satsangs:

##### Dallas:

\* May 28th to 31st

Discourse on 'Gems Of Ramayana' at DFW temple, Irving, TX

For more details contact

dallasnamadwaar@gmail.com

##### Fundraising Events:

##### Minneapolis:

'*Bhakti Sugandham*': The Fragrance of Devotion—A Classical Indian Dance Ballet with Live Music Ensemble on June 14th, 3:00 PM at The Southern Theatre, MN. For details contact:

priyasubs@gmail.com

##### Detroit:

'*Radhe Radhe*' - A Story of Love for the Supreme—A Bharatanatyam Dance Ballet on June 21st, 4:00 PM at Clawson High School Auditorium. For details call - 248.390.6534

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](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@godivinity.org)

Visit our websites:

[www.namadwaar.org](http://www.namadwaar.org) and [www.godivinity.org](http://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.