

## Prayer - The Solution

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

We have all forgotten how to pray. For many of us, praying is standing before an image of God with folded hands; maybe muttering a few *slokas* that we may not really understand; or perhaps, at best, asking for some favor from Him.

Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji says, "Prayer is not information. Merely informing God about our problems is not prayer."

And repeatedly informing Him again and again does not make it prayer either.

Prayer is, in truth, a strong emotion. It is a deep feeling with a sincere yearning for its fulfilment. Prayer is a heartfelt call for the grace of God.

Further, *mahans* (saints) say that prayer is the very basis for any action on the part of God. In other words, prayer is *necessary* for God to act.

We see that with every of Lord's incarnations. Sri Krishna's descent was a result of Bhoomi Devi and Lord Brahma's prayer. Sri Rama—the Devas' prayer and Vamana—Aditi Devi's.

And we also see how God always acts in favor of whoever calls upon Him. The *amrutha mathanam* episode is a beautiful case in point. The Devas lost their power and prayed to the Lord; He gave them the idea of churning the Milky Ocean to obtain the nectar of immortality. They could not lift Mandara mountain, so prayed to Him; He came and lifted it Himself and positioned it. The mountain sank, and again they prayed; He took the form of a turtle and provided a sturdy base. They still found it hard to churn, and again prayed to Him; He pressed down on the mountain from the top and Himself churned the mountain. When finally the Divine nectar emerged, the Asuras snatched it away and again the Devas took refuge in the Lord; now Bhagavan again took the form of Mohini the enchantress, tricked the Asuras and gave the nectar to the Devas. At every stage of this episode, prayer was necessary for the Lord to act. And so it is in our lives too.

Heartfelt, deep, sincere prayer is the solution to everything – relief from worldly trifles and grave dangers; the way to obtain mental strength, a positive attitude and discrimination; the means to seek forgiveness and repent for our mistakes committed knowingly or unknowingly; the way to truly develop compassion and devotion, the only way to

actually be able to see God.

Even great saints obtained His vision only after years of deep yearning

and praying. "de darshan ko dAn prabhu" (give me Your vision as alms, O Lord!) prays Meera Bai in one of her songs.

Saints show us how we should pray. Effective prayer has more than just presenting our deep desire. Prayer includes reminiscing the Lord's omnipotency—His ability to grant what we ask. It includes reminiscing how He has similarly blessed other devotees.. And most importantly, it includes reminiscing His compassion towards us helpless beings. This compassion is what will evoke His grace on us.

Sri Swamiji would say, "If we ask Krishna to save us from danger, only looking at him as a child, He will happily come sit on our lap and be only a little child. He may give us a sweet smile and speak babytalk." Instead, we need to remind Him about His prowess and compassion – how He saved the Gopas and Gopis from Putana, Trinavarta, Shakatasura, even as a little child; how it was He, Bhagavan, who ran to the rescue of Gajendra and Draupadi. When we remind our deity about His *Lilas* and immense compassion with a melting heart, and then place our prayers before Him, how would can He be without coming to our rescue?

Sri Swamiji's numerous beautiful prayer songs show us how to pray. He sings: *inDru pol enDrum enai ni kAthiDa venDum – prEmika varada*

(O Premika Varada, you have to protect me always, just as you are protecting me today – Here the prayer is placed before the Lord)

*vandanam vandanam mInDum mInDum vandanam vandanam seivadanDri vEronDrum ariyEn* (I prostrate to You again and again; I cannot do anything else but prostrate to You – Here the Lord's compassion is invoked through surrender and acknowledgement of the devotee's helplessness)



*Anaikku anDru aruL seida Kanna Draupadi mANam kAtha uthamane thUNai piLandu vandu bAlakanai kAthAi pEdai enai kAppadum nin kaDane* (O Krishna, you showered Your blessings on the Elephant Gajendra; You are the great one who saved the honor of Draupadi; You tore a pillar and came out to protect the little boy Prahlada; it is Your duty to protect me, who am as helpless as a helpless woman!)

How can the Lord not be moved by words such as these? How beautifully Sri Swamiji reminds the Lord of His quality of protecting His devotees under any circumstance and then surrenders while again reiterating the devotee's helplessness.

This is the path of prayer. Simple, straight, effective. A direct connection to God.

Prayer is also a self-purifier. The more deeply we pray, the purer we become. And the more we connect with God, our prayers themselves get purified—that eventually all we can pray for is only His grace and love.

And the beautiful secret is that, if we don't know how to pray or call out to God, all we have to do is chant His Divine Names, sing these songs of great saints, and *pray* to be able to actually pray through them. As we continue to do this, a miracle will indeed happen and we will begin to actually mean them as we sing, and want those very prayers to be fulfilled.

Sri Swamiji sings (on our behalf) in yet another of his wonderful prayer songs:

*"un mIdhu uLLa Asai poiye AnAlum adhai mei ena seidhiDuvai kaNNA ni"* (Even if my love for your is false, O Krishna, please deign to make it true!)

The journey begins with prayer and ends... not just *with* prayer, but *in* prayer!

Nisha Giri, Houston TX

### Inside this Issue

<b>Cherished Memoirs - 25</b>	Pg 2
<b>Quiz Time - Maha Periyava (Part 2)</b>	Pg 2
<b>Madhura Geetam - 25</b>	Pg 3
<b>Kids' Story - Vibhishana Sharanagathi</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.

## Incidents from the life of

### Maha Periyava

A few incidents in our lives are etched in our memories like beautiful paintings. These memories are so vivid that every time we reminisce them, we enjoy the same bliss, as we had originally experienced. Such divine incidents which took place in the life of



HH Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji

Kanchi Kamakoti Acharya Jagadguru Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi Swamigal fondly called as "Maha Periyava" by everyone, are brought back to our memories as we commemorate His birth month. We are sharing such incidents which our Sri Swamiji shared with us.

Maha Periyava would always partake food only after the sun rises. Once during a rainy season, dark clouds hid the Sun not letting it show up on the sky for 2-3 successive days. Consequently, Maha Periyava did not take any food during that time. His devotees felt extremely sad at the

sight of their Guru not eating anything. The ever-compassionate Maha Periyava took pity on His devotees, stepped out and looked at the sky. It was as dark as the previous day. Gently clapping His hands, Maha Periyava signaled the clouds to move away! Just as commanded, the clouds gave way and there emerged the glorious Sun God! Maha Periyava had darshan of the Sun God, and once again, clapping, signaled the clouds to move back to their original position. And the clouds faithfully obeyed! The devotees' joy knew no bounds as Maha Periyava partook of food that day.

Once an elderly couple came to have Maha Periyava's darshan. They informed Him that were 81 years old and that their children were forcing them to celebrate 'Shatabhishekam' (a 80 year celebration) and that they were not interested. Maha Periyava enquired the reason behind their reluctance, for which they said that the function invitation would indicate that the couple had seen a 1000 crescent-moons in their lifetime and that they had not made it a habit to see the crescent moon every fortnight. 'Would it not amount to lying in the invitation about witnessing a thousand crescent moons, while I have indeed not?'

Hence he was reluctant to celebrate the function. Upon hearing this Maha Periyava with a smile on His face said, "You don't have to lie about having seen 1000 crescent-moons. Instead, you are going to see 1000 crescents and have your children fulfill their desire of celebrating your Shatabhishekam in a grand manner!"

He then advised the confused couple to visit Ekamreshwara temple in Kanchipuram and have darshan of the Sahasra Lingam in the precincts. The Sahasra Lingam is a big Shiva Lingam with 1000 small Shiva lingams in it. After having the darshan of the Sahasra Lingam, the couple came back and prostrated to Maha Periyava. "Are you now ready to celebrate your Shatabhishekam?", He asked the bewildered couple. Maha Periyava explained, "Did you not have the darshan of the 'Sahasra Lingam'? Each of those Lingam forms sports a crescent moon! Now you have seen 1000 crescent-moons in your life. Go ahead and celebrate Shatabhishekam per your children's wish. It would not amount to lying anymore!" The couple couldn't control their tears, and with their tongues tied they prostrated and then left without having the heart to leave His presence.

*Original Tamil article by  
Dr. Bhagyanathan,*

*Madhuramurali June 2014. Translated by  
Viji Ramakrishnan, Dallas, TX*

## Quiz - Maha Periyava

1. What was the birth name of Sri Sri Chandrashekarendra Saraswati Swamigal?
  - A. Venkatraman
  - B. Swaminathan
  - C. Rajagopalan
2. Name the birth-place of Sri Sri Chandrashekarendra Saraswati Swamigal.
  - A. Vellore
  - B. Villupuram
  - C. Cuddalore
3. Name the father of Mahaperiyava.
  - A. Subramanya Sastri
  - B. Neelakanta Sastri
  - C. Ganapathy Sastri
4. What did MahaPeriyava most importantly preach to the world?

- A. Importance of Guru and Dharma
  - B. Importance of meditation
  - C. Importance of social service
5. \_\_\_\_\_ book contains a compilation of Mahaperiyava's discourses in tamil.
    - A. Deivathin kural
    - B. Amudha Uraigal
    - C. Jananeshwari
  6. Sri Sri Chandrashekarendra Saraswati Swamigal's parents hailed from \_\_\_\_\_.
    - A. Tamil Nadu
    - B. Karnataka
    - C. Kerala
  7. Kanchi mutt is in \_\_\_\_\_ state?
    - A. Tamil Nadu
    - B. Karnataka
    - C. Kerala

8. Mahaperiyava's birth star is
  - A. Magham
  - B. Swathi
  - C. Anusham
9. What was Sri Sri Chandrashekarendra Saraswati Swamigal's cousin name who was the 67<sup>th</sup> pontiff of Kanchi Mutt?
  - A. Lakshmanan
  - B. Lakshminathan
  - C. Subramanyan
10. How old was Sri Sri Chandrashekarendra Saraswati Swamigal when he embarked on a journey by foot from Rameshwaram to Ganges?
  - A. 20
  - B. 25
  - C. 30

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

**Answers:**

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



## Madhura Geetam - Bharata Pradakshina 25



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.

### Tiruviheendrapuram

Tiruviheendrapuram is a Divyadesam in the Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu. The presiding deity here is known as Devanatha or the Lord of the Lords.

It is believed that Adi Sesha, who is also known as "Aheendra" constructed the place. Hence the name Tiruviheendrapuram. Legend says that the Lord was once thirsty. So both Garuda and Adi Sesha went to fetch water. Garuda dug the earth and brought Ganga and the heavenly river Viraja together. This came to be known as Garuda theertham (water/pond). Adi Sesha also dug the earth and the water he brought is known as Sesa theertham. Since Adi Sesha returned with water first and so the Lord drank his water. Hence, to this day, water from Sesa theertham is used for preparing food for the Lord. And the water from Garuda theertham is used for performing *abhisheka* (bathing) to the Lord.

Sri Vedanta Desika, a great Vaishnava saint, is known to have spent several years in this town. He has a shrine in the temple.

Another interesting fact is this temple is in the same district (Cuddalore) as the birth town of Sri Swamiji. In fact Sri Swamiji mentions this in his song composed on Lord Devanatha in Anandha Bhairavi Raga. During His childhood, Sri Swamiji has spent many hours in this temple, meditating on the Lord. The song and its meaning are presented here for you to read and enjoy.

### Darshanam Dehi

**Raga:** Anandha Bhairavi  
darshanam dehi devanAtha

garuDa nadi tIra ullAsa vAsa  
kamalAsana sthita bhArgavi nAyaka  
karuNA vIkshaNa kamala vilochana  
kanakAmbaradhara bhuvana sundara

nigamAnta desika Ashrita charaNa  
nitya mahotsava nirmalAkAra  
nija bhaktim dehi tava charaNayorme  
nidiretadeva mama deva deva

chandrakalAdhara kamala hasta  
shankachakradhara shyAmaLa varNa  
mArkaNDeya muni sevita charaNa  
muraLidhara janma sthAna deva

### Meaning

O Lord Devanatha! Kindly bestow me with your vision!



One who joyfully resides on the banks of Garuda river,  
One who is the consort of Bhargavi (Lakshmi Devi) who sits on a lotus,  
One who has a compassionate gaze flowing from His lotus eyes,  
One who is the most beautiful in all the worlds, wearing a golden attire!

One unto whose feet Sri Vedanta Desika surrendered  
One with a pristine form who loves being celebrated everyday  
Please bestow me with true devotion to your Feet  
Oh Lord of the Lords! This is my only treasure!

One who bears the crescent moon and holds a lotus in His hand  
One who is dark-complexioned and sports the Conch and the Discus  
One whose feet were worshipped by Sage Markandeya  
You are the Lord of the birthplace of Muralidhara

**Sowmya Balasubramanian, Fremont CA**

### Vibhishana Sharanagathi

In Srimad Ramayanam in Yuddha Kandam, Vibhishana, the half-brother of Ravana, lists out bad omens occurring in the city and advises Ravana to restore Sita to Rama. Ravana turns a deaf ear to Vibhishana and sends him away.

Ravana goes again to the assembly hall to consult all the ministers. Vibhishana informs the assembly about the strength of the monkeys, and about the power of Rama's arrow. He also informs that no one on the

demons' side can withstand Rama in battle. Then Vibhishana again requests the assembly to save Ravana by giving back Sita to Rama. Indrajit criticizes Vibhishana for underestimating Ravana's strength.

Ravana refuses to hear the words of Vibhishana and scolds him with harsh words.



Vibhishana then sets off and surrenders to Rama.

Vibhishana together with four of his companions reach the place where Rama is halting. Hovering in the sky itself, Vibhishana asks Rama to give refuge to him. Sugriva tells Rama that he cannot trust Vibhishana, the demon. Then Rama asks for the opinion of the leaders in his group. All of them express their doubts to accept Vibhishana. But Hanuman says that Vibhishana need not be doubted because he thinks that Vibhishana understands the great qualities in Rama and demerits in

Ravana.

Hearing Hanuman's words, Rama says that He cannot desert Vibhishana who is seeking refuge in Him. Initially Sugriva disagrees with Rama's opinion. But when Rama explains the different circumstances under which Vibhishana is acceptable, Sugriva also agrees

with that view. Finally Lord Sri Rama says -

*"sakrudeva prapannAya tavAsmi iti cha yAchate;  
abhayam sarvabhUtEbhyo dadAmyetad vratam mama."*

"Do you even have to say, 'Oh Rama, I am yours!?' Just by calling out 'RAMA' is it not enough? You have become mine. I take you unto Me and remove all your fears! And this is my vow!"

Another beautiful point here is that although there was a discussion whether to accept Vibhishana or not, the other four demons who came along with Vibhishana were accepted automatically without any further questions. This was because they were with Vibhishana! So as long as we are under the shadow of a sadhu (saint), the Lord accepts us instantly. This is the greatness of *sadhu sangha*.

**Illustration and Story by Chandrasekhar Rajesh, 8 yrs, Fremont CA**

### Story Time



## News & Events

### SEATTLE—48 DAY AKANDA NAMA RELAY



### SRI POORNIMA JI'S SATSANGS IN TEXAS

### MASS PRAYER AT THE NEPAL CENTER, IRVING



### SRIMAD RAMAYANAM IN DFW TEMPLE, IRVING



### NAGARA SANKIRTAN IN HOUSTON



### Upcoming Events!

#### Summer Camps:

#### Houston:

'Gopakuteeram Culture Camps' - Vibrant India— Colors & Languages for ages (5-8) on June 26-28 & for ages (8-12) on Aug 7-9.

Contact: [Houston.god@godivinity.org](mailto:Houston.god@godivinity.org)

#### Virginia:

**Madhura Utsav** - July 2—5 at Glen Allen, VA. For details call: 828.66VAGOD or write to [vagodsatsang@gmail.com](mailto:vagodsatsang@gmail.com)

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.