

## The World and our Savior

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"All excellences like truth, cleanliness, forbearance, kindness, longevity, memory and strength will decay.

A man's worth will be estimated only with wealth rather than with virtuousness and character. Might will become right, being accepted as the factor determining what is dharma and what is justice. Business will become tantamount to the practice of fraud.

External marks will become the only insignia of ashrama (brahmacharya, gruhastya, sanyasa, etc.) in life.

Brahmacharins

will live contrary to their vows and will have no sense of purity. Householders will cease to give holy alms. Ascetics will become residents of villages and Sanyasins will be very greedy. The Veda will be perverted by atheists.

If a man is a master of empty, fancy and even abusive vocabulary, he will be considered a scholar. Ostentation and show will become the hallmark of character. Well-dressed hair will become the criterion of beauty. Mutual attraction will become the sole consideration in marital relationship. Mating will be looked upon as marriage. Bathing will be significant only hygienically and not ceremonially.

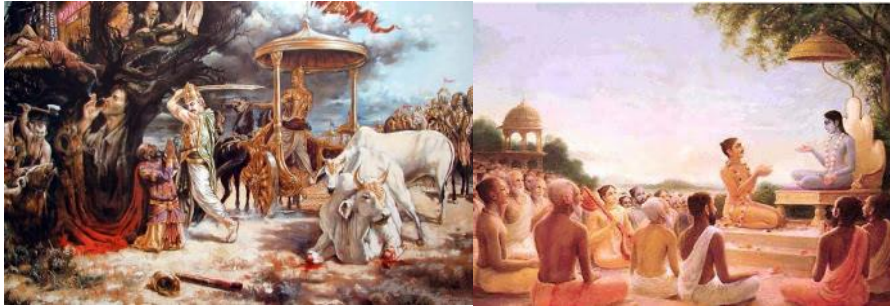
Men will live to eat, not eat to live. A man who maintains his family by hook or crook will be considered resourceful and respectable. Men will be dull and narrow in outlook, luckless, gluttonous, poverty-stricken and extremely lustful. Thieves will lead the country.

Men will adopt prohibited means of livelihood as honorable and righteous even when there is no dancer in social life. Cows that have become old and unproductive will be disposed off. Men who are authorities on adharma will begin to interpret Dharma, sitting on the sacred seats of respected teachers.

For a pittance people will quarrel, abandon all bonds of affection and fight with the

nearest kith and kin, and even kill each other. People will fail to take care of even their old parents.

A holy tirtha will mean only water at a distance. Dharma and charity will be observed solely for reputation. Carried away by the arguments of atheists, men will generally not adore the worshipful Achyuta, the Father of all the worlds!"



Does this sound like a description of our own society?

This is the vivid picture of the 'future' in the Age of Kali painted by the great sage Shuka to King Parikshith, towards the end of his seven-day exposition of Srimalad Bhagavata Mahapurana. How accurate he was! We know... because we are here to experience it. One look at our own lives is enough to know Sri Shuka was right. Another look at the world around us will leave us with absolutely no doubt that we are living in the Age that he described.

Where were we and where are we now? The great culture that once had purity, truth, austerity and compassion as its pillars, now reduced to this!

But we are not to blame. Sri Shuka himself says in the same breath that living beings, who are born in the world in the cycle of four ages of Krita, Treta, Dwapara and Kali, will be influenced by the spirit of the age in which they belong. And Kali's spirit is one of selfishness and ostentation, of corruption and sensuality, of dishonesty and fear. How can we, mere leaves tossed about on the gigantic waves of Time, fight against that immense force?

Is there no hope then for us?

How can there not be! Will the Lord, who is the one who infuses each Age with its spirit, not give a solution simple enough for his struggling children to overcome the overpowering ills of Kali?

Sri Shuka says further in Srimalad Bhagavatam, "When the Lord enters into the heart of a man, all the evil in him is destroyed, just as the discoloration of gold by contact with other substances is removed only by heating it in fire."

But then that is easily said than done. How can we tottering babies usher the great Lord into our hearts when our minds are

pulled in so many directions by our weak senses and the 'attractive' ways of the world?

For this too, Sri Shuka says, "By being heard about, hymned about, and adored, the Lord enters into the heart of man." Hence it is through *kirtanam* (chanting His names and singing His praises), *shravanam*

(listening to His stories and praises), and worship (prayer), that the Lord enters the heart. The Divine Name of the Lord and His stories shall indeed deliver us from the evil ways of the modern age.

That's great and very nice to read about. But how can we be inspired to actually practice all this?

The answer is also above: through prayer. With deep prayer and yearning to come out of the mire of this life and the world, the Lord sends a Mahatma to inspire us. It is only through *satsanga* (association) with this Mahatma that this can be achieved. A true Mahatma is the savior who can inspire us to chant the Names of God, listen about the Lord and install Him in our hearts.

King Parikshith had Sri Shuka. With deep, heartfelt yearning like Parikshith's, we too will be inspired by our Savior.

Nisha Giri, Houston TX

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## Cherished Memoirs 28



*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 company of a Realized Soul

Being always by the side of Sri Swamiji is a blissful experience. Sri Swamiji often says, "It is one thing to read about the life histories of the devotees who lived long ago but to actually live them is entirely different." In the life histories of devotees like Tukaram, Gora Kumhaar and Badrachala Ramadasa, it is evident that even their own spouses were unable to comprehend and handle their state. Once, a devotee confided to Bhagavan Yogiramsurat Kumar that he wished to stay by Sri Yogiji's side ever. 'Heaven or hell, you be with me' replied Yogiji meaning that sometimes it feels like heaven and at others, hell, but it is important to persevere.

As the mahans are always in a state of bliss, people around them are unable to comprehend it. Once, when Sri Swamiji



HH Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji

was reading Srimad Bhagavatam, I was next to him and so he beckoned me and said, "Bhagavatam states that Sage Vyasa, considering the weak state of mind of the people in Kali yuga, divided the entire Vedas into four parts and taught each of them to his disciples so that each could nourish and flourish that one Veda. Likewise, he gave Suta's father—Romaharshana the responsibility of protecting the Itihasas and the Puranas. Interestingly, when at the beginning, when

Saunaka Rishis ask for a panacea for Kali Yuga unto Suta Pauranika, the latter does not share Srimad Bhagavatam (a Purana) as one he received from his father. He instead refers it as the one that was narrated to Parikshith by Sri Suka and

is equivalent to the Vedas.' This shows us that Suta did not learn Srimad Bhagavatam from Romaharshana. Why? Just as a doted father would reserve the rarest and the most important mantra to be taught to his own son, Sri Veda Vyasa taught to his son, Sri Shuka, an enlightened soul, the rarest Srimad Bhagavatam, even though he gave all other Texts to Romaharshana."

Further, Sri Swamiji continued, "Srimad Bhagavatam can bestow liberation. Devotees aspiring for liberation must worship it."

Expounding this, He said, "We do not know what to ask from Bhagavan. And, even if we did pray, we will ask for something trifle. Yet, the magnanimous Lord grants something monumental. Uttara, in order to protect Parikshith, who was in her womb, from the *Brahmastram*, (a very destructive weapon) ran and surrendered to Lord Krishna and prayed, 'Kindly save my baby from this death.' Lord Krishna thought, 'Uttara has surrendered to me and prayed. So, the baby should never be affected by death anymore.' That is why, in addition to protecting the fetus with his divine weapon, *Chakra*, he also ensured that later in life, Parikshith listened to Srimad Bhagavatam from Sri Suka and got liberated. He can die only if he was born again, is it not? If one is blessed with the association of Srimad Bhagavatam, it means Lord Gopala has bestowed his grace on him. Only because of grace, did he get Bhagavatam."

"The holy river Ganges originates from the Lord's feet. And from the devotees' who meditate upon the Lord's feet in their hearts, flows tears of joy. So, isn't it then correct to conclude that the water from the feet of such devotees is indeed as holy as river Ganges?", Sri Swamiji said as he shared His cherished insights on Srimad Bhagavatam.

**Continued on p4...**

### Quiz - Krishna's Dwaraka Lila

1. Name the king whom Lord Krishna defeated seventeen times.

- A. Bali
- B. Jarasandha
- C. Hiranyakashipu

2. Which city was constructed by Krishna that was within the sea?

- A. Mathura
- B. Brindavan
- C. Dwaraka

3. Name the minister of Kamsa who was ordered to bring Krishna and Balarama to Mathura

- A. Akrura
- B. Sumanthra
- C. Shukracharya

4. Which king burned the warrior Kalayavana to ashes by a harsh look when he was woken up from sleep and was

eventually bestowed with Lord Krishna's darshan?

- A. Satrajit
- B. Jambhavan
- C. Muchukunda

5. Name the daughter of King Satrajit whom Lord Krishna married after he recovered the stolen Syamantaka jewel that belonged to King Satrajit

- A. Rukmini
- B. Sathyabama
- C. Kalindi

6. On the day of solar eclipse, where did Lord Krishna and Balarama meet all the inhabitants of Brindavan after many years?

- A. Mathura
- B. Samanthapanchakam
- C. Indraprastha

7. Name the child-hood friend of Lord Krishna who came to meet him after many years in Dwaraka

- A. Sridama
- B. Sudama
- C. Subala

8. Name the messenger who was ordained by Lord Krishna to go to Brindavan to meet the Gopis

- A. Uddhava
- B. Akrura
- C. Yudhistira

9. Which brother of Rukmini fought with Lord Krishna before Krishna and Rukmini's wedding?

- A. Sishupala
- B. Rukmi
- C. Rukmabahu

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

**Answers:**

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





## Madhura Geetam - Prayer Series: 2



In this series, we present, each month, a prayer kirtan composed by His Holiness Maharanyam Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji. The Kirtans in this series shall underline the importance of prayers.

### Pavithramai Vazhndida

Mahans show us how to pray and what to pray for through their various compositions. Ergo, we started this prayer series in which we look at the prayer compositions of Sri Swamiji. Last month, we saw a song in which Sri Swamiji prayed for a simple, elegant and pure life filled with bhakti. This month, we look at a composition that elaborates this life further.

Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa once said that our Vedas describe the omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, supreme Brahman using the “neti” philosophy. “neti” is a sanskrit term that means, “this is not it”. As the qualities of the supreme Brahman cannot be described with word, our Vedas resort to expounding what is *not the all-pervading supreme Brahman*. Similarly, in

this composition, “Pavithramai Vazhndida” set in Punnaagavarali raga and Adi tala, Sri Swamiji prays to Mother Radha for a pure life and describes a “pure” life by listing all the evils of the world like anger, desire, lies, deceit and so on that he needs to be protected from. It is a beautiful song that teaches us how some of our basic tendencies like materialistic pleasures, anger, jealousy and greed are dragging us away from the path of righteousness and purity. The lyrics and the meaning of the song are presented here for you to read and enjoy.

**Ragam: Punnaagavarali**

**Talam: Adi**

pavithramAi vAzhndiDa aruLvAye nlye

ulaga inbam enum azhukku padAmal  
banda pAsam enum mAsu padAmal

kAma krodam enum thITTu padAmal  
poi puraTTu endra nATTRRam padAmal  
perAsai enum saeru padAmal  
dukkham kavalai enum thUsu padAmal

mAyai enum noi varAmal  
sei ennai kAttiduvai tAye rAdhe nlye

### Meaning

(O Mother Radha) Bestow me a boon to lead a pure life!

May I not be touched by the dirt of worldly pleasures!

May I not be tainted by the mundane relationships!

Let anger and lust not pollute me!

Let not the stench of lies and deception affect me!

Let not the mire of greed stain me!

Let not the dust of worry and sorrow impact me!

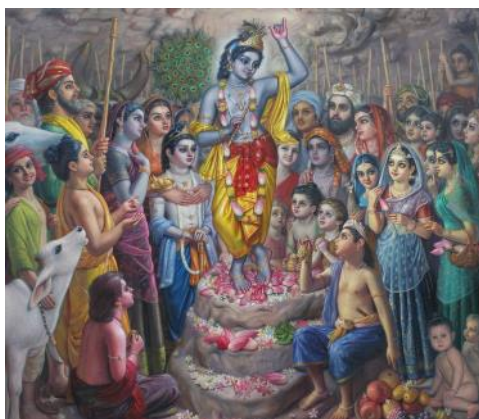
May I not be afflicted by the disease of Maya

Oh Mother Radha, Kindly protect me!

**Sowmya Balasubramanian, Fremont CA**

### Govardhan Lila

Lord Krishna effortlessly lifted the Govardhana hill to protect the Gopas and Gopis for seven days from the heavy rains summoned by Indra. From this story we will also learn how Lord Krishna got his name ‘Govinda’ and ‘Giridhari’ and both the names



have a common story behind them. Little Krishna was seven years old and he was living in Vrindavan with his parents, Nanda Baba, Yashoda Ma and his elder brother Balarama. One morning, when Krishna woke up, he saw Nanda Baba and Yashoda Ma making arrangements busily. Krishna stepped outside the house and saw that the whole village was wearing a festive look. He wondered what the special puja was. He went straight to Nanda Baba and asked him about it. Nanda Baba replied that it was puja to Lord Indra because it was he who showers rains. Hearing this, Krishna told Nanda Baba and everyone there that it was Indra’s duty

This is the story of how to shower the rains and it is not correct to please someone for doing their duty. He also

told the villagers that it is their duty to do farming and rearing of cows and since they are doing their duty correctly, they should not fear or please anybody.

He told the villagers that if they wanted to do Puja, they should do it to Govardhana hill where the cows have been grazing all these years and that Govardhana has been protecting them from

various enemies. The villagers felt whatever Krishna said was correct and so they promptly performed Puja to Govardhana hill. In the meantime Indra was waiting for his share of food from Vrindavan. When it did not come, he sent his soldiers to check what was happening. They came back and informed that the villagers had performed Govardhana Puja instead of Indra Puja on Krishna’s advice. When Indra heard this, he took it as a personal insult. He became very angry at Krishna and wanted to teach him a lesson. He sent heavy rains and flooded the village of Gokula.

When the heavy rains started, the Gopas and

Gopis ran to Krishna and surrendered to him. Krishna

led everyone to the Govardhana hill and with one hand lifted the hill and balanced it on his little finger. All the villagers and animals took shelter under the hill. The Gopas and Gopis felt bad that Krishna had to undergo all the trouble for them. In order to make them happy, Krishna played the flute with his other hand and danced. On seeing Krishna dancing and playing with the flute, Gopas and Gopis became happy.

The rains poured for seven days and Indra ran out of stock of rains and they finally stopped. Everyone returned to their homes. After ensuring that everyone under the hill had left, Krishna put Govardhana back in the same spot. Indra realized the power of Krishna, and realized his mistake for ordering heavy rains to destroy the people whom he was supposed to protect. On realizing his mistake, Indra ran to Krishna and fell at his feet and begged for forgiveness. Krishna forgave Indra since he realized his mistake. Indra did a coronation ceremony to Lord Krishna. All Gods, Goddess, Gandharvas, Lord Brahma and Lord Shiva all witnessed the event. Kamadhenu, the holy cow showered Krishna with milk and Indra crowned Krishna with the title ‘Govinda’- the protector of cows.

### Story Time

**Meera Srinivas, 9 yrs, San Jose CA**



**JANMASHTAMI CELEBRATIONS!**

## News & Events

**RALEIGH, NC**



**NAMADWAAR, HOUSTON TX**



**SEATTLE, WA**



**DALLAS TX**



**BAY AREA, CA**



**MINNEAPOLIS, MN**



**RICHMOND, VA**



### Cherished Memoirs - 28 Contd..

*Continued from p2...*

Another time, I had a chance to accompany Sri Swamiji to a temple. The priest had misplaced the bell used in worship. It was getting late for the worship. He kept yelling, "Where is the bell (pronounced mani in tamil)? Where is the bell (mani)?", badgering people around him to find it. Sri Swamiji smiled and said, "He is the only one who accepts the truth. In this day and age, we use money (money, mani-english, tamil homophone) to do all worship." At that point, the worship was over and the priest was showing the *aarti*, a person next to us asked his family worriedly, "Where did you leave your footwear? Did you leave it in a safe place?" Sri Swamiji smiled and turned to me and said, "We meditate upon the holy sandals of our Guru. Likewise, this gentleman here is meditating on his sandals!"

*Original Tamil article by Dr. Bhagyanathan,  
Madhuramurali September 2015.  
Translated by Viji Ramakrishnan, Dallas, TX*

### 2015 Annual Discourse Series



Sri Ramanujamji, disciple of HH Sri Muralidhara Swamiji, is visiting the USA for a period of 3 months for satsangs around the country. Similar to earlier years, this is a grand series of discourses and lectures on various topics glorifying the

Sanatana Dharma, Nama Kirtan and Bhagavata Dharma.

**Oct 10-15: Bhakta Vijayam satsangs at Detroit.**  
Contact Sridhar ji - 248.390.6534

**Oct 16-20: 'Sampoorna Krishna Katha' at Orlando Hindu Temple.**

Contact Anand ji - 321.231.4363

**Oct 22-28: Bhagavata Saptaha Mahotsava at Acton Hindu Temple in Boston.**

Contact Rekha ji - 617.458.0516

**Oct 30-Nov 5: Bhagavata Saptaham in Maryland (Washington DC)**

Contact Malathi ji - 804.306.8198

### Upcoming Events!

**Houston:**

- \* Life and Soul Free Health fair - Sept 26th, at New Life Plaza, 8am to 12 noon
- \* Shaking hands across continents, A Western Indian musical concert - Nov 7th at Berry Miller Junior High, Pearland.

**Minneapolis:**

*Mahamantra Sankirtan for 21 days across 21 homes - Sep 16 to Oct 6.*

For details contact;  
minneapolis.god@godivinity.org  
Visit us at [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 circles are conducted in various cities.

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