

Nama Dwaar

A monthly journal glorifying Sanatana Dharma from the portals of Bhakti

Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare , Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare

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Govinda's Family: The Safest Place in the World

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The great saint Yogi Ramsuratkumar once said that "Rama Rajyam" (a time when happiness and peace prevailed everywhere) was not far away!

But seeing the state the world is in right now, how can we not help wonder at this? Shootings, attacks, natural disasters, disease, fear, depression, mental unrest everywhere. Where is the peace? Where is the happiness? With no end to all this in sight, how can "Rama Rajyam" be near?

When Indra was enraged by the actions of the Gopas and Gopis, he sent thundering 'pillars' of rain and storm with intent to destroy Gokula and Brindavan! The Gopas and Gopis, who knew nothing other than Krishna, ran to Him for refuge and fell at His feet. Sri Swamiji would say here that the beauty was that not a single one of them blamed Krishna – even in their thoughts, let alone words – for the life-threatening situation they were now in. And when He saw the innocent, complete love and faith of His devotees, Bhagavan Sri Krishna lifted the Govardhana mountain and protected His beloved children. He did not confront Indra or stop the rain, as He could have very well done if He wished. But that was not the purpose then. He chose instead to lift a mountain and give protection to all those who came under it. He was there – the smiling, dancing Krishna, holding the mountain up for their benefit and beckoning everyone to come under it. And for all those fortunate people who went into the protecting arms of Krishna, the seven days and nights of thunderous storms and floods were seven days of happy vacation in Krishna's presence. Their possessions were washed away, houses were flooded, valuables destroyed. Yet, for the Gopas and Gopis, that week was the most memorable one in their lives, as they were constantly in the presence of Krishna day and night, cooking for Him, feeding Him, singing with Him, dancing and playing with Him. In fact, saints say in a light vein that they were quite sad when the rains finally stopped and they had to go back to their homes as now they would not have the constant Krishna darshan that they had enjoyed all this time.



The annual Madhura Utsav at Houston Namadwaar just concluded in Houston, Texas, USA (Dec 2015). This grand event is attended every year by satsang devotees and families from all over the USA – devotees for whom chanting the Mahamantra, listening to Krishna's stories, singing for Krishna, chanting verses from

Bhagavatam... is simply a way of life, no matter where they work or what they do in life. They may be managers, engineers, consultants, doctors, homemakers,

teachers, analysts, directors, entrepreneurs but *bhagavata dharma* (that includes all the activities described above) is part of what they are; it is how they live. This is how they have been graced by their father, benefactor, Guru - Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji.

They all live to serve Bhagavan. They do their humble, little *kainkaryam* (service) – whatever it may be – without a word or even *thought* of complaint or dissatisfaction; they speak constantly of their Guru and reminisce God's grace in their lives; they connect with each other instantly through an invisible divine bond, though many of them barely knew each other before. And the children of all ages are a joy to behold: Teenagers speaking among themselves, of their own accord, about the Guru and about God; Little ones taking part in fanning the Lord, helping in making garlands, chanting Bhagavatam *stutis* beautifully, singing kirtans melodiously. And even while playing... naturally playing Krishna games, drawing Krishna pictures, humming Krishna namavalis as they go about... simply accepting Krishna and Guru as a fact of their lives. How beautiful is that! Is it not reminiscent of "Rama Rajyam"?

It is such families (who are there all over the world) that are all Krishna's special children – those for whom Bhagavan will do anything... even lift a whole mountain!

For those who can perceive, these devotees' lives are an inspiration. Are these devotees exempt from the ills of the world?

Not at all! They have come face to face with serious and fatal diseases, chronic illnesses, loss of dear ones, life-long arduous care of disabled family members, have had homes hit by floods and other disasters, lost possessions and money, faced trying situations at work and with relationships... they are not exempt from *any* pitfall of the world. Yet whenever there is strife, they stand protected under Krishna's safe mountain. Always. Divine Grace never fails.

They may face periods of worry and anxiety, but in the end, they always come out stronger than ever in their faith. The experience then becomes another sweet memory of the Guru's and God's grace, a *madhura-smriti!* And the conviction that whatever happens in their lives is divine grace continues to grow stronger every day.

Such devotees are Govinda's very own family. For them, this world is indeed under Rama Rajyam!

But when the whole world is suffering under blows of this terrible Age, how is it that just these fortunate few have found protection under Krishna's mountain? The answer is simple: Nama and satsang – *kirtanam* and *shravanam*. Somehow they heard about the Divine Name and began to chant it. And they had satsang with a sadhu, who spoke about Krishna and sparked their interest, leading them to the Guru. These simple two ways are the ones that have led them to this greatest protection, whether they wanted it originally or not. They may not have chosen consciously to be a part of Govinda's family. Govinda simply made them His, because He was pleased with them.

Govinda's safe mountain beckons everyone. The path is lighted by the Divine Name.

*Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare*

Nisha Giri, Houston TX

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Madhura Geetam - Prayer Series: 5

In this series, we present, each month, a prayer kirtan composed by His Holiness Maharanyam Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji. These kirtans underline the importance of prayers and show us how to pray.

O Krishna, Even if my Love for you is only Pretense, Please make it True

Meera sings -

"Aswan jal slnchi slnchi, prem beli boi".

(With the tears in my eyes, I watered the creeper of love [for God])

This is the state of the countless Mahans who descended on this earth from time to time. They yearned and cried for the Lord all their lives. The countless compositions that flowed out when they were immersed in blissful ocean of bhakti bhavas are a testimony to this fact. And if we keep listening to them continuously, these divine compositions have the power to inspire devotion in our hearts too.

Now one may ask, is this really possible? In the path of Bhakti, one relies purely on the Lord's grace and not on his or her own capabilities. Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa,

the great Mahan from Kolkata, often compared this to crossing the river in a big ship. The Lord is akin to the big ship. One has to somehow get aboard the ship. Once aboard, the traveler can rest assured that he will reach the destination. Similarly, one has to somehow just start walking on the path of Bhakti. It does not matter even if the devotion is at first just mechanical and not true devotion from the heart. The Lord takes care of transforming that into pure love.

In the composition, "Un mldu uLLa Asai", Sri Swamiji beseeches the Lord to transform his 'false' and superficial devotion into pure love for the Lord! The song is set in Ahiri raga - a raga typically used for pleading and lamenting. The lyrics and the meaning are as follows.

Un Meedu Ulla Aasai

Raga: Ahiri

un mldu uLLa Asai poiye AnAlum - adai meiyana seidiDuvai kaNNA

kuttramuLLa mAnudan nAnE AvEn

pattruLLa mAnudan nAnE AvEn

Attralilla mAnudan nAnE AvEn

kAttru pol alaiyidhu en manam dAnE

*paritavikkum ennidam paritApam illayO
arivili ennidam anuthApam illayO
sarukki vizhum ennai sattre pArAi
arudiyittu solven adaikalam nInE*

Meaning

Even if my fondness for you is only false (shallow and superficial)

Oh Kanna! Transform it into true and pure love

I am one who has innumerable faults, I am also one who has is bound by many attachments.

I am one who lacks competence My mind too wavers here and there, like the wind

Won't you have pity on me, who is struggling with anguish?

Won't you have some sympathy for this dim-witted being?

I am stumbling and falling; please turn your glance toward me once

Unquestionably, you are my sole refuge!

Sowmya Balasubramanian, Fremont CA

The Birth of Bhagavatam

Srimad Bhagavatam is a gem given to us by the Lord Himself. It is verily Radha

Krishna swaroopam. It teaches us to live our life the proper way. In the tree of our Vedas and Upanishads Srimad Bhagavatam is the fruit, and Krishna Katha is the nectar.

Once Brahma did tapas and Lord Vishnu

appeared and asked Brahma what he wanted (boon). Brahma replied that he wanted to always be a great devotee of the Lord, and further said he didn't want pride just because he wasn't caught in rebirth. Pleased with Brahma, Bhagavan bestowed Srimad Bhagavatam to him in four slokas.

Brahma knew it was his job to pass it on to someone worthy of it. All his sons left except Sage Narada, so he was the obvious person. But Brahma could not give it to Sage Narada, unless he asked for it. When he finally did, Brahma gave him Bhagavatam in brief and asked him to elaborate it. Being the right hand of the



Lord, he didn't have time to do it himself. So he had to find someone for the job but not just anyone, but a real *rasika*.

Meanwhile down in Bhuloka, Veda Vyasa felt very depressed and worried when he looked at the future of the world. Then Sage Narada came, at once he felt at peace knowing all his problems will be solved. Narada came and told him, "You have written the Mahabharata but you have never written on the gunas and lilas of the Lord. So, that's what you have to expound on." The people of Kali yuga need something to enjoy the Lord, so Bhagavatam is the answer. Sage Narada told Sage Veda Vyasa Srimad Bhagavatam in brief and asked him to make it more enjoyable to read for us humans.

Then Veda Vyasa expounded the slokas into Bhagavatam. But he himself could not spread it. He waited for the right person. Veda Vyasa's son, Shuka muni, a Jnani by birth was roaming in the forest. He heard some of his father's disciples chanting a verse. It was so beautiful that he stopped

and asked them what it was.

They said that it was from

Srimad Bhagavatam, which Veda Vyasa taught them. Shuka went and begged his father to teach him Bhagavatam and Sage Veda Vyasa complied.

At the dawn of Kali Yuga, King Parikshith, the grand-son of Pandavas, was cursed by a rishi's son that he would die of snake bite in seven days. When Parikshith learnt about the curse, he gave up everything and went to the banks of River Ganges. Knowing Parikshith was the perfect listener, Sage Shuka came there on his own accord and narrated Srimad Bhagavatam for seven days. At the end of the seven days, Parikshith reached the lotus feet of the Lord.

Apart from Parikshith, there were a number of people around who also heard Srimad Bhagavatam from Sage Shuka. One among them was a Pauranika named Sootha Pauranika. Later, in the Naimisharanya forest, the Sounakadhi Maharishis performed a 'Satra Yagna'. They then requested Sootha Pauranika to expound on Srimad Bhagavatam, which he happily did.

Kishori Prakash, 12 yrs Dallas TX

Kid's Contribution



SRI RAMANUJAM JI'S SATSANG ACROSS US

News & Events

BHAGAVATA SAPTAHAM IN ATLANTA



MADHURA UTSAV IN DALLAS



Upcoming Events!

Annual Global Nama Relay via Tele-bridge across the World - Saturday, Jan 2nd 2016. To participate in this relay from your city, call Narayanan ji @ 617.820.2968

Namadwaar, Houston TX - Jan 1, Akhanda Namasankirtan. Contact: 281.402.6585

Dallas TX - Dec 31st, Akanda Namasankirtan. Contact: 830.446.3325

MADHURA UTSAV IN SEATTLE



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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