

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 Hare Hare

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Nama - For Earthly Fulfillment and Beyond

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Kaler dosha-nidhe rAjan astihyeko mahAn guNa:

klrtanAd eva kriShNasyamukta-sanga: param vrajet (Srimad Bhagavatam)

With a clear vision about the current Age, Sri Shuka tells King Parikshit here that this Yuga will have 'dosha' (faults) as nidhi (wealth/ abundance).

But that this Age is also the easiest one to attain the Lord's Lotus Feet by simply chanting His Divine Names.

These are tough times in this Kaliyuga when we are unable to follow any niyamas (rules) to obtain devotion as the very sustenance of everyday lives has become very stressful.

Sri Swamiji and numerous other saints, who care for all of us as a mother for her children, have been very lucid about this and with extreme compassion they plead with us to chant the Mahamantra (given in the Kali Santarana Upanishad)-

Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare

-- for both the trivial earthly fulfillment and beyond life, to be in His abode. This is the easiest way to fulfill the purpose of human birth in this Kaliyuga. Even mechanical chanting of the Mahamantra with the lips, anytime, anywhere will cause inner transformation and the fall of our egos like how a termite slowly falls the banyan tree. In Papa Ramdas's words, "One whose lips have the Divine name all the time is indeed a Jivan Mukta, chanting incessantly is indeed Moksha."

Ajamila lived the most lowly life committing innumerable sins, but called out his son Narayana's name at deathbed and attained the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan.

For **Mudgalan**, the only good deed he ever did was calling the name 'Gopala' once and Yamaloka became Vaikunta!

Kshatrabandu did atrocities and lost his status as a Kshatriya. He realized the

mistakes he did and went to forest in search of a Guru, while he called out a cowherd's name 'Govinda'. The Guru blessed him that his utterance of the divine name had already fulfilled the requirement to attain bliss.

Sabhari was a simple huntress with absolutely no knowledge about Bhagavan Nama or Mukti. She did not even ask for anything from her Guru Matanga Maharshi, but he gave her the Rama Nama and blessed that by incessant chanting, she would attain her Guru's abode when Lord Rama and Lakshmana were witnessing it.

Sant Haridas, an ardent disciple of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, blessed a prostitute, who was sent to disturb him, with the Mahamantra and she attained the Lotus Feet of Sri Krishna. See how the 'Vinnulaga Aasai' (heavenly aspiration) is fulfilled with chanting the divine name!

Bhagavan himself loves to serve his ardent bhaktas and for **Sant Namadev**, He held aloft their little house on a very stormy day to protect the entire family. The Lord came as Kandiya Krishna to serve **Sant Ekanath** for 12 years! For **Senanayee**, He came as a proxy to be a barber for the king, when the devotee was lost in chanting Vittal nama with sadhus.

AnantAzhwar was serving Sri Ramanuja by digging the sand to create a garden to grow flowering plants exclusively for the Tirumala Balaji. He was doing this seva with his pregnant wife and wouldn't allow anyone else to be a part of this seva. Bhagavan Himself came as a young lad to help him and even bore the hit to his chin given by Sri AnantAzhwar who did not want to share his Guru's kinkaryam.

'rAma nAmamu janma rakshaka mantramu; tAmasamu sEyaka bhajimpavE manasa'

says Sant Thyagaraja. He pleads not to hesitate or procrastinate to chant the Lord's divine names.

Srimad Bhagavatam says that it is extremely rare to get a human birth and even rarer still to have the darshan of a

Mahatma who is a realized soul and who is a devotee of Lord Krishna. And to have the opportunity to serve that Mahatma in some way, one should be even more immensely blessed; for that is indeed the rarest of the rare. In this rare 'nara janma' (human life), our Guru has taken us all under his abode. All He wants for us to do is just have the Mahamantra in our lips. Let's pray to Him to give us the determination to chant the Mahamantra incessantly.

kAlakshEpo na kartavyah kshINamAyuh kshaNe kshaNe

yamasya karuNa nAsti kartavyam hari klrtanam

Let's not waste our time in trivial matters; our time on Earth is getting reduced every second. The God of Death has no compassion to extend our life for even a second more. So now is the time to utter God's Divine Names!

Sriram Sambasivan, Redding CA

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 2016. 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

Inside this Issue

Cherished Memoirs - 33	Pg 2
Quiz - Divya Desam Series 3	Pg 2
Mahamantra, As I see it - Book Review	Pg 2
Madhura Geetam - Prayer Series 7	Pg 3
Kid's Contribution - Sage Shuka	Pg 3
News and Events	Pg 4



Cherished Memoirs 33



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**.

Solace amid the Floods!

Recently, torrential rains had shaken up the whole state of Tamil Nadu. It is said that after 1918, i.e., after nearly 100 years, there has been this kind of downpour. On December 1st and 2nd, of 2015, there was 50 cm of rains on just a single day. Water began to stagnate everywhere.

Lakes that provide water for Chennai city began to fill up fast. Yet the rains did not stop. Out of fear of the dams breaking down they were opened up. That was it! Like a river in spate water began to run all over the



HH Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji

Chennai city. As water from the dam began to flow in great gush inside the city and also stagnate, power supply was cut off. Telephone lines and cell phones stopped functioning. One cannot describe the grievous state of those in Chennai city. My Lord! How can one describe the state of those with infants, those that needed emergency medical care, those who needed assistance to move... Their sufferings beats all verbal description!

Electric trains did not run. All buses plying from Chennai to places outside were stopped. People were in deep distress. Those who had relatives and friends in Chennai were in deep distress as they could not contact them in anyway.

My own daughter lives in Salagramam area in Chennai city. Water had flowed into her house and they suffered for a week. There was no way of contacting her.

I was deeply worried and became very restless. I did not know what to do.

At 8 pm one night I sat down and began to pray to Sri Swamiji. Until 1 am I continued to pray to Sri Swamiji while chanting Nama (the Divine Name).

It was then that suddenly Sri Swamiji appeared before me, just like I was seeing him in person. Sri Swamiji said to me, "Do not worry! Your daughter is safe." His words were very clear. My mind began to calm down and I felt greatly relieved.

The next day around 2 pm there was a call from my daughter. She informed me, through her cell phone, that she and her family were safe.

I felt deeply touched by Sri Swamiji's grace and his reassuring words. I shared this experience of mine with all devotees in the next satsang in Thanjavur.

*Original Tamil article by
Guru Narayanan, Thanjavur.
Madhuramurali January 2016 issue
Translated by Nisha Giri Houston TX*

Quiz - Divya Desam Series 3

1. Name the deity of Tirumala who is considered as an incarnation of Lord Vishnu
 - A. Lord Sarangapani
 - B. Lord Venkateshwara
 - C. Lord Padmanabhaswamy
2. What is the other name for the deity of Tirupathi Divyadesam?
 - A. Lord of Seven Hills
 - B. Lord of Nine Hills
 - C. Lord of Eight Hills
3. In which hill peak of Tirumala is the temple located?
 - A. Seshadri
 - B. Neeladri
 - C. Venkatadri
4. Tirumala Divyadesam is grouped under which category of Divyadesams?
 - A. Chola Naadu Divyadesams
 - B. Vada Naadu Divyadesams
 - C. Thondai Naadu Divyadesams
5. Name of the water tank that lies in the sacred premises of the Tirupathi temple is _____.

- A. Swami Pushkarini
 - B. Govinda Kund
 - C. Narayan Sarovar
6. About how many hymns(pasurams) were composed by the Azhwars on Tirumala Divyadesam?
 - A. 153
 - B. 202
 - C. 254
 7. Nama the devotee of Sri Ramanujacharya who relocated from Srirangam, to serve the lord in Tirupathi
 - A. Kurathazhwar
 - B. Manavala Maamunigal
 - C. Ananthazhwar
 8. Name the incarnation of Lord Vishnu whose abode was Tirumala
 - A. Varaha
 - B. Vamana
 - C. Narasimha

*Compiled by Ramya Srinivasan,
San Jose CA*

Answers:

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

"Mahamantra As I See It" - Book Review

Mahamantra As I See It, GOD USA's recently released book written by Sriram R of Houston TX., is a joyful venture into the mind of the author and the transformation it underwent over the years by the grace of his Master. The glory of the spiritual path of chanting the Mahamantra and that of his Master HH Maharanyam Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji is beautifully presented in this short and sweet work.

Everyone loves to be a mind reader and this book provides with a great opportunity to be one. The author has laid bare all the workings of his mind from the early days of his 'spiritual' life till today. The most striking facet of this book is the honest approach in presenting his journey. The grace of his Master that has shaped his life, from a materialistic person given to the joys of the world to a spiritual person seeking joy in the path of chanting, is skillfully presented by the author. One will be surprised to know that this is the first book from the author given the proficient approach in presenting a tough subject called Grace.

The book is laden with enough laughter, interesting real life episodes, and

Contd. on Page 3



Madhura Geetam - Prayer Series: 7

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.

Oh Lord!

Kindly bestow me with mental strength

Steadfast faith is very important for any spiritual aspirant. Without steadfastness, one would be inclined to jump from one path to another. One may start by trying dhyana and after a few weeks, he may find it difficult so may change to japa. After sometime, that will also be difficult, so the mind will start looking for something else. With such a wavering mind, it is extremely difficult to make progress in spiritual life.

So, how can one get the mental strength? It is only by praying intensely to the Lord. In the song, 'Manobalam enaku arulvai' set in Atana raga and Adi tala, Sri Swamiji shows us how to pray to the Lord and beseech him to bestow inner strength and clarity of mind. The song and its meaning are given here.

Manobalam Enakku Arulvai

Raga: Atana

Tala: Adi

manobalam enakku arulvAi – manoharA mahattAna manobalam enakku arulvAi

unai aDaiya ninaitu vAzhndiDum tava vAzhvil

oru kaNam kUDa nAn saliyAdirukka

tApatrayangaLal taLLaDa kUDaDu

kAma krodangaLal kalangavum kUDaDu

*nAn nAn nAn enDra ATTamum kUDaDu
nAnAvida perumaiyum kUDavey kUDaDu*

Meaning

Oh Manohara!- Kindly bless me with inner strength of mind!

Kindly bless me with Supreme inner strength of mind.

I wish to live a spiritually disciplined life for attaining You

I must not waver from my goal even for a second

I must not be disconcerted by the three types of sufferings(physical, mental and spiritual)

I must not get tempted by desire and anger

I must have my ego in check and

I must not indulge in self-admiration and self-praise

Sowmya Balasubramanian, Fremont CA

Sage Shuka

Sage Shuka was the son of Sage Veda Vyasa, and the narrator of the Bhagavata Purana. Sage Shuka was a *garbha-shrman* - one who was born a self-realized soul.

So how was the renowned sage born? Sage Shuka was Radha Devi's personal parrot during his previous birth. When Radha Devi had finished her *leelas* (playful pastimes), she decided to return back to her spiritual abode. The parrot asked Radha if he could also come, as he could not bear the separation from Radha even for a second. To this, Radha refused and assured the parrot that, "Wherever wonderful leelas of the Supreme Lord are being narrated, you will not feel separation from Me."

The parrot agreed and started searching for Hari katha (stories of Lord Hari). When he was looking around, he found Shiva telling Parvati the sacred Bhagavata Purana. He hid behind the leaves and started listening to the Bhagavata Purana. Before beginning the story, Lord Shiva had told Parvati to keep saying 'yes-yes' so that Shiva would know that she was paying attention. But Parvati fell asleep. The parrot didn't want to stop listening to the katha, so it started saying 'yes-yes'. After a while, Shiva noticed that Parvati had fallen asleep and started looking for the person who was saying 'yes-yes'. He found the parrot and started chasing it. At this time, Sage Veda Vyasa's wife was yawning and the parrot flew straight into her mouth and into her stomach.

There it transformed into a human being. The baby stayed in the mother's womb for 16 years as it did not want to be born. Sage Vyasa's wife prayed to Krishna for liberation from this problem. Finally, after Krishna promised the baby that he will remain untouched by the Lord's Maya, the child came out reluctantly. The moment he was born, he left home and went away. His father went behind him calling, "Putra, Putra (son)...", but he never looked back. All the trees and animals started answering instead of him, proving that he was one with the nature. Sage Veda Vyasa searched for him for days and nights, but still could not find him. Finally one day, Sage Vyasa's disciples were going to the forest to pick a few fruits and flowers for their worship to Lord Vishnu. Sage Vyasa had told his students to keep chanting a sloka (verse) from the Bhagavata Purana. The sloka was "*barhapiDam naTavaravapuhu karNayoh karNikAram, bibhradvAsaha kanakakapisham vajayantIm cha mAIAm...*", that describes the beautiful form of Lord Sri Krishna. The moment Sage Shuka heard this from the disciples, he was attracted and asked them to chant many more slokas like these. They told Sage Shuka that, if he came to their Guru, Sage Vyasa he would recite 17,999 more slokas like this to him. That day, Sage Shuka finally went back home and learned the whole Bhagavata Purana from his father.

Later, he recited the Srimad Bhagavata Purana to King Parikshith, who was very

eager to listen and had only 7

days of his life left. He explained Krishna's leelas, the Creation of this world, Dharma, stories of *bhagavatas* (devotees), and many such wonderful leelas of the Lord to Parikshith and many other rishis who had assembled there. After hearing Srimad Bhagavata Purana from Sage Shuka for seven days, Parikshith attained liberation.

Prathamesh Shenoy, 13 yrs Dallas, TX

Kid's Contribution

Book Review - Contd from Page 2

his sweet encounters with his master to ensure the book will be read in one-sitting. And re-read many a time.

Saints and their messages are inseparable and this fact is lucidly brought forth by the author. Major sections of the book are dedicated to the grace, compassion, love that his Master has towards one and all alike. Slowly, yet steadily, we become enamored by the sweetness and glories of the Master. The final chapter is where the greatness of Mahamantra is talked about in great detail by which time we are tuned to the fact that the Master and his message are no different.

The foreword to this book is a benedictory message from the Master himself. Just as Srimad Bhagavatham is a nectarine fruit from the Vedic tree, this book is nectarine fruit blessed by His Holiness for all people to partake in the Mahamantra revolution.

Aravind Thathachari, Dallas TX



News & Events

MAHAMANTRA IN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL, HOUSTON



YOUTH PERFORMANCE AT SENIOR CENTER, DALLAS



BHAGAVATA SAPTAHA MADHURA UTSAV, REDDING CA



SPIRIT OF MARGAZHI, MINNEAPOLIS



AKANDA NAMA IN FREMONT, BAY AREA



Upcoming Events!

- * Srimad Ramayana Navaham by Sri Poornima ji in Namadwaar Houston TX from March 12th - 20th
- * Namadwaar 6th Anniversary Celebrations . March 25th - 27th.

Call 281-402-6585 for details.

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

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Global Organization for Divinity
3363 Bel Mira Way
San Jose, CA 95135

Phone: 1-(830)-4GOD-USA

Feedback email: newsletter@godivinity.org

Visit our websites:

www.namadwaar.org and 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.

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