

## The Greatest Gift We Can Give Our Children

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As parents, our lives are mostly ruled by our children. And our greatest desire is to see them happy in life. We will sacrifice anything in our own lives to bring them lasting happiness.

We take immense care of them and plan their future right from their young age. We 'expose' them to art, music, dance, sports, drama, science, math, writing and so many other fields through classes and camps, with the expectation that they will demonstrate an interest in some field and excel in it. We send them not only to Kumon and math learning centers, science classes and spelling/geography bees but also to imagination and invention workshops, soccer/basketball/tennis camps, 5K runs, service projects and debate competitions for overall development.

We do all of this because of our love for our children and our desire to see them succeed and do well in life, as we believe their happiness lies in their being successful.

But in the process of trying to ensure their material success, we sometimes forget to give as much importance to strengthening them internally, to helping them understand where true happiness lies and enabling them to appreciate the larger purpose of life. In short, we miss instilling in them the all-important faith in God. And love for Him.

So why is this important?

For now, let's leave alone higher reasons such as it will help them find meaning in life, realize the ultimate of purpose of life, flower love for all beings, etc.

Let's think practical. We know from our own experience that life is not always easy. In the years to come, our children will have to face failures and shortcomings; stumble, fall and hurt themselves; experience not-so-positive relationships in many spheres of life; even perhaps go through the distress of seeing their dreams and expectations

shattered by people or circumstances. And chances are, we may not be around to help them ourselves at such times. They may not reach out to us; or we may be in a different city/country; or – fact of life – we may be too old and sick to help them or even be dead and gone.

Who will our children then turn to in such times? If they do not have someone trustworthy and strong to turn to in times of anguish, their life could take a turn for the worse, including the most prevalent and dangerous disease of depression.

So who can they turn to? Enter God and Guru. A staunch faith in the ever-present God is the best gift we can give our children, the finest seed we can sow in them. God is with them (and us) all the time. He is ever ready to answer a deep, heartfelt call to Him; if only they knew to call out.

God is not a theoretical concept. God is Reality. He is Truth. He is really there. And the way we know that for a fact is because of the Guru. Because of the numerous God-Realized saints who have always been around, down the ages, showing us His presence. And because of *satsang* (association with such saints and their devotees who have unflinching faith in them).

God's presence and a personal connection with Him can be felt only if we are in constant association with those who feel His presence, and if we constantly hear about Him and His glories. And only when one has a personal connection to God can he or she call out to Him in times of distress.

If we really want our children to be mentally and emotionally strong, we have to give them the gift of true

satsang.

This is not about just having them attend Indian culture heritage classes. That is a great first step, no doubt. And some of the programs genuinely focus on sowing

the seed of devotion and faith in the young minds.

But giving our children the gift of faith really means giving them the gift of real satsang –

taking them frequently to the presence of sadhus and saints who speak of nothing but God, taking them frequently to temples and gatherings where there is nothing but talk of God and singing of His Names and praises, taking them frequently to the presence of the Guru.

Nothing can implant that faith more deeply than constantly hearing people speak about God. Only through satsang will they learn that God is always there for us; that we only need to call out His Name and He will take care of us; that His Divine Name is an all-powerful protection that will shield us from all ills. And only when they know all this for a fact, will they fall back on this whenever they need that support in life.

We love our children and do so much for them. While nourishing their body and intellect, let us not fail to nourish and strengthen their mind and faith too. Let us give them the greatest gift of satsang.

**Nisha Giri, Houston TX**



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## Cherished Memoirs 36

**T**his 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. The original article was written by Dr. Bhagyanathanji, Personal Secretary of Sri Swamiji.

### The World We Wish to See

This is an excerpt of discourse by Sri Swamiji on the topic of the 'Nama flower' at our Madhurapuri Ashram during May 2007.

"There are numerous people who sacrifice their lives to securing good education, food, socio-economic status, health and hygiene, equality and peace for everyone in this world. We, for our part, are trying to see if we can pat and awaken

the inner spiritual energy in each and everyone of us in this world. This inner spiritual energy is not only majestic but also loving and peaceful. If we can bring out that inherent love that is in everyone, then the world will attain completeness ('pUrNatvam').

Human beings are bound by laws, sins and merits, God, hell, etc. A man who behaves himself only due to fear of all these is not a good man by nature. You have to be good simply because it is good. This is possible only through love, i.e. through that inner spirituality. That pure love cannot be brought out with force or by commanding or by threatening it to come out. It is like a flower. It is gentle. A bud has to blossom on its own and cannot be made to bloom by any other means.

We can sow a seed in the soil, water it, and add fertilizers. But the actual germination has to take place on its own. Likewise if we can create the conducive spiritual atmosphere amongst all, then

God will make the flower of divine love present in every heart to blossom by itself.

Let us not be intimidated by spirituality. When the entire world is engulfed by the Divine Name of Krishna, who is love-personified, would there even be an iota of doubt that love shall flower in every heart? In eager anticipation of that day, let us make the Mahamantra blossom in every tongue," said Sri Swamiji.

**Original Tamil article by  
Dr. Bhagyanathan,  
Madhuramurali May 2007 issue  
Translated by Viji Ramakrishnan,  
Dallas, TX**



HH Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji

### Brahma's Trick(ed)

**A**ll the residents of Vrindavan loved and adored six-year-old Krishna. They had witnessed many wondrous and miraculous feats, which made them love him even more. Every day, the Gopis would make special foods and tell their sons, the cowherd boys, to give them to Lord Krishna, when they ate lunch together.

One such day, as the boys sat in a circle around Krishna, offering him special treats and eating their own, Krishna noticed that the calves were missing. As the boys were very hungry, Krishna told them to keep eating. He set out to look for the cows. Krishna searched everywhere, but he could not find them. He returned to tell the Gopas the upsetting news, but to his great astonishment, they were not there! He was baffled! Then Bhagavan used his divine insight and found out that it was none other than Brahma behind this mischief. Krishna was amused and decided to play along!

In Brahmaloaka, the great stories of Krishna's feats had reached Brahma. "Could such a young boy really do all this?" he wondered. Brahma forgot that Sri Krishna was the Divine Lord. He decided to test Bhagavan. Brahma took away the calves and cowherd boys.

After Krishna had figured out what had

happened, he smiled. He decided to teach Brahma a lesson. Bhagavan closed his eyes and copied himself. He kept copying until the number of Krishnas was the exact number of calves and cowherd boys. Then he clapped his hands. All the Krishnas assumed the forms of the cowherd boys and calves. Then they all walked back to Vrindavan.

At the melodious sound of Krishna's flute, the Gopis and Yashoda came running out, embraced their own sons with great affection and took them inside. The cows expressed intense love for their calves and gave milk twice as sweet. For a year, the parents of the Gopas and the cows felt extra love for their own children because Krishna is, and was, in every home and cowshed.

Brahma was confused. Surely by now the people of Vrindavan and cows would be in an extreme state of anxiety? But there was no news of panic or of even the slightest worry. Brahma decided to go down to Earth to investigate.

It seemed to Brahma like another ordinary day, with the boys laughing and playing and the calves grazing. "But how is this possible?" he wondered. Brahma went to check if they were still there.

They were quite safe and fast asleep where he had put them in a trance! "But how?"

thought

Brahma as he went back to Earth. "I am the one and only creator! Or am I? Has Narayana given the power of creation to somebody else, too? And can they be as good at creation as I am?"

Overcome by Maya as he was, his thoughts started becoming poisoned by doubt and fear, and anger and jealousy. Brahma knew that the only way to win over Bhagavan's grace was to meditate upon the Lord with a single-pointed mind. So he went back and started to meditate. As he meditated, an image of Sri Krishna blossomed in his mind. Lord Brahma saw that all the Gopas and calves turned into the smiling lotus face of Bhagavan. Realization dawned upon him. Sri Krishna was the essence of every living soul. **He** was the original creator. He, Brahma, was just an instrument. Overcome with shame, and humbled, Brahma went to Vrindavan and fell at Lord Krishna's feet. He apologized, and returned the Gopas and calves.

This leela shows that to prevent being overcome by Maya, we must completely surrender to Bhagavan. Once we say the words "I", "me", "my" or "mine", our ego takes over and Maya blinds us to the Truth.

**Aparna Prabhakar, 10 years, San Jose, CA**

### Kid's Contribution



## Madhura Geetam - Prayer Series: 10

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.

### My Father! I request Thee to forgive my sins!

In a court of law, when a criminal is on trial, the prosecutor and the defense attorneys argue based on facts and laws laid for that country and the jurors and the judge pass a judgement based on the facts laid out. But when everything else fails, and the defendant is convicted and sentenced, a repentant convict has a final chance. He can appeal to the President for a pardon. If the President so chooses, he can 'pardon' the convict; in other words, set him free.

Similarly, although all of the living beings are judged based on their sins and merits, if we truly repent our mistakes and pray to the Lord with a sincere heart, He will forgive us. In Ramayana, when Lord Rama killed Vali, Vali questioned Bhagavan on what

basis he was being killed. Lord Rama listed all his transgressions. Whereas in the same Ramayana, we see that Lord Rama accepted fruits from Sabari, a huntress woman who had lived a sinful life until she met her guru. The Lord can forgive our sins but we need to pray and appeal to him for that. In the song, "Paavangalai manithu arulvai" set in Senchurutti, Sri Swamiji appeals to Lord Panduranga to forgive all his sins.

### Paavangalai Manittu Arulvai

**Raga: Senchurutti**

**Tala: Adi**

*pAvangaLai manittu arulvAi  
en thandayE vandhanam undhanukku*

*anDru mudhal inDru varai nAn seidha  
(pAvangaLai)*

*chandrabhAga nadhikkariyil kovil  
kondavane  
panDarinAdhane pANDuranganE*

*pAdham iraNDaiyum Arathazhuvi koNDen  
thAmarai kaigaLai thaliyil vaithiDuvAi*

*unnai vittAI enakku gathi vErillai - idhai  
ninaivil koNDu arul seidhiDuvAyE*

*tanimaiyil amarndu unnai pAduvadaiyE - en  
paNiyAga enDrum paNitiDuvAyE*

### Meaning

I beseech you to forgive my sins  
O Father! My obeisance to you!

Please forgive all the sins that I have  
committed from then until now

O Lord, You are one who has His temple on  
the banks of Chandrabhaga river  
O Lord of Pandari! O Panduranga!

I caressed Your feet to my heart's content,  
Please place Your lotus hands on my head

I have no one else to seek refuge unto -  
Please bear this in mind and bestow Your  
grace on me

Sitting in solitude and singing your praises -  
Pray grant this to be my duty forever.

**Sowmya Balasubramanian, Fremont CA**

## Quiz - Divya Desam Series 6

Here are 108 Divya Desams – temples/abodes of Lord Narayana that have been sung by the Azhwars. This month, take the quiz to learn more about one of the ancient temples built during 8th century, Sri Parthasarathy temple in Triplicane Chennai.

- In which city in Tamil Nadu is Parthasarathy temple located?
  - Madurai
  - Trichy
  - Chennai
- Name the avatar of Lord Vishnu to whom this temple is primarily dedicated.
  - Koorma
  - Vamana
  - Krishna
- Parthasarathy temple is located in a place called Triplicane, which was previously known as 'Thiru-Alli-Keni'. What does the term 'Thiru-Alli-Keni' mean?
  - Sacred lotus pond
  - Sacred lily pond
  - Sacred jasmine pond

4. What does the term 'Parthasarathy' refer to?

- The one who destroys evil force
- The charioteer of Arjuna
- The one who killed Ravana

5. Name the Azhwar for whom a separate shrine is located in this temple

- Nammazhwar
- Madhurakavi Azhwar
- Andal

6. Name the warrior who is located on the left of Lord Parthasarathy in this temple

- Parasurama
- Satyaki
- Lakshmana

7. Name the Lord who is located on the right side of the presiding deity, Parthasarathy

- Pradhymna
- Anirudha
- Balarama

8. Which Azhwar has sung pasurams on 'Thiruvallikeni'

- Thirumazhisai Azhwar

- Thirumangai Azhwar
- Thondaradipodi Azhwar

9. The presiding deity, Parthasarathy has a \_\_\_\_\_ on his face.

- White scar
- Swollen jaw
- White moustache

10. What is the other name for 'Thiruvallikeni'

- Mathura
- Vrundharanyam
- Sapthagiri

11. Name the deity in this temple who is located facing the western side and has a separate entrance from the western side as well.

- Rama
- Narasimha
- Krishna

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

**Answers:**

1 - C, 2 - C, 3 - B, 4 - B, 5 - C, 6 - B, 7 - C, 8 - B, 9 - C, 10 - C, 11 - B



**SRI POORNIMA JI'S SATSANGS ACROSS THE US**

## News & Events

### VASANTOTSAV IN DALLAS TX

### RAMAYANA NAVAHAM, BAY AREA CA



### RAMA RATNA MALA, SEATTLE WA



### SRI RAMA NAVAMI, ORLANDO FL



### NEW YEAR CELEBRATION, NAMADWAAR HOUSTON TX



### Upcoming Events of Sri Poornimaji

- \* May 25 - 30: Satsangs in Richmond VA - Contact Malathi ji: 804-306-8198
- \* May 31-June 6: Satsangs in Boston MA-Contact Narayanan ji: 617-820-2968
- \* June 9-12: Practical Bhakti Yoga @ Namadwaar Houston TX - Contact Jeevan ji: 281-402-6585
- \* June 17: Sundara Kadam at Sri Balaji Temple of Great Lakes, West Bloomingfield MI - Contact Sridhar ji: 248-390-6534
- \* June 18th: Hanumath Prabhavam at Hanuman Temple of Greater Chicago, Glenview IL - Contact Jayasri ji: 847.231.3994
- \* June 20-26: Srimad Bhagavata Saptaham at Sri Siva Satyanarayana Temple Mississauga ON - Contact Chandru Gurukkal: 905-282-0108

### 'Ramam Bhaje Shyamalam' in MINNEAPOLIS MN



### GOPA KUTEERAM YEAR END PROGRAM, HOUSTON TX



#### Published by:



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**Illustrations**—Sripriya Sarathy.

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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