

Remembering A Very Fortunate Devotee

Sri Swamiji (HH Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji) was discoursing in Premika Bhavanam (his place of satsang in Chennai). It was the scene of Bheeshmacharya leaving his physical body in the divine presence of Lord Krishna.

Sri Swamiji said, "It is a rare fortune, indeed, to witness a *bhakta* leave the world. Bhagavan comes there with all His attendants to take away the *jiva*. Is it then not your fortune that you are there when Bhagavan and His servitors visit the home to take away the *bhakta*?"

As Sri Swamiji spoke these words, the garland on the picture of Smt. Jayanthi Janakiraman hanging on the wall, dropped down!

A 108 Bhagavata Saptaham series had commenced in Premika Bhavanam on June 25, 2006, in lieu of Smt. Jayanthi Janakiraman's 'Goloka vijayam' (entry into the Abode of Lord Krishna) earlier that month. And this incident happened as Sri Swamiji was speaking, on the 7th day of the 5th Bhagavata Saptaham.

Sri Shuka, in Srimad Bhagavatam, says, "Even the demoness Putana, murderer of infants, attained Mukti because she fed Krishna at her breast, even though with murderous intent. What then to speak of those who offer unto the Supreme Lord Krishna what is dearest to them, with faith and devotion, just like his loving mothers did!" (10:6:35-36)

Jayanthiji was a tall, majestic, beautiful devotee with sparkling eyes and ears attentive to the Master.

Great energy is required to be the servitor of a great spiritual Master. And this great energy comes out of deep affection and respect for the Master, and fervor to serve him. A ball of energy that only great bhaktas like Jayanthiji can be, she served her Master with motherly affection all through her life from the day – May 6, 1991 – that she had her first darshan of her spiritual Master.

The love and affection of Jayanthiji and her husband Janakiramanji for the Master turned their home into 'Premika Bhavanam' (abode of divine love) with their invitation to the Master to come and

dwell there. Sri Srinivasa Perumal and Premika Varadan-Madhuri Sakhi (Lord Krishna-Sri Radha Devi) followed suit. As the Master once pointed out, in keeping with the times when people live in apartments, the Lord too, out of sheer compassion has come to live on the first floor of 'Premika Bhavanam' sans the traditional design and style of a Temple!

Just as bees rush to the lotus in bloom, so too did Premika Bhavanam see the rush of people from all walks of life – Vedic scholars, bhagavatas, sadhaks, sadhus, musicians, householders seeking solace from life's tribulations, and many others. Apart from the daily worship of Lord Srinivasa Perumal how many Vedic chants, discussions, debates, Bhajans, divyanama sankirtans have taken place here at Premika Bhavanam! The number of Vedic scholars, bhagavatas, sadhus, and other lay devotees that Jayanthiji has fed lovingly is countless. It is mind boggling to even think how Jayanthiji managed it all – not for a day or a month or even a year but for years on end!

Jayanthiji was an exemplary Bhakta. She would expertly listen and jot down the divine hymns flowing out of the Master, and render his divine hymns in her melodious voice. She also had deep knowledge of Divya prabandam (the divine hymns of the Azhwars). She was an excellent cook who would cook enthusiastically for Lord Srinivasa Perumal and her Master. With great enthusiasm she would prepare a variety of sweets and savories for the Lord on every festive occasion. Her *kolams* drawn in front of Srinivasa Perumal's sanctum at Premika Bhavanam were perfect lines drawn so artistically. The dresses tailored by her for Sri Premika Varadan-Madhuri Sakhi reflected her deep care and love for the Divine Couple, and so did the decorative hangings, sannidhi curtains, etc. In her magic fingers, loose flowers came together

For free distribution only. Not for sale. To receive this newsletter by email, send request to newsletter@godivinity.org



to form beautiful garlands for the Lord. She was also a dedicated teacher training other lady devotees in singing the Master's hymns and also traditional bhajans and hymns of other Mahans.

All this and more Jayanthiji was, even as she played the role of a mother, wife, bank officer, and more.

It was June 12, 2006 that Jayanthiji attained the Lord. The next month's issue of our satsang's Tamil magazine, Madhuramurali carried a special article—Lord Krishna suddenly disappeared from His *Rasa* dance. A gopi that had

gone in search of Him found in Chennai as Premika Varadhan, put herself into His service and finally united in His *Rasa Mandalam* again this day!

In Jayanthiji's memory, with Sri Swamiji's blessings, a traditional *Patashala* functions in Thirunangur near Sirgazhi in South India (a town that is home to many Divya Desams) which imparts education on *Vaishnava Agama* and *Dravida Veda* (Nalayira Divya Prabandham—works of Azhwars) to deserving children.

To see, know and recognise a great bhakta of the Master is in itself a great fortune! Professor N.R. Krishnamurthy Iyer, a physics professor and scientist who was an ardent devotee of Sri Ramana Maharishi has said – "Whenever a great being appears, he comes with his retinue. When Bhagavan incarnated on earth, we too came to serve him. Once our service is over, we will go back to the source."

Nirmala Giri, Chennai, India

Inside this Issue

Cherished Memoirs - 37	Pg 2
Quiz - Divya Desam Series 7	Pg 2
Madhura Geetam - Prayer Series 11	Pg 3
Kid's story - Precious gems for fruits	Pg 3
News and Events	Pg 4



Cherished Memoirs 37

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

Grace that sweetens Memories!

Just like Sun gives out heat and light when it rises and moon exudes coolness as it rises, when Sadhus and Avatars come into this world, we see a flowering of spiritual awakening. For more than 20 years, Sri Swamiji has been constantly speaking of the greatness of our scriptures and Mahamantra in numerous places. And through his disciples who travel abroad to speak on the glories of the Divine Name and the Master, thousands of people from many countries have benefitted in many ways. More and more people become part of our satsang and Premika Varada Govinda's family keeps growing!

It is in this manner that the couple, Sri Balaji and Smt. Sandhya, couple who lived in the US came to our satsang. They first attended our Atlanta Satsang back in 2013 through another satsang devotee Sri Narayanan from Atlanta. Since then, Nama Kirtan and thoughts of the Sadguru bloomed and the desire to have Sri Swamiji's darshan

intensified.

At that time, they chanced to visit Chennai for a family function. When Sandhya was in Chennai, Sri Swamiji's darshan was on the top of her mind and she came with her parents to Premika Bhavanam. At that time, Sandhya's parents shared with Swamiji their worry of Sandhya not having a child, even though she has been married a few years. An embodiment of compassion that our Guru Maharaj is, blessed her that a child shall be born soon and gave her a fruit prasad.

The family of married couples is complete only when they have children, especially for those in the satsang—when the offspring continues the parents' *kaimkaryam* to the Lord. It is no surprise that Sri Balaji and Smt. Sandhya also desired that way.

Sri Swamiji's simplicity, majesty, his soothing and caring look, compassionate words—these made Sandhya forget all her worries, she would say. A few days later, Sri Balaji also arrived from the US and they all attended the Vasanhotsav at Madhurapuri Ashram. After a few days, when Balaji came from the US, he, along with his family, participated in the Vasanhotsav that was conducted at Madhurapuri Ashram. The very darshan of the Divine Couple, their elaborate flower decorations which were different each day, the mellifluous kirtans led by Sri Swamiji—all of these completely stole their hearts.

Continuous Mahamantra Kirtan happens at our Thakurji's sanctum at Madhurapuri Ashram. Prayers that have not been fulfilled for years, come true when one comes and chants in the sanctum. Premika Varadan never lets anyone

go empty-handed! This is not a flowery statement; it is indeed the Lord's assurance. During Vasantotsav, they had Sri Swamiji's

darshan often and got to perform Nama Kirtan, Bhagavata Saptaham, Katha Shraavanam and so on. With the Master's blessings, they returned to Atlanta and continued to attend satsangs there. They would worship Guru Maharaj's picture and perform Nama Kirtan regularly. Their faith continued to grow stronger. Sri Ramuji's Bhagavatam and Krishna Jananam, Poornimaji's Ramayana discourse—all happened at their home. In 2015, when Sri Ramuji visited Atlanta, Sri Swamiji had sent a reassuring word that they would certainly be blessed with a child.

In January this year, Sandhya's medical checkup confirmed that she had conceived! Recently, at Atlanta's Hanuman Mandir, a Madhuragitam Saptaham was conducted. Many devotees rendered Sri Swamiji's Kirtans during this series of concerts. Smt. Sandhya had participated and sung too. Indeed, with Guru's grace, memories are always sweet—something for all of us to understand!

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



HH Sri Muralidhara Swamiji

Quiz - Divya Desam Series 7

There 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 temple cities in Northern India, Mathura

1. In which state is Mathura located?
 - A. Ujjain
 - B. Uttar Pradesh
 - C. Uttarkhand
2. 'Mathura' is fondly referred in Tamil as

- A. Then Madurai
- B. Therku Madurai
- C. Vada Madurai

3. How many pasurams have been composed on Mathura Divyadesam?
 - A. 400
 - B. 50
 - C. 408

4. Name the Azhwar whose other name is Kaliyan and composed hymns on Mathura Divyadesam

- A. Thondaradipodi Azhwar
- B. Thirumangai Azhwar
- C. Nammazhwar

5. How many Azhwars have composed hymns on Mathura Divyadesam?

- A. 12
- B. 8
- C. 5

6. Name the river that flows in Mathura

- A. Godavari
- B. Yamuna
- C. Cauvery

7. Which avatar of Lord Vishnu is primarily related to Mathura divyadesam?

- A. Vamana
- B. Parasurama
- C. Krishna

8. What does the term 'Madhuram' refer to?

- A. Sweet and Pleasant
- B. Devotion
- C. Temple

9. Which temple is located in Mathura Divyadesam?

- A. Sri Govardhanesha Perumal temple
- B. Sri Navamohana Krishna Perumal temple
- C. Sri Devaraja Perumal temple

10. Name the demon who was killed by Shatrugna in Mathura

- A. Lavanasura
- B. Mandhata
- C. Subahu

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

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



Madhura Geetam - Prayer Series: 11

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.

Seek Devotion as Alms!

Bhakti is the Lord's prized possession. He does not bestow it to one easily. He may grant Vaikunta-His abode, liberation - the highest of the spiritual states or any of the innumerable worldly or spiritual desires but not Bhakti.

At the same time, Bhakti is not something that can be learned or earned. One can do Bhakti to the Lord only by the grace of the Lord. "Avan aruLale avan thAl vaNangi" - one can worship Him only by His grace, says Sri Manikavachagar in Tiruvachagam.

Therefore Sri Swamiji says, it is essential to pray incessantly to the Lord for Bhakti and not for anything else.

In the deeply moving kirtan, "Bhakti Bhikshai", set in Ahiri raga, Sri Swamiji shows us how to plead to the Lord for Bhakti.

Bhakti Bhikshai Ittiduvai

Kanna

Raga: Ahiri

Talam:

*bhakti bhlkshai IttiDuvAi kannA
mukti nalgiDum bhakti bhlkshai*

*achyuthA ananthA govindA enDru - un
kOvilin vAsalil kUviDum enakku*

*tuchcham ena ennai taLLi viDade
pachchAtApatuDan pArtiDuvAye*

*kUchatai viTTu kUviDuvEn nAne
nichayamAi veru gatiyillai enakku*

Meaning

Oh Krishna! I beseech Thee to bestow upon me, devotion as alms
That (devotion) benefaction which can award liberation!

Oh Achyuta Ananta Govinda!
I stand at the doors of your temple and call out Your Names.

Please don't cast me aside in disgust,
Kindly look at me with pity!
I am crying Your Name out loudly and unabashedly
I have no other refuge other than You!

Sowmya Balasubramanian, Fremont CA

Krishna - Precious gems for fruits!

It was a hot day in Gokula, not too long after the Damodhara Leela. Little Krishna, the joy of the Gopis, sang gleefully and danced beautifully as he played with the other children. He slapped his arms and thighs like a wrestler much to the amusement of his kinsmen. Everyone watched lovingly as he ambled about like a little elephant, causing mischief and bringing joy to all.

It was a quiet, peaceful afternoon, and everyone was resting, seeking shade from the sun beating overhead. Krishna was playing in the courtyard when he heard a faint voice.

"Mangos! Apples! Pears! Buy some juicy fruit! Fruit! Fruit! Get juicy, delicious fruit!" A fruit seller had wandered to Gokula, selling her wares. Krishna, tempted by the promise of refreshing, sweet fruit, rushed to the entrance.

"I'll buy some fruit!" The fruit seller looked at the sweet little boy. He was dark skinned, a beautiful stormy color that shone just as brilliantly as his golden ornaments and silk clothes. His eyes, wide

and bright, looked up at her in anticipation. "I'll have one of each fruit!"

His sweet voice, happy and strong, made her smile and filled her with love. "Sweet boy, you can have fruit, but you must give me something in return."



Krishna pursed his delicate brow and thought for a minute. He raced back into the courtyard, gathered as

many grains as his pink palms could hold and with tight fists, he ran back to the fruit seller. "Here," he gasped, thrusting his hands at her. She took in his blushed cheeks and glowing face before looking at his tiny hands. Grains had slipped through his pudgy little fingers until there were only a few in each hand. He looked at her, waiting. "Will they be enough?" he asked in his innocent voice.

Her heart swelling with happiness, the fruit

seller agreed, agreeing to his trade and giving him the fruits she wanted. Krishna, content with the fruits she lovingly gave him, tottered back into the courtyard, his arms laden with goods.

The fruit seller put her basket, now empty but for the few grains, back on her head and went on her way. The sun soon sunk into the sky and colored it beautiful shades of purple and orange as she walked. The basket felt heavier than it should've been. She kept walking until the basket felt so heavy, her neck hurt! Stopping under a large banyan tree to catch her breath, the fruit seller put the basket down, wondering why her burden had increased so. She removed the covering and the sight! There were emeralds and rubies, diamonds and sapphires a plenty in her old wicker basket. Sitting in joy and crying of happiness, the fruit seller understood; the beautiful boy, little Krishna was divine. He must have been Lord Vishnu himself!

The fruit seller story teaches us a very simple, yet important lesson. Trust in Krishna, love Him, and offer all you have to Him wholeheartedly and He shall reward you, give back to you so much more!

Vathsalya Senapathi 16 yrs, Dallas TX



SRI POORNIMA JY'S SATSANGS ACROSS THE US

News & Events

SATSANGS IN EDMONTON CANADA

NAMADWAAR INAUGURATION, RICHMOND VA



SATSANGS IN BOSTON MA



SPECIAL AKANDA NAMA IN DALLAS TX



BHAKTI YOGA IN NAMADWAAR HOUSTON TX



GOPA KUTEERAM YEAR END PROGRAM, DALLAS TX



Published by:



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.

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.

Email newsletter@godivinity.org