

Power of Nama Sankirtan - Bhagavan Yogiramsuratkumar

Once a devotee asked Bhagavan Yogiramsuratkumar, 'How do I see God?'

Yogi replied, 'NO NAME, NO FAME, NO SELF-INTEREST -- Only with these, it is possible!'

A story in the Puranas goes thus - An elephant named Gajendran was caught in the mouth of a crocodile as it went to drink water. In spite of help from a thousand other elephants, it could not get relieved. It was then that it called out to the Lord and He came down to help.

In Tiruvannamalai lived a Mahatma by name Yogiramsuratkumar.

He was once in Tirukkivilur where the 'Tapovanam' of Swami Gnanananda is located. River Pennaiyar flows through this town. Next to the river is the Samadhi of another Mahan called Ragottama Swami. It was his Aradhana day and thousands of devotees had gathered there.

A little boy went to take bath in the Pennaiyar river. His leg got stuck in between two huge rocks in the river. The river was in full spate so no one could enter the river to save him. Panicked, people rushed to Swami Gnanananda and surrendered unto him, requesting him to save the boy.

Saying that there was another powerful person carry out that task, Swami Gnanananda summoned Yogiramsuratkumar to save him.

Yogi went to the banks of the river, and

fan, uttered 'Sri Ram, Jaya Ram Jaya Jaya Ram!' and behold! The rock broke into a thousand pieces!

Later, Yogi moved to Tiruvannamalai and used to live under a peepul tree there. One night he was sleeping under the tree with other devotees. Around midnight, suddenly Yogi arose saying, 'This beggar has an important job' and started walking. Others followed him. A mile or two away, there was a large farm land, and in the center was a huge well that irrigated the land. The well did not have walls, and a horse had fallen into it.

"We need to save the horse", said Yogi. Looking at the sheer size of the fallen horse, the people around said, 'Let us call the fire station'.

Yogi replied, 'If you can save the horse, go ahead. Otherwise, leave it to this beggar.'

Puranas say that the elephant Gajendran who was in pain, cried out to the Lord and the Lord arrived from Vaikunta to save it.

Now, it was this horse. No one knew how or when it cried out but Yogi was there to save it!

Yogi went around the well twice and then, swaying his hand-fan, chanted, 'Om Sri Ram! Jai Ram! Jai Jai Ram!'. Then, just as we watch in a movie, the horse gently jumped out and ran away! This is not a made-up story. Even today,

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swaying his hand-

there are people who had witnessed this event.

People said to Yogi, 'Bhagavan! You are capable of doing such miracles!' Yogi replied, 'No No! This beggar is not capable of doing any miracles. Only Ram Naam is doing miracles!'

In our life we enjoy or suffer depending on our sins ('paapa') and good merits ('punya'). The imprints of our past deeds ('prarabda') follow us. No one's life is filled with just happiness or just sorrow. Life is a mix of both happiness and sorrow. In such a life, when we encounter misery, instead of wailing, if we cry out the name of the Lord, irrespective of the condition and situation, He comes down to help us.

Yogiji's jayanti was celebrated on December 1.

Experts from Sri Swamiji's discourse, www.namadwaar.org



2016 Annual Discourse Series

Sri Ramanujamji, disciple of HH Sri Muralidhara Swamiji, is visiting the USA for a period of 2 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.

Dec 22-24: Minneapolis MN, (425) 445 0157

Jan 2-8: Atlanta GA, Contact (404) 788 7391

Jan 10-16: California Bay Area, (408) 431 5688

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Cherished Memoirs 43 - Worship the Totality!

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.



HH Sri Muralidhara Swamiji

Worship the Totality!

Once, Bengaluru was going through an unusually dry season. Monsoon had failed. Bengalurians were deeply worried. Prayers were being held all around for rain. We were traveling with Sri Swamiji to Bengaluru. We reached around evening. Sri Swamiji said, "Everyone is doing something to bring down the rains. The meteorological department is taking some steps in this direction. Cloud seeding is being planned. All are trying various means. The efforts are in different directions. Do you know what I am going to do? I am going to do what I know best. Let us all also do our best."

Saying this Sri Swamiji quickly walked up the stairs and entered the shrine of the Lord Sri Sundara Anjaneya Swami. The *utsava murti* of the Lord was brought and placed on a beautifully decorated swing. Sri Swamiji just sat there. It was very hot and humid. Everyone was sweating profusely. All were feeling thirsty. It was so hot. It felt as if we were in the middle of a desert.

Sri Swamiji showered Namasankirtan rain for two to three hours. It was an ecstatic, out of this world bhajan! As this was happening the whole scenario changed magically. Gradually, the heat lessened and cool breeze started to set in. Everyone was so enthralled by the out of the world bhajan that none paid attention to this. As the bhajan came to a close there was a loud thunder and lightning. And, it began to drizzle. Soon, there was a heavy downpour. A downpour that was beyond all imagination! As Sri Swamiji

remarked that there was at first Nama *mazhai* (rain) and then the real *mazhai*.

After the bhajan Sri Swamiji said, "You see, it is very simple. You need not break each and every prayer, each and every requirement into the detail. Everybody wants rain. Everyone in the world wants rain. And this world is inside God. So, instead of looking at it part by

part I look at it in totality. Within God everything is there. So, please Him. When the Totality is pleased all else will follow automatically. You don't have to chase each and every issue, one by one. And, how do you please Totality? Chant Nama. It is very simple."

Just that: it's enough. Yogi Ramsuratkumar would say, "Even if you do not know what prayer to make (that actually is the best in a real situation because I do not know what is right for me), do not worry; just chant the Nama. Nama will do the prayer for you. Chant the Nama. Nama will do what is right for you; Nama will remove what is not good for you. Nama will do the prayer for you." That is what our Sri Swamiji also said. Chant Nama to please the Totality. And leave it. The Nama will do what is to be done." 'valamundu kuraivillai Gurunatha un padam thuNai'.

Sri Swamiji would say, "When you want a tree to grow and bear fruits what would you do? Would you water the leaves? Is that the way to go about it? You water the roots. When you water the roots it is carried to all parts of the tree and everything comes about. You do not have to individually address each and everything. It is the same for Namasankirtanam that forms the basis for the prayer. It is like watering the roots. Just chant Nama and God is happy. And when God is happy everything would fall in its place on its own. There is solid logic behind it. That is why I am sharing it with you. Somebody asks, "How is chanting Mahamantra enough?" I would say, "It is enough. It is like watering the roots; it will automatically remove all the obstacles and things will fall in place: it takes time

but it will happen."

Mahamantra never fails. That is why it brings prosperity all around. If someone comes to Sri Swamiji's presence that is what happens. What we give Sri Swamiji is nothing – very meagre but what we receive from him is immense. He fills us with grace.

**From 'Madhura Smaranam – My Guru as I see Him' Australia November 2015:
documented by Nirmala Giri,
Chennai India**

Kid's Quiz - Thirukoshtiyur

- Name the presiding deity of Thirukoshtiyur Divyadesam.
A. Bhaktavatsala Perumal
B. Sowmya Narayana Perumal
C. Jagannatha Perumal
- What does the term 'Koshti' in tamil refer to?
A. Temple
B. Group
C. Divyadesam
- Name the great Saint who got the Upadesam of the sacred Ashtakshara Mantra
A. Adi Shankara
B. Sri Ramanuja
C. Sri Madhwacharya
- Name the Thayaar [consort] of Thirukoshtiyur Divyadesam
A. Sri Kurungudi Nachiyar
B. Sri Thirumagal Nachiyar
C. Sri Padmasini Thayaar
- Name the Azhwar who has sung about this temple as 'Aayarpadi'.
A. Periya Azhwar
B. Nammazhwar
C. Thirumangai Azhwar
- Thirukoshtiyur Divyadesam is classified as a _____ Divyadesam
A. PandyaNadu
B. ChozhaNadu
C. VadaNadu

Compiled by Ramya Srinivasan San Jose CA

Answers:

1 - B, 2 - B, 3 - B, 4 - B, 5 - B, 6 - A



Madhura Geetam - Prayer Series: 17

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.

How do I ask, O Radhe? Eppadi KettaI



This is the last song in the Prayer series. Mahans have composed the divine compositions to show us how to pray. We do not know what to pray for and how to pray. Just for a second, let us imagine that

the Lord comes and stands in front of us. Do we know what to ask for? Even if we do ask for something do we know if that is the best for us in the long run? Hence, in this song “Eppadi kettaI” set in Bhimplas raga, Sri Swamiji prays to Radha devi to show him how to pray to Lord Krishna.

rAgam: bhImplAs
thALam: Adi

Pallavi

*eppaDi kETTAI kaNNan aruLvAnO
appaDi kETka endanukku aruLvAy rAdhE*

Anupallavi

*prEmaiyin rahasiyam aRindavaL nlyanDrO
prEmikanin hrudayamum nlyE andrO*

charaNam

*kAdum kAdum vaittArpOI sollit taruvAyE
vEReduvum unai nAn kETkavE MATTEn
madurapurivAsini mAdushrlyE*

sUduvAdu onDraRiyA sundari nlyE

Meaning

How do I ask such that Krishna will surely bestow his grace?

O Radhe! Please bestow your grace so I can ask so.

You know the secret of Divine Love (Prema)

You are the heart of Premika (Krishna)

Could you please teach me in secret the divine secret

I will not ask you anything else.

O Madhushri! The dweller of Madhurapuri

You are the divine beauty devoid of any deceit.

Sowmya Balasubramanian, Fremont CA

The Origin of Dwaraka, City of Dreams

“What ever happened; happened for good...”-Shree Krishna

Krishna, we think of him as our saviour, our life. It's like we see him as not one point, but every single atom in the universe. He has never left us. Though, we have left him. Our single pointed mind cannot think of the infinite of the universe of where he resides. When an arrow struck Shree Krishna, our mind cannot see that he was always there. Our arrow shaped mind looked at his visible form not as God, but a human.

Kamsa, the blessed rakshasa who died in the hands of Krishna, was killed from the gift that his nephew, Krishna, was to give to



Picture Courtesy: <http://indian-temple-photo.blogspot.com/>

him. Krishna threw the gift instead, killing the great uncle. Though an innocent murder, a murder it was. Which can lead to a bad ending. Asti and Prapti,

Kamsa's two wives, went to their father

Jarasandha who was a great rakshasa.

They told him that Kamsa was killed when he was doing some business by an

unwelcome visitor, Krishna. Jarasandha decided to whip up an army of demons. His anger was righteous. The killing of a king without the means of war was a suicidal consequence to the city. Not only that, grief has to be subsided. In a way, war can turn anger into potential.

He had a total of 23 divisions of demons.

The first time he attacked, Krishna destroyed his army, but left Jarasandha alone. Krishna looked at his actions as something which needs to be brought back to a good state. Thus, he left the sinful demon to fight again. This was repeated 17 times. Jarasandha was mainly left alone because he was always thinking about how to defeat Krishna. There are three types of devotees; the first one was the one who loves Krishna, the second one was the one who feared Krishna, and the final one is the one who wants to be better than Krishna. Thus, Jarasandha was actually a great devotee of Krishna.

Jarasandha had a great plan. To attack Mathura through both east and west side. He called upon a wicked warrior called Kalayavan. Krishna had no choice, but to teleport his citizens somewhere else. He called upon his architect to build a city of pure beauty and peace. He transported all the people of Mathura to Dwarka. When they woke up they would be in Dwarka. He destroyed both armies and went to Dwarka.

Pranav Athreya 13 yrs, Dallas TX



News & Events

MADHURA UTSAV, DALLAS



YOUTH WORKSHOP, DALLAS



BHAKTI SUGANDHAM, HOUSTON



MADHURA UTSAV, BOSTON



YOUTH WORKSHOP, BOSTON



RUKMINI KALYANAM, DETROIT



MADHURA UTSAV RICHMOND, VIRGINIA



MARYLAND SATSANG



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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