

## Kids Story - Valmiki

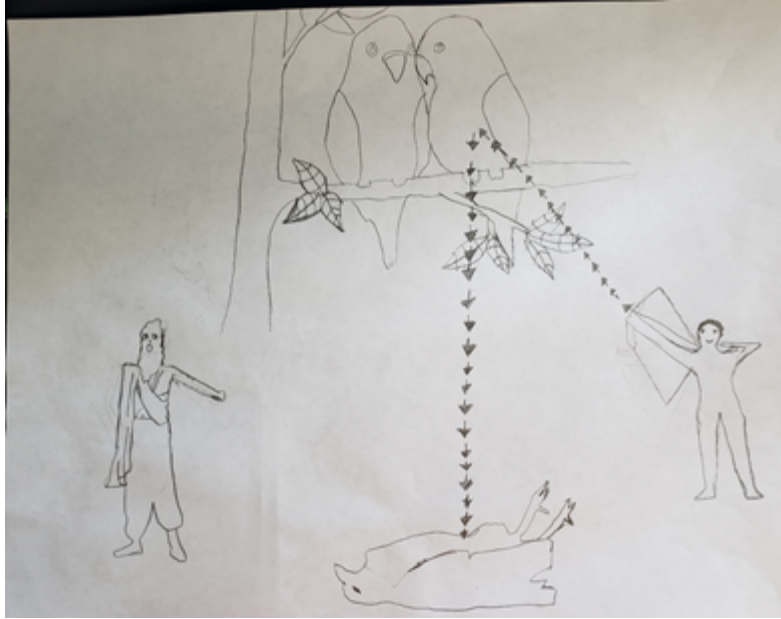
Valmiki's original name was Ratnakar and he was a robber, he stole from others to support his family.

To begin with, Narada Maharshi goes to where Ratnakar is. As he sees him, Ratnakar admonishes him by declaring "I'm a thief, give me your things." Narada took a gentle appearance and questions "Why do you steal?" And Ratnakar replies he has to maintain his family. Narada explains that he gets more and more sins every day. " You bestow your money, but not your sins. Ask your parents." So Ratnakar fastens Narada to a tree and goes to ask his parents.

His Parents reply saying No they won't partake of his sins because he was the one who has decided to steal. Ratnakar apprehends what he has done. Ratnakar springs back to where Narada is and befalls at his feet. Ratnakar wants to become a better person. Narada states if you chant Rama Nama anything is possible, though Ratnakar couldn't pronounce "Rama" he says "Mara."

Narada also describes Ramayanam in a nutshell. He includes everything like how Rama walked the Earth. While Valmiki was doing Tapas, Anthill forms on him, and then Narada Maharishi comes again and brings him out of the anthill. From then on he got the name Valmiki, because anthill in Sanskrit signifies Valmikam, and he became a Rishi.

Valmiki had a disciple, Bharatwaja. One day, Bharatwaja and Valmiki were walking towards the river Tamasa to do the morning ablutions. While Valmiki and Bharatwaja were walking, Valmiki noticed two husband and wife birds playing with each other. Valmiki sees a hunter shoot one of the birds and the other bird was majorly sorrowful. Valmiki gets mad at the hunter, so he says a slokam, saying that all auspiciousness will leave him.



But Valmiki was also feeling very sad realizing his first slokam is a curse. But, Brahma ji comes to his ashram and asks Valmiki to start composing Sri Ramayanam slokas. With Brahmaji's blessings and Narada Maharishi's guidance, Valmiki composed Sri Ramayanam. This is the story of Valmiki.

written by Somesh Narayanan, Edmonton and illustrated by Samhita Srinivasan, Edmonton.

**Kids Story - St Namadevar** - written & Illustrated by Revanth Rajhaa Srinivasan,  
Mississauga,

The story of saint Namadev.

Namadev was a Marathi poet. He wrote many devotional songs called abhangs. He was born in 1270 in Maharashtra, India. His father was Damashet and mother was Gohai. They lived in Pandharpur. They were great devotees of Lord Panduranga.

Once, when Namadev was five years old his mother gave him food to offer as prasadam to Lord Panduranga. Namadev went to temple, placed the plate of prasadam to Lord Panduranga.

~~Lord~~ Namadev cried to  
panduranga and started  
to hit his head

Lord panduranga appeared  
before him and accepted  
the prasadam. Namadev  
came back home in great  
joy with empty plates.  
When his mother asked  
about the empty plates,  
he explained the whole  
story. So, the next day  
without Namadev's know-  
-ledge; his mother accompanied  
to verify Namadev's  
explanation. The same

Story was repeated and the  
mother's joy and pride in  
Namadev was unbounded.

REVANTH RAJHAA  
RAMAKRISHNAN



# Madhurageetham - Bharata Pradakshina - 4

Bhuloka Vaikuntam Gurupavanapuri

As we continue to explore Sri Swamiji's compositions on various deities and kshetras, let us travel to Guryvayur, Thrissur District.

The presiding deity here is Lord Vishnu, who is worshipped in the form of Krishna. He is in his four-armed form carrying the conch Panchajanya, the discus, Sudarshana Chakra, the mace kaumodaki and a lotus. He wears a tulsi garland. This is the form he was in when he appeared before his parents Devaki and Vasudeva. This is the reason why he is worshiped in Babu form. This temple is also called "Dwarka of South India".

**Raga: Hindolam**

**Tala: Adi**

**Pallavi**

bhUIOka vaikuNdam gurupavanapurI

gOIOkanadhan kOvil koNduLLa (bhUIOka)

**Charanam**

saguNamum avanE nirguNamum avane

guNAtItabhaktarin uLLaththil uRaibavan

jothium avane svayam prakAsanE

vEtayarOdhum vEdAnthamum avanE (bhUIOka)

guruvin pudhakvanai mIttu

guruvin perumaiyai nilai nAttinAn

Ayak kalaigaL anaiththaiyum arupaththu-

nAnkE nAtkalil katrravanivaNE (bhUIOka)

rAdhAsahAyan bhakta sahAyan

mukthi sahAyan mOhanarUpan

bhAgavata patana bhaktarukku akatavikatangaLai

seyyum asahAya sUran (bhUIOka)



1. Name the king whom Lord Krishna defeated seventeen times.

A. Bali

B. Jarasandha

C. Hiranyakashipu

2. Which city was constructed by Krishna that was surrounded by the sea?

A. Mathura

B. Brindavan

C. Dwaraka

3. Name the minister of Kamsa who was ordered to bring Krishna and Balarama to Mathura

A. Akrura

B. Sumanthra

C. Shukracharya

4. Which king burned the warrior Kalayavana to ashes by a harsh look when he was woken up from sleep and was eventually bestowed with Lord Krishna's darshan?

A. Satrajit

B. Jambhavan

C. Muchukunda

5. Name the daughter of Satrajit whom Lord Krishna married after he recovered the stolen Syamantaka jewel that belonged to Satrajit

A. Rukmini

B. Sathyabama

C. Kalindi

6. On the day of the solar eclipse, where did Lord Krishna and Balarama meet all the inhabitants of Brindavan after many years?

A. Mathura

B. Samanta panchakam

C. Indraprastha

7. Name the child-hood friend of Lord Krishna who came to meet him after many years in Dwaraka

A. Sridama

B. Sudama

C. Subala

8. Name the messenger who was ordained by Lord Krishna to go to Brindavan to meet the Gopis

A. Uddhava

B. Akrura

C. Yudhisthira

9. Which brother of Rukmini fought with Lord Krishna before Krishna and Rukmini's wedding?

A. Sishupala

B. Rukmi

C. Rukmabahu

Compiled by Ramya Srinivasan, San Jose CA and originally published in Godivinity.org

Answers:

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

# Cherished Memoirs

*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.*

## Sri Swamiji and Lord Sundara Srinivasan

Sri Swamiji’s thoughts are ever fixed on Lord Sri Venkatesha, the seven hills, Ananda Vimanam (canopy over the main sanctum sanctorum), Lord Varaha and the holy waters of Swami Pushkarini (holy pond within the Tirumala temple precincts).

*In his dhyana... Sri Swamiji walks up the holy hill of Tirumala doing Nama kirtan and moved by the enchanting hills; bathing in Swami Pushkarini with great joy he goes and has darshan of Lord Bhoovaraha; then, passing the divine guards Jaya and Vijaya at the entrance of the main sanctum sanctorum, Sri Swamiji stands on the Kulasekara step and worships the Lord even as he recalls the words of Kulasekara azhwar, “Will I not remain in Thy presence as the stair and enjoy the sight of Thy red lips!” and yearns to occupy that position of the Azhwar.*

*While worshiping the Lord in this manner in his dhyana, Sri Swamiji enjoys bliss as he pictures himself enjoying Ananda Vimana even as he bathes in Swami Pushkarini filled up to the brim by heavy rains and the tender shoots and flowers of Tirumala floating on it. While thus bathing in Swami Pushkarini he also pictures himself holding the little form of Sri Sundara Srinivasan on his head and taking several dips.*

Once out of his dhyana, looking at Sri Sundara Srinivasan he says, “I have not made the trip to Tirumala but I will send you there with someone. You can go with him and take holy dip in Swami Pushkarini.” But little Lord Sri Sundara Srinivasan does not desire that. Sri Swamiji also hesitates sending Him with someone else, as he fears His safe return to him.

Recently, Sri Swamiji was in Bhagavata Bhavanam at Madhurapuri Ashram, chanting Nama. Outside it was raining heavily. At once Sri Swamiji’s mind was filled with thoughts of Lord Venkatesha and Swami Pushkarini. He at once went to Narayana Saras (the pond adjacent to the Ashram’s Sri Kalyana Srinivasa temple). As pictured by Sri Swamiji in his Dhyana, the pond was overflowing with water. Several flowers and tender shoots were floating on it, giving it sheer aesthetic beauty! To Sri Swamiji it was not Narayana Saras in Madhurapuri but verily Swami Pushkarini spread out before him. Narayana Saras was to him Swami Pushkarini. He at once stepped into it and enjoyed bliss bathing in it.

In the evening when Sri Swamiji came to Sri Premika Varadan’s sannidhi he found Sri Sundara Srinivasan with a grim face.

Sri Sundara Srinivasan was angry with Sri Swamiji! Sri Swamiji at once realized the reason behind it. “Oh my! Have I not always pictured holding Him on my head while bathing in Swami Pushkarnini! But this morning I have had my bath in it without Him. That has made Him angry!” Waiting restlessly for the day to dawn, Sri Swamiji, as soon as it dawned, took Sri Sundara Srinivasa with him went to Narayana Saras which to him was verily Swami Pushkarini. Holding the Lord on his head Sri Swamiji bathed in those waters. Only then did the face of the Lord bloom with joy!

Then Sri Swamiji sat in a corner of the pond’s bank to do his daily religious rituals. A stone mandap designed long back was in the corner. A slight movement of his eyes was enough for his devotees to arrange everything quickly. Some devotees moved the stone mandap from the corner and cleaned it with water. After painting it with red paste, a garland of mango leaves was tied to it. Soon the mandap was decorated beautifully. Sri Sundara Srinivasan sat in it. A lamp made of millet flour (*thinai*) was lit. Further, Sri Swamiji went around the pond doing Nama sankirtan, accompanied by the fan, umbrella and other paraphernalia. Sri Sundara Srinivasan’s joy that day was beyond all verbal description. Though not planned beforehand such a wonderful event took place in the most divine way. The way Lord Sri Sundara Srinivasan was celebrated gave immense joy to Sri Swamiji.

Many Utsavs are well-planned and celebrated here. Yet, the beauty of the Lord fulfilling at once such exceptional Utsavs arising suddenly in Sri Swamiji is unparalleled! Is there a greater joy for us than experiencing these?

# Edmonton Monthly Sathsang Report for March 2020

By the immense grace of Sri Swamiji and Sri Madhuri Sakhi Sametha Premika Varadha Takurji, GOD Sathsang families did Naama sathsangs in March 2020.

On Mar 14<sup>th</sup>, we had a sathsang at Srini ji & Sharadha ji's house. We had Akhanda Naama as a group and chanted together (Kootu prarthana) & concluded by singing "Kaliyayum Bali Kollum". Also decided to have sathsangs through Zoom until further notice.

From Mar 16<sup>th</sup>, we started Akhanda Naama sathsang by chanting Mahamantra for 6hrs daily (Morning 3hrs & Eve 3hrs). The GOD family members have taken slots and participated in this sathsang by offering our prayers to Gurunathar & Radha Krishna to contain the spread of the virus and to get back to our normal life.

On Mar 21<sup>st</sup>, we had Naama sathsang through Zoom. We chanted Naama, Vishnu Sahasranaamam & Madhura geethams, and concluded with "Kaliyayum Bali Kollum".

From Mar 22<sup>nd</sup>, With boundless grace of Sri Swamiji and Sri Madhuri Sakhi Sametha Premika Varadha Takurji we started "Madhurageetha saptaha mahayagam". Toronto & Edmonton celebrated Spring '20 by rendering the Divine kirtans of our Guru maharaj HH Maharanyam Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji from **Mar 22 - Mar 28** via Zoom Conference call.



From **Mar 30<sup>th</sup>** to **Apr 7<sup>th</sup>** we started "Sri Ramayana katha". Toronto & Edmonton sathsang to celebrate Sri Rama Navami with Sri Ramayana katha every day evening for an hour via Zoom Conference call.

# Toronto Monthly Sathsang Report for March 2020

With the Blessings of our beloved Guruji and Sri Madhuri Sakhi Sametha Premika Varadha Takurji, GOD Toronto Sathsang families had sathsangs in March 2020.

On **Mar 05<sup>th</sup>** - Ekadasi Noma chanting via telecon from 6pm to 9pm

On **Mar 07<sup>th</sup>** - we had Akanda Nama chanting from 5am to 5pm on the occasion of Chaitaya Mahaprabhu Jayanthi , followed by satsang in Scarborough. Prasad ji concluded the Katha Pravachan on Mahaprabhu.

On **Mar 14<sup>th</sup>**, we had a Nama sathsang in Mississauga. We also decided to have satsangs through Zoom until further notice.

From **Mar 16<sup>th</sup>**, we started Akhanda Naama sathsang to pray for the containment of COVID-19 for 8hrs daily (Morning 4hrs & Eve 4hrs) .

From **Mar 22<sup>nd</sup>**, With boundless grace of Sri Swamiji and Sri Madhuri Sakhi Sametha Premika Varadha Takurji we started "Madhurageetha saptaha mahayagyam". Toronto & Edmonton celebrated Spring '20 by rendering the Divine kirtans of our Guru maharaj HH Maharanyam Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji from **Mar 22 - Mar 28** via Zoom Conference call.

From **Mar 27<sup>th</sup> to Apr 4<sup>th</sup>** we celebrated Rama Navami by doing Ramayana Navaha Parayanam Via Zoom Conference call . Both Toronto & Edmonton Families participated in the Parayanam. started "Sri Ramayana katha".

From **Mar 30<sup>th</sup> to Apr 7<sup>th</sup>**, We had Sri Ramayana katha every day evening for an hour via Zoom Conference call.



# Upcoming Events

Apr 1 - Apr 15 : Puranava heritage Kids Quiz

Apr 9: Swathi Celebrations

Apr 14: Tamil New Year Celebrations

Apr 27: Sri Sankara Jayanthi

Apr 28 : Sri Ramanuja Jayanthi