

GOD Canada - August 2020

Newsletter

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.

Once a Bhaktha came to have darshan of our Swamiji. He lived in a village called Thirumanglakudi near Kumbakonam. He was working in a bank. He was a devotee of Mangalambhika who resides in a temple in that village. If he gets any horoscope of any girl for his marriage, he would seek the blessings of the Mangalambhika to know whether to proceed with the horoscope or not. He was determined to proceed only if he gets the blessings from Mangalambhika. Days passed by, but he did not get the go-ahead from Mangalambhika, so his marriage was getting delayed.

His family got one horoscope which matched perfectly in all respects to the horoscope of this Bhaktha. His relatives compelled him to get married to this girl. He was in a confused state of mind, whether to go ahead without seeking the blessings of Mangalambhika. In this stage he came to have the darshan of our Swamiji. Swamiji advised him to go seek the blessings of Mangalambhika and this time, she would bless him to get married to this girl. The Bhaktha immediately went back to the village temple and he got the blessings and eventually got married to the girl.

Once, when there were construction activities happening in the ashram, they decided to lay the concrete roof. It was raining heavily during that time. However, they decided to lay the roof on the day given by our swamiji. On that day, from the morning, it was cloudy for some time. When they thought it was going to rain. They thought it was going to ruin the roof. But it would clear after some time. Then again it would become cloudy and then it would clear.

One Bhaktha asked why Bhagavan is playing like this. He gives us a feeling that it is going to rain and ruin the work, then he blesses by clearing the clouds. For this our swamiji said that the namas भयकृत् and भयनाशनः comes one after the other in Vishnu sahasranama. The meaning of these Names are, "one who gives Bhaya" and "one who destroys Bhaya". All these are the leelas of Bhagavan.

Originally written by Jayanthi Janakiraman and published in Madhuramurali Tamil monthly magazine - Jan 1999 Issue. Translated by Karthik Sundaresan , Toronto

Bhaktha Charitra - Panduranga Bhaktas Series : Sant Koma Bai

Srimad Bhagavatham explains the the greatness of Nama Sankeerthanam,

नामसङ्कीर्तनं यस्य सर्वपापप्रणाशनम् ।
प्रणामो दुःखशमनः तं नमामि हरिं परम्

Which means,

I offer my respectful obeisances unto the Supreme Lord, Hari, the congregation chanting of whose holy names destroys all sinful reactions, and the offering of obeisances unto whom relieves all material suffering.

Our Guru Maharaj always says Nama is a reliable, easiest and the most enjoyable way to reach Krishna's lotus feet in a shorter period. Namasankeerthanam has no rules or regulations, no place nor time, no caste nor creed. When every word that comes out from our lips is Nama, we gain Chittha Shuddhi and Bhakthi over time and we surrender ourselves in Krishna's feet in every situation. Saadhya Bhakthi is doing Nama Sankeerthanam through which Sadhana Bhakti attained, which is the way we can experience Krishna's bliss every day in life. As our Guru Maharaj sings in Madhurageetham,

Sadhanamum Namamam Sadhyamum Namamam
Samsara Vedhanai neeki Shanthi Nalkidumam

From Sant's life, we realize that Krishna only sees the love in the devotee's offering and not anything else. One such great Bhaktha who was having dhrida Bhakthi towards Lord Krishna was Kururamma in Guruvayoor. She never missed the daily darshan of Guruvayoorappan in spite of her old age and long distance walk. One day when she got lost amid the forest due to heavy rain, Guruvayoorappan who is a Bhakta vatsala and a Dheena vatsala appeared in the form of a shepherd boy and helped her to reach home. She offered him a small red vastram (cloth) for the help he offered as he was drenched in the rain as well. The next day when Kururamma went to have darshan of Lord Guruvayoorappan as usual, Guruvayurappan was adorning the red vastram and had his mischievous smile. Kurramama immediately realized who came to help her. She lost words to thank Krishna and got drenched in his smarana forever.

Likewise Koma Bai, for whom Lord Pandurangan himself came down as a sailor to take her across Chandrabhaga river when she yearned to have his darshan. Our Guru Maharaj sings,

Pandurangan nalla Padagukkarana Paarthu Pidiyingal.....
Ranga endru Namam Solli vittaal Karayetrividuvan....

Koma Bai was living in a small village which was across the holy river Chandrabhaga. In the olden days, there were no bridges across the river. So Bhaktas had to take boats to reach the other shore to go to the temple of our Pandurangan. Koma Bai was so poor, she made rotis and made her living with the money she got in selling rotis. It was the festival season of Ashada ekadasi when Sants and Sadhus from across the country reached Pandharpur to conduct Nama melas. Our Guru Maharaj explains beautifully in a Madhurageetham on “What does Pandurangan ask for from us? ”,

Kaasu Kaykum Saami undu,
Poosai Kaykum Saami undu,
Pandurangano Paatu kaykum Saami - Nam
Pandurangano Paatu kaykum Saami....

Pandurangan asks nothing but Nama Sankeerthanam from his dear Bhakthas. When Koma Bai was seeing groups of people going to Pandharpur, she enquired them where they were going. They replied they were going to attend Ashada Ekadasi Melas for Lord Pandurangan and Rakkumaayi. Koma Bai immediately wished to have dharshan of Lord Pandurangan and not to miss this divine opportunity. When celebrations happened in Pandharpur, the boat wala people got busy in their profession and earned a lot of money as income. Koma Bai came to the banks of River Chandrabhaga. She asked a boat wala to take her to the other side of the river to get to Lord Pandurangan’s temple. When the boat wala asked for money, poor Koma Bai didn't have money to pay him. But she was ready to offer rotis instead. The boat wala was not satisfied with it. She enquired other boat wala people, but no one was interested in taking her across the river. She felt very sad and disappointed. She sat beneath a tree chanting ‘ Vittala ‘ ‘ I am not able to see you,’ what can I do’. Suddenly she heard someone calling her. She looked up, and saw a beautiful boy. The beautiful boy had curly hair, lotus like eyes, cherry like lips, had tiger nail chain in his neck, a neat dhoti was tucked in a fashionable way in his hip, wore anklets and was posing with the paddle in his hand.

The boy enquired Koma Bai, “Don't you want to go to the other shore to go to the temple?”. Komabai replied in the affirmative. The boy then proceeded saying, “Well! Come on then let me take you in my boat ”. Komabai said, “I don't have money to pay for the ride”. Boy acted as though he got irked, “Did I ask for Money?”. Koma Bai agreed for the ride but she had an inner feeling that there is something divine about the beauty and qualities of the boy. She couldn't take her eyes off him. The boy continued, “Grandma!! Please sing something as we cross the river on this night when the moon is shining high...”. Koma Bai replied, “I don't know what to sing”. The boy told her, “Repeat after me, Panduranga! Panduranga!....”. Koma Bai started singing as told by the boy and both of them reached the other shore. Koma Bai searched for him to give some rotis but he was nowhere to be found. Next day, she enquired the other boatwalas about the boy who helped but they had no idea about him.

Koma Bai joined the queue to have dharshan of Lord Panduranga on the holy occasion of Ashada Ekadasi. Panduranga who gave darshan to other devotees as “Samacharana Sarojam”, appeared as the same boat wala to Komabai. Having this dharshan of Panduranga, she couldn't

bear the Karunyam of Panduranga, lost her words to thank him, drenched in his smarana, she fainted and fell on the ground.

From such divine charithrams, Panduranga conveys to us that if we keep one foot towards him and yearn for him, he will do whatever it takes for us to reach him. Let's all pray our Guru Maharaj and Rakkumayi sametha Panduranga to bless us for such a Bhakthi like Mahans say "Avan Arulaalay Avan Thaal Vanangi..!!" to reach his Lotus Feet. Bless the world to be free of the Pandemic and may all beings live in Peace.

Rama Krishna Hari!!!!
Vasudeva Hari!!!!

Sathgurunath Maharaj ki jai!!

Written by Uthra Balaji, Mississauga, Canada

Madhurageetham - Bharata Pradakshina - 8

Srirangam

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

Sri Ranganathaswamy temple or Thiruvarangam is a temple dedicated to Sri Ranganatha, located in Srirangam, Tiruchirapalli, Tamilnadu. This temple is glorified by Alvars in their pasurams and also has played an important role in growth of Vaishnavism. This temple has a unique distinction of being not only the foremost among the 108 Divya desams, but also the largest temple compound in India and one of the largest religious complexes in the world.

Original Song in Sanskrit

रागम् : आरभि तालम् : आदि

1. जय जय मङ्गलं श्री रङ्ग
जय जय मङ्गलं श्री गोदे
2. विष्णु जनप्रिय श्री रङ्ग
विष्णु चित्तसुते श्री गोदे
3. कोमल बिम्बाधर श्री रङ्ग
कोकिल भाषिणि श्री गोदे

4. दिव्य सूरि सेवित श्री रङ्ग
दिव्याभरणे श्री गोदे
5. मुरलीधरनुत श्री रङ्ग
माला समर्पिते श्री गोदे

Gopakuteeram Summer Camp

With the blessings of our Guru Maharaj HH Maharanyam Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji and Madhuri Sakhi Sametha Premika Varadha Thakurji, Toronto Gopakuteeram has organised a summer camp via zoom for kids from (July - August) where they get to learn about a wide range of topics.

The 5days/week session starts with an exciting Baking session with Sangeetha ji, where kids learn to make cookies, cakes & ice creams. This interests kids to work in the kitchen and plan their time well as they get to measure and mix the ingredients themselves and also develops the habit of learning to cook the food they wish to have and also cleaning the workplace & utensils used.

This is followed by an enriching Sanskrit session with Aadityaji, who teaches the Sanskrit vowels and consonants (Both to pronounce and write), few Sanskrit terms for some common words and spoken Sanskrit at a very basic level in the most engaging way.

Life is cheerful when you get to see a lot of colours and kids enjoy anything that is colourful. To kindle their interest in using recycled materials to create a beautiful craft & also inculcate in them the importance of recycling we have an inspiring Art & Craft session with Gangaji who patiently helps each kid in making wonderful crafts.

Stories not only trigger our imaginary skills but also teaches us innumerable values for life. We have an entertaining story session with Karthik Padmanabhan ji. Kids listen with rapt attention & enjoy the tales of many kings, his ministers & learn the administrative strategies and problem-solving attitude when put in a difficult situation.

Kids learn yoga from our energetic Suchitra ji who teaches Surya Namaskar and also the importance of staying fit physically & mentally via many different postures. Staying calm and composed helps us achieve our goals & kids also learn asanas to improve concentration which also helps them to focus better in all activities.

Toronto Monthly Sathsang Report for July 2020

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

July 05 - July 31 - Akanda Nama via Zoom call from 5:30am to 12 noon.

July 23 - July 24 - Celebrated Aadi pooram Via Zoom Call. We started on both days by 4:30pm , sang Ashtapathi, Madurageetam, Thirupavai followed by Varanam ayiram.

Edmonton Monthly Sathsang Report for July 2020

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

On July 1 st , we started the month with Ashada Ekadashi sathsang by singing Vittal Madhuragitams and a few abhangs at Smt. Geetha Ji & Sri Viswanathan Ji residence. Also we had Akhanda Naama on the same day from Morning 6 am to Evening 6 pm.

We are continuing 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.

Upcoming Events

Aug : Pancha Gitam - Weekend Katha by Akkshay & Aaditya
Janmashtami
Bhagavatha Saptaha Parayanam
Bala Bhagavtha Saptaha Mahotsavam
Radhastami Celebrations

Sep: Onam Celebrations

Jai Sadhgurunath!

Bhakti Eni Padigal - 3rd and 4th Charanams

03. thannalamaTra sEvai seydiDuvAy piRar nalamenDrum pENiDuvAy

Humanity and divinity are inseparable. Once we start doing divine seva, our heart also expands to include not only people who we think belong to us, but, we will start embracing everyone and slowly we will start serving without any agenda. Seva is only seva, when there is not even a tinge of selfishness, which includes even recognition. That is the standard. It does not matter if the world recognizes our service or not. We just want Bhagawan to be happy with our service, we don't need approval from anyone else. Always look for fulfilling the needs of the others. Srimad Bhagawatham says, before we enter into sathsanga, we must have done what is called karma yogam. Karma yogam has 2 parts: 'Ishwaraarpitam, na ijjayaakrutham'. Bhagawan Ramanar in 'Upadesha Saaram' very beautifully says: - "a job that is done for Bhagawan's preethi, as Krishnaarpanam, and not for the benefit of orselves is karma yogam." Narada Maharishi also tells, Vyasa Bhagawan, "even if we do any action without a tinge of selfishness, what use is it, if we have not done it with the bhaava of Naarayana arpanam. Even if you are a jnani, if you don't do Krishna bhakti or Hari bhakti, that jnanam is 'na shObathE' - it is of no use. That is why, 'Alaya kankaryam and nilayAna bhakti' is the first step, selflessness and looking at fulfilling other's needs is the next step. Because, only if we do seva as Krishnarpanam, we will be able to sustain it. When we do seva with selflessness, then Bhagawan opens the door of sathsanga.



04. sAdhukkaL sangatthai aDaindiDuvAy pala vidham nalladai kETTIDuvAy

Here 'aDaindiDuvAy' has 2 meanings:

1. It means as an instruction, i.e 'Go to a sadhu sanga'
2. It also means, 'you shall find sadhu sanga' as a natural result if you do the above mentioned steps.

Once we go to sadhu sangam, we will ask them about good things - 'kETTIDuvAy' and we will also listen to all the good things that they have to say - 'kETTIDuvAy'. kELu means ask as well as listen. When we listen more and more, we will get clarity of what the next steps are. We already saw that the holy rivers are divine, hari kshetras are divine, Bhagawan's seva is divine. Slowly we will pray in our hearts to progress spiritually and it will reach Bhagawan's ears. The proof that our prayers are heard by Bhagawan is He will send a Guru to us.

Illustration by Subashini Ji, Edmonton