

GOD Canada - July 2020

Newsletter

Jai Sadhgurunath!

Bhakti Eni Padigal

1st and 2nd Charanams

Sathsang helps people at all levels to elevate themselves in the spiritual journey. If we are a beginner, then sathsang helps us get to the middle level, people who are in the middle level will get to a higher level.

How do we start the spiritual journey? How do we progress? What are the dangers or the traps? What are the things we need to strengthen? What will be the final goal? Traditionally they are called hitham, purushArtham, virOdhi and sAdhanam.

Here, this Madhuragitam has 18 verses. Our Mahamantra keertan has 16 verses, 16 represents "PoorNam". Mahamantra is Krishna's mantra - poorna brahmam's manthra, Mahamantra anthem has 16 charanas. Likewise, 18 stands for victory, "jayam". Our Srimad Bhagawatham is called "jayam" because it has 18,000 slokas. Mahabharatha has 18 parvas, Bhagawad geeta has 18 chapters, Gopika geetham which is the essence of Srimad Bhagawatham, has 18 verses, that's why it starts with "jayathi thEdhikam". Likewise, "Bhakti eni padigal" also has 18 stanzas. It captures our past, our present journey and also tells us our destination. Not only that, in this Madhuragitam, our Swamiji guides us to stay away from distractions so that we don't lose our focus on our destination.

Swamiji starts with "Punniya nadhigalil neeradiduvai". The first indication of a person being in spiritual path is he/she goes to all these punniya kshetrams like Kashi, Rameshwaram, Pandharpur, Cauveri snanam during Tula maasam. They look for auspicious times to go and have snanam in holy rivers. First step in a spiritual journey starts with going to these holy rivers and holy places.

Bhagawan has created these holy places and these places are made even holier by the visits of great mahatmas. Lot of Mahatmas, starting from Sri Adi Shankaracharya, Sri Bhagawad Ramahujacharya, Sri Madhwacharya, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Sri Vallabhacharya and Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, had all gone for these punya kshetra yaatras. Out of humility, they might say, they went on these yaatras to make themselves pure, but, it is them who made these holy rivers and holy places pure.

We find the proof for this in Srimad Bhagawatham, when Bhageeratha did tapas to bring down Ganga mAtha, Ganga was at first reluctant to come down possibly because she did not want to

make herself dirty when people go and wash off their sins in river Ganga. Then, Bhageeratha tells her that she will be visited by great Mahatmas and she will be blessed with their touch and words. Immediately Ganga mAthA felt happy and agreed to come down to earth.

So the first step in a spiritual journey is to go to these holy places and holy rivers. The very fact that we are now in sathsanga, shows that we must have gone to these punyakshetrams before.

The second step is,

By visiting these kshetrams, we get values instilled in us, by the speciality of the kshetrams. There are sAtwika places, rAjasic places, tAmasic places and Nirguna places that are divine. sAtwika places are where there is love, care etc. rAjasic places are where there is too much of competition, rivalry etc. tAmasic places are where there is too much intoxication, laziness is there. As we have Guna traya vibhAgam for food and people, we do have this vibhAgam for kshetrams and time period as well. Kali yugam is supposed to be a tAmasic time period. But, even though there is darkness outside, a house is bright by the lamp that is lit inside. Likewise, even though the default characteristic of Kali yugam is supposed to be dark, it is lit by Srimad Bhagawatham, Bhagawan Naama, Guru Krupa and sathsang. Since these holy rivers and Hari kshetrams are filled with sAtwikam (the sense of goodness), we also get the effect of sAtwikam when we visit these places. As our sAtwika bhakti grows, we will start doing service at the temple.

“Alaya kainkaryam” means doing service to a temple as we do service to Bhagawan. When Bhagawan is happy at the temple, the whole of humanity will be happy. Then, when we keep doing service at the temple, slowly we will get committed to the temple, like making garlands for the Lord, cooking prasadam for the Lord etc.

(To be continued)

Balagargalukku oru kadhai

In Chozha desa, there lived a famous teacher by name Kannapiran, who taught archery to princes and the sons of other generals of the army. Veerarajan, the prince of that Kingdom proved to be very talented and was a great archer in that school. He became adept in archery in just 2 years. During the autumn break, the King himself visited the school to see his son's progress. He was interested to how well he has learnt archery.

Kannapiran hung a piece of wood at a long distance and asked Veerarajan to aim and shoot an arrow targeting the piece of wood. Veerarajan took a handful of sand to know the direction of wind. He took out his arrow, aimed sharply at the target and shot the arrow, the arrow hit right at the target. The King was so happy to see his son's capabilities. Everyone around there were stunned. The applause of everyone brought in pride in the heart of Veerarajan. He paid his respect to his father and said, "Father, I don't have anything else to learn here. I have learnt all that Kannapiran had to teach about archery. I am done learning from this school here." On hearing this Kannapiran smiled and the King understood the meaning of his smile. The King replied, "Son! You can come home if your teacher allows you to leave."

Veerarajan gave his bow and arrow to Kannapiran and asked his teacher if he could do better than him in shooting the arrow at the target. Kannapiran took the bow and arrow from him and said, "Follow me." Veerarajan also followed Kannapiran.

There was a big mountain covered with lots of trees, there was also a waterfall. There was a tree that had fallen between the water. There was a valley that was 200 feet below that fallen branch of the tree. Kannapiran walked over that branch of the tree without panicking a bit. He stood in the middle and aimed at a tree that was far away from there and hit the arrow. The arrow hit a branch right at the centre.

Kannapiran returned back to where the prince was standing and gave the bow and arrows to Veerarajan now and said, "Now it is your turn". Veerajan felt very scared and was shivering when he walked over the branch that had fallen between the waterfalls. He felt dizzy. He ran back to where other people were standing and prostrated to Kannapiran.

With a calm face Kannapiran said, "You aced the part where you have to bend your bow and aim and shoot the arrow; there is one more final thing that you need to learn; you have to bend your mind too. You have to stay here for 1 more year here and learn that part too with humility. Any education or art form that you learn will not prove to be useful if you have not controlled your mind!"

Veerarajan humbly followed Kannapiran to the gurukulam again.

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 our Swamiji went to a village called Ravanasmudram near Tirunelveli. There is a Meenakshi Sundareshwarar temple in the Village. Over there few like minded Bhaktas came together and formed a committee in order to perform temple Thirupani. Many of the people in the village requested our swamiji to come to their homes. Our Swamiji kindly obliged to their requests.

There was an elderly person in the village who was a Bharmachari and he is someone who chants Gayathri Mantra all the time. The villagers requested our Swamiji to come to the house of this elderly person. It is "Thiruvadira" that day. So, there was a special pooja to Lord nataraja. Our Swamiji requested for the Garland that was adorned by Lord nataraja to be given to this elderly devotee.

The relatives of the elderly devotee were all happy, but surprised at the same time. The elderly devotee for the past couple days was telling everybody that he was wearing a garland. The relatives were happy that our swamiji made that feeling come true.

The same way, many devotees of our swamiji get a dream about swamiji blessing them by visiting their homes, a couple of days before he actually does so. Not only that he also brings to life whatever they saw in their dream.

Originally written by Jayanthi Janakiraman and published in Madhuramurali Tamil monthly magazine - Feb 2001 Issue. Translated by Karthik Sundaresan , Toronto

Bhaktha Charitra - Panduranga Bhaktas Series : SENANAYI MAHARAJ

The idol of Lord Pandurangan is believed to have come as a Divya Mangala Vighram from Lord Krishna himself to keep his promise that he gave to Pundalika Maharaj. Sri Adi Shankaracharya Bhagavad Padal mentioned in Pandurangashtakam about the way Lord Pandurangan stands as,

वरं त्विष्टिकायां समन्यस्तपादं

परब्रह्मलिङ्गं भजे पाण्डुरङ्गम्

Varam Dvushtikayaam Samanyasthapadham

ParaBrahma Lingam Baje Pandurangam

Which means who is the most excellent and an embodiment of Boon-giving for the Devotees, is now standing on a Brick placing both of his feet on it, I Worship that Panduranga, who is the veritable image (Lingam) of Parabrahman. Lord Pandurangan is always described with the way he keeps his lotus feet as,

सम चरण सरोजम

Sama Charana Sarojam

Pandurangan always keeps his lotus like feet together showing that whoever may be rich or poor, literate or illiterate, be any caste or creed, be from any nation, men or women, human being or an animal , all are equal to him. Pandurangan has not only shown this but has also performed many leelas for all bhaktas to realize and experience. In one such situation, Lord Pandurangan presented himself as a Barber out of his karunyam for his Santh Senanayi Maharaj. Lord Krishna is an expert in all the sixty four art forms, which he learnt from his Guru Sri Sandeepani Maharishi in 64 days.

Senanayi Maharaj was a barber by profession. He had great love for Lord Pandurangan and greater affinity for Satsang and Bhagavadhas. He even possessed the divine yugala murthies of Lord Pandurangan and Rukmini and did daily poojas. He was always involved in Satsang and devoted towards Sadhus. In one of his abhang he sings,

उदार धूमि सन्त् माय पाप कृपावन्द

Udhara Thumi Santh Maya Paapa KripaVandha

The meaning of abhang goes on as, Sadhu Kripa is excessive, that they can even help Non-Living things to attain moksha.

It was the time when India was ruled by kings. It was a custom for the barbers to hair dress the king everyday before he goes to the Royal Court. The king was looking for a suitable and a professional hairdresser who could serve him. Many people suggested Senanayi's name because he was honest, polite, hardworking and devoted. As the King looked at Senanayi

Maharaj, he liked him so much because he looked so calm and humble. As Senanayi Maharaj got the Royal duty which comes along with abundant salary and prestige, few people felt very jealous which is quite natural in this mundane world. They were looking for a chance to create a false impression on Senanayi Maharaj so that they can occupy the position.

Since the day Sant Senanayi Maharaj joined the royal duty, he would be punctual, professional and doing his duties with commitment. After the daily royal duty is complete, he would cherish Hari Nama Sankeerthanam or would join a Satsang to enjoy further. One day when Senanayi Maharaj was getting ready to go for his royal service, he saw Bhagavathas and Sadhus approaching by singing bhajans and dancing. Senanayi Maharaj joined the satsang, commenced Hari Nama Sankeerthanam and forgot his royal duty.

As our Guru Maharaj always tells that for great Sants, Bakthi comes like a Pravaham (Overflow) which cannot be controlled even by God. They act like mad , dumb person (उन्मद मूक जड वत्) but the kind of state they attain and enjoy is so exuberant.

Those who were envious of Senanayi Maharaj caught this opportunity to complain about him to the King. They enquired to the King if Senanayi had come today to attend to his royal duty. The King enquired his Ministers if Senanayi Maharaj had come for the duty. The minister's reply came in the negative. The jealous people added by complaining that he had forgotten his royal duty, when they reminded him about the royal duty, Senanayi Maharaj had told them he doesn't care about his royal service. The king became furious and ordered his soldiers to arrest Sant Senanayi Maharaj and bring him to the royal court. When the king arrived at the banks of the river to take his bath, he saw Senanayi Maharaj standing there getting ready for hairdressing. The King questioned Senanayi Maharaj if he went with the Sadhus doing Panduranga Bhajan. Senanayi Maharaj replied he will never forget his Royal duty and slip it. When Senanayi Maharaj started his duty, he placed his divine hand on the King's head. The king immediately had a scintillating experience (Brahma Saprisham) throughout his body and heart. The King questioned "Today I am experiencing an ecstasy that is very divine when you touch me. I have not experienced this before and do not want to miss it. Please don't take your hands off me...". Senanayi Maharaj instantly disappeared and Lord Pandurangan appeared holding his hands on his waist, adorning a peacock feather on his crown and with his usual mischievous Mandahasam. The King was overwhelmed with the darshan of Lord Pandurangan. He wished Senanayi Maharaj to show the divine form(roopam) repeatedly. He had darshan of Lord Pandurangan and Sri Senanayi Maharaj back and forth. The King was not in his normal senses recounting the beauty of Lord Pandurangan as he walked through his courtyard.

Just then when the actual Senanayi Maharaj came, the king rushed to him. He asked Senanayi Maharaj to show the divine form again. Senanayi Maharaj was confused and taken aback. Senanayi requested the king to explain the form that he witnessed. As the king started to explain about the divine form, Senanayi Maharaj understood who had come as Senanayi Maharaj, it was Lord Pandurangan himself who came to save him. Senanayi Maharaj started crying as he could not bear the Karunyam of Lord Panduranga. Later Senanayi Maharaj forgave his royal duty, moved to Pandharpur and spent his entire life with Lord Panduranga.

The divine cosmic form that Vedas, Upanishads and Munis wish to see came down as a hairdresser to help his baktha. From the life of Senanayi Maharaj we realise that the one who wishes to attain God by prema bhakti, should always be guided by a Sadhguru and reach the place of Sadhu Satsang.

Written by Uthra Balaji, Mississauga, Canada

Madhurationeetham - Bharata Pradakshina - 7

Parikkal

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

There is a 1800 year old Narasimha swamy temple in Parikkal. Parikkal is located around 25 kms south west of Villupuram and 3 kms west of the kedilam cross road off the Chennai-Trichy National highway. . The Moola vigraham is said to be a swayambhu murthi. This Ancient temple was built by Vasantharaja of Vriddhachalam. This is one of the 4 Narasimha temples in Villupuram region.

Original Song in Tamil

Raga: Bhairavi Thalam: Adi

தெய்வம் காணீரே பரிக்கல்லில்

வாழும் பரமனை காணீரே

1. ஹிரண்யனை வதைத்து பாலகனைக் காக்கும்
அரிமுகம் கொண்ட அச்யுதனைக் காணீரே
2. பரிவுடன் பாலகனை மடிமேல் அமர்த்தியிருக்கும்
ப்ரஹ்லாத வரதனை காணீரே
3. துளப மாலை துலங்க வீற்றிருக்கும்
மங்கள மூர்த்தியை காணீரே
4. சோகம் போக்கிடும் மோகம் தவிர்த்திடும்
யோக நரஸிஹ்மனைகாணீரே
5. மங்களம் அருளிடும் அமங்களம் அழித்திடும்
மாலோலனை காணீரே
6. கரங்களில் ஆயுதம் சரண கமலங்களில் பாதுகம்
முரளிதரன் அரண் காணீரே

Toronto Monthly Sathsang Report for June 2020

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

Jun 07 - Jun 26 - Akanda Nama via Zoom call from 5:30am to 12 noon.

Jun 27 - July 04 - MadhuraGitam Sathakruthu Utsav to celebrate Guru Poornima by singing 700+ kirtans of our Guru Maharaj by 108 Devotees from Toronto, Edmonton, Virginia, New jersey, Boston, Philadelphia and Maryland

Edmonton Monthly Sathsang Report for June 2020

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

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.

June 5th, we concluded the Narayaneeyam Sapthaham with the Parayanam in the morning and katha in the evening. On June 6th, Edmonton G.O.D families celebrated Radha Kalyanam in the morning.

From June 27th we have started Madhuragitam shathakrathu through Zoom and GOD family members and kids are participating by singing madhuragitams.

Upcoming Events

July: Pancha Gitam - Weekend Katha by Akkshay & Aaditya
Aadi Pooram - Andal Thirukalyanam

Aug : Janmashtami
Bhagavatha Saptaha Parayanam
Dasama Skandha Saptaha Parayanam + Katha - exclusively by Satsang kids

Sep: Radhastami Celebrations

