

GOD Canada - June 2020

Newsletter

Madhuraageetham - Bharata Pradakshina - 6

Tirupathi

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

Tirupati is a city in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. Its Sri Venkateswara Temple sits atop one of the 7 peaks of Tirumala Hills, attracting scores of Hindu pilgrims. Sri Venkateswara National Park, home to the temple, also contains the Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park with lions and primates. Nearby, next to a waterfall and cave believed to be sacred, Sri Kapileswara Swamy Temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva.

Original Song in Sanskrit
Raga: Brindavana Saranga Thalam: Adi

आनन्द विमान निलय
नित्यानन्द श्रीवेङ्कटेश

स्वामिपुष्करिणी तटनिलय
स्वामित्वमेव सदा सर्वत्र सर्वसमूहस्य

नारदसङ्गीत गानविलोल
वरदहस्त ईप्सितवरप्रद

सर्वस्वतन्त्र भक्तरक्षक
स्वयं आविर्भूत सुप्रकाश

अञ्जनाद्रिवास मञ्जुलभाषण
अञ्जनापुत्र सेवित मञ्जुलचरण

Translation

ராகம்: ப்ருந்தாவன ஸாரங்கா தாளம் : ஆதி
ஆனந்த விமான நிலைய
நித்யானந்த ஸ்ரீவெங்கடேஷு

சுவாமி புஷ்கரிணீ தடநிலைய
ஸ்வாமித்வமேவ சதா ஸர்வத்ர ஸர்வஸமுஹஸ்ய

நாரதசங்கீத கானவிலோல
வரதஹஸ்த ஈப்ஸிதவரப்ரத

சர்வஸ்வதந்த்ர பக்தரக்ஷக
ஸ்வயம் ஆவிர்பூத ஸுப்ரகாஸ

அஞ்ஜனாத்ரிவஸ மஞ்ஜுளபாஷண
அஞ்ஜனாபுத்ர மஞ்ஜுளசரண

Bhaktha Charitra - Panduranga Bhaktas Series : Vishoba Keshar

The land of Pandharpur is ruled by Lord Vittoba. It is believed that Lord Vittoba has shown great fondness to Sants namely Gnaneshwar Maharaj, Namadev Maharaj, Muktha Bai, Jana Bai, Sennanayi, Tukaram Maharaj, Ekanath Maharaj and many more. Every devotee has a special place in Lord Panduranga's Heart. Lord Panduranga guided his devotees to become great Gnanis by leading them to a Guru.

Who is a Guru?

Guru is the one who leads us from darkness to light.

In Guru Geethai, God Shiva elaborates to Goddess Parvati about the significance of Guru in many shlokas. One such Shloka is

ध्यानमूलं गुरुमूर्तिः
पूजामूलं गुरुपदम् ।
मन्त्रमूलं गुरुवाक्यं
मोक्षमूलं गुरुकृपा ॥

Dhyana-Moolam Gurur-Murti
Pooja-Moolam Gurur-Padam |
Mantra-Moolam Guruur-Vakyam
Moksha-Moolam Guruur-Kripaa ||

The above shloka means the root of meditation is Guru swaroopam. The root of worship is Guru's feet. The root of the mantra is Guru's words and the root of moksham is Guru's kripa.

As our Guru Maharaj always conveys, God always sends a Guru when we really wish to attain God. Likewise Lord Panduranga directed Sant Namadev Maharaj to attain a Guru, who was Vishoba Keshar.

Vishoba Keshar (or) Vishoba Chati was a jeweller by profession. He didn't have a very positive attitude towards Gnaneshwar Maharaj and his siblings as he thought they were distracting people. It was the month of Aippasi, the festival of Diwali was arriving. In Maharashtra during the festival of Diwali, a special sweet called mande is usually prepared. On the day of diwali, Nivrithi Dev (Gnaneshwar Maharaj's Brother) asked Muktha Bai (Gnaneshwar Maharaj's Sister) to prepare mande. Mande was supposed to be done on a specific earthenware (Mantoyentan). When Muktha Bai went to the market to buy it, she was interrupted by Vishoba Keshar who had already ordered the sellers not to sell any pot to Muktha Bai. Disheartened Muktha Bai returned home without buying a pot. Seeing sad Muktha Bai, Gnaneshwar Maharaj came forward to help her in preparing the Mande. Using his Yogic prowess, he produced yogic agni using his

sushumna, to prepare mande. Vishoba Keshar was witnessing the scene from the entrance of Gnaneshwar Maharaj's home. He was taken aback and instantly realised their spiritual state. He quickly ran to fetch a piece of the Mande, ate it as prasadam and attained Gnanam.

How did Vishoba Keshar become the Guru for Namdev Maharaj?

Once when Gnaneshwar Maharaj, Namadev Maharaj and a few other Sants were on a theertha yatra (pilgrimage tour), they made a visit to Sant Gorakhumbar's home. There was a stick-like thing hanging in Gorakhumbar's home. When Muktha Bai enquired about the stick, Gorakhumbar explained that it was used to check if a pot has completely baked by tapping on it. Muktha Bai playfully said she will test the bhagavathas there, if they were baked or non baked, which meant she was testing them to see if they have attained Gnanam. Namadev Maharaj, noticing this act, got angry thinking how could a small girl test his spiritual state. Muktha Bai tested out the stick on Namadev Maharaj and said he's non baked. Hearing this Namadev Maharaj got embarrassed and went running to Pandurangan. Pandurangan and Namadev Maharaj speak to each other as they loved each other to a great extent. Namadev Maharaj questioned Panduranga if Namadev Maharaj was unbaked. Lord Pandurangan replied "Yes!" telling "Talking to me is different but attaining Gnanam is different. Gnanam can be attained only through a Guru. I did this leela for you to attain Gnanam". Namadev Maharaj requested Lord Pandurangan to direct him to a Guru. Pandurangan directed him to "Vishoba Keshar " who was in the nearby forest. Namadev Maharaj rushed to the forest seeking his Guru.

In the forest Namadev Maharaj saw a sadhu who was resting his legs on a Shiva Linga. Shocked to see this behaviour, he questioned the sadhu and told him not to rest his legs on Shiva Linga. The sadhu requested Namadev Maharaj, to place his legs elsewhere. When Namadev Maharaj touched the sadhu's feet and placed it in another place, another Shiva Linga emerged from that place and again when he placed in another place there emerged a Shiva Linga .The entire place was surrounded by Shiva Lingas. Namadev Maharaj instantly realized the sadhu was no one else than his Guru Vishoba Keshar. Lord Pandurangan blessed Namadev Maharaj with his Darshan. With his Guru's grace, Namadev Maharaj attained the supreme Advaita state.

Every human on earth will need a Guru to go through a correct Marga (Path) to attain the almighty. We pray to our Guru Maharaj to bless us all with Krishna bhakthi and attain the lotus feet of Lord Krishna.

Written by Uthra Balaji, Mississauga, Canada

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 Mahaneyar” that is published every month in Madhuramurali Tamil monthly magazine. Solace Amid the Floods!

Recently, torrential rains had shaken up the whole state of Tamil Nadu. It is said that after 1918, i.e., after nearly 100 years, there has been this kind of downpour. On December 1st and 2nd, of 2015, there was 50 cm of rain on just a single day. Water began to stagnate everywhere.



HH Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji

Lakes that provide water for Chennai city began to fill up fast. Yet the rains did not stop. Out of fear of the dams breaking down they were opened up. That was it! Like a river in spate water began to run all over the Chennai city. As water from the dam began to flow in great gush inside the city and also stagnate, the power supply was cut off. Telephone lines and cell phones stopped functioning. One cannot describe the grievous state of those in Chennai city. My Lord! How can one describe the state of those with infants, those that needed emergency medical care, those who needed assistance to move... Their sufferings beat all verbal descriptions! Electric trains did not run. All buses plying from Chennai to places outside were stopped. People were in deep distress. Those who had relatives and friends in Chennai were in deep distress as they could not contact them in anyway.

My own daughter lives in Salagramam area in Chennai city. Water had flowed into her house and they suffered for a week. There was no way of contacting her. I was deeply worried and became very restless. I did not know what to do.

At 8 pm one night I sat down and began to pray to Sri Swamiji. Until 1 am I continued to pray to Sri Swamiji while chanting Nama (the Divine Name).

It was then that suddenly Sri Swamiji appeared before me, just like I was seeing him in person. Sri Swamii said to me, "Do not worry! Your daughter is safe." His words were very clear. My mind began to calm down and I felt greatly relieved.

The next day around 2 pm there was a call from my daughter. She informed me, through her cell phone, that she and her family were safe.

I felt deeply touched by Sri Swamiji's grace and his reassuring words. I shared this experience of mine with all devotees in the next satsang in Thanjavur.

Original Tamil article by Guru Narayanan, Thanjavur.

Madhuramurali January 2016 issue

Translated by Nisha Giri Houston TX and published in Godivinity.org

Toronto Monthly Sathsang Report for May 2020

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

May 04 - May 08 - Dasama Skanda parayanam via Zoom call in the mornings. "Sri Skuka Uvacha" - Bhagathavatha Discourse by Sri Ramuji in the evenings.

May 09 - May 14 - Akanda Nama via Zoom call from 5:30am to 12 noon.

May 15 - May 24 - Madhuraageetha Navagam, culminating with Radha Kalyam with Edmoton Chapter

May 25 - May 30 - Akanda Nama via Zoom call from 5 am to 12 noon

May 30 - Jun 07 - Narayaneeyam Saptaham Via zoom Call , culminating with Radha Kalyanam on Jun 07, 2020

Edmonton Monthly Sathsang Report for May 2020

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

On May 3th, we started this month sathsang with the Ekadasi by chanting Naama for 4hrs and started to do Parayanam of Pancha Sthuthis and Pancha Gitams during Ekadasi.

From May 04th to 8th , we started the Dasama skanda parayanam in the morning and katha of "Srimad Bhagawatham" by Sri Ramanujam ji in the evening for 5 days through Zoom.

On May 17th, we chanted Naama for 4hrs and did Parayanam of Pancha Sthuthis and Pancha Gitams as being Ekadasi, through zoom.

From May 15th, we started Madhuragita Navaham and concluded the navaham with Radha kalyanam on May 24th.



From May 30th, we started Narayaneeyam Sapthaham with the Parayanam in the morning. We are continuing Akhanda Naama satsang by chanting Mahamantra for 6hrs daily (Morning 3hrs & Eve 3hrs). The GOD family members have taken slots and participated in this satsang by offering our prayers to Gurunathar & Radha Krishna.

Upcoming Events

June: Pancha Gitam - Weekend Katha by Akkshay & Aaditya

July : GuruPoornima
MadhuraGitam Sathakruthu Utsav :

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

Sep: Radhastami Celebrations