

GOD Canada - May 2020 Newsletter

Sew a Mask !!!

“Humanity and Divinity are inseparable,” says our master HH Maharanyam Sri Muralidhara Swamiji.

Inspired by our master, GOD Canada has stepped up an initiative to sew fabric masks for distribution to broader communities across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) over the past two weeks!

Here is a sneak-peek at Wave 1 of the effort - volunteers from GOD Chapters from Milton, Mississauga & Brampton sewed fabric masks & donated to Michael Garron Hospital.

We sincerely hope to scale up our efforts in several waves to support the demand for masks and continue our prayers towards Covid Free Canada !



“Puranava - from the ancient to the modern“

GOD Canada conducts an online Quiz program for Kids & Adults (hosted via zoom & played through Kahoot mobile app) on all weekdays between 18:00 - 18:30 EST. Topics are around Ancient & Modern Indian Wisdom, Heritage, Culture, ,Itihasas, Puranas, Landscape.,etc.

Monday & Wednesdays - Junior Kids (Ages 4 - 7)

Tuesday & Thursdays - Junior Kids (Ages 4 - 7)

Fridays - Parents

Kids Story - Sant Jnaneshwar

Vittal Pant was born to Govind Pant and Nirabai in Apegoan village. During his youth, one day, Vittal was doing meditation. Siddopant saw Vittal doing intense meditation and waited for him to open his eyes. When Vittal opened his eyes, Siddopant asked where he was from. Vittal said that he was from Apegoan village. Siddopant asked Vittal to come to his house and Vittal agreed. That night, in Siddopant’s dream, Lord Panduranga came and asked him to marry his daughter Rukmini to Vittal Pant. Next morning Siddopant asked Vittal to marry Rukmini Bai and the marriage happened.

Vittal and Rukmini started living in Alandi. Then after sometime Vittal kept asking his wife that he wanted to be a sanyasi. One day Rukmini lost her patience and told him to do whatever he wants. Vittal said ok and went out of the house but did not return. Rukmini Bai was worried. Then Rukmini decided to go around the Peepal tree a thousand times till her husband returned. Once Swami Ramananda came to Alandi. He enquired to Rukmini on what happened. Rukmini said Vittal of Alandi was her husband and he had gone out of the house to take Sanyas. Swami Ramananda understood that Vittal had come to him and taken Sanyas. He sent Vittal back to live with his wife.

Four children were born to Vittal and Rukmini and they were named then as Nivriddhi, Jnaneshwar, Sopan and Mukhta Bai. They were all intelligent. Vittal wanted to give his sons sacred thread and he asked the Brahmins. But the Brahmins did not agree. Vittal came back home very upset. Vittal’s wife told him that god will help us in some way. Vittal did meditation with his wife for a long time. The next day Vittal said “Let’s go up one of these mountains”. All the children were excited. Suddenly it started to rain with a heavy storm and a tiger came. Nivriddhi could not see because of the thunder and rain and he got lost. Rukmini thought that he would have been eaten by the tiger. Jnaneshwar said that Nivriddhi will be fine but Rukmini was still worried. They went home and were surprised to see Nivriddhi at the house. Nivriddhi told about

going into a cave and his guru Gahininath told the way. He also said that his guru initiated him to Nama and asked him to initiate Jnaneshwar.

Next day the family went to a place called Paithan. Jnaneshwar met the elders and said "Am Jnaneshwar and I want to learn about Jnana". The elders teased him and said that if he was Jnaneshwar why did he need to learn about Jnana. All the elders told him to make the buffalo recite Veda. Then Jnaneshwar prayed for the buffalo to recite Vedas. The buffalo recited the Vedas in a deep voice and the elders were shocked and said sorry to Jnaneshwar. Then the family left from Paitan and Vittal and his wife left for the forest. The children were alone in the night. They wanted to stay for the night in a Muslim mosque. The Mulla told him not to come into the place. But the mosque said "This place is for all". Sant Jnaneshwar blessed all the Muslims and he helped one of the Muslim by making her husband alive.

Sant Jnaneshwar taught Bhagavad Gita to all in simple Marathi from a book he made called Jnaneshwari. One day Muktha Bai went to a store to buy a Matka plate for making pancakes. Then, Vishoba who was at the shop, broke the Matka. Muktha came home weeping. Sant Jnaneshwar asked what was the matter and Muktha said that a man broke the Matka plate. Sant Jnaneshwar told Muktha to fry the pancakes on his back. Vishoba was shocked and said sorry to Muktha and Jnaneshwar. The next day Changdev came upon a tiger when all four children were sitting on the wall. Sant Jnaneshwar did not want the Guru to go off in his tiger and so he moved the wall by saying "Move Wall". Changdev accepted Sant Jnaneshwar as his guru.

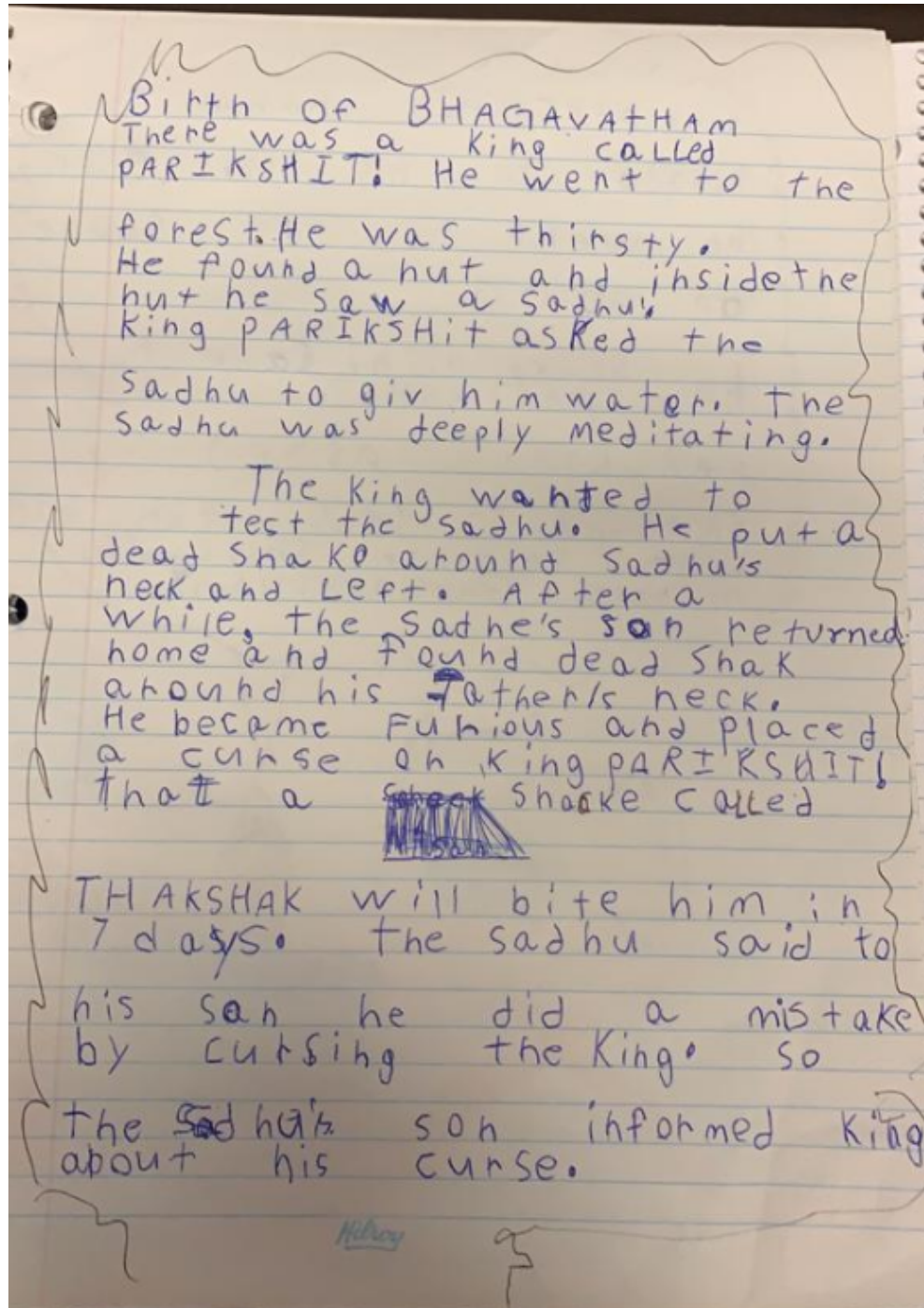
Sant Jnaneshwar wanted to go to Kashi with his siblings. So when they went to Kashi, an elephant garlanded Sant Jnaneshwar. When Brahmins said Sant Jnaneshwar was not special to be honoured, they decided to go to temple and give offerings to Lord Shiva. To everyone's surprise, Shiva ate Sant Jnaneshwar's offerings.

Sant Jnanadev returned to Alandi and at the age of twenty one withdrew from the world.

Written by Aninditha Karthik, Mississauga,

Kids Story - King Parikshit

Written & Illustrated by Revanthrajhaa Ramakrishnan, Mississauga.



King PARIKSHIT handed the
Kingdom to his son. Then
he went to the shores
of GANAG.

Shuka nishi came to
help PARIKSHIT.

PARIKSHIT asked

Shukamuni to tell story of
Lord Krishna. Shukamuni
narrated BHAGAVATHAM.



Upcoming Events



Sri Hari:
NO SELF-INTEREST

GOD
Global Organization for Divinity
ONLY GOD

G.O.D. CANADA
Toronto & Edmonton

WITH THE DIVINE BLESSINGS OF HIS HOLINESS
MAHARANYAM SRI SRI MURALIDHARA SWAMIJI

sri shuka uvācha...

SRIMAD BHAGAVATAM DISCOURSES
BY SRI RAMANUJAMJI
DISCIPLE OF SRI SWAMIJI

MAY 4 - 8
6 PM Central
Zoom details via WhatsApp



The illustration depicts a serene scene by a lake. On the left, Sri Shuka is seated on a yellow platform, wearing a white dhoti and a red shawl, with a white tilak on his forehead. He is gesturing with his hands as if speaking. On the right, a devotee is seated on a yellow mat, wearing a white dhoti and a white shawl, with hands joined in a prayer position (Anjali Mudra). The background features a green landscape with a yellow domed structure, a white temple, and a blue lake under a light blue sky.

Madhurageetham - Bharata Pradakshina - 5

LAKSHMI VARAHAM BHAJARE

Original Kirtan

रागः सिन्धुभैरवि

पल्लवि

लक्ष्मिवराहं भजरे – मानस

अनुपल्लवि

अङ्गुष्ठ रूपात् क्षणमात्रेण धृतं

योगशरीरं मोहन विराट्स्वरूपं ।

हिरण्याक्ष हरणं श्रुति संरक्षकं

यज्ञस्वरूपं भूवराहम् ॥

चरणम्

क्षीरब्धि पुत्रीं आलिङ्गनकरं

क्षाराब्धि भञ्जकं तत्वोपदेशकाधरं

कुञ्जित पादं सञ्चित पाप विनाशकं

मुरलीधर हृदय तापत्रय हारकम् ॥

Transliteration

Raga: Sindhu Bhairavi

Tala: Adi

Pallavi

lakshmi varAham bhajare – mAnasa

Anupallavi

angushTha rUpA kshNamAtreNa druta

yoga sharIram mohana virAt svarUpam

hiraNyAksha haraNam shruti samrakshakam

yagya svarUpam bhU varAham (lakshmi)

Charanam

kshIrAbdhi putrIm Alinganakaram

kshArAbdhi banjakam thathvopadeshakAdharam

kunjita pAdam sanchita pApa vinAshakam

muraLIDhara hrudhaya thApathraya hArakam (lakshmi)

Cherished Memoirs

This month we are starting a new series which will chronicle sweet experiences recounted by the devotees of HH Maharanyam Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji as well as some divine experiences of Sri Swamiji himself. These articles are translations from the series "Madhuramaana Mahaneeyar" that is published every month in Madhuramurali Tamil monthly magazine.

The Moon-Faced Lord

This time the lunar eclipse began early in the morning and lasted till about 9 pm in the night. On such days, one should eat only after the eclipse time passes and the full moon is visible again. Do you know what a disciple – Jagannathan – thought that day?

"Wouldn't our Swamiji always say that Krishna's face is like a full moon all the time? Why should we wait to see the full moon after the eclipse? I'm just going to see Krishna's face and then eat today," he thought. Thinking thus, he even went on to do the same!

Jagannathan now felt that Sri Swamiji would definitely ask about this during the evening darshan.

When he came for darshan that evening, Sri Swamiji was seated outside on a chair in Premika Bhavanam.

The moment Sri Swamiji saw Jagannathan, he laughed and jokingly asked, "Isn't it the eclipse today? Did you eat? They are all saying that we should eat only in the night."

Sri Swamiji then continued, "So you thought that Krishna's face is equivalent of the full moon, and seeing His face, looks like you have already had your food!"

The moment Jagannathan heard this, his joy knew no bounds. He was not surprised that Sri Swamiji knew of his act, but was thrilled and surprised that Sri Swamiji had also fulfilled his wish that he (Sri Swamiji) would ask about it the moment he saw him!

Translated from Madhuramurali magazine, Dec 2003 issue and published in GOD USA

Toronto Monthly Sathsang Report for Apr 2020

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

From **Mar 27th to Apr 4th** 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" & Seetha Kalyanam

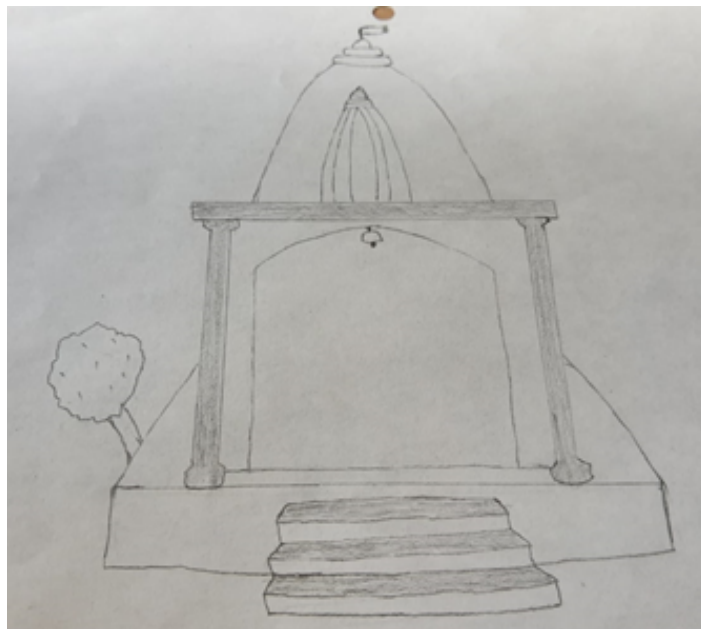
From **Apr 05th to Apr 16th**, Akanda Nama Kirtan.

From **Apr 17th to Apr 25th**, GOD Canada 3rd Anniversary Bhagavatha Sapthagam & Radha Kalyanam.

From **Apr 26th to May 03rd**, Akanda Nama Kirtan.

Jai Sadhgurunath! Bhakti Enippadigal

Introduction



Guruji in this madhuragitam, explains the various steps in the spiritual journey that we are undergoing. It is good to reiterate why we are here in the first place. What is satsang here for? The moment purpose is clear, then even a long journey will not be tedious. If we lose sight of purpose, even a short walk becomes tedious.

Our Guru Maharaj says there are 4 pillars for our satsang.

1. Chanting Mahamantra, singing, writing, remembering mahamantra, doing dhyana of mantra shabdham. Without the divine name no spiritual progress is possible in this age, says Srimad Bhagawatham. We have no other path to progress spiritually other than singing the names of Bhagawan. That's why our Gurunathar's favorite abhang line is, "Naama parathe sadhana nahi:" - apart from naama there is no other path to elevate ourselves spiritually. The entire Srimad Bhagawatham is for the people of this Kali yuga and shows the supremacy of divine name. Divine names and naami are not different. The goal of bhakthi is to hold onto the divine names - naama dhaara i.e flow of divine names in our lips and dhyana dhaara i.e the memory of Sri Radha Krishna yugalam in our hearts. This is the purpose of our satsangs. Mahamantra is from Yajur veda upanishad called "Kalisantharana Upanishad". Without this first pillar, other pillars will not give the enough support needed to progress in our spiritual journey.
2. Srimad Bhagawatham - parayanam (read), listen, write- listening to Srimad Bhagawatham will help us strengthen our taste, enhance our ruchi in divine names. Listening itself can purify us and make sure we remember Bhagawan always.
3. Going to Brindavanam every now and then. Our heart finally rests in Brindavanam. For us, where our Takurji is, is also Brindavanam. Actual Brindavanam is Vraja bhoomi that we may go once a year or once in 2 years or even once in a decade. Our Namadwaar is Brindavanam, our Madhurapuri is already Brindavanam.
4. Yugala seva - worshipping our radha krishna yugala sarkar.

Satsang is there for us to progress spiritually. Namadwaar is there for us, for our own spiritual well being and spiritual attainment. Bhagawatha dharma is the path of joy, path of bliss. We are all connected to our Gurunathar's love. We are all moved by our Madhuri sakhi sametha Premika varadha Takurji's love. Satsang itself is not only the means but satsang is bestowed upon us only when Bhagawan is happy with us. Starting from Dhruva and Prahladha, everyone asks only for Satsanga even after having Bhagawath sakshatkaram.

Bhagawan tells Udhava Swami, "There is a lovely boat called Guru krupa. Even though the samsaram is very deep, do not worry. Guru is the boatman, winds will be conducive to you to take you across this samsaram, and you just have to open up the sails." Guru kripa never fails, but it expects little bit of cooperation: what is this cooperation - "as much possible we can chant bhagawan nama, we can listen to bhagawan's katha, Guru vachanamrutham. We can do a little pooja to our yugala moorthi, be grateful to whatever has been bestowed on us, and be always strengthened with spirituality. Whenever possible go to namadwaar, madhurapuri, vrindavanam."

Sopanam means a step by step approach. Many mahans have given sopanam for spiritual growth. Adi Shankaracharya has given Sopana Panchakam - steps. Srimad Bhagavatham has also many sopanams -

1. The mind has to be controlled,
2. It has to be directed towards divinity.
3. The first step to win over our mind is to win over thamasam or Inertia. Laziness has to be overcome. Then, raajasam or passion has to be directed in the right direction. When it is so directed it becomes compassion. Uncaring person won't have any passion at all and compassionate people are not lazy at all. Compassionate people are those whose passion has been directed towards something bigger, something more samashti; samashti means bigger group apart from just myself. When individual passion flowers, it becomes something bigger and we call it compassion.

Compassion is humanity and the Humanity and Divinity overlap. Bhagawan feels happy when we are humane, and he starts to open the doors of sathsang. And then, slowly we just don't do humane activities just for humanity, we will start seeing divinity as an aggregate of humanity and we will start doing the same seva with greater vigour. Then it becomes Karma yogam. Once we start doing Karma yogam, Bhagawan opens the door for "Bhagavata dharma": "Shravanam, keerthanam, smaranam". We start doing them as a practice, once we start doing them as a practice, we will start enjoying it.

Transcript from Sri Ramanujam ji's upanyasam - Illustration by Subashini Sethumadhavan ji.

Kids Story - "Story of Dhruva"

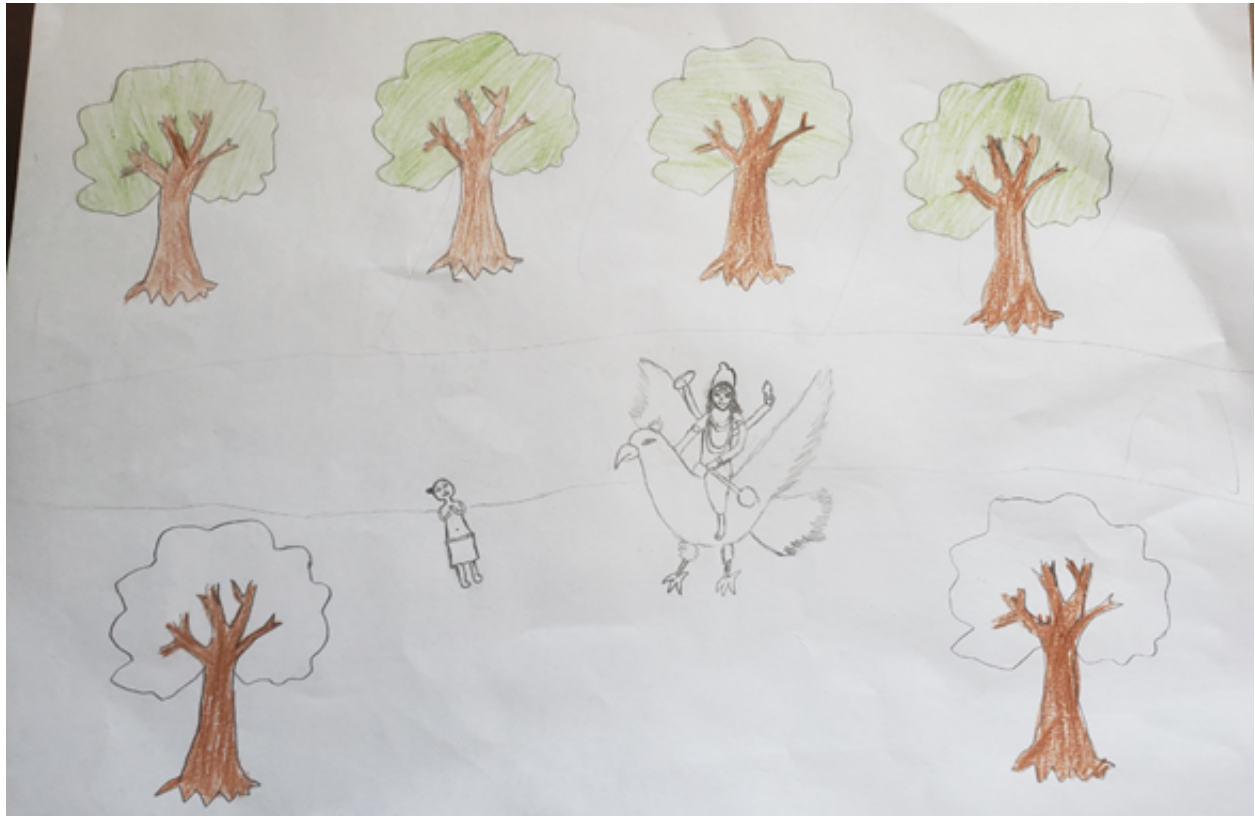
Once upon a time there lived a king named UttanaPada. He had two queens, Suneeti and Suruchi. Suneeti's son was Dhruva and Suruchi's son was Uttama.

One day Uthama, son of Suruchi was sitting on his father's lap and playing. But then, when Dhruva wanted to sit on his father's lap, Suruchi said that he can not sit on his father's lap. And also said to Dhruva that, "if you want to sit on the king's lap, you have to be reborn and come as my son."

Hearing this Druva feels very upset and runs to his mother and says that, "I have to go to the forest and do penance and get Bhagawan's darshan so that I can be reborn as Suruchi son." Then, his mother said to Dhruva, "do not go to the forest and do penance to be reborn as Suruchi's son. Go to the forest and do penance to have Bahagawan's darshan and to reach His feet."

So then Druva agreed with his mother and started to go to the forest. But when Druva was walking to the forest he met narada. Then Narada asked where Dhruva was going and he said that he was going to the forest to get darshan from Bhagawan. But then Narada said, "do not go

to the forest and do penance. It is very difficult." But, Dhruva was steadfast in his decision. So, Narada says beautiful slokas explaining what Krishna wears and what He looks like and what He has. So, Druva goes to the forest to do penance. After a long time of penance Bhagawan showed up in front of Dhruva. And then Bhagawan takes His divine conch and rubs it against Dhruva's cheek. Dhruva recites "Dhruva Stuthi " and prays to Bhagawan to bless with constant remembrance of Bhagawan. Bhagawan blessed him with that and also said he will become a great king and then become the "Pole Star" and finally reach Bhagawan's feet.



Written by Samhita Srinivasan and illustrated by Samhita and Shweta Srinivasan.

April 2020 Edmonton Monthly Sathsang Report:

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

Along with GOD Toronto sathsang families, Edmonton satsang families also participated in Sri Ramayanam Navaha parayanam. We had Ramayanam parayanam in the mornings and Navaham katha in the evenings.

On Apr 4th, we completed Ramayana Parayanam in the morning and had Ashtapathi bhajans through Zoom during afternoon and followed by katha in the night.

On Apr 5th, we started with Radha Krishna Thirumanjanam along with Padhukabishekam followed by Seetha Kalyana vaihavam.





From Apr 18th to Apr 25th, we started Srimad Bhagavatha Parayanam in the morning and Katha in the evening through Zoom. On 25th we celebrated Radha kalyana vaibhavam.



In the month of April we did 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 to contain the spread of the virus and to get back to our normal life. With Sadhgurunathar's abundant krupa and blessings, 2 new families have joined for daily Naama chanting.