

# GOD Canada - November 2020

## Newsletter

### Cherished Memories - When my life changed

This series chronicles interesting experiences recounted by the devotees of HH Maharanyam Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji. These articles are from the series, "Cherished Memoirs" that is published [namadwaar.org](http://namadwaar.org)

My life was the usual extroverted jolly one though meaningless till I had my first Darshan of my Gurudev.

They say that it is incorrect to say "I found a Guru" and that it should always be, "The Guru found me and showered His infinite love on me by taking me unto His fold". How true! In the year 2002, our beloved Guruji chose to enter our lives out of his infinite compassion. It was at first His most loving voice and mind-steering speech through his discourses Bhagavan Ramana's famous work, 'Akshara Mana Malai' that captivated our hearts and bowled us over. Subsequently everyone in my family had the good fortune of getting his darshan. The very next day I was also initiated into a Mantra by Him from then on, the U-turn that my life has taken cannot be described in words. My outlook towards life had changed, extroverted activities of the mind that I as a householder had previously enjoyed gradually meant nothing more than peanuts to me.

I started meditating constantly on the mantra that His Holiness initiated me into. From time to time, Sri Swamiji would lovingly enquire on how my Sadhanas were progressing. Our beloved Guruji implanted in me, through His teachings and guidance, an ever increasing fascination for Bhagavan Ramana Maharshi

I feel my Master lives with me hand in hand in all strides of life keeping my focus on the Ultimate Truth. I get to realize that I am holding His helping hand and loving embrace every time I face hurdles both externally and internally. The eternal comfort of the mother's lap for a child can be sensed by me in the loving fold of my Guruji, supreme qualities like fearlessness, balance of mind and equanimity have blossomed in my arid heart through the incessant Ganges in the form of His grace.

Any number of miracles and instances in my life owing to His grace I cite here would only be a paltry tribute to His boundless compassion and grace. Yet, if I were to cite one great miracle, it would be the transformation of my life into a totally unthought-of territory, which I on my own would never have been able to achieve even in countless cycles of births to come.

I wish to remain at the Lotus feet of our Gurujji, ever blissful and happy enjoying his uninterrupted love and grace which is rare of the rarest.

## Fond Memories Of Bliss – Part 1

This series chronicles interesting experiences recounted by the devotees of HH Maharanyam Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji. These articles are from the series, “Fond memories of Bliss” that is published [namadwaar.org](http://namadwaar.org)

Let me introduce myself as Srinivasan.

If you ask me, the greatest fortune that I have had is the opportunity to accompany Sri Sri Swamiji when he travels because one gets to spend a lot of time in His divine company during such trips. Those were the days when Sri Swamiji had not revealed Himself to the world. He was known only to a few families – to whom He was everything, their only refuge, closest companion and sole guiding light! And I take immense pride in the fact that my family is one of those fortunate few..... when I look back and think for a moment, my heart swells with pride and tears roll down my eyes...

I have traveled several times with Swamiji and so has my brother Sundararaman. I have personally witnessed innumerable interesting incidents that took place in Swamiji’s presence. Of course, every moment spent in Sri Swamiji’s company is most interesting, but some always stand out! On very rare occasions, Sri Swamiji would Himself disclose some amazing spiritual experiences that He was undergoing at that time. It is very atypical of Him to disclose such incidents... It happens very rarely despite his best efforts to conceal them and I have been one of those lucky ones, who has heard it directly from Sri Swamiji.

I hail from Kumbakonam, a busy temple town on the banks of the Holy Cauvery. Sri Swamiji used to spend a lot of time in Kumbakonam then. He did not have schedules or public programmes like now. He often visited Kumbakonam and one of his favourite spots in Kumbakonam is the Cauvery ghat. He would sit in neck-deep water or on the banks, meditating for hours on end. He loved to take a dip in the holy Cauvery and would do so any number of times all day long. Swamiji would sit by the river and perform japa, recite slokas or simply be lost in the divine bliss. Imagine, Sri Swamiji sitting in perfect stillness alongside the beautiful, vibrant Cauvery. Just the thought will make our minds soar high! On several occasions Swamiji would reach the Cauvery ghats by nine at night and stay there meditating all night till four in the morning. He would light up ghee lamps and allow them to float in the river. It was a gorgeous sight indeed to see those tiny lamps go afloat in the river like droplets of the sun riding on tiny boats. Once I asked Swamiji innocently as to why He was lighting all those lamps. The answer that Sri Swamiji gave in his typical unassuming tone was startling! He said, ‘You see, a lot of jivas are suffering and seek liberation. That’s why I float these ghee lamps!’ Sri Swamiji used to have specific counts every night.

Another favorite place of visit was the Kumbheshwara temple. There is a spot opposite the Mangalambika sannidhi where Sri Swamiji used to specifically sit and meditate for very long periods of time. Sri Swamiji's most favourite temple in Kumbakonam is the Aravamudhan temple. He would stand opposite the sanctum sanctorum seeing the countenance of the Lord with tear-filled eyes for hours.

Back then, Swamiji used to walk or commute by bus or auto rickshaw mostly. Once Swamiji and I went to Koranattu Karuppur. This place is famous for the temple of Goddess Kaali, the Universal Mother. Mother Kaali is in a lying posture and is locked in a box as per traditions here. Usually when a devotee desires darshan, a feast is offered to the Mother and the priest then opens the box. Sri Swamiji wanted to have darshan of the Mother and a special feast was offered as per local practice.

The priest then opened the box and we had the most wonderful darshan. Swamiji kept telling me over and over again, 'See how beautiful the Divine Mother is!' He was totally lost! But I had this little troubling thought. It was quite dark inside and there were no lights. As I could see there was only one light there located right above the box and that too was switched off. I told the priest 'It is so dark! Can you please turn on the tube light so that I can have good darshan?' The priest retorted in a sulking tone, 'I wish I could. That light has not worked in ages.' I thought I would fix the problem by replacing the light and ran out to find an electrical store. I ran up and down the whole place in a vain attempt to get the light on. I gave up finally. Seeing my plight, Sri Swamiji smiled and looked up at the light. To me it appeared as if He were saying 'Dear light! Poor Seenu(that's how Swamiji calls me fondly!) here desperately wishes to have a good darshan of Mother Kaali. Why don't you help him?'

Believe it or not, right at that moment, the light that had not worked in a very long time, came on like a lightning flash. I was thrilled, the priest was thoroughly confused and the darshan was done! As Swamiji would say often, 'You do all the running around and finally give up. At that point Grace takes over. If things are only going to happen by grace and not by our effort, why then should we do all 'the running around'.... The 'running around' bit is only to reveal our sincerity and then grace takes over completely' It seemed to me that it was true even in this trivial case.

To this day, when I think of that trip, I remember the tube-light more vividly than the vibrant form of Mother Kaali. I tell myself, would not the beloved Guru Maharaj, who was merciful enough to grant even a trivial wish by dispelling the darkness in the temple and bringing on the light in a flash, also do the same with the darkness called ignorance in my heart and illuminate me for eternity!

# Madhurageetham - Bharata Pradakshina - 10

## Pandaripuram

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

Pandurangan Temple (**Shri Vitthal-Rukmini Mandir**) is situated in Pandaripuram (Pandharpur) in the state of Maharashtra. The main entrance of Lord Vittala's Temple is facing towards the Chandrabhaga or Bhima river. **Samadhi** of Namadev and Chokamela is at the entrance. Pilgrims will first pray to the Devotees and then enter the temple. A small **Ganesh** Shrine is present inside the temple as the first Shrine. Then, a small hall where bhajans are performed. Ashadi Ekadasi is a religious procession and is celebrated during the months of June- July (Aashaadh Shukla paksha). It consists of a beautifully decorated Palkhi having the "padukas" of the lord and the Palkhi procession consists of people collectively walking, singing and dancing the glory of the Lord in what are called 'Dindis'. This is said to be the World's largest and oldest people movement where people gather on a specific day every year and perform a walk of a distance of around 250 km. Pandharpur Ashadi Ekadashi Wari journey has been honoured by World Book of Records, London under the title 'One of the Most visited places in a day'

## Original Song in Tamil

ராகம் : அடாணா தாளம்: ஆதி

பல்லவி

பண்டரி வர என்னை பாண்டுரங்கள்  
ஆணையிட்டான் ஆணையிட்டான் || ப ||

அனுபல்லவி

பண்டரி நானும் கிளம்பி விட்டேன்  
ஸர்வ உலகமும் மறந்து விட்டேன்  
சந்திரபாகையில் ஸ்நானம் செய்தேன்  
பண்டரி நமக்கு புதிதல்ல என உணர்ந்தேன் || ப ||

சரணம்

ஸாதுக்கள் நாம ஸங்கீர்த்தனம் கேட்டேன்  
ஸத்குருவின் கிருபையை உணர்ந்தேன்  
பாண்டுரங்களிடம் நான் பக்தியை கேட்டேன்  
பண்டரி தூளியே பக்தி தரும் என்றான்

பண்டரியை விட்டு ஏனோ என்னை அனுப்பி விட்டான்  
பாண்டுரங்கள் என் ஹ்ருதயத்தில் நின்று விட்டான் || ப ||

English Transliteration  
Raga: Atana Tala: Adi

Pallavi:  
paNDari vara ennai pANDurangan  
ANaiyiTTAn ANaiyiTTAn || pa ||

Anupallavi:  
paNDari nAnum kiLambi viTTEn  
sarva ulagamum maRandu viTTEn  
chandrabAgaiyil snAnam seydeN  
paNDari namakku puthidalla ena uNardEn || pa ||

Charanam:  
sAdhukkaL nAma sankIrtthanam kETTEn  
sadguruvin krupaiyai uNardEn  
pANDuranganiDam nAn bhakthiyai kETTEn  
paNDari dhULiyE bhakthi tharum endrAn  
paNDariyai viTTu EnO ennai anuppiviTTAn  
pANDurangan en hrudayatthil nindru viTTAn || pa ||

## Toronto Monthly Sathsang Report for Nov 2020

With the Blessings of our beloved Guruji and Sri Madhuri Sakhi Sametha Premika Varadha Takurji, GODToronto Sathsang families continued to E-sathsangs.

**Sep 17 - Oct 16** - to celebrate Pushothama Month, we are having Akanda nama for 12 hours (5:15am to 5:15 pm) daily via Zoom call. Nama chanting by all members (from 2 yr old to 60 yr old)

**Oct 17 - Oct 24 - Navaratri Ramayana Utsav** - we celebrated Navaratri with Poorna Ramayana Parayana Navaha Utsav (Oct 16-24), culminating with Sri Seetha Rama Pattabhishegam on 24/Oct, Saturday.

Upcoming Events

**Nov 01 - Nov 14** - GuruMaharaj Jayanti Celebrations - Akanda Nama & Madhura Geetham Utsav - Yuva Bhagavatha Utsav

**Dec 19 - Dec 27** - Madhura Utsav - Radha Kalyanam + Sampurna Bala Bhagavatha Saptaham

# Bhaktha Charitra - Panduranga Bhaktas Series :

## **Bhaktha Kanhopatra**

As our Guru Maharaj always emphasizes, to attain the lotus feet of Sri Krishna we can show bakthi in different ways. One such bakthi is Prema Bhakti, like how Andal and Meera bai offered their love to Bhagavan. Prema Bhakti is the form of bhakti, where we see everything and everyone as the Paramathma, Lord Krishna. Krishna is their Mother, Father, Guru, lover, child and everything they see in this world.

As our Guru Maharaj sings sweetly in a Madhura Geetham,

“Kannanai Kaanbardhuku Bakthiye saadhanam”

“Prema Bakthiye parama saadhyam”

Meaning goes like, if one wishes to see Lord Krishna, Bhakthi is the one of the ways yet the easiest and sweetest way to attain him.

One such devotee of Sri Pandaripuram was Bhaktha Kanhopatra. Bhaktha Kanhopatra was born in a place by the name Mangalwedha. She was so beautiful, talented and had great bakthi towards Lord Pandurangan just like how Meera Bai had and Andal had (Prema Bhakti). Lord Pandurangan was her Mother, Father, Guru and Pranathan. She has dedicated so many divine abhangs too. Her beauty and talent went far enough that the king wanted to marry her. He sent sepoys to bring her to the palace. When the sepoys came to her home to take her to the palace, Kanhopatra was shocked. She was so reluctant to go, since she yearned to marry the only Purushothaman in the world, “Lord Pandurangan”. Kanhopatra’s mother felt very happy that if Kanhopatra married the king, she would be able to enjoy her life with the riches that the King may give them. The people around Kanhopatra also forced her to go with the sepoys. She was really scared to go with them, and cried out that she didn’t want to go with the king, as she already did athma Samarpanam to Pandurangan. But later she had to accept to go with the sepoys and boarded the chariot. She requested the Sepoys to allow her to have darshan of Lord Pandurangan one last time. She ran towards Lord Pandurangan. She hugged Pandurangan crying out loud asking “Hey Panduranga, I haven't known anyone since I was born. I only know you as my Mother, Father, Guru and Pranathan”. Can you leave me out like this? When I did a complete athma samarpanam to you, how can you let a human touch me? Is this the reward I get for my bakthi? Calling out Lord Panduranga, she hit herself in the feet of Pandurangan. A jyothi from Kanhopatra merged with Pandurangan. The temple priests were all scared to see Kanhopatra lying lifeless. They were scared to say about what happened to Kanhopatra to the sepoys standing outside. So they buried her in a place inside the temple. All of a sudden a tree started growing from the place she was buried.

The king couldn't believe Kanhopatra merged with Lord Pandurangan. He wanted to see what had happened to Kanhopatra. He came to Lord Pandurangan’s temple and all of a sudden he saw Kanhopatra’s hair on Pandurangan’s divya murthi. He was awestruck seeing this. Everyone

realised the bhakthi of Kanhopatra. Till date the tree in the where Kanhopatra was buried stands for bhaktas to offer their prayers.

We pray to our Guru Maharaj to bless us with Prema Bhakti, to get relieved from this worldly pleasures and yearn for Paramathma Panduranga.

Bola Phundarika Varaddhey.....! Hari Vittalay....!

*Written by Uthra Balaji, Mississauga, Canada*

## KurmaAvATAR

Sloka 16:

Suraa suraaNaam udhaDhim maThnathaam mandha raachalam  
dhaDhre kamaTa roopeNa pRuShTa ekaadhashe vibhu:

Kurma avatara is the second avataram of Lord Vishnu in the Dashavataram. In Sanskrit Tortoise is referred to as Kurma. The purpose of the avatara is to Support the weight of Manthara Mountain while Devas and Asuras churned the ocean.

The Devas had lost their powers due to the curse from Sage Durvasa. Sage Durvasa had presented a flower garland to Lord Indra. However Indra gave the garland to his Elephant,

Airavatham which trampled it, which caused the curse from Rishi Durvasa.

So the Devas went seeking help to Lord Vishnu. Lord Vishnu said, "Go churn the Milky Ocean" ( Par Kadal) . So the Devas called upon the Asuras to churn the ocean with them. The Devas instructed the Asuras to hold the head of snake Vasuki which was used as a rope to churn. Falling into the trick the Asuras agreed to the idea suggested. As time went along the Asuras grew weaker and weaker from the poison of Vasuki. As the process was going, the Manthara Mountain was sinking slowly into the water. Seeing this Lord Vishnu took the Kurma avatar to support the Churning Process, supporting the weight of Manthara. There were lots of gifts such as Kamadhenu, Ushishravas which came out of the Milky Ocean. Then a dangerous poison called HaalaHaala came which Lord Shiva drank and Parvathi stopped it inside the neck of Lord Shiva, hence he is called as "Neela Kantan". Finally came the Amrutham which gave Immortality to those who had it.





# Vyasa Avathar

Thathaha sapta dashe jAthaha satyavatyAm parasharAth I  
chakre veda tharoh shAKhA drishtva pumso alpmedasaha II

Among all the avataras Vyasa Avathara is the 17th avatara of Lord Sri Hari. Vyasa avatar is Bhagavan's Gnyana Kala avatar.

His parents were Satyavati and Parasharar . He codified the Vedas into



four branches. He divided them into rig, yajur, sama and atharvana veda. He thought the people in kali cannot learn all the Vedas and so he realised he has to divide and give it to them. After diving and giving the Vedas , he still thought it was not enough. So Vyasara also gave all the puranas and Mahabharatha. Even then he was feeling very upset and was not satisfied. With the advice and darshan of Narada Maharishi he gave Srimad Bhagavatham, which is the 18th purana. It is because of Sri Veda Vyasa we even have come to know of Bhagavan Krishna.

# October 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 October 2020. On October 3rd, we had weekly sathsang. We started with naama followed by Srinivasa karavalambam, Vishnu sahasranamam, few madhuragitams and concluded with Kaliyayum bali kollum. On October 10th, we had weekly sathsang. We started with naama followed by Srinivasa karavalambam, Vishnu sahasranamam, Gajendra Stuthi, few madhuragitams and concluded with Kaliyayum bali kollum.

On October 12th, we had Ekadasi sathsang. We started with naama followed by Pancha githam and concluded with Kaliyayum bali kollum.

On October 24th, we had weekly sathsang. We started with naama followed by Premika varadha dashakam, Vishnu sahasranamam, Dhruva Stuthi, few madhuragitams and concluded with Kaliyayum bali kollum.

On October 26th, we had Ekadasi sathsang. We started with naama followed by parayanam of a few chapters from Dasama Skandam - we did parayanam of Damodara leela, Brahma stuthi & Govindha pattabhishekam chapters and concluded with Kaliyayum bali kollum.

On October 31st, we had weekly sathsang. We started with naama followed by Vasudeva paratatva dashakam, Vishnu sahasranamam, Gajendra Stuthi, few madhuragitams and concluded with Kaliyayum bali kollum. 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.