

GOD Canada - September 2020 Newsletter

Cherished Memoirs

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

Can His Words Be Falsified?

One of our Bangalore devotees narrated this experience of his –
Early in 2000, Sri Sri Swamiji expressed a desire to conduct Srimad Bhagavata Sapatha Shatakrtu in Guruvayoor. This is an event where Srimad Bhagavata parayana is conducted as a Saptaham (7 days) by 108 Bhagavatas. Devotees from Bangalore were given the responsibility to make arrangements for this grand function.

As a kick start to this great function, an initial meeting of the organizers was planned. Sri Swamiji kindly consented to come over to Bangalore to preside over this meeting. During the meeting Sri Swamiji gave valuable pointers and suggestions towards organizing the meeting. It was amazing to learn the organizational and management skills from our Guru Maharaj. At one point, Sri Swamiji mentioned that it would rain, immediately after the Saptaham. All were taken aback by this prediction, however the other tasks and activities kept everyone quite busy not giving much room to think about it in detail.

The 6 days of Saptaham went on very well. It was extremely grand and fabulous in all respects. The seventh day dawned. It was May 17, 2000, a sunny and bright morning.

The hundreds of bhagavatas assembled there completed the last verse of the last chapter of the last canto of Srimad Bhagavatam. After Bhagavat Gita recital, the divine couple was to proceed to the temple pond to take a holy dip – Avabrutha Snanam.

With the traditional huge umbrellas canopying the Lord who was mounted on a jewel-decked elephant, the procession started. Suddenly the weather changed. Dark clouds set in, and cool breeze blew. As the Nama Kirtan was performed during the procession, it started drizzling. As the chants of the divine Name reached a crescendo, it poured heavily. As the whole city was

drenched in the joy of Nama Kirtan, it felt as if Varuna (the god of Rains) couldn't resist himself! It poured heavily, signaling Sri Premika Varadan's acceptance of the great Yagna. But, Bangalore could read between the lines! They realized that it just corroborated Sri Swamiji's predictions. Could His words be ever falsified?

Madhurageetham - Bharata Pradakshina - 9

Bhadrachalam

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

Bhadrachalam is a town in the south Indian state of Telangana. Beside the Godavari River, the huge 17th-century Bhadrachalam (or Sita Ramachandraswamy) Temple complex is dedicated to Lord Rama and has many ornate carvings. The temple is considered to be one of the Divya Kshetrams of Godavari and is also revered as Dakshina Ayodhya. According to the legend, Vishnu appeared to Meru's son Bhadra as Rama to answer the latter's prayers.

Original Song in Sanskrit

रागम् : भीम्ल्लास् : आदि
भजरे भद्राचलम् - मानस

1. गोदावरी तीर पुण्याचलं
कोमल तारक मन्त्र मयाचलं ॥ भ ॥
2. सर्व पाप विनाशकाचलं
सुन्दर राम भद्रवासाचलम् ॥ भ ॥
3. बहु रामदासादि विनुताचलं
प्रियमुरलीधर ह्रिदयाचलम् ॥ भ ॥
4. दिव्य सूरि सेवित श्री रङ्ग
दिव्याभरणे श्री गोदे
5. मुरलीधरनुत श्री रङ्ग
माला समर्पिते श्री गोदे

Tamil Transliteration

ராகம்: பீம்ப்ளாஸ் தாளம்: ஆதி
பஜ ரே பத்ராசலம் - மானஸ

- 01) கோதாவரி தீர புண்யாசலம்
கோமள தாரக மந்த்ர மாயாசலம் // ப //
- 02) ஸர்வ பாப விநாஷகாசலம்
ஸுந்தர ராம பத்ரவாஸாசலம் // ப //
- 03) பஹு ராமதாஸதி வினுதாசலம்
ப்ரியமுரளீதர ஹ்ருதயாசலம் // ப //

English Transliteration

rAgam: blmbLAs thALam: Adi

bhaja rE bhadrAchalam - mAnasa

01. gOdAvarI thIra puNyAchalam
kOmaLa thAraka mantra mayAchalam || bha ||
02. sarva pApa vinAshakAchalam
sundara rAma bhadravAsAchalam || bha ||
03. bahu rAmadAsAdi vinuthAchalam
priyamuraIldhara hridayAchalam || bha ||

Toronto Monthly Sathsang Report for Aug 2020

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

Aug 01 - Aug 31 - Akanda Nama via Zoom call from 5:30am to 12 noon.

Aug 02 - Aug 08 - Dasam skanda Parayanam by Kids. Sampoorna Bhagavatha parayanam by Adults.

Aug 09 - 12 hours Akanda Nama via Zoom call

Aug 25 - Radhashtami Satsang via Zoom Call from 4pm to 7 pm. Sang Madhurageetham .

Edmonton Monthly Sathsang Report for Aug 2020

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

On August 8th, we had naama sathsang - we started with Mahamantra chanting, followed by Vishnu Sahasranamam and sang a few Madhuraageetham and concluded with Kaliyayum bali kollum.

On August 11th, We celebrated Gokulashtami with Dasama skandha parayanam of Chapters 1 to 3, followed by few madhuraageetham and concluded with Kaliyayum bali kollum.

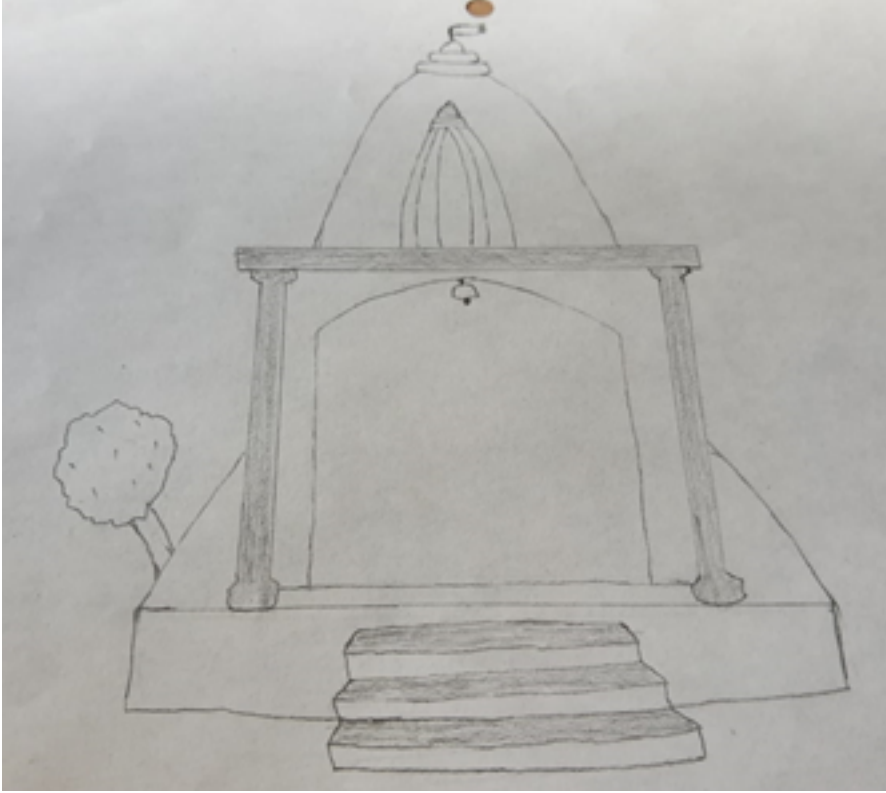
On August 22nd, we had naama sathsang - we started with Mahamantra chanting, followed by Pancha stuthis and then sang a few Madhuragitams and concluded with Kaliyayum bali kollum.

On August 25th, we celebrated Radhashtami sathsang by singing Radhai Madhuragitams and concluding 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.

Jai Sadhgurunath!

Bhakti Eni Padigal - 5th and 6th Charanams



05. utthama guruvum thEDi varuvAr avarpadam paNindu sEvai seydiDuvAy

It is shown in Sundarakandam that only Hanumanji is an Utthama Guru. He jumped from Bharatha varsham to Sri Lanka, took the message from Sri Ramachandra Prabhu to Seetha maatha, saw the state of Seetha maatha, took Seetha maatha's message from her to Sri Rama. Someone can understand the state of us, the jeevas and the state of Bhagawan and act as a bridge between us and Bhagawan is a Utthama Guru. He does not take the jeeva to Bhagawan, he brings Bhagawan to the jeeva.

If our prayer for divinity, our prayer for bhakti and jnana is true, Bhagawan ensures that He sends an Utthama Guru to take care of our spiritual well being. That Utthama Guru, by his tapas, by his prema, compassion, his prasanna gambheeram, by his presence, he will make us feel like serving him and we will start doing seva for him. Genuine Mahatmas want only our spiritual growth. With humility we need to serve the Guru.

06. uchithakAlatthil guru upadEsham seydiDuvAr EkAdashi viradham irundiDuvAy nlyE

If we start serving our Guru with humility, at the right time Guru will give upadesam. The Guru knows when to give, what to give and how to give the upadesam. The Guru upadesam can be a manthra, or give us the do's and don'ts (personal to each one of us). Our Guru may not tell us to observe fasting, but, by ourselves we will start doing basic vrathams like Ekadashi vratham.

(To be continued)

Illustration by Subashini Ji, Edmonton

Excerpts from Sri Ramanujam ji's 5 minutes Wisdom series:

1. How to respond intelligently?

Before responding to any situation, ask these 3 questions:

- a) What do I need to do now?
- b) What can I do now?
- c) What will be the consequences?

2. How do I own the choices I make?

We own the choices that we make. How do we own our choices? It is when our intellect is aligned with our mind. When our mind is synchronized with the intellect, we give a measured response. We need to think about 2 things before giving a response: our capability to respond and the consequence of our response.

Our mind will get inspired to do many things. But, buddhi, the intellect will stop and analyze,

- What we can do without hurting ourselves or others.
- What we can commit without losing the trust that others have in me and the trust that I have in others.
- What will be the consequence of this action?

This is what sets a sane, intelligent person apart from a person who loses his/her glory over time. Intellect does not dampen inspiration, it channelizes it. Katopanishad says, "Mind is the rope (rein) that controls the horses (senses). This reign (mind) is in the hand of a charioteer called Buddhi, intellect."

3. How to be an optimistic person?

All we have to do is to start recording all the positive things that happen in our lives. Our mind is a 'Velcro' for negativity and 'Teflon' for positivity. Velcro will attract anything and everything. If we have Velcro in our shirt, it will attract even small pieces of linen and everything gets stuck to

this Velcro. Teflon on the other hand is non-stick, it will not keep anything stuck to its surface. If we want to be a positive person, we should be a Velcro for positivity and Teflon for negativity. Generally, the mind tends to record negativity a lot and leave out the positives. We can strike a balance by trying our best to record the positive things happening in our lives. Journaling is a fantastic way to become a better optimist. Even for our spiritual growth, we should ask ourselves this question – “Why did this go right?” The answer to this question will bring in gratitude. For example, if we have met a deadline at work and the project went very well and are feeling happy about it, we have to stop and ask ourselves, “why did the project go well?” Then, we will say, “It’s because of my Project Management skills.” Then, we will think about the people who helped us get these skills, the people who encouraged us to take the extra courses to educate ourselves, and the family who supported us in this journey. The gratitude automatically flows in when we stop and ask ourselves this question, “why did things go right?” This not only will make us spiritual, but will make us divine.

(To be continued)