

GOD Canada newsletter – August 2021

Cherished Memories - He Knows it All!

This series chronicles interesting experiences recounted by the devotees of HH Maharanyam Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji.

Sri Sathyanarayanan of our Satsang narrates his experience with Sri Sri Swamiji...

One wonderful trait of Sri Sri Swamiji that moves everyone is memory of every minute detail in all his devotees' lives. Even if they forget, Sri Sri Swamiji remembers.

It was a day before Gokulashtami Utsavam in the year 1997 around 8 pm. Myself and Venkatesan of our Satsang were in the 'Bhagavata Bhavanam' of our Ashram in the august presence of Sri Sri Swamiji. It was the time I was supposed to submit my application for the CS Intermediate Examination scheduled in December '97. I had prepared the application and as is practice thought of placing the same at the Lotus feet of Sri Sri Swamiji in person before submission. But decided to place it before his photo and proceed under the belief that he is present in his photo.

I was having Sri Sri Swamiji's darshan for the first time after submitting my application and a question came from Sri Sri Swamiji ' Have you submitted your CS Intermediate Application form?' to which I replied in the affirmative. Sri Sri Swamiji smiled 'How come you did not bring it to me before submission' and myself, ' I placed it before Guruji's photo and that is sufficient for you to know'. Sri Sri Swamiji smiled, I could see a twinkle in his

eyes, but did not make anything out of it. The events to follow explained it.....

We (Myself and Venkatesan) left for dinner and Sri Sri Swamiji retired to his room. Venkatesan and myself were talking about Sri Sri Swamiji and various other things after our dinner. It was almost around midnight when we happily recalled our conversation with Sri Sri Swamiji earlier. Exactly the same moment I could smell a fragrance I have never experienced. Thinking that it might be a new perfume used by Venkatesan I continued with our conversation. In a few seconds Venkatesan asked me 'What is this fragrance? Are you using any perfume? it smells out of the world'. I was astounded and told him I have been thinking that this might be from him.

We got up and looked around for anything or anybody, only to find an empty hall and nobody around us. We immediately realised that Sri Sri Swamiji was there with us and was making his presence known. We immediately prayed to Sri Sri Swamiji and thanked him for his grace. The next moment the fragrance vanished.

The next morning when we saw Sri Sri Swamiji he asked 'It seems both of you were talking and wandering around for a long time?' with the same smile (we can call it 'naughty' smile), to which I said 'We knew that you came!' and pat came His reply, 'I will know something that is shown before my photo and not know this, Wouldn't I?' He passed off, with no further word, leaving us both to realize that 'He is omnipresent and knows what's happening to each one of us'

Originally Published in Maduramurali Magazine.

Fond Memories Of Bliss – Part 10

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

Once Sri Swamiji had been with a couple of young devotees to a town called Thiruvalam near Ranipet, which is about 2 hours’ drive from Chennai. In this town there lived a great liberated soul, who was known as “Thiruvalam Swamigal” till very recently and his Samadhi is located there. Sri Swamiji was returning with these two youngsters after visiting the Samadhi and they reached the bus-stop.

Sri Swamiji was narrating the life-history of Thiruvalam Swamigal to those youngsters who were listening in rapt attention.

“You know, Thiruvalam Swamigal was the very personification of humility. He used to put himself through some rigorous practices in order to win over the sense of ego, pride, likes and dislikes. He used to feed beggars and lepers and eat the food that dropped from their mouths. Such was the intensity of their practices. In fact you can find similar instances in the life of the great Ramakrishna Paramahansa. He used to put himself through exercises like cleansing human excreta and filth. Such was the state of these great mahatmas”

One of the boys replied “ Oh! I cannot even imagine such a situation! Is it even possible? Is it even tolerable?”

Sri Swamiji shot back “Why do you think it is not possible? They are in such a high state and their drive to get rid of the sense of ego is so great that it makes them do such things!” Even as He was saying this, Sri Swamiji bought

a pack of biscuits and fed a few stray dogs that were wandering around and without waiting for a second, ate the leftovers of those dogs as naturally as ever. The whole process seemed so spontaneous. Needless to say, the two boys were speechless!

GOVINDA'S FAMILY – GOVINDANUKKU

AATPATTA KUDUMBAMAMMA 2

(Family beholden to Govinda!)

This series was originally published in Tamil MadhuraMurali monthly magazine in India, as a 12-part series. Based on Sri Swamiji's Madhurageetham, "Govindanukku Aatpatta Kudumbamamma Engal Kudumbam", it speaks beautifully of how the family members of our satsang lead / need to lead their lives.

This is the translation of the second article in this series. We shall see each of the following parts in the coming issues.

(A Madhurageetham that speaks of the beauty of Govinda, "needhAn azhagenDrAl un peyarum azhagO... (O Krishna, You are beautiful! And so is Your Name!)" ends by saying "bhaktarum azhagO paripAlippadum azhagO, azhagan un thoDarbAl anaitthum azhagO (Your devotees are beautiful, the way You guide them is also beautiful! O Beautiful One! Simply through association with You, everything is indeed beautiful!)"

The Madhurageetham that we are going to look at in detail below is one that sings specifically and sweetly of the beauty of the lives of Govinda's devotees and the beauty of the way in which Govinda takes care of them...)

In Bhagavad Gita, when Arjuna asks Sri Krishna about how a jnani (sthitaprajna) would be, how he would behave, how he would interact with others, Krishna speaks of them lovingly and joyfully. When it comes to His devotees, Krishna is so full of love for them! In Bhagavad Gita, even without Arjuna asking, Krishna sings wholeheartedly about the qualities of His true bhaktas; He Himself exclaims that He loves such devotees very much. So

how will these devotees be, who have obtained a special place in Krishna's heart? What will such devotees do? How will they behave in the world? We also desire to know about their qualities, don't we?



Image courtesy: MadhuraMurali magazine

This madhuraageetham is the one that illustrates this sweetly and beautifully:

(The detailed meaning of each verse of this song is what is going to be delved into in the upcoming episodes of this series.)

Govindanukku Aatpatta Kudumbamma

rAgam: Folk Tune thALam: Adi

gOvindanukkATpaTTa kuDumbammaA engaL kuDumbam

illaRatthil irundiDuvOm, nallaRangaL seydiDuvOm

ellAm avan iShTam enDru eNNi allal paDamATTOM || gOvindanukku||

bhAgavatha kadhai kETTI DuvOm, rAgathALatthuDan pADiDuvOm

shOkamOga paDamATTOM, nAgarIgamAy pazhagiDuvOm || gOvindanukku
||

We shall listen to Bhagavata stories, we shall sing in tune with beats

Sorrow

kUDI kUDI pEsiDuvOm, ADippADI kaLitthiDuvOm – avan

aDiyArgaLai thEDI thEDI, ODi ODi paNindiDuvOm || gOvindanukku ||

piLLai kuTTiyuDan vAzhndiDuvOm, nallaRangaL solli vaLartthiDuvOm

kaLLamilla bhAgavatha, dharmatthilE pazhakkiDuvOm || gOvindanukku ||

pErAsai paDamATTOM, pAsatthilE vizhamATTOM

nEsatthuDan thAmarai ilai thaNNirai pOl vAzhndiDuvOm || gOvindanukku
||

kavalai paDamATTOM, kAlanukku anjcha mATTOM

puNNiyam pAvam kAlam enDru parithavikkavum mATTOM || gOvindanukku
||

amarndAlum, ezhundAlum, ninDrAlum, naDandAlum,

pasitthAlum, pusitthAlum, avan peyaraiyE solliDuvOm || gOvindanukku ||

manadinAl niRainduLLOm, guNatthAl uyarnduLLOm

amaidiyuDan enDrum vaLLal pOl vAzhndiDuvOm || gOvindanukku ||

sOmbit thiriyavum mATTOM, vambu pEsavum mATTOM

nambi avan charaNatthai nAmam solli vAzhndiDuvOm || gOvindanukku ||

Krishna is the epitome of simplicity; so His devotees too are indeed like that. This song too – which describes the lives of His devotees who have taken blissful refuge in Him – is set to a simple ragam. The fact that its words also happen to be simple and sweet, is apt indeed.

Krishna is Navarasa Nayakan (hero who expresses the nine emotions, navarasas). His stories are also ‘navarasa bharitam’, filled with the navarasas. The lives of His devotees who live under His refuge, is also navam-navam. The path of Krishna bhakti is also nava vidham (has nine ways). This madhurageetham – that sings of families who celebrate Krishna as Bhagavan, who hold Krishna’s krupa as their lifeline, and who do prema bhakti to Krishna – has also emerged with nine charanams.

Here our Guru Maharaj starts as Govindanukku ‘aatpatta’ kudumbam.

Those who know the Tamil language well will say that this Tamil word ‘aatpatta’ has three meanings – ‘living a life of servitude (or being beholden to)’, ‘reaching a high state’, ‘recovering from a disease or pain’. See! The essence of the entire song is present in just in this one word. If we live a life of servitude to Govinda (aatpattal), by His compassion we will be cured of the disease of samsara and attain the true good (aatpattu), and with His grace, we can also attain the highest state (aatpadalam).

How wonderfully that ‘Govinda’ is protecting the families that are ‘Govindanukku’ aatpatta kudumbam!

That time, in Brindavanam, when Indra became angry that the Gopas stopped the yagna that they had been performing for him and tried to destroy the entire Gokula with raging rains; and when the lakhs of cows and Gopas surrendered unto Him, He did not just say 'kaiviDEn' (that he will not let them down) with his lips, but instead actually showed it by lifting the Govardhana mountain with His hands and protecting them from the rains, did He not?

Even today that same Govinda is protecting the lakhs of families who are living depending on Him, by bearing their mountain-like burden Himself, keeping them from drowning in the enormous flood of samsara, protecting them from thunderous accidents that happen now and then, from the powerful gale winds of incidents that shake their stability, when the lightning of worry about the future blinds them... is that same Govinda not protecting them even today through the wonderful Govardhana-like Sadguru who is none other than Himself? Isn't that why our Gurunathar sings, "guru veru, hari vEru enbadhu ariyAdavar pEcchu" (Only the ignorant say that Guru is different from Hari).

Our satsang families also live like this only, in servitude to Govinda. Thinking again and again about the immense grace showered by Govinda, melting with gratitude and filled to the brim with the feeling, "Indeed, who is as blessed as us?", desiring to live in a way that He would be delighted with, living with the resolve that no matter what happens in life, "Why should I worry when Govinda and Sadgurunatha are there?", with the view that whatever happens is His will, with the staunch faith that Krishna will never let us down, with the clarity that our family, home, children, profession... everything is His prasadam, and that the path taken by our Radhai, our Govindan's Devi, is only our path ("Radhai sellum padhaiye nam padhai") – with such a mindset of leading life as a divine celebration... indeed this is

only leading a life of belonging to Govinda (Govindanukku aatpattu vazh vadhu)!

For families who live like this, Govinda Himself is the father who is the head of the family, Sri Radha is the mother, all satsang devotees are our family members. These families who live like this are indeed Govinda's families! Govinda also thinks proudly, "These people have taken refuge in me; they have taken me as their Lord, they are My family!" and feels, "It is indeed my vratham that I must watch over them and take care of them lovingly!"

Our satsang families are all Govinda's families, families that belong to and serve Him, sings our wonderful Sadgurunathar here proudly.

"gOvindanukkATpaTTa kuDumbammaA engal kuDumbam"

Here our Swamiji's usage of 'amma' as a suffix, is one to be relished. It implies – 'amazement' at the fact that while others are suffering in this samsara, we alone have such a happy life; 'immense bliss' at the sense that that Paramatma who has no equal ("than oppor illappannana"), Govinda Himself, has made us a part of His family!; and wonderment that "What tapas have I done for Him to take us unto Him!"

In the same way, in Venu Gita, the Gopis sing – "prAyO batAmba vihagA munayO vanEsmin..." "Amba, these birds must indeed be sages..." where they convey amazement with the use of the term "Amma!"

Sri Ramana Bhagavan also sings about the greatness of God's grace with the use of the term "Amma" in Arunachala Ashtakam:

arivaru giriyena amartharum amma! adhisayam idhan seyal...

Amma! What wonder! Even though it looks like a stone mountain, no one can comprehend the immense grace of this Tiruvannamalai!

Yes! Govindanukku aatpatta kudumbam “amma!” engal kudumbam!

In the next nine verses, this madhuraageetham speaks of the way in which these families live...

(The sweetness will continue...)

Sri M. K. Ramanujam, Chennai, India

Originally published in Tamil MadhuraMurali magazine

Madhurageetham - Krishna Leelai - 01

We have been relishing Sri Swamiji's Kirtans on Various Kshetrams in india. From this month we will be exploring Sri Swamiji's compositions on Krishna leela.

One of the reasons for Bhagavan Srikrishna's avatar is to show us the path of Bhakthi that will help us attain his lotus feet(Mukthi). He chose Vasudeva and Devaki to be his parents. Our beloved Guruji in this song tells us how Sri Krishna was born in a prison room, with 4 hands, carrying his conch & mace.

ராகம்: வசந்தா

தாளம்: ஆதி

அவதரித்தான் கண்ணன் - வட மதுரையில்

அவதரித்தான் கண்ணன்

01.ஆவணி மாதத்தில் அஷ்டமி திதியில்

ரோஹிணி நள்ளிரவில் உலகம் உய்ய || அ ||

02.மாமறை போற்றிடும் தாமரைக் கண்ணன்

சங்குடன் சக்கரமும் பாங்குடன் தரித்து || அ ||

03.க்ரிட குண்டலங்கள் மிளிர்ந்து ஒளி வீச

சீரும் சிறப்புடனே சிறை தன்னிலே ||அ ||

04.வசுதேவர் பார்த்திட தேவகீ துதி செய்ய

ஸ்ரீவத்ஸ மருவுடன் கௌஸ்துபமும் அணிந்து ||அ ||

05.மாதவன் வந்திட மங்களம் எங்கும் பொங்க

முரளிதரன் துதிக்க மூன்றுலகமும் மகிழ ||அ ||

rAgam: vasantha

thALam: Adi

avadaritthAn kaNNan - vaDa madhuraiyil

avadaritthAn kaNNan

01. AvaNi mAdatthil aShTami thithiyil
rOhiNi naLLiravil ulagam uyya || a ||
02. mAmaRai pOTriDum thAmaraik kaNNan
shankhuDan chakkaramum pAnguDan tharitthu || a ||
03. krIDa kuNDalangaL miLirndu oLi vlsa
slrum siRappuDanE siRai thannilE || a ||
04. vasudEvar pArtthiDa dEvaki thuthi seyya
shrlvatsa maruvuDan kausthubhamum aNindu || a ||
05. mAdhavan vandiDa mangaLam engum ponga
muraLIdharan thudikka mUnDrulagamum magizha || a ||

July 2021 Edmonton Monthly Satsang Report:

By the immense grace of Sri Swamiji and Sri Madhuri Sakhi Sametha Premika Varadha Takurji, GOD Satsang families did Naama satsangs in July 2021.

July 2021 Toronto Monthly Satsang Report:

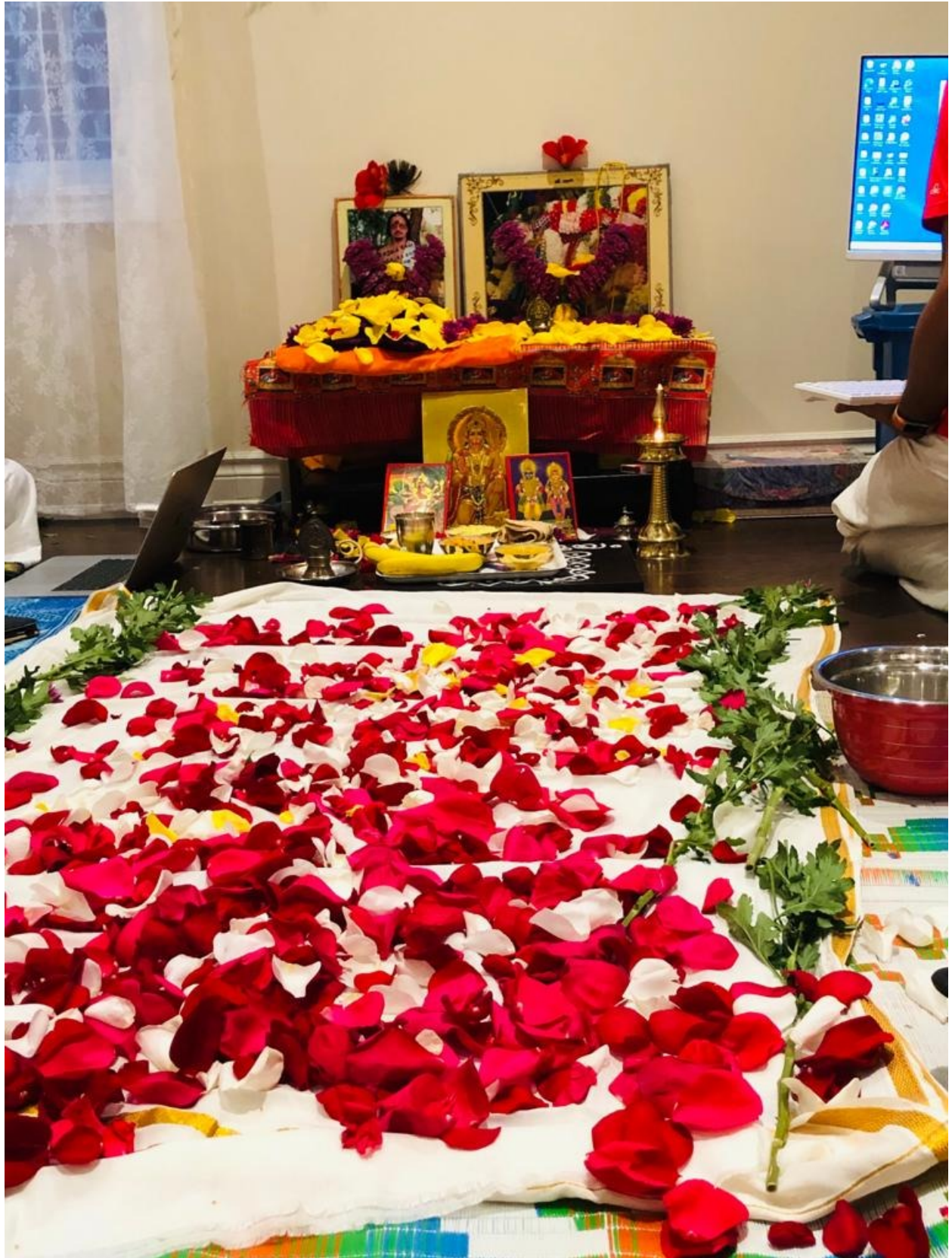
By the immense grace of Sri Swamiji and Sri Madhuri Sakhi Sametha Premika Varadha Takurji, Toronto GOD Satsang families had weekly satsangs in July 2021.

Apart from the weekly satsangs, Toronto GOD satsang Family had the following special events.

July 05: Ekadasi Akanda nama from 5:30 am to 11 am

July 18 to July 24: Madhurageetha Utsav - we sang all songs composed by our beloved Guruji





Guru Poornima Satsang @Ganesh Ji & Ganga Ji's Residence

Upcoming Events:

Aug 04: Ekadasi

Aug 10: Aadi Pooram

Aug 18: Ekadasi

Aug 23 - Aug 29: Bhagavatha Sapthaham

Aug 29: Janmashtami