

GOD Canada newsletter – December 2021

Cherished Memories - An Ocean Of Compassion And Mercy

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

One of the Mathurapuri Ashram inmates narrates the following account:

We are very lucky to be guarded very safely in Sri Sri Swamiji's shadows. Day and night, the power of His grace keeps us alive and kicking and helps us carry out the day-to-day activities in the ashram. There are a few incidents when we would not be able to comprehend Sri Sri Swamiji's behaviour. But every move and act of His, would have an abstruse implication that sometimes is hard to relate and realize. Let me narrate one such incident.

Long back, an old lady used to frequent our Mathurapuri Ashram. It was a pretty normal affair that this lady used to come from nowhere, remain in the satsang for a while and go away.

On one particular day, Sri Sri Swamiji, seeing this old lady, immediately called for Sridharji who is in charge of our ashram. He immediately asked Sridharji to invite the lady and provide her with sumptuous food. Accordingly, the lady was well-fed. After that, Sri Swamiji blessed her with a sari too.

The ashram inmates were surprised by Sri Sri Swamiji's action. They felt that this was quite unusual, but were not able to reason out this behavior of Sri Sri Swamiji. Indeed, who can understand His mind?

On the second day after this incident, we heard that this old lady had passed away.

We were taken by surprise as we heard that news. To us, the news meant a lot more than just bereavement of the deceased. It made us realize the reason behind Sri Sri Swamiji's act a couple of days back. He had known that her end was nearing and out of his infinite compassion and mercy for the kind soul, wanted to bless her!

He might not meet you in the eye when you look at Him

He might not speak a word when you speak up to Him

He might not smile at you when you long for one,

But O! My friend, don't let your hasty mind overtake your heart

Don't use your intellect, Don't tear your love and faith apart

Don't judge Him by your senses, for they are not enough

Don't conclude that He does not love and care for you!

When you are in deep distress, plight or quandary

Listless when you are, in the abyss of your spirits

When you don't even know that a misery is to befall

In times of gloom and darkness and when you are in tears

When the world deserts you, and when quietus nears

He stands beside you to caution, comfort and allay fears

He takes you in His fold, safeguards you and Liberates you!

Originally Published in Maduramurali Magazine.

Fond Memories Of Bliss

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

We have often heard from Sri Sri Swamiji about events where He would get divine visions in His sleep or dhyana and subsequently find the same incident taking place. Let me narrate one such recent incident.

Sri Sri Swamiji has been tirelessly traveling across the country towards realizing His cherished dream of having the Mahamantra echo from all directions. On one such trip, Sri Sri Swamiji camped in a place called Ongole in Andhra Pradesh.

Earlier, while at Ashram Sri Sri Swamiji used to have a strange dream. In His dream, He would often see a small deity of Hanumanji in a corner of a place that resembled a temple, which housed other deities too. On one such night, Sri Swamiji was shocked to see in His dream, Hanumanji's face forlorn and tears flowing from his eyes. At once, He asked Hanumanji the reason for his sorrow. Hanumanji replied, 'I was being worshipped in the old temple. Now they are remodeling the whole area and constructing new sanctums for other deities and I have been ignored and forced to this corner. No one worships me anymore and I am deserted. Please do something about it.

In the dream, Sri Swamiji also heard people around speak in Tamizh and Telugu. As He was now at Ongole, He set out in search of such a temple in and around there. Even though he found many such temples, something inside Him told Him that none of them were the same as the one seen in the dream. Hence He prayed to Hanumanji to reveal Himself.

Last week, Sri Sri Swamiji camped in Hyderabad for a Bhagavata Saptaham discourse. During His camp, our Guru Maharaj visited Pandarpur, had a dip in the Holy Chandrabhaga and had darshan of Vittala. That evening, in Hyderabad, immediately after the discourse, a Vaishnava devotee approached Sri Sri Swamiji and requested Him to visit the temple of Sri Lakshmi Nrisimha which was then under renovation.

The Vaishnava devotee was persistent in his request and Sri Sri Swamiji yielded. He paid a visit to the temple under renovation. When Sri Sri Swamiji was about to leave the temple, He heard Hanumanji calling Him! Hanumanji was telling Sri Sri Swamiji that he was there, indeed! Immediately Sri Sri Swamiji enquired where the sanctum of Hanuman was and rushed there.

Sri Sri Swamiji was pleasantly surprised to see the beautiful little form of Hanumanji in exactly the same corner as He had seen in His dreams. He shed tears of joy and embraced the Lord and told Hanumanji, 'You found Seetha and I have eventually found You!'

The idol, however, looked new and when asked, the authorities informed that the idol had become too old. The idol had paled. Therefore, they had washed and cleaned it repeatedly so as to give it a fresh look.

Sri Sri Swamiji was overjoyed about the divine grace of the Lord.

The next morning, He visited the temple once again and offered Vada Maala and curd rice to Hanumanji.

Originally published in Namadwaar.org

GOVINDA'S FAMILY – GOVINDANUKKU AATPATTA KUDUMBAMAMMA 6

(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 sixth article in this series.



Image courtesy: MadhuraMurali magazine

(The getting together of devotees (satsanga) is the prANa of Bhagavata Dharma. Shall we see that in this episode?)

kUDi kUDi pEsiDuvOm,

ADippADi kaLitthiDuvOm – avan

aDiyArgaLai thEDi thEDi,

ODi ODi paNindiDuvOm || gOvindanukku ||

We shall get together and speak about Him

We shall sing and dance joyfully

We will go in search of His servitors

And running to them, fall at their feet

What we are attached to is what decides whether we get caught and struggle, or if we attain jnana and enjoy bliss, is the upadesa that is given by Sri Kapila Vasudeva in Srimad Bhagavatam to his mother, Devahuti.

How simply and easily our Srimad Bhagavatam presents deep concepts! If we are attached to worldly things like name, fame, position, post, desires, sense pleasures, then we will be left with only attachment, sorrow, desire and fear.

But the nature of the mind is to be attached to something, isn't it? So Sri Kapila Vasudevar says, "Keep that attachment to devotees of Bhagavan. Then that attachment itself will become the cause for freedom from sorrow and will bestow bliss and joy!"

Isn't it this profound Vedantic truth that Tiruvalluvar also shared:

paTTRuga paTTRaTTRAn paTTRinai;

appaTTRai paTTRuga paTTRu viDaRku

If we are attached to true devotees who neither want anything nor 'not want' anything, then that attachment itself will uproot attachment to worldly things and bestow peace and divine bliss.

This principle of our Sanatana Dharma has also been proved in many ways by modern psychologists. They say, "The state of your mind is affected to a large extent by those who you keep company with."

During the times when we had not yet come under Govinda and our Sathguru, we who ran here and there thinking where can I go to fulfil worldly joys, who should I catch hold of so I can earn name and fame, what can I do to further my self-interest; now haven't we amazingly transformed into those who wonder where will we get satsangam, where will we be blessed with the service of sadhus!

It is true that holy rivers and kshetras purify us by removing our sins and inner filth. There is something in common between these and sadhus. Sadhus also purify us through their association. Hence we need to run and find and attain these. But there is also a difference between them. Sadhus are greater than holy rivers and kshetras. Srimad Bhagavatam says,

na hyammayAni tIrthAni na dEvA mricchilAmayAha |

tE punantiyurukAlE na darshnAdEva sAdhavah || SB 10:48:31

Holy rivers and kshetras will take a long time to purify us. But doesn't the mere darshan of true sadhus purify us immediately?

In this way, we who know the greatness of sadhus, “avan aDiyArgaLai thEDi thEDi, ODi ODi paNindiDuvOm!” (We will go again and again in search of His devotees, run and fall at their feet!)

The greatness of sadhus is such that it is not just we ignorant people who run after them. But it seems Bhagavan Sri Krishna Himself seeks them and goes behind them, desiring the dust of their feet. Sri Bhagavan Himself says this,

nirapEksham munim shAntam nirvairam samadarshanam |

anuvrajAmyaham nityam pUyEyEtyanghrirENubhihi || SB 11:14:16

“I constantly go behind those devotees who are not in the least attached to worldly pursuits, who subdue their mind entirely and are devoted to Me, those who are peaceful, who see everything as equal and as Me,” says Sri Krishna. When Sri Krishna Himself goes in search of sadhus and seeks their association, we too “avan aDiyArgaLai thEDi thEDi, ODi ODi paNindiDuvOm...”

– Our family story shall continue

Originally published in Tamil MadhuraMurali magazine

Madhurageetham - Krishna Leelai - 05

Brindavanam has a special place in every Bhagavatha's heart. This is the place where Bhagavan Sri Krishna spent his childhood, playing with Gopis, Gopas and also performing his various leelas. Krishna went around Brindavan and played, so, his foot imprints are all over the village.

Sage Narada says, O Bhakti Devi, You are really blessed! Upon reaching Vrindavan, you have become a young girl. Here at Vrindavan, Bhakti is dancing at every lane, every house, every tree and every creeper i.e everywhere.

Vrindavanasya Sanyogat Punastvam Taruni Nava,

Dhanyam Vrindavanam Tena Bhaktirnriyati Yatra Cha.

- Padma Purana, Bhagwat Mahatmya (1.61)

ராகம்: மாயாமாளவகௌளை தாளம்: ஏகம்

ப்ருந்தாவனம் பஜே ப்ருந்தாவனம் - நித்யம்

ப்ருந்தாவனம் பஜே ப்ருந்தாவனம்

01. ககம்ருக பிரமிதம் ப்ருந்தாவனம் - விவித

புஷ்பைரலங்க்ருதம் ப்ருந்தாவனம்

02. யமுனா லாலிதம் ப்ருந்தாவனம் - நித்ய

ராலோத்ஸவஸ்தலம் ப்ருந்தாவனம்

03. ஹரிசரணாங்கிதம் ப்ருந்தாவனம் - க்ருஷ்ண

லீலாஸ்தலம் ஸ்ரீ ப்ருந்தாவனம்

04. பூலோக கோலோகம் ப்ருந்தாவனம் - க்ருஷ்ண

பக்தானாம் ஆஷ்ரயம் ப்ருந்தாவனம்

05. பக்தசித்தாகர்ஷணம் ப்ருந்தாவனம் - ப்ரஹ்ம
நிஷ்டாகர்ஷகம் ப்ருந்தாவனம்

rAgam: mAyAmALavagauLai thALam: Ekam

brindAvanam bhajE brindAvanam - nityam

brindAvanam bhajE brindAvanam

01. khagamriga bhramitham brindAvanam - vividha

puShpairalankritham brindAvanam

02. yamunA lAlitham brindAvanam - nitya

rAsOtsavasthalam brindAvanam

03. haricharaNAnkitham brindAvanam - kriShNa

leelAsthalam shrI brindAvanam

04. bhUIOka gOIOkam brindAvanam - kriShNa

bhakthAnAm Ashrayam brindAvanam

05. bhakthachitthAkarshaNam brindAvanam - brahma

niShThAkarShakam brindAvanam

Nov 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 November 2021.

On Nov 04th, we celebrated Aippasi Swathi, our Gurunathar's thirunakshatram by singing Guru Keertans and Madhuragithams.

On Nov 20th, we had weekly satsang started with naama followed by Premika Varada Dashakam, Vishnu Sahasranamam, Gajendra Sthuthi, few Madhuragithams and concluded with Kaliyayum bali kollum.

On Nov 27th, we had weekly satsang started with naama followed by Radhika Panchakam, Dhruva Sthuthi, madhuragithams led by Krishna Cottage children and concluded with Kaliyayum bali kollum.

We are continuing Akhanda Naama satsang by chanting Mahamantra for 7hrs daily (Morning 3.5hrs & Eve 3.5hrs). The GOD family members have taken slots and participated in this satsang by offering our prayers to Gurunathar & Radha Krishna.



Nov 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 November 2021.

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

Nov 06: Special Satsang on Guru Ji's Janma Dhinam

We chanted Nama and Sang Madhura Geethams composed by devotees on Guru Ji.

Nov 14: Ekadasi Akanda nama from 5:00 am to 4:00 Pm

Nov 29: Ekadasi Akanda Nama from 5:00 am to 11:30 pm

Upcoming Events:

Dec 01 - Swathi

Dec 14 - Ekadasi

Dec 16 - Jan 15 - Marghazi Nama

Dec 29 - Ekadasi

Dec 25 - 31 - Madhura Utsav - Radha Kalyanam

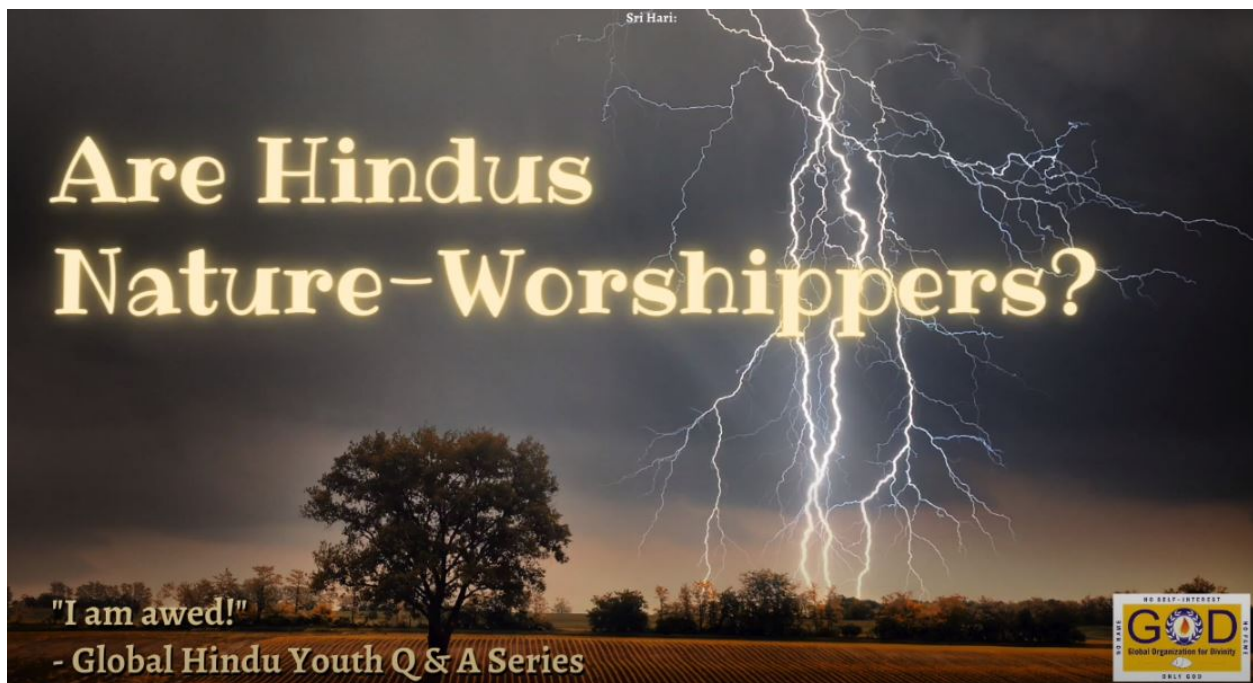
“I AM AWED!” Hindu Youth Q & A Series

ARE HINDUS NATURE WORSHIPPERS?

A series of “Little Questions and Lucid Answers” sessions were conducted to explore the greatness and depth of Hinduism through questions posed by global Hindu Youth to Sri Ramanujamji.

The excerpts of each of these questions and answers are being presented every month by our youth, as they understand and absorb it.

The original Q & As are also presented as short videos on Namadwaar E-Satsang’s YouTube channel as the “I Am Awed” series. Here is the link to the original video, where Sri Ramuji answers this question – <https://youtu.be/2e2WXehDJWw>



You may have heard many people say, “Hindus are nature worshippers,” but is that true? Hindus don’t worship nature itself. We worship divinity, and we realize that nature is an expression of divinity. We believe that nature and its elements are a manifestation of the one God and revere the divinity

contained in it.

The logic of “Oh, I am afraid of lightning so I will worship it,” is not at all correct. What we do is we try to understand the evolution of the cosmos as the work of the divine, and then worship that divinity.

When we read academic books or translated versions of our religious texts, especially those translated by those who do not follow or practice our dharma, they do not reflect the actual meaning being conveyed by the original text in the original language. Hence, to learn about what our Sanatana Dharma is really saying, we need to read the original sources and texts like Srimad Bhagavatam along with commentaries by Mahatmas who have actually experienced the import of those texts.

We know that nature is just the power of Bhagavan, and we are worshipping nature as if it is Bhagavan and His unmanifested/manifested power. We are taking the logic that if Bhagavan created nature and is within every entity on this planet, he should also be in nature. So when we revere nature, we are worshipping Bhagavan. There is no worshipping nature itself in this practice. Sri Ramu Anna gives an example – if you are worshipping (revering) a guru’s kirtan, you should worship it because you know that it came from a guru, not just because the song sounds nice or you like it a lot. If the guru has composed this song, then any song from him that we worship is also worshipping the guru.

Another interesting point to note is that our ancient culture’s spiritual evolution is such that we may disagree with the philosophy, but we worship the philosopher. If your Acharya has a different philosophical opinion than my Acharya, he isn’t at odds with the philosopher; he is merely disagreeing with the philosophy. There is a difference. In different traditional philosophical traditions, if you notice, followers of a particular tradition may disagree with the premise of other philosophies, but the Acharya or philosopher who showed each tradition is revered by all. This is one of the reasons why Sanatana Dharma has stood its ground through the ages. This is because our Sanatana Dharma is eternal, and such is the grandness of our

religion.

Srinidhi Nenmeni, 10yrs, Atlanta, GA
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QUIZ TIME : INDIA'S ICONIC WOMEN

Sarojini Naidu was a great poet, freedom fighter and was called as 'the Nightingale of India'. Let's learn about her:



1. What is the birth date of Sri Sarojini Naidu?

- a. January 13 1869
- b. February 13 1879
- c. March 13 1889

2. What is the birth-place of Sri Sarojini Naidu?

- a. Chennai
- b. Trichy

c. Hyderabad

3. Sri Sarojini Naidu was the first woman to become the

_____.

a. State Governor in India

b. President of India

c. Prime Minister of India

4. Name the Indian state for which Sri Sarojini Naidu became the Governor.

a. Madhya Pradesh

b. Uttar Pradesh

c. Punjab

5. Who was the father of Sri Sarojini Naidu?

a. Aghornath Chattopadhyaya

b. Anirbhan Bannerjee

c. Pranab Chatterjee

6. Apart from being a great freedom fighter, Sri Sarojini Naidu was instrumental in _____.

a. Child reforms

b. Eradicating poverty

c. Women empowerment

7. Why was Sri Sarojini Naidu fondly called as 'The Nightingale of India'?

a. She was a distinguished poetess

b. She was a great singer

c. She was a great artist

8. Name the book authored by Sri Sarojini Naidu.

a. Pathway to God

b. The Gift Of India

c. India of my dreams

9. When did Sri Sarojini Naidu shed her mortal coil?

a. January 30 1949

b. February 10 1949

c. March 2 1949

Answers:

1-b,2-c,3-a,4-b, 5-a,6-c,7-a,8-b,9-c

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