

GOD Canada Newsletter – July 2022

Cherished Memories - Prayed for Rains, Bathed in Torrents of Grace!

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

The year was 2001. The city of Chennai was under drought as the monsoon had failed. Sri Sri Swamiji instructed me to do daily 'pArAyaNa' [read] of a 'patikam' [divine verses in praise of the Lord] of Sundaramurti NayanAr [one of the four important devotees of Lord Siva from amongst His 63 prominent devotees (NayanmArs)] and as much as I could manage. That 'patikam' runs as follows:

'Vaiyagam muzhudum mA-mazhai marandu

vayalil neerilai mA-nilam tarugOm

uyya-k koLga matrengalAi yenna

OlikoL veNmugilAi parandengum

peyyumA mazhai peruveLLam tavirtthu

peyartthu panniru-vEli kondaruLum (kondu-arum)

seiygai kaNDu nin Thiruvadi adaindEn

chezhum pozhil Thiruppunkoor uLLAnE'

Sri Sri Swamiji, saying, 'in this connection I will narrate to you an incident that took place in the life of Sri Sundaramurti NayanAr,' narrated the following, "Once, during the lifetime of Sri Sundaramurti NayanAr there was severe drought in the kingdom and the people sought his help for bringing down the rains. In response to this, the kind NayanAr prayed to Siva, his Lord. At once there was good rains in the kingdom; it brought great relief and joy to the dried up earth, man and all creatures."

Sri Sri Swamiji, once again, instructed me to chant this verse ['patikam'] daily and as often as possible. From that moment onwards, in obedience to the words of my Gurudev, I began to chant it sincerely.

After some months Sri Sri Swamiji happened to pay a visit to TirunAngoor, near SirgAzhi, in connection with renovation of Divya Desams [Temples where one or more Aazhwaars have sung the praises of the Deity]. In those days, Sri Sri Swamiji was paying frequent visits to TirunAngoor in connection with the renovation work. In all these days I had never accompanied Sri Sri Swamiji to TirunAngoor. Surprisingly, this time Sri Sri Swamiji took me along with Him to TirunAngoor.

After a two-days stay at TirunAngoor, on the day of departure, Sri Sri Swamiji desired to visit Lord SivalokanAtha Temple nearby. So, all of us who had gone to TirunAngoor with Sri Sri Swamiji accompanied Him to Lord SivalokanAtha Temple. It is the habit of Sri Sri Swamiji to remember and recall incidents connected with the Holy Place that He visits. It was the same now also. As we drove towards Lord SivalokanAtha Temple,

Sri Sri Swamiji began to reminisce – “NandanAr, the great devotee of Lord Siva, who had earned the name of ‘TiruNALLai pOvAr’, had once brought the people of his community to this Temple for the darshan of Lord Siva here. The huge NandikEswara [the Divine Bull] idol that sits outside, in direct line to the main Sanctum Sanctorum, blocked the view of the Lord. The deeply saddened NandanAr prayed with all his heart to the Lord for His darshan. At once Lord Siva, the ocean of mercy, instructed NandikEswara [His Divine vehicle] to move aside and blessed NandanAr and his people, who stood at the Temple Tower end, with darshan. Even today NandikEswara sits in this position [slightly aside and not in direct line to the Lord Deity in the Sanctum Sanctorum].”

As all of us followed Sri Sri Swamiji into the Temple my eyes fell on a stone inscription [‘culvet’] placed on the left side as soon as one crosses the entrance at the Temple Tower. I was thoroughly stunned by the words inscribed there upon. The name of this Holy Place was inscribed as ‘Tirupungoor’! Further, I also found the very same verse [‘patikam’] that I had been chanting everyday, at the behest of Sri Sri Swamiji, inscribed upon another stone! I was so amazed by this that I could not utter anything further than, “Guruji!” At this sudden outburst of mine Sri Sri Swamiji turned towards me with a quizzical look on His face. I could only point to the stone with my forefinger, for, I felt too choked to speak.

Sri Sri Swamiji read the stone inscriptions and said, “I have come to this Temple about 15 years back. The thought of paying another visit had never risen in me. I had asked you to chant this verse only for the sake of rains. But you have chanted it as one would perform incessant japa of a Mantra. Some Divine power has prompted me to bring you to this place. It is said that when incessant japa of a Mantra is performed, darshan of the Deity of the Mantra is had. Since you had been doing incessant japa of the verse that

Sundaramurti NayanAr has sung on Lord SivalokanAtha you have earned the fruit of this Lord's darshan."

I experienced great joy on hearing these words of my Gurudev.

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

Smt Uma Surendran is an ardent devotee of Bhagavan YogiRamsurat Kumar who lives in the Southern industrial town of Sivakasi. She lives every moment by the word of her Guru and is very dedicated to our Swamiji’s work.

Taking Sri Swamiji’s directive to spread the sweet fragrance of Nama kirtan in the neighboring villages as the only goal of her life, she spends all her time planning and executing the same. Her puja room is adorned by portraits of Mahatmas and to her, they are not mere portraits but the Mahatmas themselves.

On a particularly tiring day, she stood before the portrait of our Swamiji and spoke to him ” Swamiji! You have asked me to propagate Nama Kirtan in all the villages. It is so cumbersome to move from place to place. How I wish you would bless me with the means to do this divine work comfortably!”

Even as she was saying this before our Swamiji’s portrait, the doorbell rang and the most pleasant surprise awaited Smt Uma. A car was waiting at her door with a driver who said “My boss Mr. Kumaravel has sent his car for you to do Nama Prachar. “. To say that her joy knew no bounds would be grave injustice to the elation she felt then!

Originally published in Namadwaar.org

Nama Anubhavam

Starting this Month, we are going to share the Nama Anubhavam of our devotees.

Currently I am on vacation staying in Chennai.

Yesterday I happened to travel in a Bike carrying a cloth bag which had consolidated medical records of my mother - who is currently recuperating from Parkinsons. As the bag contained Lab reports & EEG photographs which were of abnormal size, I secured it in the helmet holder on the back of the bike and traversed from T.Nagar towards W.Mambalam through the busiest roads of Chennai during the evening peak hours.

As I reached the destination, I came to a shocking realization that the bag had been lost on the way. Just to reconfirm I texted my sister to check if I had left that bag at home by any chance. Received a negative response from her within a few mins as expected. Naturally, I felt extremely guilty for being precarious about handling such an important medical document (complete 3yrs history) which is essential for my mother's treatment. To search for the lost bag, I drove back in slow pace on the same way - carefully looking through those busy roads (at times the wrong way too:)). To my disappointment, the precious bag was found nowhere. After reaching home, I had to break this shocking news to my sister who went into a state of dismay. Both of us had to move to our routine chores at home and retired for the day.

This morning - the guilty thought of losing that bag woke me up. My sister was already working to find any archives/scanned copies of those reports and instructed me to goto hospital to see if they had retained the case history of my mother by any chance. By noon, I'd not handle it anymore and

stood in front of Sri Guru Padhukas with a short hand written prayer request and submitted my apologies for being so careless and profusely prayed that Nama can work wonders and let the Nama bring that bag back to us. After chanting 11 times with this specific prayer I moved away and went to visit my mother with a ray of faith that we shall get this bag back soon.

While sitting inside my mother's room, suddenly my sister stepped in. Guess what she was holding in her hands ?!!

(Un)surprisingly it was the same bag with all the medical records intact. Any idea about where she found it ? -- while driving past a street garbage bin on Habibullah Road - in a fraction of second she happened to glance a garbage picker lifting the medical file of my mother to be transferred to the garbage truck ! She was aweStruck !!!

Krruchhhhh - kicked the brakes, ran towards that Angle who was clearing the bin, begged to handover those medical records to her which also had in it - a copy of Madhuramurali (with Rajamannargudi Gopalan on the front cover and my mother happens to be a native of that town) & MadhuraGeetham book. Nama ever protects with its "G"race !

Kuppaiyil Vizhundha Oru Malar !

Skandaprasad Hariharan - Toronto, Canada.

Madhurageetham - Krishna Leelai - 12

ராகம்: ஹுசேனி

தாளம்: ஆதி

01. மந்தம் மந்தம் வந்திடுவான்

பால் வெண்ணைய் திருடித் தந்திடுவான்

கையும் களவுமாக அகப்பட்டால்

கண்ணைக் கசக்கி அழுதிடுவான்

02. அன்னையிடம் அழைத்துச் சென்றால்

அதட்டி உருட்டி மிரட்டிடுவான்

கன்றை அவிழ்த்து விட்டு விட்டு

கல கல கல வென சிரித்திடுவான்

03. மண்ணையுண்டு மகிழ்ந்திடுவான்

மாயாஜாலம் காட்டிடுவான்

அன்று மூவுலகமும் அளந்த

பரம்பொருள் நானே என்றிடுவான்

rAgam: husEni thALam: Adi

01. mandam mandam vandiDuvAn

pAl veNNey thiruDit thandiDuvAn

kaiyum kaLavumAga agappaTTAl

kaNNaik kasakki azhudiDuvAn

02. annaiyiDam azhaitthuc chenDrAl

adaTTi uruTTi miraTTiDuvAn

kanDrai avizhtthu viTTu viTTu

kala kala kala vena siritthiDuvAn

03. maNNaiyuNDu magizhndiDuvAn

mAyAjAlam kATTiDuvAn

anDru mUvulagamum aLanda

paramporuL nAnE enDriDuvAn

Jun 2022 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 Jun 2022.

Starting from May 2022, all the satsang families have embarked on a journey of Nithya Nama Biksha

Seva. The goal is to chant 10 million Namas. All members take turns and chant nama daily from 5.40 am to 2.10 pm and 4pm to 6 pm.

On 25th of June, we had a blissful evening chanting Mahamantra at the Brampton Guruvayurappan Temple. We chanted the Mahamantra from 4.30 pm to 6.00 pm.





Upcoming Events:

Jul 08 - Swathi

Jul 09 - Ekadasi

Jul 13 - Guru Poornima

Jul 24 - Ekadasi

"I Am Awed!" Hindu Youth A & A Series

Why do we use incense and other accessories for worship?

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.



Why do we use incense, bells, lamps, and other accessories while doing puja?

In our Sanatana Dharma, we use and offer many accessories like incense sticks while praying. While this may be a daily ritual for many of us, it is one of the many things we do without really knowing why we do it. However, there is a relatively simple reason why we use these fragrant sticks.

Scientifically it is proven that our senses' experiences affect our decisions in life. An example of this could be trying to take a test while smelling garbage. Our thought process while taking the test would obviously be disrupted due to the distracting stench of the garbage. Likewise, our other senses which include taste, hearing, touch, and sight can also affect even minute actions to a greater extent.

Most of us recognize incense sticks as having a powerful smell. This type of smell can be linked to spreading a feeling of divinity within us. When you smell the fragrant incense, you feel a sense of goodness inside of you. In fact, when we take a look at our pooja room we can see many individual factors there that can influence our mind and thought process. The ringing of bells brings us peace and spirituality. This is because they are the closest to the unstruck sound of "Om-kara" in our hearts which inspires divinity in us. When thinking about how the simple ringing of the bells can invoke such a feeling in us, it brings me to think how there are many other factors that shape our mind and attitude. The ghee lamps, which are said to have light closest to natural sunlight, and the holy basil we eat, also invoke divinity within us.

All of these were designed in order to create an environment that allows us to have the most positive and divine thoughts possible. These were not created randomly, but rather they were established in Hindu ritual due to common sense, in order to provide an ambience that can enable the mind to easily go toward divine thoughts.

Whether we realize or don't realize the amount of positivity obtained from these, they still are able to create a peaceful realm where we can forget our stresses and pains. That is why we use incense as well as various other materials while we worship.

Also watch Sri Ramuji answer this question on our “I Am Awed” short video series on our Namadwaar E-Satsang YouTube channel –

[Why Incense for Worship? | "I Am Awed!" Hindu Youth Q & A Series | Sri Ramuji](#)

Krishna Prasad Ram, 16yrs, Redding, California

Excerpts from Sri Ramanujamji’s “Little Questions and Lucid Answers” Q&A series.

QUIZ TIME : INDIA'S ICONIC WOMEN

Let's enjoy a quiz on the women saints of Pandharpur.



1. Janabai was a great devotee of Lord Panduranga. Who came to help her with the household chores?

- a. Her friend, Meera
- b. Her neighbor, Sharada Bai
- c. Lord Panduranga

2. Janabai was a foster daughter of _____.

- a. Sant Tukaram
- b. Sant Namadev
- c. Sant Jnaneshwar

3. One day Janabai was making cow dung cakes and chanting the names of Lord Vittala. The neighbor came to Janabai's house. The neighbor saw Jana's

cow dung cakes and told Jana it was her cakes. What did Janabai say to prove that the cow dung cakes belonged to her?

- a. She told her neighbor not to lie about the cow dung cakes.
- b. She told her that Lord Panduranga helped when she was making the cow dung cakes.
- c. She told her neighbor that since she chanted the divine names of Vittala, the cow dung cakes would chant 'Vittal' when she dropped them on the ground.

4. Muktabai was another great devotee of Lord Panduranga. Muktabai was _____ younger sister.

- a. Sant Jnaneshwar
- b. Sant Tukaram
- c. Sant Namadev

5. What happened on the day when everyone went to Gorakumbhar's house for a Satsang?

- a. Muktabai took a stick and placed it on everyone's head to see if they were baked or not akin to how a potter would test if the pots are baked or not.
- b. Gorakumbhar arranged for a grand feast and everyone ate sumptuously and fell asleep.
- c. The divine wedding between Lord Panduranga and Rakhumai took place

at Gorakumbhar's house and many thronged to witness the divine wedding.

6. Kanhopatra was another devotee of Lord Panduranga who was a dancer by profession. Name the king who invited her to perform in his court.

- a. King of Mithila
- b. King of Badar
- c. King of Rajasthan

7. Where did Kanhopatra request the guards to halt en route to the King's palace?

- a. River Yamuna
- b. Pandharpur to have the darshan of Lord Panduranga
- c. Mithila

8. What happened when Kanhopatra had the darshan of Lord Panduranga?

- a. She fainted and fell down
- b. Lord Panduranga spoke to her in a divine voice [ashariri]
- c. Her spirit rose from her body and merged with the lord

9. What happened in the place where Kanhopatra was buried?

- a. Sandalwood scent filled the air in and around the place where she was buried
- b. One can hear the chanting of the divine names of the lord

c. A tree sprouted in the place where Kanhopatra was buried.

10. Sakkubhai was another great devotee of Lord Panduranga. Name the birthplace of Bhakta Sakkubhai

a. Dehu Road

b. Sinchirunipuram

c. Paithan

11. Who were the parents of Bhakta Sakkubhai?

a. Ganghadar Rao and Kamala Bhai

b. Linganna Mantri and Kamamba

c. Jagannath Mishra and Sachi Devi

12. Komabai was an old woman who was an ardent devotee of Lord Panduranga. What was

her only wish in her life?

a. To visit all the holy kshetras

b. To visit all the temples in North India

c. To have the darshan of Lord Panduranga

13. Komabai was living on the other side of the Chandrabhaga river. She was very poor and did not have money to pay the boatman to help her get to the other side of Chandrabhaga river to have the darshan of Lord Panduranga. How was her wish fulfilled?

a. She earned the money needed to pay the boatman

b. Lord Panduranga himself came in the guise of a boatman to take her to the other

side of Chandrabhaga river

c. She bought a boat on her own to help her cross the Chandrabhaga river

Answers:

1-c,2-b,3-c,4-a,5-a,6-b,7-b,8-c,9-c,10-b,11-a, 12-c, 13-b

Compiled by Ramya Srinivasan, San Jose, CA

Illustration by Lalitha Venkatraman, Richmond VA

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SRI MADHURAGEETHAM QUELISH – A Vedantic and Rasa-Filled Prayer

We shall relish, little by little, the rasa in Sri Madhuraageethams,
compositions of HH Maharanyam Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji, in the form of
'questions to relish', which we call as a 'quelish', as shared by his disciple Sri
Ramanujamji.

(These quelishes are shared occasionally in a whatsapp group dedicated to
enjoying the rasa of Sri Madhuraageethams. To join this group, please reach
out to us at newsletter@godivinity.org)



Quelish: “Divinity Can change fate”. Where all in Sri Madhuraageethams can we find this “exact” reference? Clues to find the answer are given below

Clue 1: It is not a Tamil kirtan

Clue 2: It is not a Krishna kirtan

Clue 3: It is related to an incident in Atmadeva charitram from Srimad Bhagavatha Mahatmyam. Sri Swamiji specifically mentions this aspect of ‘fate’ in most of his lectures on Srimad Bhagavatham Mahatmyam. Also, the song is on Lord Shiva!

The Sri Madhuraageetham being referred here is the lovely kirtan on Lord Shiva, “Kunchitapadam bhajeham” written in Sanskrit.

In our scriptures, fate is usually referred to as the letters on our forehead. This reference is mentioned in Atmadeva charitram in Srimad Bhagavatham Mahatmyam. When Atmadeva goes to the forest and meets a Yogi, he prays to the Yogi to bless him with a child. At the time, the Yogi ‘reads the letters’ on the forehead of Atmadeva and learns what destiny has in store for him.

Padma Purana (Srimad Bhagavata Mahatmyam) says –
“tadbAlAksharamAlAm cha vAchayAmAsa yogavAn..” (Reading the letters on his forehead, the Yogi said....)

BAla means forehead and akshara means letters.

Similarly, in the Sri Madhuraageetham, Sri Swamiji refers to the letters on the forehead as “lalAta aksharam”. lalAta is forehead and akshara, as we saw earlier, means letters. Sri Swamiji sings that Lord Shiva erased the letters on the forehead of Markandeya, which is essentially, changing fate.

Here, Sri Swamiji has embellished the kirtan further by using the same word 'lalAta' to also refer to the incident where Lord Shiva burns Manmatha with his third eye. Sri Swamiji says, Lord Shiva burned Manmatha with the eye that is on the forehead (lalAta-forehead, aksham-eye).

This kirtanam while describing the beautiful dancing form of Lord Shiva, is filled with poetic beauty and embellishments. The lyrics and meaning are given below.

rAgam: sindhubhairavi thALam: Adi

kunjchithapAdam bhajEham – sadA

01. ranjitha manOhara Ananda nrityam

manjuLa bhAShiNi arddhAngam

02. bhasmOddhULitha mangaLa vighram

pathanjali vyAghrapAda amOgha darshanapradam

03. vyAghra charmAmbarAlankritham

vriShabhArUDham athisundaram

04. manmathadahana lalATAkSham

mArkaNDEya lalATAkShara nAshakam

05. gangAdhara jaTAdhara chandrashEkharam

kapAlamAlAdhara shmashAnavAsinam

06. mrityunjayam amrithaghaTEshvaram

bhrityamuralidhara sadA pUjitham

Meaning

I worship Lord Shiva (the one with the raised foot)

The One whose dance captivates the mind and fills one with Bliss

The One whose is the other half of Goddess Parvati

The One covered in ashes yet having an auspicious form

The One who bestowed a wondrous darshan on Pathanjali and Vyagrapada

The One who is covered with the skin of a tiger

The One riding a bull, and the most beautiful!

The One who burned Manmatha with the eye in His forehead

The One who destroyed the letters on the forehead of Markandeya
(changed fate)

The One who has Goddess Ganga, wears matted hair, and has the moon (on his head)

The One who wears the garland of skulls and resides in the cemetery

The One who has won over Death (Kala), and is Amritaghateshvara, the Lord of

The One who is always worshiped by servitor Muralidhara

Based on Sri Ramanujamji's insights into the Sri Madhuraageetham

Compiled by Sowmya Balasubramanian, Dublin, CA

Illustration by Ashmitha S Nattami, 10yrs, Richomd, VA

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