

GOD Canada newsletter – March 2021

Cherished Memories - The (In)Visible Arms

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

Shri Kalyanakrishnan (also known as KK in the satsang) narrates the following incident:

Our Swamiji often mentions in His lectures that whenever you perform ‘kainkarya’ for the Guru or God, the Lord always extends His arms and protects you from all kinds of problems. I have been witness to this invaluable truth, not once, but quite a few times in my life. Let me narrate a small incident from my life to illustrate this point.

It happened quite a few years ago. I was on a satsang related work to Kumbakonam. I traveled by bus from Chennai and reached Kumbakonam by noon. The moment I landed in Kumbakonam I felt very weak, and soon sensed that I had caught a high fever. By grace of God, I could get my satsang work to completion and I was to return to Chennai.

With that state of health, I was convinced that I could not take the bus back. So I decided that I will take the night train and hence headed for the railway station. I bought a ticket with the hope that I would get a sleeping berth once on the train. As soon as I entered the platform, I was in for a terrible shock. The platform was packed with people and there were already a lot of waitlisted passengers ahead of me. And to add to it, the train was delayed.

My fever and body pain did not subside a bit. I went and sat on a bench. An elderly gentleman was seated beside me. He looked at me and asked, 'Is the Chennai train late?'

Feverishly, I replied, 'Yes'. I did not stop there. The sickness in my body made me spell it out to him, 'I have fallen sick and I feel terribly ill. With this unreserved ticket and the train being delayed, I am not sure how I am going to reach Chennai.' Even today, I don't recollect why I told this to him on my own accord.

Instantly the person replied, 'Why don't you cancel this unreserved ticket of yours? I'll take you comfortably to Chennai.'

My face wore a puzzled look. I was wondering how this elderly person who was a total stranger to me until a couple of minutes ago could take me comfortably to Chennai, especially when the train was expected to be full!

The person went on, 'I am a freedom fighter, and one of the subsidies given to us is that during travel, as a freedom fighter, I can have one additional person accompany me at no cost. And today, you will accompany me!'

The train came and soon I saw myself along with this elderly figure inside the First Class AC coach of the Chennai bound rail!

God made me experience the definition of the word 'comfort', by having the elderly person offer me the lower berth while he himself took the upper, and in addition, gave me a woolen shawl to wrap myself around.

The next thing I knew was the train chugging along the tracks of the Chennai city, where the elderly person alighted from the train in an earlier stop, bidding me farewell, and best wishes for my quick recovery.

Indeed, God not only helps us in every moment of our distress when at the Guru's service, but also gives us the warmth and comfort required in those lean times.

There are instants when life is smooth, and there yet others, when it's not so smooth. I feel that God gives us difficulties in life only to increase our faith in Him and by delivering us from it, help us realize the fact that he has been with us all through.

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Fond Memories Of Bliss – Part 5

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

Long back, one night, we were asleep. Sri Swamiji was lying on the cot and I was sleeping on the floor beside Him. It was past midnight when suddenly Sri Sri Swamiji woke up and started walking across the hall. The sound of His footsteps awoke me. I sat up and watched as Sri Sri Swamiji paced up and down, with his hands holding his stomach. His very countenance said that He was in great pain.

Slowly I asked Him, ‘Swamiji! What happened? You seem to have a stomach-ache.’ Sri Swamiji replied in the affirmative. I was surprised by this, because He seemed quite alright a few hours back, and even as he called it a day. I told Him that I shall talk to our physician and rush out to get some pills.

Sri Swamiji stopped me and asked me to get back to sleep and not worry about it. I could not bear to see him writhing in pain. I thought of all possible reasons. “Swamiji, even your supper was light. What could be the cause of the pain?’, I asked, confounded.

I noticed a streak of smile on Sri Swamiji’s face even amidst such deep pain. He said, ‘You can’t understand this now. Time will answer you. Have a good night!’

Obedying the Master’s orders, I went back to sleep. I was not aware how long that night did He patiently bear the pain. The next day, he was fine and soon this incident totally got off my memory.

One day, a lady came to have the darshan of Sri Swamiji. As she prostrated to Sri Swamiji, she wept uncontrollably and expressed her thanks. With tears rolling down her eyes, she said, 'Swamiji! When I had my earlier darshan, I told you of the severe, unbearable stomach ache that I had. Then, You immediately took an apple in Your hands, kept it for some time, and gave it to me. I partook of that Prasad and to the wonder of the wonders, my hitherto incurable stomach ache disappeared into nowhere!'

As she narrated this moving incident, Sri Swamiji looked at me and gave a smile.

Just then, it flashed to this human mind of mine that this was the reason He had undergone that scathing pain the other night. In order to ratify my surmise, I checked it with Him again. Sri Swamiji simply nodded with a radiant smile!

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Madhurageetham - Bharata Pradakshina - 13

Guruvayur

As we continue to explore Sri Swamiji's compositions on various deities and Kshetras, let us travel to Guruvayur, Thrissur District, Kerala.

The presiding deity here is Lord Vishnu, who is worshipped in the form of Krishna. He is in his four-armed form carrying, The Conch - Paanchajanya, The Discus - Sudarshana Chakra, The Mace - Kaumodhaki and a Lotus. He wears a Thulsi Garland. This is the form in which HE appeared before his parents, Vasudeva and Devaki. This is the reason what he HE is worshipped in the babu form. This temple is also called as "The Dwaraka of South India".

ராகம்: கானடா தாளம்: ஆதி

பல்லவி:

அதோ வருகின்றான் அதோ வருகின்றான்

குருவாயூரப்பன் அதோ வருகின்றான்

சரணம்:

1. வேதவேத்யன் நானென்று ஓடி வருகின்றான்

ஜிதம் ஜிதம் என்றபடி ஓடி வருகின்றான்

பத பல்லவம் நோக ஓடி வருகின்றான்

2. மதயானை போல அவன் நடந்து வருகின்றான்

கதை எங்கே கதை எங்கே கேட்டு வருகின்றான்

கதகளி ஆட்டம் கண்டு மகிழ்ந்து நிற்கின்றான்

3. விதி ருத்ரன் சேவிக்க ஓடி வருகின்றான்
மதி ஒளி முகம் என ஓடி வருகின்றான்
கதி நான் உனக்கென்று ஓடி வருகின்றான்
4. சதா நாமம் கேட்க அவன் ஓடி வருகின்றான்
ராதாகாந்தன் நான் என்று ஓடி வருகின்றான்
ருதமே ரூபமானவன் ஓடி வருகின்றான்
5. அதி சுந்தர பாலனிவன் ஓடி வருகின்றான்
ரதிபதி மதுபதி ஓடி வருகின்றான்
நூதன நவநீதம் கேட்டு வருகின்றான்
6. குதித்து குதித்து ஆட்டம் போட்டு ஓடி வருகின்றான்
ஐதி சுத்தமாக அவன் ஆடி வருகின்றான்
ரதி முரளிக்கு என் மேல் என்று ஓடி வருகின்றான்

English Transliteration

Raga: Kanada Tala: Adi

Pallavi:

adho varuginDrAn! adho varuginDrAn!

guruvAyurappan adho varuginDrAn!

Charanam:

1. vedavedhyan nAnenDru oDi varuginDrAn

jitam jitam enDrapaDi oDi varuginDrAn

padha pallavam noga oDi varuginDrAn

2. madha yAnai pola avan naDanthu varuginDrAn

kadhai enge kadhai enge keTTuvaruginDrAn

kathakaLi Attam kaNDu magizhndhu niRkinDrAn

3. vidhi rudran sevikka avan oDi varuginDrAn

madhi oLi mugam ena oDi varuginDrAn

gathi nAn unakkenDru oDi varuginDrAn

4. sadhA nAmam keTka avan oDi varuginDrAn

rAdhAkAnthAn nAn endru oDi varuginDrAn

ruthame rUpamAnavan oDi varuginDrAn

5. atisundara bAlanivan oDi varuginDrAn

rathipathi madhupathi oDi varuginDrAn

nUthana navanItham keTTu varuginDrAn

6. kuthithu kuthithu ATTam poTTu oDi varuginDrAn

jathi sutthamAga avan Adi varuginDrAn

rathi muraLikku enmel enDru oDi varuginDrAn

A QUIZ ON INDIA'S WOMEN SAINT -

YASHODA MA

Sri Yashoda Ma was a great saint who founded the Mirtola Ashram along with her foremost disciple, Sri Krishna Prem.



1. What was Sri Yashoda Maa's birth name?

a. Monika Devi

b. Angela

c. Radha Devi

2. In which year was Sri Yashoda Maa born?

a. 1875

b. 1882

c. 1895

3. Name the birth town of Sri Yashoda Maa.

a. Ghazipur

b. Pune

c. Jaipur

4. Name the University for which Sri Yashoda Maa's husband Dr. Gyanendranath Chakravarti became the first Vice-Chancellor and also invited Sri Krishna Prem as a visiting professor.

a. Nalanda University

b. Bhopal University

c. Lucknow University

5. In which year did Monika Devi embrace the path of Sanyasa?

a. 1925

b. 1928

c. 1930

6. Name the devotee of Sri Yashoda Maa who met her at the Lucknow University who was then

known as 'Ronald Nixon'.

- a. Sri Govind Bhat
- b. Sri Madhavji
- c. Sri Krishna Prem

7. Name the ashram that was founded by both Sri Yashoda Maa and Sri Krishna Prem.

- a. Mirtola
- b. Siddhashram
- c. Sivananda

8. In which year did Sri Yashoda Maa shed her mortal coil.

- a. 1940
- b. 1942
- c. 1944

9. In which state in India is Mirtola Ashram located?

- a. Jharkhand
- b. Uttarakhand
- c. Chhattisgarh

10. Name the deities that are consecrated in the temple at Mirtola Ashram.

a. Shiva and Parvati

b. Rama and Sita

c. Radha and Krishna

11. Mirtola is also known as 'Brindaban of the North'. Which of the names refer to 'Brindaban of

the North'?

a. Uttar Brindaban

b. Dakshina Brindaban

c. Madhya Brindabam

Answers:

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

Compiled by Ramya Srinivasan, San Jose , CA

Illustration by Lalitha Venkatraman, Richmond VA

Toronto Monthly Sathsang Report for Feb 2021

With the Blessings of our beloved Guruji and Sri Madhuri Sakhi Sametha Premika Varadha Takurji, GODToronto Sathsang families continued to have weekly E-sathsangs in Feb 2021. We also had the following special e-sathsangs.

08 Feb - 22 Feb, 2021 - Akanda Nama from 5 am - 5 pm.

Edmonton Monthly Sathsang Report for Feb 2021

By the immense grace of Sri Swamiji and Sri Madhuri Sakhi Sametha Premika Varadha Takurji, GOD Sathsang families did Naama sathsangs in February 2021.

On February 06th, we had weekly sathsang started with naama followed by Premika varadha ashtakam, Vishnu sahasranamam, Pranaya Geetam, few madhuragitams and concluded with Kaliyayum bali kollum.

On February 13th, we had weekly sathsang started with naama followed by Radhika Panchakam, Vishnu sahasranamam, Venu Gitam, few madhuragitams and concluded with Kaliyayum bali kollum.

On February 20th, we had weekly sathsang started with naama followed by Vasudeva parathathva dashakam, Vishnu sahasranamam, Bheeshma stuthi, few madhuragitams and concluded with Kaliyayum bali kollum.

On February 27th, we had weekly sathsang started with naama followed by Srinivasa Karavalambham, Vishnu sahasranamam, Dhruva stuthi, few madhuragitams and concluded with Kaliyayum bali kollum.

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

Upcoming Events

3rd & 30th Mar - Swathi Akanda Nama

9th Mar - Ekadasi Akanda Nama

11th Mar - Mahashivarathri Akanda Nama

27th Mar - Chaitanya Mahaprabhu Jayanthi - Akanda Nama

28th Mar - Chaitanya Mahaprabhu Jayanthi - NA wide Akanda Nama