

GOD Canada Newsletter – November 2022

Cherished Memories - A Snip From Shankaranarayanan's Diary!

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

We snipped an interesting happening from our Bangalore Sri Sankaranarayanan's last week's diary. (of course, with his consent!)

Friday, May 4th 2007:

I didn't have the brightest of starts, today. As I wound up performing the Nithya Pooja at home, I was bogged down with a totally confused mind. It felt like a million problems were eating up my brain, just like termites devouring a tree. I had a work related issue that was stressing me out; my son's university application results were awaited; the Bangalore patasala and temple construction, it's rising expenses and diminishing support... 'Oh God! Why do I feel so miserable', I thought.

About the Patasala and temple, I was worried as if I were constructing my own house! A friend of mine earlier tried his best to pacify me. He quoted Sri Guruji saying that one must construct a temple with as much dedication as would one, when building his/her own house.

No. I am still perturbed.

Additionally its been quite a while since I had a word with Sri Guruji as He has been quite busy, traveling relentlessly for the spread of Maha Mantra. I sincerely prayed that all my concerns be put to rest and for an opportunity, to speak with our Guruji – something I've been longing for.

Later in the day, I headed to the construction site to visit our beloved 'Sundara Hanuman', whose idol is currently placed in a water-tub as part of an idol-stone treatment process (as ordained by Sri Guruji, of course!) and covered by a tarpaulin sheet. [Read the post about this Anjaneya here]

I uncovered the tub to see the beautiful face of the idol. Indeed he is Athi-Sundara [the most beautiful] Hanuman, matching in word and spirit the Name that our Sri Guruji gave Him! I was with Krishnadas, another devotee of Sri Guruji's and in-charge of the construction site. I was telling him 'How I wish Sri Guruji was here today, Sri Hanuman is looking very beautiful!' and Krishnadas was equally longed for just the same.

Just then and there, I heard my mobile ring (no prizes for guessing who it is!). Yes, with sheer amazement and joy, I stood there speaking with the person whom I longed to speak to! With tears in my eyes and I heard him say 'Shankara, what is Sundara Anjaneya saying?'

I updated Guruji on the construction details and my son's university application among other things. He told me that he will notify me about an auspicious day for the installation of Sundara Hanuman's idol in the temple that is being currently constructed.

In reponse to my concerns, he said to me 'Anjaneya has arrived, do not worry, tell him everything!' and I instantly replied, 'Guruji, just an instant

ago was I praying at Sundara Hanuman's feet, and longed for your presence that very moment!'

Now I feel so light!

The axiom stands corroborated again. "His Holiness is deeply rooted into all our hearts. With firm faith in the Lord and with incessant chanting of the Nama, the Almighty is ahead of us, beside us, certainly behind us in all our endeavours".

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

One evening a few Bhagavatas visited Mathurapuri Ashram. On that particular day, Sri Sri Swamiji was not keeping well and was very tired and exhausted owing to the fever and hectic schedule.

Upon seeing the Bhagavatas, the whole picture changed in a split second. Sri Sri Swamiji performed a wonderful Divya Nama Kirtan with the Bhagavatas and danced in ecstasy. It was absolutely unbelievable considering the state in which Sri Sri Swamiji was a few hours ago. Soon after the bhajan, Sri Swamiji slumped back to rest as He felt very weak.

When asked as to why Sri Sri Swamiji performed bhajan especially when He was so unwell, Sri Swamiji replied smilingly " Upon seeing the Bhagavatas, our Premika Varadan became very excited and was very eager to see Divyanama Kirtan. I did not want to disappoint Him and that is why I performed Kirtan!"

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Madhurageetham - Krishna Leelai-16

O Mind, Fly to Brindavan



For the last two months, we have been relishing Sri Swamiji's songs on the grandeur, beauty, and sanctity of Brindavan – a land devoid of animosity, greed, and jealousy.

Our Vedas (Yajur and Rig Vedas) expound the greatness of this soil, saying Brindavan, in this manifested universe is a shadow (chAya) of Golokam (Krishna's Dham) and is beyond the realm of the earthly plane.

Padma Puranam further goes on to describe Vraja bhoomi as a Kamala Kosam; like a lotus flower, elevated a few inches from the earthly plane – blooming and expanding in size with the rise of the sun and slowly closing itself and shrinking in by the dusk.

Blessed is this soil ever swept under the holy feet of the Gopis, who are the quintessence of selfless love for Sri Krishna. "iha svArtho na vidyathe" (not an iota of selfishness), says, Sri Shukar in Srimad Bhagavatam when describing the prema of the Gopis.

"Every stone, every creeper, every blade of grass is a bhakta in Brindavan", says Swami Prabhodananda Saraswati who is a disciple of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. His work called, "Brindavana MahimAmrutham", consists of 10,000 slokas that exudes His love for the Vraj bhoomi.

No wonder Bhagavatas aptly sing, "Kagha mruga tharu sab dhanya dhanya

ho; vraja rAja yamuna, puLina dhanya ho” – every plant, tree, a climber in Brindavana is blessed and so are the pure waters of the Yamuna river!

Adi Shankara BhagavatpAda, the great proponent of the Advaita philosophy, had the heart of a Gopi. One would stand dumbfounded to observe the profound depth of his works laden with such bhava bhakti. He had the vision of Srimati Radha Devi and Bhagavan Sri Krishna on the banks of river Yamuna in Brindavan. In His YamunAshtakam, he sings the fortune of Yamuna Devi who carries the champaka flowers of Radha Devi and the chandan of Bhagavan Sri Krishna. Sri Shankara completes every verse of His octet imploring Yamuna Devi to clean the malice of the mind.

Many great bhaktas have sung numerous songs on this wondrous land. For them, Brindavana is not external to themselves; they behold the eternal play of Radha Rani and Bhagawan Krishna verily in the depths of their hearts. The ineffable divine ecstasy emanating from Their plays is cast as a reflection on their outpourings that come as enchanting divine songs. Sri Swamiji, in one of His songs, sings as to how He blissfully celebrates the Divine Couple in the cradle of His heart-

“.....rAdhaiyuDan kaNNan kOlAhamAga

manam enum oonjalil mAdhavan dhinam dhinam AdugindrAn”(Radha Devi along with Lord Sri Krishna happily swings in the cradle of heart.)

Similarly, Sri Oothukadu Venkata Kavi, an ardent devotee of KALinganardhana Krishna sings,

“...ange inge endru alaiyadhe maname

Azndhu pAr Un uLLe brindavaname...”

(Oh mind, don’t roam hither and thither, dive deeply inward and realize Brindavana within)

Our Swamiji too, in one of his Madhuraageethams calls each of us to journey our mind and experience the profound joy of this sacred earth leaving behind

the material world. In this song, Sri Swamiji very beautifully compares the mind to that of a swan (annam/hamsapakshi) which, in spirituality, is considered as an emblem of wisdom and enlightenment.

Let us too take ourselves to this sacred land where the footprints and fragrance of the Divine Couple still linger.

Manasa Anname

rAgam: hindOLam, tALam: Adi

Pallavi

mAnasa annamE brindAvanam senDriDuvAy

kAnal nlr prapanjchatthai maRandiDuvAy

Charanam

kAmam, kOpam, pOTTi, poRAmai

akankAram illAdadu

nirmala yamunaiyil nlrADiDuvAy

karma vinaigalLai muDitthiDuvAy

rAdhE rAdhE enDru kUviDum kuyilinam

rAdhAkriShNa yugaLam kaNDu ADiDum mayilinam

maram, cheDi, koDigaLellAm chinmayamAnadu

maNNO brahma svarUpamAnadu

nnirmala gOpi maNDalam kaNDiDuvAy

nirmala nirathishaya prEmaiyil thiLaitthiDuvAy

Meaning

Pallavi

Oh Swan of mind, fly to Brindavan

Forget this world which is just a mirage

Charanam

Devoid of desire, anger, rivalry, jealousy

and, Clashes of ego

Have a dip in the taintless Yamuna river, and

Let your karma be annihilated

The cuckoos which sing "Radhe Radhe" and,

The peacocks that dance seeing the Divine Couple, Radha and Krishna

The trees, plants and climbers are full of life and

The soil is verily Brahmam

Find there the abode of the taintless Gopis and

Revel in the Supreme and blissful Prema

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Illustration by Lalitha Raman Richmond, VA

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Oct 2022 Edmonton Monthly Sathsang Report:

By the immense grace of Sri Swamiji and Sri Madhuri Sakhi Sametha Premika Varadha Takurji, GOD Sathsang families did Naama satsangs and celebrated Sri Guruji Jayanthi in October 2022.

On **October 15th**, we had weekly sathsang - started with naama followed by Premika Varadha dashakam, Vishnu sahasranamam, Gajendra Sthuthi, few Madhuragithams and concluded with Kaliyayum bali kollum.

On **October 25th**, we celebrated Sri Guruji Jayanthi by singing Madhuragithams and Guru Kirtans. GOD families joined this in-person sathsang and took part in the celebrations.

On **October 29th**, we had weekly sathsang - started with naama followed by Radhika Panchakam, Vishnu sahasranamam, Bheeshma Sthuthi, few Madhuragithams and concluded with Kaliyayum bali kollum.

We are continuing Akhanda Naama satsang by chanting Mahamantra for 8hrs daily (Morning 4hrs & Eve 4hrs). The GOD family members have taken slots and participated in this sathsang by offering our prayers to Gurunathar & Radha Krishna.

Oct 2022 Toronto Monthly Satsang Report:

Oct 2 - Navarathri Srimath Ramayana Navaha Parayanam. Satsang families participated in Navaha parayanam via Zoom Teleconference from 23/Sep - 1/Oct. Satsang culminated with Sri Rama Pattabishegam at Smt. Sujatha Sri Karthik's residence, AJAX followed by singing of Madhurageethams on Lord Sri Rama and Seetha Matha.

Oct 8- Satsang at Smt.Anusha Sri Balakrishnan's residence, Whitby

Oct 15 - Guruvayurappan Temple Satsang with Nama Chanting and Madhuraageetham rendition.

Oct 16 - 22 - Sampurna Madhuraageetha Sangeetha Mahayagyam
Toronto GOD satsang members enthusiastically participated in singing of 750+ Madhuraageethams to celebrate Sri Swamiji's Thirunakshatram "Ippasi Swathi" via Zoom Teleconference. On the culmination day, 40+ devotees gathered at Smt.Sandya Sri.Skandha Prasad's residence to celebrate Sri Swamiji's Jayanti/Deepavali. Kirtans composed (by devotees) in praise of Sri Swamiji were sung followed by lightning of Fire Crackers.

Oct 29 - Satsang at Smt.Ganga Sri Ganesh residence, East Gwillimbury

Oct 30 - Nama Biksha Satsang at Mount Brydges

Sri Akshay Krishna Karthikeyan continues with his Pravachan series on Thirumaalai during the weekend satsangs.

Upcoming Events:

Sri Swamiji Jayanthi Celebrations via Zoom:

- Oct 30 - Nov 05 - Srimad Bhagavatha Saptaham
- Nov 08 - Raasa Poornima

Madhura Utsav (in-Person)

- Dec 23 - Dec 31

Dates to remember:

Nov 04 - Ekadasi

Nov 19 - Ekadasi - Brampton Guruvayur Temple Satsang.

Nov 22 - Swathi

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QUIZ TIME :

In this quiz, on the occasion of Sri Swamiji's jayanthi 2022, let us reminisce the glory of our Guru Maharaj through the nectarine verses of Guru kirtans composed by Sri Swamiji's disciples.



1. According to the kirtan "Guruji enDra sollai kettAl...", name the weapon carried by Sri Swamiji that makes one surrender unto his Holy Feet.

A. Flute (Murali)

B. Love (Prema)

C. Lotus (Thamarai)

2. Name the kirtan where the first verse refers to 'One who wins all the worlds and grants the desired boons'.

A. mOhanarUpanE muralidharanE

B. gururAja varya sulabha

C. paTTAna pAdham shrlgurunAtham pAdham

3. Name the kirtan where one of the verses has this meaning -'O! The jewel among men! Grant me the service to Your Holy Feet!'.

A. onDre dEivam

B. mangLAlayAya mama gurudevAya

C. gururAja varya sulabha

4. This Guru Mahima kirtan _____ was composed by a devotee where the first word in this kirtan was given by Sri Swamiji himself.

A. mangaLAlayAya mama gurudevAya

B. muraLidhara ennum nAmam

C. nAthA nAthA gurunAthA

5. What is an apt interpretation of the term 'mangaLAlayam' in the song mangaLAlayAya mama gurudevAya?

A. That Sri Swamiji is a temple of all positive, glorious, auspicious virtues that have taken refuge in him

B. That Sri Swamiji lives in an auspicious abode

C. The house where Sri Swamiji was born

6. A kirtan composed by a devotee concludes with a prayer to Sri Swamiji to hold them and keep them from falling, whenever their steps slip.

A. *santatam aham praNamAmi*

B. *hum girE hain jitnE bAr*

C. *praNamAmyaham shrImuraLIdharam*

7. Name the sloka on Sri Swamiji composed by a devotee, that has the following meaning – ‘Meditate on the beautiful form of Sadguru Muralidharam, the One who destroys ignorance and whose darshan always pleases the devotees’.

A. *prEmAmritham yO muraLIninAdai:*

B. *yasya smaraNamAtrENa jihvAyAm vardhate svayam*

C. *kalaye sundarAkAram*

8. Name the kirtan in which the concluding verse glorifies Mahamantra reverberating in all the seven worlds and the devotee fondly refers to Sri Swamiji as ‘Muralidhara Maharaja’.

A. *aruLkaDal alaigaLiE*

B. *jayamuNDu bayam illai*

C. *akaNDa nAmam dinamum*

9. Name the kirtan that contains this verse – ‘muraLIdharA unnai muppOdhum ninaitthirukka’

A. *jayamuNDu*

B. *ODamonDru selludhu*

C. aruLkaDal alaigaLile

10. One is blessed with the Sadguru's Lotus Feet/Divine Padukas as a result of merit accrued through numerous past births. Which of these kirtans by a devotee on Sri Swamiji has a line that states this?

A. vAzhi muraLldharan

B. anbai aruLvAy

C. paTTAna pAdham

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Answers:

1-B, 2-B, 3-C, 4-A, 5-A, 6-B, 7-C, 8-B, 9-C, 10-C

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