

Sri Hari:

MadhuraMurali

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Spiritual Monthly with the Blessing of
HH Maharanyam Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji



Madhuramana Mahaneeyar

It was on a Deepavali day, Nandagopan had made arrangements to do Indra Pooja. But, Bhagawan turned that into the Pooja for Govardhan Mountain. Enraged by this, Indra decided to pour excess rain and tried to destroy Gokulam. Bhagawan Himself, lifted the Govardhan Mountain and protected Gokulam for 7 days. Since, Sri Swamiji had stayed in Premika Bhavanam, there was a daily parayanam of 4 chapters of Srimad Bhagwatham, which describes Bhagawan lifting the Govardhan Hill. Kirtans describing that leela of Bhagawan were also sung every day. Lots of flowers were showered on Bhagawan every day, along with Govinda Naamam.

On November 3rd, different varieties of rice and savories had been made and Annakoota Utsavam was celebrated at Premika Bhavanam. After that, Sri Swamiji delivered a lecture on Govardhan leela. He described how this leela of Bhagawan can looked from different perspectives.

Since Bhagawan was only 7 years old, when He performed this leela, we can understand the valor of Bhagawan from this. We can understand how Bhagawan suppressed the ego of Indra and blessed him. Since, Bhagawan Himself calls the gopas and gopis as his own, Bhagawan says the gopas and gopis have only Him as

their Master, we can understand that the gopas and gopis had a great unique bhakti towards Kirshna and they did not think about any one else even in their dreams. Why did Bhagawan lifted the mountain to save them? Because, they listened to what Bhagawan sais as it is. That was the main reason.

Every one will have their own opinion in every matter. They will not change their opinion for anything. They won't compromise because of their ego, interest in getting fame, desire etc.; they won't be able to.

We have to pay attention to this, Nandagopan is saying, "This pooja for Indra has been going on for so many generations and it has come as a tradition in our lineage. If we stop this, it will not be auspicious." Even though, the Indra Pooja had so much of sentimental values, they stopped it immediately, because Bhagawan asked them to stop. Since, they obeyed to what Bhagawan had said, Bhagawan decided to protect them. This shows that, if something goes wrong, because of listening to Bhagawan's words, Bhagawan takes the responsibility to protect us even from that.

Sri Swamiji reached Naangur on November 4th. It was Gopashtami the next day. Thirumanjanam, flowers and special prasadhams were offered to KavalampAdi Gopalan.

On Nov 13th, Sri Swamiji reached Naangur Veda patashala. Sri Swamiji had loving conversation with students of patashala. Then, Sri Swamiji visited the new Periya Vachan Pillai tirumaligai and gave further instructions to the care taker and then reached Senganoor. Since, Nov 14th was Rohini nakshatram, Sri Sri Anna's padukai purappadu was done. Sri Swamiji went with the devotees to Namadwaar there, did Govinda Pattabhishekam upanyasam and gave theertha prasadham to every one. In the evening, Sri Swamiji took part in the Golden chariot utsavam that happens on every Rohini nakshatram day. Then Sri Swamiji left for Pandrutti and stayed in one the devotee's home that night.

Sri Swamiji took part in the wedding of our patashala's Jagadish and Venkatraman's brother's family in Neiveli. Then, Sri Swamiji reached Udumalaipet Namadwaar to take part in "Radha Kalyanam" that had been arranged on Nov 16th. In the morning, bhagawathas started Ashtapathi bhajanai. That evening, Sri Swamiji did upanyasam on Dhruva charithram. Later, Sri Swamiji participated in Divya Naamam that night. Since, Nov 17th was Punarvasu nakshatram as well as beginning of tamil month, Sri Swamiji went to Gangeyam early in the morning, performed abhishekam for Anjaneyar in Gangeyam and then reached back Udumalaipet. Radha Kalyanam was celebrated with great festivity. More than thousand people took part in these celebrations. Smt. Pramila Chandrasekaran, Sri. Suresh, Smt Anita Suresh and other bhaktas had made all the wonderful arrangements. Sri Swamiji gave manthra akshadhais as prasadam to every one and annadhanam was also given. That evening, Sri Swamiji went to Coimbatore and took part in the satsang at "Parsn Sesh Nestle Campus", and did upanyasam on Naama



and Satsang Mahima. Around 300 bhaktas participated in this satsang. Sri Swamiji stayed in Kovaipudhur that night and reached back Chennai next day morning. On Nov 23rd, being Ekadasi, Sri

Swamiji took part in Radha satsang, that had been arranged by Kovur bhaktas and did upanyasam on Prahladha charithram. Divya Namasankeertanam also took place on the same day. Radha Kalyanam was performed the next day. Sri.Shanmukam and Sri.Mohan had done all the arrangements. More than 1000 bhaktas took part in these satsangs.

- **Gadadharan**

Answers and Beyond

What is the importance of listening to stories of god?

One needs a teacher to impart worldly knowledge. Similarly, one needs to listen to stories of god from sadhus to attain the knowledge of god.

What nurtures bhakthi – intelligence or willpower?

Intelligence helps one understand what bhakti and dispassion are. But willpower makes one follow the path and advance in it.



Good land is the basic essential for growing crops. Only on fertile land do lush crops grow. Crops do not grow well on waste land. Satsang is verily the fertile land for the growth of the crop Bhakti. It is verily proximity to Sadhus that is the fertile land for the lush growth of Bhakti crop. Should not one dig deep pit in that land for sowing the seed? That (deep pit) is verily our mind.

The mind should be deepened through scriptural education and queries. Choosing to sow the seed in good monsoon season helps. Well! Guru's compassionate glance falling on us is verily that good monsoon season! We should not miss that good season; God's Name (Naama) that the Guru initiates us into is verily the good seed.

Let's grow Bhakti crop!

- Sri Swamiji



Once the seed has been sown manure has to be used! Listening to stories of God and Sadhus are verily the manure that we use for this. The seed we had sown would begin to sprout. It is but natural that as the seed begins to sprout weeds of ego, pride, attention seeking, etc. also begin to sprout around it! Cautiously we should weed them all away. Otherwise, the weeds would grow big and block the growth of the Bhakti crop. We have to take precaution until the Bhakti crop has grown well and strong. It will then bear flower. That flower is verily the sadhana one has done day and night.

The flower then turns into unripe fruit. That is verily the state whence the Bhakta, with full dispassion, awaits the darshan of God. Finally, it turns into tasty fruit. That is verily Prema Bhakti combined with absolute Jnana.

Then, the fruit falls down from the plant on its own. That is verily the state of videha mukti the jiva attains.

Ara amude!

Abhirami jewellery is a jewellery shop in Chennai. There is a lovely picture of Kumbakonam Sri Aravamudhan in this shop.

For the past two decades Sri Swamiji has been visiting this shop on and off for purchasing ornaments for Perumal. Whilst visiting the shop Sri Swamiji enjoyed this Aravamudhan picture. Sri Swamiji never felt satiated looking at the ever attractive Amudhan! When anyone from the Satsang went to this shop for purchase of jewellery for the Lord, Sri Swamiji would also go along! Any visitor from Kumbakonam and any student from Kumbakonam Agama Patasala would at once be directed by Sri Swamiji to visit this shop to have look at this lovely picture! Some years back the ornaments of Lord Aramudhan was stolen. New ornaments were made for the Lord. As the picture in the jewellery is very old those who are aware say that they are the old ornaments.



Sri Swamiji has a natural attraction to Kumbakonam Amudhan. When a little free Sri Swamiji would visit Kumbakonam and stand hours together in Aravamudhan sannidhi. Sri Swamiji always feels excited to visit Kumbakonam as it means having darshan of Aravamudhan! Sri Swamiji also has some dhyana experiences in the matter of Lord Aravamudhan; every Kumbakonam visit of

Sri Swamiji has Aaravamudhan darshan, bath in Cauvery, dhyana on the backside of Sri Vijayendrateertha Mutt which is on the banks of the Cauvery.

This being so, last month after Deepavali, Sri Swamiji celebrated seven days of Gopashtami utsav with daily Govinda pattabhishekam, Bhagavata parayanam and showering flowers on Lord Rasikasekhara (Lord Krishna). During one of these days the owner of Abhirami jewellery came to Sri Swamiji carrying a bigger picture of his shop's Lord Aaravamudhan!

**'kunreduttha thOLinAnai virithiraineer
viNNagaram maruvi nALum ninrAnai
thaNkudanthaik kidandamAlai nediyanai
adinAyEn ninaindhittEnE'**

sings Aazhwaar enjoying Aravamudhan as verily Govardana Giridhaari! And that Aravamudhan came to Sri Swamiji during Gopashtami Utsav! The joy that our Sri Swamiji experienced is inexplicable! Sri Swamiji hugged Aravamudha who came here voluntarily! Shed tears and was in bliss singing Sadguru Sri Sri Anna's kirtan "KomaLavallesha Guru karuNaam".

Remembering the kirtan "Sri Rangaraja – Sarangaraja" of Ammalu ammal who hailed from Kumbakonam, Sri Swamiji asked Gadadhar to bring Lord Sri Ranganatha's picture. This kirtan of Ammalu ammal sings a line on Lord Sri Ranganatha and the next on Sri Aravamudhan, alternately. As Bhaktas held both the divine pictures, Sri Swamiji showered flowers on Sri Rangantha when the line on Him was sung and when the line on Sri Aravamudhan was sung Sri Swamiji showered flowers on Him, flooding Premika bhavanam in divine love (Prema). Our Sri Swamiji celebrated the coming of our Aravamudhan in this manner.



Inter Faith Harmony Meet



On 22.11.2019 evening, at Pallavaram, the Pallavaram area, Mahallah jamaa adh association & on behalf of the youth group of Islam community, the Samaya nallinakam public gathering was conducted. That program was attended by Sri Swamiji who gave the following speech.

This is a very good time. In this good time, an interfaith harmony public gathering is being held. To understand/realise the presence of God, it is not necessary for us to search the book in which this matter is written about. Just by seeing the universe itself, we can truly understand the existence of God.

Look at the sky & see how many stars, how many planets are there. In space, without any support, they are all moving in the same orbit. The sun, the moon, the earth - they have all been moving in the same orbit for several years. If the earth were to move an inch from its orbit, we will get frozen or get burnt. However, it is not changing its position at all.

15 years ago, there was the tsunami. We talk about the destruction caused by it even today. How long did the tsunami last? Just one or two minutes. We keep talking about the tsunami that lasted one or two minutes. Let's think about this a little differently. How did the sea not breach its barriers for such a long time? Even now it is staying the same. We can go on talking like this.

So, since there is an order in everything in this universe, it is true that not only has God created them but is also monitoring and conducting everything in this universe. This is witnessed by all (nidarshanam). That God is one. There cannot be multiple Gods. If it is so, one God's creation will be attempted to be changed or destroyed by another God.

In India, there are 140 crores of people. Each person's walking or the way they talk are different. Culture, language, creed, place of stay is different to one another. Everyone cannot be made into speaking one language or under one culture. If we do so, it will not be something that can be admired.

We cannot bring uniformity in everyone. But, we can bring about unity. How is that possible? The world which has been created by God has been created in these many ways. Hence, the path to attain him will not be kept as one. Ramakrishna Parmahamsar would say, how many people there are, there are so many paths. In the world which has so many differences how to bring unity?

One & only way is to remember that we are all the children of the same God. This is enough. That will, make us understand and first respect a human as a human.

**“ulaga sugatthai thuccham endriruppAi
unmai sugatthil nAttamAi iruppAi”**

The world is transient and the worldly pleasures are also transient. If one says, “Let it be transient, but whatever joy obtained is still a gain”, then it must be understood that there is a big danger in worldly pleasures. Every time we pander to a worldly pleasure it leaves its seed in the memory which causes a chain of future births. Even in this birth, the pleasures are always followed by the shadow of sorrow. A pleasure which is indulged in makes one crave for more and more of the same.

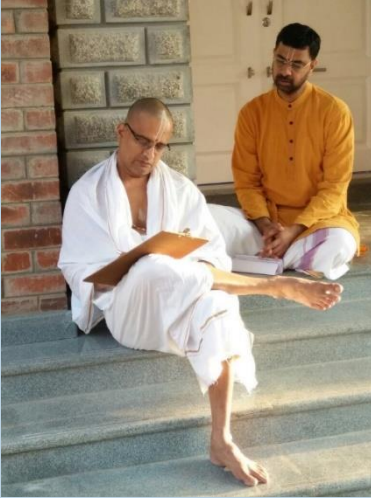
STAIRWAY TO DEVOTION

- M.K. Ramanujam



Even at the time of enjoying the pleasure, the fear that it may slip away haunts the mind like a shadow. Any worldly object which gives happiness would either move away from us or we would have to go away from it. Hence in the end only the fear of loss of this pleasure would remain, isn't it? Can anything which is transient be a truth? Truth is only that which stays permanently. How can a worldly pleasure which though being transient causes fear and craving, be a truth? To clarify this, Sri Swamiji sings, "ulaga sugam thuccham". This word 'thuccham' in Vedanta parlance means complete 'falsehood'. Only when we are convinced that the worldly pleasure is false, we'll stop chasing it, isn't it? Hence our Sadguru has sung, "ulaga sugathai thuccham endiruppuAi".

The Tamil meaning for the Sanskrit word 'loka' (meaning the 'world') is 'paar'. Bharathiar also sings, "PARukkuLLE nalla nAdu". The word 'paar' which also means 'see' is known as 'paar' since the world is seen. There is no real happiness in the inert world. The real happiness lies within us, that which sees this world.



Real happiness lies only in 'That', which is inner to the body, breath, mind, intellect and sleep. We call 'That' as God isn't it? Only that Truth is bliss which is also known as 'Kadavul', 'Bhagavan', 'Brahmam' etc. Only 'That' is blissful and should be sought after. Our focus should only be on that 'Real bliss'. An odour emits from the 'Kasthuri' type of deer. Without knowing that the odour is emitted from its own body, the deer runs hither and thither to this tree and

that bush looking for that odour. Seeking real bliss is akin to that. One should realise that this real bliss lies only with Lord Krishna and should seek Him with devotion. If one refrains from running after this false appearance of worldly pleasure which is like a mirage or the horn of a hare, one can progress in the path towards devotion and attain 'premabhakti'. What are the distinguishing marks of this premabhakti?

To be continued..

Steadfast Faith

Mountain Climbing is Raghav's passion. Raghav and his friend Guha often set out in search of mountains for climbing. For safety, they always tie a strong rope around the waist during the climb and carry ice axes for anchoring on the snowy slopes. One day, the two of them attempted an ascent in an extremely cold weather when the snow was gently showering throughout the day. Raghav was well equipped with the knowledge of mountain climbing from several texts. And, he kept himself well connected with various experts in this field. However, his interest and expertise sprouted because of his father Major Vasudev!

Major Vasudev retired from the Indian army after serving for 30 years. He ensured to keep a watch on his son during his ascents through phone. This way, he continued guiding his son appropriately with wise advice. The mountain they have chosen this time was quite dangerous and it was their first attempt here!

Major Vasudev had climbed this mountain several times. He looked at Raghav and Guha and said, "This mountain is not like other snowy mountains. Follow the advices I give over the phone without any rebuttal. Raghav! You have faith in my words, don't you?"

Raghav was perplexed and said "Surely dad!" and left right away. Snow mountains! Snow Showers! and the howling winds! The ascent was quite challenging.

Unfortunately, true to their fears, danger hit them hard. Avalanche! A huge ball of snow threw them off aside.

A TALE FOR CHILDREN

Pitch darkness! Howling winds! But there was a solace, yes! The phone signal, although weak, was still available. He could hear his father's feeble voice intermittently. "Dad! Mayday! We are hanging somewhere, can't see anything, What to do?"

The father was taken aback. "Trust me Raghav! Cut the rope!"

"What? What?" Before Raghav could speak any further, the phone went blank. "Guha! Father asked me to cut the rope! It will take at least 12 hours for the rescue team to reach here. What shall we do?"

'Raghav! I totally believe you. Do what feels right for you" These shivering cries of Guha, that were louder than the sounds of the strong winds, hit Raghav's ears.

He grabbed the tiny knife from his bag. He took it closely to the rope. "Father asked me to cut the rope! What shall I do?" He was not even able to hear his father's words fully. His hands were shivering. "Will we survive if we fall?"

Ten days later...

"Caught in severe snow, two mountaineers lost their lives. It is a pity that the two of them, tied to the ropes, could not survive, although they were just two feet off the ground."

Apparently, the news would have been like this, isn't it?

"Faith in my father's words is the sole reason that I am alive today" said Raghav lying on the hospital bed, with tears brimming in his eyes as he looked at his father, seated beside him. The tears expressed the feeling of Gratitude shining in his eyes.

The delight on seeing his son's strong faith in his words reflected in one corner of the father's eyes.

SANSKRIT WORD OF THE MONTH

- Sri Vishnupriya

The word 'Chakra(चक्र)' instantly reminds us of Bhagavan's Chakra, that is Sudarshana Chakra. That is why Bhagavan is called by the names "Chakree", Chakrapaani" and so on.

Chakra is also well-known as wheel. Since wheel is a part(anga) of a chariot, chakra is known as 'Rathanga' and hence Bhagavan is known by the name Rathangapaani:

Other than this, many other words are derived from the word 'Chakra'.

'Chakravyuham' means the formation in the war that resembles a wheel.

'Chakravarthi' is a word known to all. A great king is referred to as Chakravarthi. The king, whose chariot's wheels are capable of going all places and whose kingdom is spread everywhere, is known as Chakravarthi. King Dasaratha is popular as Dasaratha Chakravarthi. He is known as Dasaratha because his chariot could go in all ten directions. Ramachandra is known as 'Chakravarthi Thirumagan'.

‘चक्र’
chakra

Next, in astrology, there is a yoga called 'Chakrayogam'. The person with this yoga gets an opportunity to be in power. Also it grants the ability for a person to work independently.

In yoga, 'Chakra' refers to the spiritual energy points in our body. There are 7 such chakras in our body. They are Mooladhara, Swadishtana, Manipura, Anahata, Vishuddhi, Agnya and Sahasrara. Starting from the bottom most part of the spine, they are aligned sequentially along the spine. The last chakra Sahasrara is located on top of the head. One is said to have attained the yogic state in its entirety when each chakra is awakened and finally the sahasrara chakra is opened.

In Sastras, there is a form of Upasana for worshipping Goddess using an yantra called Srichakra. The famous kirtan "Srichakraraja Simhasaneshwari" is on that Goddess.

There is a bird called 'Chakravaha'. It belongs to the family of hamsa. In the nights, being away from their pair, they cry pitifully calling out to each other. In Sundara Kanda, Hanuman grieves on seeing the plight of Sita which is similar to that of Chakravaha bird that is deeply distressed on being separated from its pair. Likewise, in Srimad Bhagavatam, there is a geetam called Mahishi Geetam. The 16,108 wives of Sri Krishna sing this as they experience Viraha on being away from Sri Krishna. In that, they look at the Chakravaha bird and say,

नेत्रे निमीलयसि नक्तमदृष्टबन्धुस्त्वं
रोरवीषि करुणं बत चक्रवाकि ।

"Hey Chakravahi! Not finding your partner, you cry out pitifully in the nights! Your suffering is similar to ours as we too are away from Krishna.

There is a raga called 'Charavaham' in Carnatic music. It is the 16th Melakartha Raga. Gajananayutham is a popular kriti composed in this Raga.

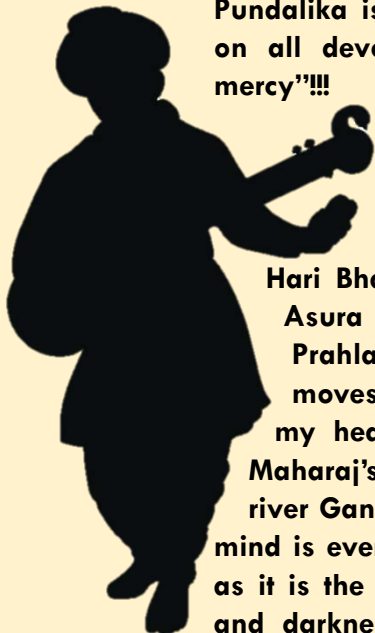
Sri Namdev Maharaj

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Shri Kanya - Shiv Kanya

Namdev Maharaj spent his entire day in worshipping the lord. He would sing hymns and dance in front of the lord, As days went by, he completely forgot his family occupation, that of a tailor/cloth merchant. In one of the Abhangs he composed, he says," Singing the praises of Sri hari is my occupation. Comparing it to cultivation, he says, " I know no other vocation. By virtue of this constant cultivation of Hari Keerthan, there are now ripe fruits of HIS Names in my fields".

As Namdev grew up, his Bhakti towards Panduranga grew manifold. He viewed both Happiness and sadness as part of life. In one of his Abhangs, he sings, " There is no one else in this world other than Pandurang, he is in each and every object of this universe, he is omnipresent; he who came down to give darshan to Pundalika is still standing here showering his grace on all devotees; What to speak of his causeless mercy"!!!!



In Srimad Bhagavatham, one can see the unflinching faith and devotion of little Prahlada, child of Asura King Hiranyakashipu. Seeing his staunch

Hari Bhakti, his teachers ask him, " You are an Asura child, How can you do Bhakti to Hari?".

Prahlad replies sweetly, " Just as a piece of iron moves towards a magnet on its own volition, my heart too, goes towards Hari effortlessly".

Maharaj's state is also comparable to this. Just as river Ganges flows towards the ocean, he says his mind is ever tuned to Sri Hari. He also says that just as it is the norm that there is light when sun rises and darkness when the sun sets, there is nothing

surprising about his love for Pandurang.

Only Pandurang knew the extent of Namdev Maharaj's Bhakti towards HIM. Even his parents were unable to comprehend this unblemished pure love for the Lord. Being simple folks, they worried like any other normal parent would, "Namdev has not eaten properly, he has not slept properly; he needs to get married; He needs to work for a living etc. Their worries were manifold.

One day, Namdev Maharaj was singing Keertans at the temple. It was well past lunch time and his mother, KOnabai was waiting for Namdev Maharaj to come home and have lunch together. As the hours passed by, her worry turned to anger and thought to herself, " God knows what he sees in this Panduranga"? Always singing vittala, vittala". She set off to the temple to see for herself what Namdev Maharaj was doing.

When she went to the temple, she saw Namdev Maharaj standing motionless in front of the deity, His eyes were closed and he was completely unaware of the surroundings. Kona bai called out to him but Namdev Maharaj was in a deep meditative state. Scared and worried, she shook him. When Namdev Maharaj fell down, KOnabai, apparently worried that something had happened to him, put him in her lap and started crying loudly.

Namdev Maharaj, slowly came out of his meditative state opened his eyes. He wiped his mother's tears and comforted her. But he was very sad that his deep meditation had been disturbed. He cited three examples to make his mother understand his mental state, He says Imagine a very poor and hungry man who has not had any food for so many days being invited for a sumptuous feast. After spreading the plantain leaf in front of him and placing delicious food items one after the other, imagine taking away the food just as he is about to put a morsel; Secondly he gave the example of a very poor man. Imagine the plight of a poor man who loses all his hard earned savings to a heartless thief!! He then compared his plight to that of a calf that is forcibly dragged away from the mother cow when it is drinking milk from its teats. Hearing this, Kona bai tried to comfort Namdev Maharaj and begged him to come home. Namdev Maharaj refused to go home . He told his mother that he is happiest when he is here in the temple with Pandurang and she should not worry about him.

To be continued.....

GOD NEVER FORSAKES US!

- SRI BHAGYANATHAN

It was a pleasant evening in Madhurapuri Ashram. Sri Swamiji was sitting in front of Madhuvanam in the Ashram silently repeating Mahamantra. At that time, around 10 people who were at the gate of the Ashram saw Sri Swamiji and came inside. All of them were in the age group of 60-70years. They were surprised and delighted to see Sri Swamiji. After offering their prostrations, they said, “ We are coming from Chennai. We have hired a bus to come and visit Sri Kalyana Srinivas Perumal temple and Kanyakumari Jai Hanumanji. WE are really blessed that you are here”. They told Swamiji.

Sri Swamiji spoke to each one of them and gave them fruits as prasadam. Finally, there was an old lady standing alone with tears in her eyes. Si Swamiji gently enquired about the reason for her tears. She said amidst her sobs, “ My family has forsaken me. My relatives too are not in good terms. As for friends, I don’t have a true friend. The whole world seems to have forsaken me. Now I do the rounds of temples; What else can I do?”

Sri Swamiji listened to her patiently and then called a child who was playing there. He pointed to the child and asked the lady to read aloud the printed words on the child’s t shirt. None of us had noticed the print on the child’s T shirt. The lady read out. “If father says no, ask mother; If mother says no, ask sister; If sister says no, ask brother; if brother says no, ask a friend”. The print was in a lighter vein. Sri Swamiji asked the lady to repeat the reading. As she finished, Sri Swamiji said, “Now add one more line to it; If all of them say NO, ask KRISHNA.”. Understood?. Sri Swamiji added, “Dont get upset thinking about who all have left you. Instead firmly believe that God will never forsake you, This faith and constant remembrance of HIS name will give you the courage to face life” and blessed her with the Prasad.



ஹரே ராம
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ஹரே க்ருஷ்ண
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