

Sri Hari:

MADHURAMURALI

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*Spiritual Monthly with the Blessings of
HH Maharanyam Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji*



MADHURAMANA MAHANEYAR

Sri R Venkatesan

Every year, 10 days before Krishna Janmashtami Sri Sri Anna's Jayanthi celebrations take place with pomp and grandeur at his birthplace, Premika Janmasthan. This year is 'Athi' month.'Athi' year is a year where Amavasya (no moon day) occurs twice in the same month. This year, the Tamil month Puratasi (September to October), has 2 no-moon days, making this year an 'Athi' year. Moreover, all good deeds done during the 'Athi' month or this Puratasi month gives twice the results or fruits. Especially because Puratasi month happens to be 'Athi' month, all the Namasankeertanam, Bhagavatha-Ramayana Parayanam, Katha Sravanm and Pooja done during this month bear twice the fruits. Due to the occurrence of 'Athi' month , this year Sri Sri Anna's Jayanthi came a little later. While Gokula Ashtami occurred in the first month, Sri Sri Anna's Jayanthi occurred in the next month. This year too, Sri Sri Anna's Jayanthi happened at Senganoor with the same pomp and grandeur, but at the same time also by abiding by the rules and regulations specified by the government.

Sri Sri Anna arrived at Senganoor on 31st of August. Sri Sri Anna was welcomed with Chatram and Chamaram. After giving him Poornakumbam and taking his Arthi, Sri Sri Anna was welcomed. Bramhasri Karthik, who is the Teacher of our Premika Janmasthan, submitted a beautiful welcoming letter to Sri Sri Anna. The events for the day came to an end with that.

The next day was Bhagavan Nama Bodhendral's Aradhana day and also the 13th Prathishta Dinam of Chaitanya Kuteeram. On the occasion of Prathishta Dinam, our Swamiji left for Govindapuram in the morning. Sri Sri Anna also went for the Aradhana. In observance of the government regulations, Bhagavan Nama Bodhendral's aradhana took place simply and safely inside the Mutt premises itself.

A procession of Bhagavan Nama Bodhendral takes place once every year, on his Aradhana day. This time, that procession took place in our Chaitanya Kuteeram in a simple and safe manner, while abiding by the government regulations. The 16 Kirtans sung by Sri Sri Anna on Bhagavan Nama Bodhendral were sung there. It gave a lot of peace and calm to everybody's mind. Abisheka and Alankara for Yogi also took place at Yogi Ram Surat Kumar Bhajan Ashram.

The next morning, students of our Shuddha Premika Vidya Kendra sang the kirtans written by Sri Sri Anna, at Premika Janmasthan with his blessings. That evening Srivaths narrated the story of Krishna Avataram from Sri Sri Anna's 'Govinda Kathamritam'. After which, Hariharasubrahmanian spoke on the topic 'Universal Ramayana' from Adhyathma Bharatham. Gadhadharan

orated on the topic 'Vishnuparathavam' taking references from Anna's books. The next morning, as the Srirangam temple that was closed for a longtime, opened for Darshan, Anna desired to have Darshan of Sri Ranganathar and therefore left for Srirangam. He returned to Senganoor the next evening.

That evening, Sri Vishnupriya spoke about the Samudrika Lakshana of Sri Bhakthakolahala from Radha Madhava Shatakam. On the 6th day's evening, Kapilavasudevar spoke about the usage of the word 'Kolahala' in Anna's kirtans while Kanya Sisters spoke about Panduranga Ashtothram. The next evening, Hari Narayanan narrated the story of Vibeeshana Sharanagathi from Ramayana, as mentioned in Periyavachan Pilllai's Pasuram. Then, Sanathkumar gave a discourse on the Ramakathamruthasaram book. On the 8th evening, Srinivasan picked up the importance and legend of the Thirumalairuncholai temple out of the Divyadesa Temples and spoke about the same. Then, Namdev gave a discourse on the book 'Hari Bhakthi Manjusha'. The next day, Karthikeya Sharma gave a discourse on Vishnu Sahasranama Bashyam from the 'Acharya Hrudayam' book.

All of them gave wonderful discourse and spoke really well. The listeners were also very happy. On the last day, the Janmasthan was decorated with flowers on the occasion of Sri Sri Anna's Jayanthi. Having submitted Padukas to Sri Sri Anna, Anna's Padha Pooja took place. In the evening a small procession took place for Perumal inside on a Golden Chariot.

In this manner, Sri Premika Jayanthi was celebrated this year.

Purattasi Thiruvonam

Once upon a time, when Thondaimaan Chakravarthi ruled over the lands of Tirumala and Thirupathi, and a cowherd came to him with complaint that a pig grazed the grains that he grew to sell and then disappeared behind a termite nest, Thirumalaiappan appeared in the king's dream that night and told him that he was also waiting for him. Srinavasa Perumal also said that he would show himself gradually if milk is poured into the nest. Similarly, as the king poured milk into the nest, first Sri Varaha Perumal and then Sri Srinivasa Perumal manifested.

On the very same day, which happens to be Purattasi Thiruvonam, Sri Premika Srinivasa Perumal who resides in Premika Bhavanam, also manifested.

The photo on the back of the magazine is a way of showing this happening, where Sundara Srinivasa appears from a termite hill and gives us darshan on Purattasi Thiruvonam celebrations that happens at Premika Bhavanam.



THIRUMAALIRUNCHOLAI

(Compiled by: **Brahmasri Srinivasa Sharma**)

The most predominant of the 108 Divya Desas in Vaishnava Tradition are three. They are, Temple, Perumal Temple and Thirumalai. Temple, referring to Thiruvarangam, Perumal Temple, referring to Kancheepuram where Devaperumal has incarnated and, Thirumalai referring to Thirumalai where Thiruvenkatamudaiyan has incarnated.

When Alvars, having sung on all the Divya Desas, had darshan of Thiruvenkatamudaiyan, they surrendered to him. When Kulasekhara Alvar had darshan of Emperumal, he sang, “Sediyaya valvinaigal theerkum thirumale..” “padiyayk kidandhun pavalavay kanbene..” “Emperuman ponmalayil edhenum aavene..” Gurunathar Sri Sri Anna also sings, “Thavapunya thatake meeno bhavami va...” on Thiruvenkatamudaiyan, in the Kirtan, “thava charnambhujaya chayayaam mama dhayaya vaasam...”

In Laghustotramala, Sri Sri Anna uses the words “Prapatti marga sulabha: Srinivaso gathir mama” in Srinivasa Ashtakam, to describe the ease with which bhagawan is with Bhaktas (Saulabhyam).

Sri Vedanta Desikar has sung 100 slokas on Thiruvenkatamudaiyan titled ‘Daya Dasakam’. Aathma Nivedhanam that we recite everyday is also a book written on Thiruvenkatamudaiyan.

Thirumalai that has so much of significance is considered as North Tirupati, while Thirumaliruncholai near Madurai is considered as South Tirupati. Thirumaliruncholai is entirely believed to be Thirumalai.

Thirumaliruncholai alias Vrushabachalam has its own greatness. This is a place where Alvars and Purva Acharyas stayed for long. Having sung on all the Divya Desas, Swami Alavandhar went to Thiruvananthapuram to sing about Anantha Padmanabha and then came to Thirumaliruncholai. He says that after seeing the mountains there and the beauty of Azhagar, he had the desire to perform Yogaabyasam.

Periyaazhvar places this mountain on his lap and says many loving words to it. Just like prattling an infant Krishna from a Vatsalya emotion, Periyaazhvar prattles the mountain. Andal prays to Azhagar to unite with her Ranganatha. Thirumaliruncholai is a place where Udaiyavar and all Purva Acharyas stayed for long.

Thirumaliruncholai Emperuman was the one who showed the way of Bhagavatha Dharmam which is our daily practice preached by Srimad Bhagavatham which is very close to our Gurunathar's heart.

Sri Sri Anna says 'Sukhasastram Prakeerthitham' in Vaishnava Sampradayam. Everybody practiced Bhagavatha Dharma and became the best in Bhakthi, Gnana and Vairakya with proper etiquette. Kali purushan got angry on seeing this. He tried his best to destroy this devotion.

There is a saying that Srimad Bhgavatham is "Pratyaksha Krishna eva hi." Srimad Bhagavatham is eternal. Eternal materials have no destruction, only disappearance.

Sri Bhagavatha Dharma had disappeared for some time. Mahans keep seeing ways to take the common people to Perumal's feet. The Mahatma, Boopadevar had karuna (kindness) in his heart. He looks at common people, who are completely into worldly pleasures.

As Bhagavatha Dharma disappeared little by little, Kali's Adharma started appearing. At that point as Boopadevar comes to Thirumaliruncholai and does penance to get answers for the question, "What way do we have to liberate everybody?" Azhagar Perumal gives him a solution. He said, "The only solution to liberate the People of Kali is Srimad Bhgavatham which is Sukhasastram." As per Emperuman's orders, Boopadevar goes to the banks of the Yamuna river to receive Srimad Bhagavatham from Sukaacharyal and then preaches it to all the people. We practice the same Bhagavatha Dharma even today.

Just as how Aaravamudhan retrieved the Naalayira Divya Prabandham for Alavandar Alwar, Thirumaliruncholai Azhagar has given us Srimad Bhagavatham through Boopadevar.

We see the greatness of such an Azhagar in Sri Sri Anna's Divyadesa Vaibhavam in the 5th part. After having described the greatness of South Madurai alias Koodal Nagar, the greatness of North Madurai or Azhagar is described.

Towards the North of Madurai, we have Solaimalai also called Vrushabachalam. Sri Sri Anna talks about Azhagar who has incarnated as the family god of the Kallar's on Thirumaliruncholai mountains. The place's history (mahatmyam) says that Balarama who went on a pilgrimage in Srimad Bhagavatham, came to Thirumaliruncholai to pray.

It says that Kallars surrender to this God. Emperuman is also called Jagannathan. He is God for all. Similarly he is God for Kallars too. While speaking about Azhagar, Lilasuka says, "Everybody please be careful. Kallazhagar steals all of our hearts. There is a difference between other thieves and him. Other thieves stop people on

their way and steal the money that they have. But, in his case, we get dazzled by his beauty and we ourselves give him whatever we have. That's the difference with Kallazhagar." Bhattathri also says the same thing.

"Choraanuchorane." In Chaithanya charithram, Sri Chaithanya changes even a thief into a loving devotee. Is there a bigger thief than the biggest thief? Similarly, Kallazhagar steals the hearts of all.

Kallars pray to Vishu who has incarnated as Azhagar. Kallazhagar, who is the biggest thief of all thieves, gives desired boons to the people who surrender to him.

Once, Manduka Maharishi who stayed in the Vaigai river called Kruthamala, performed severe penance to see Vishnu. 'Mandukam' means Frog. As frogs live in water, Manduka Maharishi also lived completely in water. It was a forest region.

At that point, Azhagar came on a horse, as a young boy, with lotus-like eyes, wearing a Shirt and Turban. With gold ornaments on a golden body, Azhagar came like he wanted to quench his thirst from the Vaigai river.

Mandukar opened his eyes and saw. Mahans get rid of thoughts about this world and then only perform penance. He realised that the young boy is not an ordinary person because Mandukar's mind was getting attracted to him without his control. Being completely dazzled by Azhagar's beauty, Mandukar left his penance, came close with love to Azhagar and asked, "Child! Who are you?"

In the Aranya Kandam, all the rishis were surprised on seeing Sri Ramachandramurthy. They were completely dazzled by his beauty and said, "Sundarabahum Chintayare."Azhagar

said to Mandukar, "I am Sudararajan. I stay in Vrushabachalam. I am the chief of the Kallars. I am called Sundarabahu. I reside in Solaimalai. I came here while I was hunting. Why are you performing penance like a frog inside the water?"

Manduka Maharishi replied, "Yes. My name is Mandukar. I have seen so many warriors on their horses. But, I have not seen anybody like you."

Even today, lakhs and lakhs of devotees see Azhagar Perumal mount his horse when he enters the Vaigai river. The reason for this is the penance of Manduka Maharishi. This festival happens on Chitra Pournami. Devotees splashing water on Azhagar with a pichkari and offering the Prasadam that they have brought to Azhagar are sights to behold.

Mandukar prays to Azhagar, "Prabho! I have understood who you are just by hearing your greatness. Aren't you Vishnu who takes care of this entire world? Please show yourself as the Maliruncholai Perumal to me."

Bhagawan also gave Darshan in the same way. With his conch and discus in hand, Srivatsam and Kaustubham in his chest, with Abhaya Hastam, in his Neelamegha colour and yellow dress, the lotus-eyed bhagwan gave darshan and Mandukar sang his praise.

He received wisdom from the look of Bhagawan and sang the praise of Achyutha, who is Purana Purusha and the witness to everything.

(To be Continued...)

(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 ||

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.

Govindanukku Aatpatta Kudumbamma

- Sri MK Ramanujam

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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 Sadguru, 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 punantyurukAlEna 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!"

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

Forever In The Service of The Guru “Justice Sri T S Arunachalam”

- Dr Bhagyanathan
(Personal Secretary to Sri Swamiji)

When we look at the life story of various Mahaans, there will always be one thing in common. Mostly, in the lineage of the Maha Purusha, either a Sadhu or a Mahatma would have incarnated in some generation. Seemingly, this may apply to people like Justice T S Arunachalam, who are born only to serve and fulfill the needs of Mahaans.

Bhagawan, who doesn't get enticed by anything, falls for 2 things. The first one being, pure and complete integrity, and the second one being selfless love. If one has that kind of integrity, then Bhagawan will surely appear before one. Similarly, God accepts that he is a slave to selfless and boundless love. This is completely and entirely true in the case of Justice Arunachalam. Justice's maternal grandfather was none other than Arana who was the very embodiment of selfless prema bhakti. He is the incarnation of Meera Bhai who had immense prema bhakti towards Sri Krishna and became one with him.

On the other hand, Justice's father was the personification of integrity. When Justice was a college student back in his hometown of Ponneri, his father was in the Director position in the Government Cooperative Bank. He was a person who was celebrated and respected by the entire town for his sincerity and honesty. Once, he gave Justice a few letters and asked him to post it after pasting postal stamps on them. While some of the letters were official, some were personal. He pasted the postal stamps that were in his father's

office on all the letters and posted the letters. After he returned home, when his father asked how he sent the letters, Justice said that he used all the official stamps on the letters and then posted them. His father, who was angry, scolded, "How can you use official stamps for personal letters? You have committed a big mistake." This became an important and unforgettable lesson for Justice, until his last breath.

Like the saying, "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree," how else will the son of such an honest and sincere person be? He, who lived as a role model for the Judicial field, feared nobody and nothing and took a vow to speak only the truth to bring justice. He has never hesitated to say anything that felt right to his conscience. Although he was threatened that he would face consequences for being that way, he never feared. When it came to another's belonging, he was as pure as fire. Our Justice was the fortunate one, who got the gift of Prema Bhakthi from his maternal side and got the asset of Honesty from his father. Honesty and Love were qualities that were soaked in his blood. As a fruit to these qualities, Justice was fortunate enough to be taken into fold by Yogi Ramsurat Kumar and did all the things he was ordained to do by him. His family was one that had a lot of devotion towards Kanchi Mahaswamigal.

His life changed entirely after he had the Darshan of Bhagawan Yogi Ramsurat Kumar. After his darshan, everything started revolving around Yogi Ramsurat Kumar for him. Having the Darshan of a Mahatma even once might be a life-changing experience for many. If that is the case, then no words can describe the experience of the first darshan of those who come only for the service of the Mahatma. Similarly, in Justice's life as well, the day he had his first darshan became an experience that should be described with wonderful words. He had no idea that the day he went to Thiruvannamalai to attend a wedding would be a life-changing one and one that showed him the purpose of his birth.



We are reminded of the day and situation that Sri Vivekananda and Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa met each other. Sri Ramakrishna comes to the house of a devotee to take part in a Bhajan Satsang in Kolkata. The devotees invite a younger singer who sings Bhajans really well to sing in the Satsang. That singer is none other than our Narendra (Later, Vivekananda). As Narendra sings, Gurudeva's lotus-like eyes falls on him for the very first time. The entire world is aware of the things that happened after this incident. It generally looks like a coincidence, but it is only because of Bhagwan's will.

Similarly, once, Justice went to Thiruvannamalai along with his family to attend the wedding in a Lawyer's family. After the wedding got over in the morning, preparations were made for the darshan of Arunachaleshwara in the evening at 4 PM. When he was thinking about what he could do in the afternoon, some of the people there said that a Mahatma lived on Sannidhi Street near the temple.

They suggested that he could go visit him at 3:30 PM and then proceed to the temple at 4 PM, to which he agreed. Exactly at 3:30, as they knocked on the doors of Sannidhi Street, a person came and opened the door to let them in. Justice thought to himself that the Mahatma would be seated inside. However, only after going inside did he come to the realisation that the Mahatma he came to visit was the one who opened the door for him. On seeing the condition of the house, he became hesitant and afraid for a few minutes. "Have I got caught in some unknown place? I am a Judge! What if someone says something wrong about me," he feared.

At that point, Yogi Ramsurat Kumar, who was seated opposite him, asked him, "What is your plan?" For which Justice replied truthfully, "I came here to attend a wedding in the morning. At 4 in the evening, I am going to the temple to have the Darshan of

Arunachaleshwara. My friends told me that you reside here. So I have come to visit you as well.” Yogi Ramsurat Kumar said, “So, you came here for the wedding and you have planned to go to the temple for the darshan of Arunachaleswara. You decided to peep in and see this beggar in between.” Justice who was confused thought, “Maybe I should not have come here. I should have gone directly to the temple.”

At that point something surprising happened there. Suddenly, Yogi Ramsurat Kumar disappeared from the place he was sitting and instead a Jothi (A flame of fire or light) was seen along with a Siva Linga at the same spot. Justice thought to himself, “Is he trying to mesmerise me with some kind of sorcery? I have nicely gotten caught here!” Even after rubbing his eyes a couple of times, he saw the exact same thing. A lot of photos were hung on the wall behind where Yogi was seated. For a moment, Justice turns to see what those photos were, out of curiosity. All the photos hung on the wall seemed to him as the photos of Lord Sri Krishna’s divine form. Justice, who has come from the lineage of a great mahatma like Arana, had been fed with Krishna Bhakti since a very small age by his mother, and it came to him with ease. It gave him a lot of ecstatic happiness to see his favourite deity, Krishna, all around. This lasted for quite some time.

Then again, he was only able to see Yogi Ramsurat Kumar, seated opposite him, like before. Then, he asked Yogi, “There are a lot of photos hung behind you. Can I go and see what they are,” took his permission and went to see the photos.

He was not able to control the wonder on his face. All the pictures that were on the wall were photographs of Yogi Ramsurat Kumar. Only then did he realise the greatness of the Mahatma he was fortunate enough to meet. At the point, as Bhagawan reminded Justice saying, “It’s time for your visit to the Arunchaleshwarar temple,” Justice replied by saying, “I have also received the Darshan of Arunachaleshwara here. I do not have to

visit the temple anymore.” Bhagawan laughed when he heard this. He kept Justice with him for approximately 1 and a half hours. Justice also left the place aying, “I have gotten the Darshan of all Gods here itself. I am therefore returning back to Chennai directly.”

After this meeting, Justice Sri Arunachalam was the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court in Tamil Nadu, for some time. Then, he worked as a Senior Lawyer at the Supreme Court in Delhi. He came to Thiruvannamalai once in a while and visited Yogi Ramsurat Kumar. During one such visit, Yogi Ramsurat Kumar said, “Your service is needed here. Let go of the Judicial field and everything else you’re involved in and come here.” Without saying another word, Justice gave up the position, fame and name he had earned and dedicated his entire life for his Guru’s seva. Yogi Ramsurat Kumar appointed Justice Arunachalam as his spiritual successor. Even as he became the chief of the ashram, he completed all the duties that were given to him by his guru.

Justice was somebody who had a lot of affection towards our Swamiji. Sri Swamiji was also very fond of Justice because his entire life’s purpose was to serve his Guru. Justice never fails to attend any celebration or event that happens in our Madhurapuri Ashram. Irrespective of whether it was Swamiji’s Bhagavatha Saptaham, a Book release or our Krishna Janmashtami Celebrations, it would not take place without the presence and participation of Justice. Similarly, Justice had always invited Sri Swamiji to the Thiruvannamalai Yogi Ramsurat Kumar Ashram for every event and celebration.

Justice would come and visit Swamiji with a heavy heart when he faced obstacles while performing his duties for the Ashram. Swamiji would say, “Our Guru Yogi Ramsurat Kumar has tolerated and beared a lot for us. Let us also adjust and tolerate everything for his sake,” and give him the moral support to motivate and encourage him. Justice would carry on with his Guru Seva with this new found motivation. There prevailed such a love filled soul connecting relationship between the two.

There was an idol of Sri Krishna made out of wood in Justice's house, which has been there for generations. That Child Krishna is a sight to behold. Justice thought, "This Krishna will be happier and would prefer to be with Sri Swamiji." He shared this thought with Sri Swamiji and gave that Krishna to him. After quite a few months, Sri Arunachalam came to our Madhurapuri Ashram on the occasion of Ekadasi. When Justice came to collect Theertha Prasad from Sri Swamiji, he stopped giving the same, called me and asked me to bring Krishna who was kept in his room. When Sri Swamiji gave that Krishna to Justice, he became emotional. Like a child, he placed Krishna on his lap and embraced him with love. As tears flowed from his eyes, "I had just thought, Where is my Krishna? Is he in the Ashram or elsewhere? And Swamiji understood that immediately," he said. Swamiji smiled, "Have you had a good look at him? Smother him with love as much as you want. But, this Krishna will continue to be with me," he said and took the Krishna back. There have been numerous divine happenings like this one.

Justice Arunachlam was a great admirer. Once, during Karadaiyan Nonbu, when Justice came to visit Swamiji, "Nobody can make Nonbu Adai like my mother. In this generation, nobody knows how to make adai like my mother. I am very fond of this Karadaiyan Nonbu adai," he said with excitement, like a child.

July 11th is Justice's Birthday. As there was a lockdown during that time this year, we could not meet him. On that day, Sri Swamiji asked us to make Karadaiyan Nonbu adai at our place. He stressed on the point that the Adai has to be very tasty. The one who prepared the Adai thought to himself, "Today is not Karadaiyan Nonbu. Then why is he asking me to make this?" Once the Adai was ready, it was packed carefully and delivered to Justice's Chennai house through a parcel service, along with birthday wishes. The happiness Justice derived out of this is not something that can be described with words.

“Sri Swamiji made Justice, who was always resting because of his age, jump with joy like a child,” said Justice's relatives over the phone. “Swamiji remembered something I told him a very long time back and has sent me my favorite Adai. In the past, I have met and received the blessings of Sri Swamiji on my birthday many times. Not even once has he given me such a birthday gift. Today, I am extremely happy. I can never be happier in my life. I have gotten everything with the grace of Yogi Ramsurat Kumar. I don't know how I am so fortunate to receive the love and grace of Sri Swamiji. Please convey my regards to him,” Justice said over the phone, and it is still ringing in my ears.

Justice completed all the duties given to him by Yogi Ramsurat Kumar in entirety. Bhagwan Yogi Ramsurat Kumar called him saying, “You have done enough service for me on Earth. Come and do service for me in my world.” Although he is always under the Shadow on his Guru's lotus-like feet, his separation is something that causes grief and pain to us. We convey our regards and prayers to his wife, children and all family members who are living without his presence.

ஸ்ரீ ராமகோபாலன்ஜி, சீர்காழி கதிர்காமஸ்வாமிகள் அருளை முழுமையாக பெற்று, தான் கொண்ட கொள்கையில் உறுதியாக நின்று, உயிருக்கும்



அஞ்சாமல் உடல், பொருள், ஆவி எல்லாவற்றையும் தியாகம் செய்து உண்மையான துறவியாக வாழ்ந்தவர். பலமுறை அவர் அறவழியில் நடத்திய உரிமை போராட்டங்களுக்காக கைதும் ஆனார். அவருடைய ஆத்மா இறைவனுடைய திருவடி நிழலில் இளைபாற சென்றுவிட்டாலும் அவருடைய அருளும் உத்வேகமும் இந்து முன்னணியினரை தொடர்ந்து வழிநடத்தட்டும் என்று பிரார்த்தித்துக்கொள்கின்றோம்.

A Tale for Children

Dedication

Suresh and Mahesh were brothers who were fortunate to get the Sathsang of a great person (mahaan). The Mahaan did actions and services that helped in the betterment of the society and also motivated others to do the same.

Once, Suresh and Mahesh' family got a great fortune. Yes, the Mahaan said that he will visit their house. Their joy knew no bounds. The entire house was filled with happiness and joy and prepared like they were getting ready for a festival. They tied a wreath of Mango leaves at their entrance and placed two Banana trees there. A beautiful 'Kolam' or design decorated the floor in the entrance and relatives stood at the entrance expecting the Mahaan. Suresh was monitoring and supervising all of this. As he wondered, "Where is Mahesh at this moment?", he went to the streets only to find Mahesh coming with a beautiful big bag. Suresh was curious, "What did Mahesh bring in such a big fancy bag?"

As soon as he entered, "Sureshaa! Look, I have bought a Garland made of original sandalwood for the Mahaan who is coming to make our house pure. You know the cost? Rs. 25,000," said Mahesh with a smiling face. Suresh's face became dull as soon as he heard it! Mahesh asked, "Don't you like the garland Suresh?"

“Why did you spend so much on a garland? Isn’t an ordinary flower garland enough? We could have donated this money to the Mahaan’s charity that he runs for food for the poor or his hospital! He never expected any of this! In my opinion, I doubt even if he will consent to this.” Mahesh, who bought the garland with a lot of love, became very sad on hearing the unexpected words of his brother. He also had tears in his eyes. Without saying another word, he placed the garland in the Pooja room and started participating in other work around the house.

The realisation that the Mahaan is going to come home anytime, cheered him up. The Mahaan, whose steps make the place a Teertha Kshetra, whose arrival is the ultimate desire of all in the house, whose looks turn any place into a temple, entered the house of Mahesh and Suresh with his lotus-bloomed face and a smile that conveyed his abundant grace.

They did all the niceties and formalities with a lot of happiness and respect. During the Bhajan, the unique Sandalwood garland ornamented the body of the Mahaan. As the Bhajan got over, Suresh and Mahesh got the most fortunate opportunity of serving the Bhajan Prasadam to the Mahaan, while the other devotees waited outside. Suresh was very comfortable in terms of speaking with the Mahaan and spoke very openly to him.

“Swami..,” he started. “Tell me Suresh, you want to say something. Don’t hesitate,” the Mahaan said. Suresh replied, “Mahesh and I got into a small argument, because of a difference of opinion. Both of us wish to serve you. You are also trying by all means to help the suffering through charity of food distribution and free hospitals.”

“Yes, what about that now,” asked the Mahaan. Mahesh has spent Rs. 25,000 on the garland that he has submitted to you. I told him that he could have used that money instead for the charity,” said Suresh. “Hmm, what does Mahesh have to say,” asked the Mahaan.

With folded hands and a soft voice, Mahesh said, “Swami, I never hesitated to donate to charity. Every month we do such a service with your abundant grace on the day you bless us with. However, from the beginning of time till the end of the world, there are going to be people who are in poverty and cannot afford their medical and food expenses. But, will I get a Mahaan like you for offering such a garland at all times? When I get such an opportunity to make an offering, does the cost of it matter? I have attained the feet of someone who is very rare and difficult to attain. When I get something to offer to him that is unique, does the cost matter?”

Mahesh, who had recalled his fortune, started crying happy tears. Suresh was at a loss of words. The Mahaan also nodded his head at Mahesh with a beautiful smile. He turned towards Suresh and blessed him with his loving eyes. Do I have to mention that Suresh got clarity?

Sri Vishnupriya

Sanskrit Word
Of the Month

indra

The word 'Indra' means the chief of the Devas, the head of Heaven (Swarga) and the Devatha of Rains, referring to 'Indran'.

The term 'Indra' itself means Chief or Leader and also The Best. Therefore, 'Narendran' means king of humans, 'Gajendran' refers to the chief of elephants, 'Mrugendran' refers to the leader of all animals or Lions, 'Rasikendran' means the one who is the head of all Rasikas, 'Yathindran' refers to the head of Yathi's or Ramanujar and 'Ahindra' refers to Anantha or Adishesha.

Bhagwan has a name called 'Upendran'. The meaning being, the younger brother of Indran. Bhagawan became Indra's younger brother when he incarnated as Vamana, from Indra's mother Adithi.

Hence, the name. 'Indradhanush' or 'Indrasaabam' means Rainbow. As Indran is the devatha for Rain, his bow is made like the rainbow.

'Indraneela' refers to a blue coloured gem also known as sapphire. While referring to Bhagawan's colour, this term is used as a simile.

इन्द्रनील विकासेन स्वरूपेन हृदि स्थितः ।
यः पाति विषयेभ्यो मां वासुदेवो गुरुर्मम ॥

Says Sri Sri Anna in Vasudeva Ashtakam. With an appearance that is glowing with the radiance of the Indraneela gem, Vasudeva, who is in my heart, saving me from things, is my Guru.

Similarly, Saint Thiagaraja also sings 'Indraneelamanisanthipa' in the song Jagadanandakaraka, while singing the praises of Sri Rama.

'Indrajaalam' refers to magic. In Srimad Bhagavatham, we see that Indra uses a lot of 'maaya' or magic to abduct the horse of Prithu Maharaja while he was performing his Ashwamedha Yaaga.

There are 2 poetic meters in Sanskrit called 'Indravajra' and 'Upendravajra'. In an Ashtapadi, Jayadevar has used the Upendravajra meter in a sloka describing the Radhe's pangs of separation by also using the term 'Upendravajra' in the sloka.

स्मरातुराम्दैवतवैध्यहुध्यत्वदङ्गसङ्गामृतमात्रसाध्याम् ।
नवमुक्तबाधाम्कुरुषेनराधाम्उपेन्द्रवज्रानधकदारुणोनस॥

'Indrajith' is Ravana's son. Ravana named him 'Meganathan', But, once when Indra striked Ravana during a war, Meganathan won over Indra, tied him to his chariot and pulled him along to Lanka. He let him go only after Brahma himself asked him to. At that time, Brahma named him 'Indrajith' on account of his bravery.

Vritrasuran is also called 'Indrashatru'. Bhagavatham says that Tvashta did a Yaga praying that one should be born to defeat

Indra, but because he chanted it incorrectly, the prayer meant, one should be born to be defeated by Indra. Hence, Vritrasura was born.

Indra's main opponent and enemy Bali is also called 'Indrasenan'. After Bhagawan took the form of Trivikrama and measured the three worlds, he took hold of Bali and said,

“इन्द्रसेनमहाराजयानहिंद्रिमस्तुते।
सुतलम्स्वनगानिःप्रार्थाम्जानतनिःपररवाररतः॥”

Which means, “Hey Indrasena! Take your family and go to Suthala.” This sloka occurs in Bhagavatam.

The Manthra mountain is called 'Indrsheelam'. A red coloured worm is called 'Indragopam'. 'Indrabeshajam' means dried ginger. 'Indradruma' refers to the Marutha Tree.

In this manner, many words are formed from the word 'Indra'.

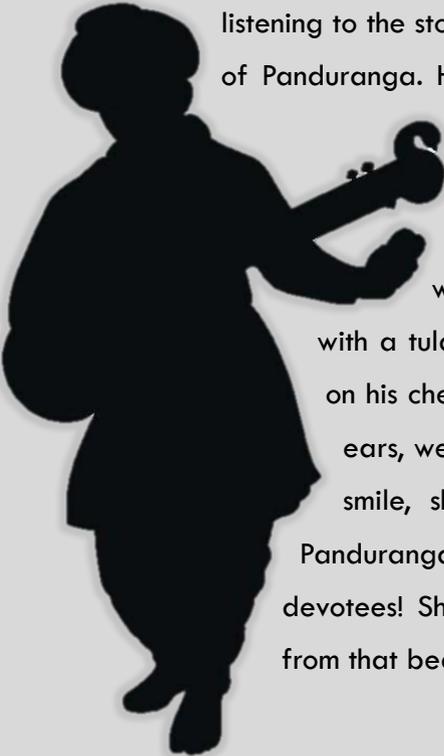
Sri Namdev Maharaj

Shiv Kanya - Shri Kanya

20

Janabhai was the foster daughter of Namdev Maharaj. She had a lot of prema bhakti (devotion) towards Panduranga. In her Abhangs, she has said that birth after birth, she has been coming along with Namdev Maharaj himself. She got the fortunes of staying in Pandharpur, taking a dip in Chandrabhaga, being a part of Sathsang and serving the Sadhus on a daily basis, because she reached the house of Namdev Maharaj. When Janabhai was 6 or 7 years old, she came to Pandharpur along with her parents on the occasion of Karthika Ekadasi. As the day was Karthika Ekadasi, lakhs of devotees had come to have darshan of Panduranga. From her very birth, Janabhai grew up by

listening to the stories and imagining the physical beauty of Panduranga. Having had darshan of Panduranga in reality, she was dazzled. On seeing Panduranga, standing on the Yoga Peeta, with his hands on his hips, wearing Silky yellow Peethambaram, with a tulasi garland on his neck and Kaustubha on his chest, with shining Makara earrings on his ears, wearing a grand crown and his enigmatic smile, she gave his heart to him. After all, Pandurangan is skilled in stealing the hearts of his devotees! She did not have the heart to separate from that beautiful Panduranga.



When her parents called her to return back to their hometown, “I don’t wish to go back. I wish to stay back here,” said the young Janabhai. When they tried to forcefully take her along with them, she fainted and fell down. The ones who came with her and her parents were surprised on seeing that Janabhai had so much devotion at such a young age itself. On the other hand, her parents were also worried about her stubbornness. Then, they prayed to Panduranga and left Janabhai within the premises of the temple.

All those who came along with her, had darshan of Panduranga and left. But Janabhai stood in the shrine of Panduranga and kept looking at him with a fixed gaze. After Dolothsava in the night, all the devotees were sent out of the temple except young Janabhai who kept gazing at Panduranga without even blinking. The priests there got worried and said, “Who is this child? Whom did she come with? She’s all alone here,” and started enquiring the devotees in the temple. But nobody knew who she was or where she came from.

Then, on asking the child who she is, she said, “I am Janabhai.” When they asked, “Who is your mother?” she pointed at Panduranga. They asked her follow-up questions like who her father was and where she was from, but for all the questions she only pointed at Panduranga as an answer.

She said, “I do not have any other relatives apart from Panduranga. I am also not aware of anything else.”

The priests there were worried that a young girl child was alone in the temple in this manner. Along with the other priests there was another Panduranga devotee in the temple. Yes, it was Namdev Maharaj. As soon as he saw the young Janabhai, he understood the prema bhakti she had on Panduranga. He felt compassionate towards her.

Then, Namdev Maharaj took the young Janabhai along with him to his own house. In his house, Rajayi, Konabhai, and all other family members accepted Janabhai as one of their own. Since then, Janabhai’s life started blooming with happiness with daily Sathsang and daily service to Sadhus. The prema bhakti she had towards Panduranga also kept increasing day by day.

(To be Continued...)

Never Forget To Thank God!

- Dr Bhagyanathan

The ones who know Sri Swamiji really well are aware of one thing. That, if we ever inform him or pray for anything to him he never forgets it. It is often mesmerising when Sri Swamiji precisely remembers what we had conveyed or prayed to him, even after a couple of years.

Once a devotee came to our Ashram along with family to have darshan of Sri Swamiji. The devotee, who was seen to be delighted, came in the queue along with his wife and children and they all prostrated in front of Sri Swamiji. Before he could begin speaking, Sri Swamiji asked, “The last time you came, you said that one of your relatives was in grave danger, right? Has that been solved?” When Sri Swamiji asked such a question, it looked like this devotee informed Sri Swamiji only a week or 10 days back.

The moment Sri Swamiji asked the question, the devotee’s face became dull and he had tears in his eyes. He prostrated in front of Swamiji yet again and said that 4 years back when he had come to Swamiji to this very same place with this problem, Sri Swamiji had said, “Go to the shrine of Sri Madhurusakhi Sametha Sri Premika Varadhan and chant nama for sometime. Bhagawan will surely take care of your problems and he will never let you down.”

As Sri Swamiji ordained, I chanted nama and left for my hometown. A month after I returned back to my place, my relative was cured of his problem. He folded his arms and said, "I do not know how to thank you."

Sri Swamiji said, "Very good and happy," with a smile on his face. Without stopping there, Sri Swamiji said, "Go to the shrine of Premika Varadhan, tell him that your prayers have been answered, and chant nama for sometime."

After the devotee left, Sri Swamiji spoke to the students of the Veda Patasala at Ashram.

Sri Swamiji: The eagerness we have to tell Bhagawan about a prayer or problem in our life, is not there when the prayers are answered. We are not eager enough to go and thank Bhagawan for the same, right?

A Student: I am seeking clarification for a doubt rising in my mind. You have to give me a clarification. Sri Premikavaradhan will know when the prayers are answered, right? Do we have to come to his shrine to convey this? Isn't it enough if we convey the same from wherever we are?

Sri Swamiji: What you're saying is correct. There is nothing that Bhagawan is unaware of. But, you have to think of one thing. When there is a problem in life, when there is prayer to make, the devotee does not feel that way, right? He doesn't think that, "Do I have to tell him for him to know? Bhagawan knows everything." We wish to come in person and pray to him. Which is reasonable. When we come to Bhagawan in person for a prayer or to convey a problem, then it is only correct to come in person and convey to Bhagwan when our prayers have been answered.

A Student: I have understood completely.

Sri Swamiji: When we come to Bhagawan with a problem or a prayer, it is also our duty to come to Bhagwan to thank him for answering our prayers. Let that remain on one side. God has created and is taking care of such a big universe. He has given all of us a beautiful world. The Sun rises on time, every single day, without the need for a remainder. Similarly, the wind never forgets to blow. How many different flowers, plants, creepers, trees, birds, animals and colourful insects around us! If we take the human body into consideration, there are no words to describe the unique ways in which it functions. The list goes on. There is no end to it. Be honest and tell me, how many of us actually thank god every day for all of these?

Nobody gave a response to that question. In unison they all agreed that they do not do so.

Sri Swamiji: We should never forget to thank God. It is very easy to thank him. There is no cost or expense for that. No big efforts are also required. Our tongue alone is enough. The one which is the best way to convey our prayers to him, is the same way to convey our gratitude as well. You know what way that is? To chant his names whenever possible and at all times.

(Madhurasmaranam will continue...)

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