



Srimad Ramayanam Lecture, Sri Bhuvaneswari
Amman Temple, KK Nagar, Chennai
Back Cover:
Amar Seva Sangam, Aykkudi



Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare



Adhilenna thavaru rAdhE rAdhE!
Avan azhagil mayakkam rAdhE rAdhE!
Iyalbu idhu dhAnE rAdhE rAdhE!
Kavalaiyai vittiduvAi rAdhE rAdhE!
Matroru naal veetrirundhen thOzhi thOzhi!
InimaiyAna kuzhalOsai thOzhi thOzhi!
KAtril midhandhu vandhadhu thOzhi thOzhi!
Isaitthavarai kAdhal kondEn thOzhi thOzhi!

Nalla isaithanil rAdhE rAdhE!
MayangAdhavar UndO rAdhE rAdhE!
Edhum thavarillai rAdhE rAdhe!
Kalakkam thavirthiduvAi rAdhE rAdhE!
MuraLidharanin nAmam kEtten thOzhi thOzhi!
nAmatthinil kAdhal kondEn thOzhi thOzhi!
Melum adhu valarndhadhu thOzhi thOzhi!
Adhan nAmiyai kAdhal kondEn thOzhi thOzhi!

AzhagAna nAmam dhAnE rAdhE rAdhE!
Asai vaitthittAi rAdhE rAdhE!
Idhilenna thavaru rAdhE rAdhE!
Edhum solvadharkkillai rAdhE rAdhE!
Kulappen naanadi thOzhi thOzhi!
Dharmatthirkku adukkumO thOzhi thOzhi!
Moovaridam en manadhu thOzhi thOzhi!
KAdhal koLLalAgumO thOzhi thOzhi!

Andru vandha oruvanum rAdhE rAdhE!
Kuzhaloodhiya oruvanum rAdhE rAdhE!
MuraLidharan nAmam udaiyavanum rAdhE rAdhE!
Moovarum oruvarE radhE rAdhE!
Iyyam thavirtthittAi thOzhi thOzhi!
Arudhal allitthittAi thOzhi thOzhi!
Unakkenna kaimAru thOzhi thOzhi!
SeidhAlum thagumE thOzhi thOzhi!

MadhuraSmaranam

My Guru As I See Him

Sri Swamiji would quite often say Brahma Deva himself has declared that Kalisantarana Upanishad that has given us the Mahamantra says that three and half crore chant of this Mahamantra would bestow its fruit.

Dr A Bhagyanathan

A renowned musician by name Kailasam Iyer lived in Kumbakonam. Ramachandran, his son, could also sing well and was popularly known as 'paattu' (music) Ramachandran.

It was on a Sivaratri while leaving after the whole day darshan of Mahaperiyava that our Sri Swamiji became acquainted with 'paattu' Ramachandran. From then onwards Ramachandran used to pay frequent visits to Sri Swamiji. Ramachandran was then staying in Flat (apartment) no. 51K, Bharati Dasan Colony. He brought Sri Swamiji for the first time to that Flat to celebrate Gokulashtami (Lord Krishna's birth day). On that occasion Gokulashtami was celebrated with a Thanjavur painting of Sri Krishna. After a few days Sri Swamiji shifted to this Flat as a tenant. The rent Rs.400/- was paid by Sri Sridhar. Ramachandran would, on some days, bring food from his home for Sri Swamiji.

For most part of the time Sri Swamiji remained in dhyana, japa and Namakirtan. At that point of time Sri Swamiji had only Mahaperiyava's picture and Paduka. Slowly those in the neighbourhood came to know about Sri Swamiji and began to visit him. Satsang was conducted. During this time Sri Swamiji would keep chanting Arunachala Aksharamanamalai and Atma nivedanam. It was here that Gomatiji, sisters Umaji and Ushaji and their mother Lakshmiji, Hariji, Girjii, Meenakshiji, the lady known as 'L' maami, Bengaluru Lakshmiji's mother Kalyaniji, Jayantiji, 'Anna nagar' Sridharji and his wife Girijaji, Chandra chitti and her husband Sekar chittappa, the couple Kanchanaji and Sankaranji, 'IOC' Jayaji all began to visit Sri Swamiji.

It was to this place that the Divyanama Krishna now at the Ashram came first. This Krishna used to frequently conduct divine plays (Lila) with Sri Swamiji. This Krishna must have, till date, listened to more than ten thousand Divyanama bhajans! During Navaratri Sri Swamiji would dress this Krishna in various costumes. Sweet fragrance would emanate from Sri Swamiji's Flat when he used to be in dhyana here.

In Sri Swamiji's adjacent Flat lived the couple Chandra chitti and Sekar chittappa. Pattu Paatti (grandmother Pattu) was Chandra chitti's mother-in-law. When in solitude Sri Swamiji would shed tears thinking of this old lady. Sri Swamiji would often narrate an event in Sri Adi Sankara's life – "Sri Sankara seeks his mother's permission to renounce his home. The mother asks him with deep concern 'who will feed you from tomorrow?' To this Sri Sankara says 'till date you alone were my mother; but from tomorrow all those who feed me will be my mother'."

Grandmother Pattu worked ceaselessly for the family. As she was diabetic she would not eat much. After all left home on work she would take a rickshaw and go to the doctor all by herself to get her shot of insulin. She never got angry over anything and was very forbearing. Sri Swamiji would always bolt his door from inside. This grandmother Pattu would sit on the staircase opposite and wait for him to open the door. As soon as the door opened she would compel Sri Swamiji to drink or eat something – Horlicks/coffee, dosa/rice, etc.. She was a very soft spoken person. During her last days her health deteriorated and she attained Vaikuntam.

Vishnuratan (Sumanth) who is today a great Bhagavata is verily the grandson of this grandmother Pattu. He lives at Govindapuram in the Guru's sanctum and performs puja for Lord Jagannatha at Chaitanya Kutteeram. This year, on September 19th, the tenth anniversary of the founding of Chaitanya Kutteeram where Lord Jagannath along with Sri Subhadra, Sri Balaram and Sri Krishna Chaitanya-Sri Nityananda resides was celebrated successfully. Paranur Mahatma Sri Sri Anna was present in person and discoursed on his granta (holy book) 'Bhakti paattam' for five days. Our Sri Swamiji also participated in this function.

Sri Swamiji would quite often say 'Brahma deva himself has declared that Kalisantarana Upanishad that has given us the Mahamantra says that three and half crore chant of this Mahamantra would bestow its fruit. And what do we see in Chaitanya Kutteeram? For more than nine years Mahamantra kirtan has been going on every day without break! The sound of Mahamantra has been ringing here all 365 days from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. without break! Further, it is not a single devotee but several devotees chanting the Mahamantra! During holidays and festival time hundreds of devotees come here and chant the Mahamantra. This is verily the Temple of Mahamantra. Here, Namakirtan is being performed neither for publicity nor for wealth and fame; but verily for the sake of Nama the devotees chant the Nama! Further, this is a divine temple where Nama declared by Mahans, Upanishads and Puranas as the only way to salvation in this Age of Kali is being chanted incessantly. Moreover, it has been said that any dharma done on the banks of a river or in a temple or in a cowshed becomes more fruitful. River Cauvery is the only one of the seven holy Rivers flowing through S.India. This incessant chant of Mahamantra is verily taking place on her bank! Also, as the chanting is done at a place where Sri Bodendra swami has been residing in his subtle divine body for more than 300 years even as he chants the Taraka Mantra (Ram Ram) its significance is increased multi-fold. This holy place (ksehtra) is of such glory. Only due to the grace of the Sadguru that all these have come to pass'.

'Merely by stepping into this Mahamantra temple a person is at once wholly purified' are the words of benediction from Sri Swamiji.

ANSWERS AND BEYOND

Whose company should one be in?
In the company of those who believe in God.

Who are the believers?

The ones who are virtuous

Who are the virtuous?

The ones who have bhakti to Lord Hari.

Who are the ones who have bhakti to Lord

The ones who have bhakti to Lord Krishna

Who are the ones who have bhakti to Lord Krishna??

The ones who are satvik in nature

Who are satvik in nature?

The ones who give importance to kirtan and shravanam, just for the sweetness in it.

Who are the ones who perform kirtan and shravanam?

The Bhagavatha Paramahamsas who have attained Lord Krishna.

A LETTER TO THE FORMIDABLE MAYA

Poem by Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji

No matter the worries, stress and pain

One runs after money relentlessly in vain

NONE CAN ESCAPE YOUR CLUTCHES

BECAUSE IN WEALTH YOU DWELL, OH MAYA!

No matter the perils and insults one faces

Power is the one thing that everyone chases

NONE CAN ESCAPE YOUR CLUTCHES

BECAUSE IN POWER YOU DWELL, OH MAYA!

No matter the setbacks, brickbats and shame

One remains undeterred in the mad pursuit of fame

NONE CAN ESCAPE YOUR CLUTCHES

BECAUSE IN FAME YOU DWELL, OH MAYA!

No matter the noble lineage or upbringing
One does a despicable act without repenting
NONE CAN ESCAPE YOUR CLUTCHES
BECAUSE IN SUCH WEAK MOMENTS YOU
DWELL, OH MAYA!

No matter the desires renounced and senses controlled for God realization

One stumbles drastically lured by the tiniest temptation

NONE CAN ESCAPE YOUR CLUTCHES
BECAUSE IN TEMPTATIONS YOU DWELL,
OH MAYA!

OH Formidable Maya!

Praise be to you! The victor of victors!

You will live in this world forever

As, satisfaction in these pursuits, will happen never.

The rarest stories of victories over you

Makes me wonder, if they are even true!

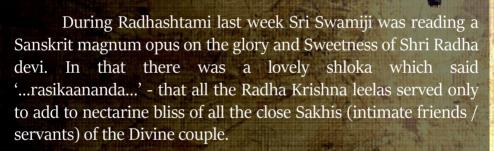
I beg a fitting reward for singing paeans on you,

Please desert me, now and forever, will you?

The Supreme Expression of Love

From Sri Swamiji's lecture on Radha Krishna Leela, on 9th September 2016 at Madhurapuri Ashram

~MK Ramanujam



During a joyous travel from ashram to the city, our beloved Master referred to this bhava (relish) and explained this further to answer our unasked questions on this supreme secret!

"It is said that all leelas (divine sport) of the divine couple goes to enhance the joy and bliss of all the companions of Shri Radha devi. Now one may ask, when Krishna is playing with Radha devi, how can the companions get the joy? Won't they feel jealous?!"

Now that was a good question, which we never even had the capacity to ask about! Sri Swamiji out of his compassion posed the question and gave a great fitting reply too! One of the companions in the conversation was a good cricketer! Sri Swamiji's response was pretty much aligned to this fact!!

"How can the companions find bliss when Krishna is sporting with Radha devi and not them? To understand this, let me explain in the language you all would relate to! When you watch a cricket match esp. between India and some other country, let us suppose the extremely talented captain is batting now. You all are only watching. The situation is - one ball to go and 6 runs needed for a win!! The live audience of 40,000 is putting tremendous pressure on the batsman! Now when the batsman scores a sixer, all the 40,000 and you all also jump with joy right? You don't have his talent or the temperament; you are incapable of hitting a six, but when the batsman hits it, you feel the same joy as the batsman when he hits a sixer, even though you didn't hit it, right?!!! Likewise the amount of love required to sport with Krishna – only Radha devi has it. The companions of Radha devi experience the bliss vicariously when Radha rani gets the bliss of sporting with Krishna!"

What a lofty secret of love made so simple!

The cricketer in the group gave a grateful smile which spoke volumes!

Only such a loving master can come down to our level to clarify the loftiest of the truths about devotion!

I trust you all can also feel that joy of the conversation we had with our master today – vicariously!



Shri Radha Devi Dhyanam on Radhashtami Day

Radha Devi leaves home to head towards Brindavan I Chandravali follows her

Forests, floral creepers and plants so many Into that dense forest Radha Devi is going Leaves, dried twigs scattered on the ground There are birds, peacocks, wild animals Yamuna in spate with its audible gurgling With the distinct sound of its onward gushing The sky is adorned with moon complete Stars, like the sparks from the cosmic sparkler No one around! No buildings! Just Brindavan! Radha Devi is as if in trance, just running Has forgotten all else - the world, why... Her own self! With her yellow garment, with blue tiny floral designs Slightly fluttering in the breeze Her eye fixed upwards, pleading for a darshan In the dead of the night, searching the dark jewel Eyes turbulent, as if saying it can bear no longer Slender slim waist like a unique padmini girl Plaited long black tresses hanging behind Lips murmuring Krishna! Krishna! On its own accord With the mood of devotion ripening.

Chandravali is worried on the foreboding Of her 'Stabhdam' – that she may just be paralyzed With her hands gingerly placed Around her queen, yet not touching And with a quivering heart With a worried face, is following her. Seeing this Radha Devi oblivious of her dear companion behind, Birds, fishes, deer, and all Stand paralyzed, yet blessed With pangs of Separation from Krishna Afflicted with divine sorrow - a true sign Of the highest devotion to the Supreme The tinklets adorning her feet Eschewing their true nature Become silent, not to disturb Their princess' divine mood Running hither and thither In the direction of the sweet inviting melody Of the flute-wielder's love, My mind is following this Radha Rani on this Radhashtami day

On the auspicious and the joyous day of radhashtami, the joy of the celebration was compounded by the short and sweet 'rasomaya' conversation of Sri Swamiji. Sri Swamiji was sharing the various thoughts which were running in his mind with me which in turn I am sharing with you all:

- 1. Prema Bhakti or rapture of divine love shall dawn even when we go near Shri Radha rani. By her benign grace, the love reaches its supreme state to make one divinely intoxicated with love.
- 2. No other deity has the most gracious eyes of Shri Radha rani which ever brims over with divine love.
- 3. Sri Swamiji asked softly, 'Shri Radha rani shall never attain Krishna. Let me see if you can tell me why?' I blinked, not even having a clue about the answer. 'It is because, Krishna is always following behind Radha rani!'

~ Sri Ramanujam

The Fair Realization

In a corporate, it was the time for the Management to announce the yearly pay hike. The management of the corporate is known for dealing with such matters in a fair and reasonable manner. So the expectation was pretty high! But when the workers realized that the pay hike was not going to be given that year, they were very upset.

They formed a representation and approached the CEO.

The CEO invited the team warmly into his room and said, 'Look here! I deal with all of you in a fair manner ever. This year has been very bad. We are running into losses. Here, have a look at our Profit and Loss statement. Do you see now why I cannot give you a pay hike?'

The workers obviously wanted a pay hike and hence could not agree. The workers also saw the fair rationale for zero hike and hence they had to accept the decision.

Likewise, when we are attacked by an adversity, we are not able to bear the pain of the suffering. We feel like questioning God! 'I don't deserve this?!'

But the as we progress spiritually, we realize that no one can escape Karma. We need to accept it. There is no unfairness in our suffering. Then we feel the pain of the distress and yet we learn to accept it, 'in all fairness'!

- MK Ramanujamji

(Night procession at 8:30 PM on 13th July, 2016)

Our Guru Maharaj was lost in thoughts on the Garuda seva. He was reminiscing again and again on the beauty of Lord Varadharaja, how Garudazhwar was carrying him nicely and on the various decorations.

After the procession, Sri.Varadhar came back. When Sri.Guruji heard that Sri.Varadhar has returned to the temple, he also started. Sri.Jeevanji and family, from Houston Namadwaar, USA also had the fortune to take part in this procession.

Sri.Varadhar was passing beyond the main Rajagopuram and Stone mandapam and the temple flagmast towards the 'Ananda Saras' with about 40 devotees. Varadharajar was Sri proceeding majestically like a divine bridegroom, with a long 'thazambu'(fragrant screw pine) in his hand, a crown with thopparam, Sri Vaishnavas holding the divine padukas, the devotees singing the hymns Periazhwar and with nadaswaram music in the background. A divine smile was playing in the face of Sri.Guruji and he was also swinging his head lightly to the tune of the music. His lotus arms were making the beats to the rythm and his eyes were drinking the ambrosia of Sri. Varadharajar's face.

Generally Guruji avoids being in a crowd. We ourselves have seen this during utsavams in temples. He likes to have his darshan without being conspicuous. He never likes to bypass a crowd and go to the front. We can see a certain amount of shyness in him. He never likes to use someone's influence to have darshan of the Lord in close quarters. He also instructs us accordingly.

However Sri.Varadhar willed otherwise. He wanted to call Sri.Guruji to his side, who was otherwise enjoying the bliss of darshan from a dark place which was far off. A SriVaishnava who does service to Sri.Varadhar recognised Sri.Guruji and came running to him and implored him to have darshan of the Lord from close quarters. Sri.Guruji replied with a gesture of his hand that he was quite comfortable where he was, but the SriVaishnava did not leave him and short of pulling him by his hand, led Sri.Guruji before Sri.Varadhar.

Sri.Guruji with folded hands had a blissful darshan of the Lord. The Lord had a 'thazambu' in his 'varadha hasta' and was wearing a simple jasmine garland which in turn was supposed to hold the the heavier garland. The heavy jasmine garland on top, interspersed with 'Vrikshi' flowers looking like 'zaris', was beautiful to behold. The nadaswaram vidwan Sri.Vijai Karthikeyan was then playing 'Entharo Mahanubhavulu' in the raga 'Sriragam' and Sri.Guruji enjoyed the raga along with 'anuraga' towards Sri.Varadhar. The SriVaishnava priests now and then expressed their love and happiness to Guruji with their smiles, salutations and nodding of their heads. Sri.Guruji conversed with one of them happily for about 5 minutes and both of them were in smiles about something. We were very eager to know the reason for their smiles. After everything was over, the benovelent Guru Maharaj called us to our side and said, "Sri.Varadhar is supposed to have his procession with both of his consorts. So, the question came as to why he is having a 'solo' procession today. Do you know why?

Today is Periazhwar's star birthday. Sri.Varadhar is actually proceeding towards Periazhwar's shrine. Periazhwar actually sings in his hymn, "I had a daughter who I brought up like Mahalakshmi and who finally was taken away by the Lord himself". He gave away his daughter Sri.Andal to the Lord in marriage. Lord Varadhar is now actually proceeding to his father-in-law's place. The Lord does not want Periazhwar to worry as to whether the daughter he gave in marriage to the Lord is happy, since he is coming here with two other devis. Hence Lord Varadhar is making a 'solo' visit to the shrine of Periazhwar!

What a beautiful feeling and how nicely expressed by Sri.Guruji? He always likes to view the 'archavathara' (idols in temples) and 'vibhavathara' (incarnations like Rama and Krishna) in the same light. He also out of his compassion teaches us to have this attitude.

Ramanatha Brahmachari-2

At another time a difference of opinion arose over some matter between Sri Muruganar's father-in-law Dhandapani swami and Ramanatha Brahmachari. Dhandapani swami had a strong physique. He was tall, hefty and strong whereas Ramanatha was short and puny. The hefty Dhandapani swami pushed the puny Ramanatha down in anger and asked, "Do you know who I am?" This did not deter Ramanatha Brahmachari in any way. With folded palms he said, "Have we not assembled here only to learn who we are through self-enquiry?" On hearing the words 'who am I' Dhandapani swami's anger vanished. Regretting his action he sought Ramanatha's pardon. Not stopping at this he himself reported the matter to Bhagavan in a sorrowful mood. Listening to it Bhagavan smiled beautifully.

When for the first time the owner of cow Lakshmi, the reincarnation of keerai paatti, brought her to the ashram the question as to who would take care of her against the dangers of leopards and tigers came up. Bhagavan also said in a general way, "There is always the danger of wild animals. Who will take care of the cow? If somebody would take up the responsibility this cow can remain here." Immediately the four and half feet puny Ramanatha Brahmachari said, "Bhagavan! I will take care." This is how Sri Ramanashramam Go-sala came into being.

The train to Tiruvannamalai arrived only at 8.30 p.m. Most of the ashramites would go to bed soon after dinner at seven. Bhagavan felt that it would be good if someone could take care of the needs of devotees who came to the ashram late in the evening. It was Ramanatha Brahmachari who volunteered to attend to this. Every evening when devotees arrived he served them and only after attending to their needs he would go to bed. The next morning Bhagavan would appreciate his service with a smile and the words "Besh! So you took care of them. Good, Good!"

Once, when devotees accompanied Bhagavan on circumambulation of the holy Arunachala Hill it was decided that each one should speak on some spiritual matter. Ramanatha, in ecstasy, spoke of Ramana as verily Lord Siva and his devotees as Siva's demonic attendants [bhootaganas]. Then, at the request of Bhagavan and others he composed it in poetic verses in Tamizh. The first line carries the following import – 'soon as I saw the Lord of Tiruchuzhi I lost my body consciousness; my Lord at that very moment bestowed me with spiritual wisdom that stops future births'.

My mother was an ardent devotee of Ramana. She liked Ramanatha Brahmachari very much. Once, I asked my mother, "Several devotees like Kavyakanta, Muruganar, Sivaprakasam pillai, Sadhu Om have sung hymns. Which hymn do you like?" To this query of mine my mother pointed out to this very poem of Ramanatha Brahmachari. That poetic verse says 'from the time I saw Tiruchuzhi Lord I have remained unmindful of everything else. That Lord of Tiruchuzhi is verily the compassionate Lord Nataraja of Thillai (Chidambaram) who protects and blesses the

downtrodden. He has verily come to live in Virupaksha cave on the holy Annamalai. Jiva in the kingdom of Kaaya (body) having the senses [jnana, karma senses] as its citizens with the minister ego is running a barbaric rule. After a time, the Jiva picking up the sword of God's blessing cuts off the head of the ego minister. The

Jiva then remains shining in the cave of heart (hrudyaakaasa – heart space) along with the dancing Lord; That Lord is verily this Tiruchuzhi Lord! After seeing him I stayed there itself without returning." This is how the poetic verse runs.

In 1946 when his health failed he came to Chennai which was then called Madras, for treatment. In spite of the treatment he relinquished his body. Hearing about this Bhagavan sat in total silence without uttering a word. This was a very surprising factor in 1946. It is notable that in spite of the presence of hundreds of people there Bhagavan was lost in himself.

Courtesy: Ramana Periya Puranam - Sri Ganesan



A DVD release by Chaitanya Mahaprabhu Nama Kendra, MADHURASMARANAM My Guru Recording of a Live Lecture Tamil Him. in Bhagyanathanji, Personal Secretary to His Maharanyam Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji Madhuram Stores, Plot No 11, Door No 4/11, Nethaji Road, Jafferkhanpet, Chennai Main Ph: 9442613710, Price Rs 100/-



ATALE FOR CHILDREN

A Lesson from the Kite

Little Raja was very excited that day. He wished his mother to see how good he is at kite-flying and so Raja sat by her side and delightfully started flying his kite. The kite was flying up. Pulling on the strings, Raja made the kite fly up higher and higher. Raja and his mother were feeling very happy. The colorful kite with its wagging tail was a pleasant sight to watch. Suddenly Raja had a thought. Is the string that is holding the kite impeding it from flying freely! At once,

Raja looked at his mother and said "This string is actually obstructing the flight of the kite, right? Why don't we just cut it out?"

His mother said," Raja! It is only with the help of this string that the Kite is able to fly. Can't you just leave it for the sake of showing gratitude? Raja said, "Amma! What you say is right, Gratitude is important! But what if the kite wants to fly up higher than what it can do right now. Then, Shouldn't we set the kite free? The mother replied, "Okay, it's just a kite, go ahead and cut the string and see what happens".

Immediately Raja took the scissors and set the kite free by cutting off its string. The very moment, the kite jumped up higher into the sky. The little boy's face was brimming with joy. He looked at his mother with pride which conveyed his thought "Didn't I tell you"! Conversely the look on his mother's face with a gentle smile implied "Wait and Watch". The kite that went up

high, gradually started to lose control. Wavering hither and thither it started falling down. The joy in Raja's face faded. The falling kite after thumping on several tree branches got damaged with holes all over and landed on an electric pole completely torn. The kite was now into pieces looking like trash papers. Raja was upset on seeing this. His mother then told him, "Look at the kite, dear. A kite might appear to fly freely without a string to control, but finally it will end up in a gutter or on an electric pole. Raja silently nodded his head in acknowledgement. Then she added, "Just let go, it's only a kite. Now, listen to what I'm going to tell you". Raja paid attention as his mother started talking. "Who are the ones who really help us to grow in life? It is our own Mother, Father, God and Guru. Also, the culture in which we grew up, our society, morals, blessings of elders add up to enrich our lives. These are not mere foundation for our growth but remain as a protective shield, for us to safely grow higher in life. Just like that string for the kite. While this being the case, if we cut off our connections with these fundamental factors that are the actual reasons for our progress, it might appear to be joyous in the beginning but eventually our life will also face a disastrous end like that of the kite. So our society, discipline, culture are the helping hands for our growth. Be aware that these are not the obstacles for our growth".

His mother further added "How much ever high we may fly, we can live well only by holding on to the systems laid in our culture and society. Otherwise it would turn out to be catastrophic. Hope you can understand this" Raja realized it well. These life lessons may not be learnt from the thousands of laurels earned, but how well mother has taught an imperative lesson for a

wonderful life just through the flying of a kite. With this happy thought

lingering in his mind, he walked back home with his mother.

In Srimad
Bhagavatam this term
'amOgha' occurs in
several places. Usage
of terms such as
amOgha-Illa:',
'amOgha-vIrya',
'amOgha-sankalpa:',
'amOgha-darshana:',
'amOgha-mahimAni',
'amOgha-rAdhasa',
'amOgha-anugraha',
'amOgha-anugraha',
'amOgha-yati:',
'amOgha-vAk' are
found.

We find that this term has been wonderfully used in several places with the import that the Lord is one whose Lilas never go in vain, Valour never goes in vain, Will never goes in vain, Glance never goes in vain, Glory never goes in vain, Blessings never go in vain.

மாதம் ஒரு சம்ஸ்க்ருத வார்த்தை ஸ்ரீ விஷ்ணுப்ரியா

amogham

This month the Sanskrit word that we shall take up is 'amOgham'. It is an adjective. The word 'amOgham' is quite widely used in Tamizh language. It is quite common to say 'nee amOghamaaga yiruppaai'—meaning 'you will prosper'. But in the Sanskrit language the word 'amOgha' means 'not in vain'. 'Mogha' means 'in vain', useless, waste, hopeless. 'AmOgha' is its opposite.

Let us now take up this term 'amOgham' used in the 8th Canto with reference to devotion to the Lord (Bhagavat Bhakti). Aditi Devi, deeply concerned with the victory of the Asuras over her sons the Devas, prays to Kashyapa (her husband) to help the Devas regain their lost state. Kashyapa advises her to worship Lord Vaasudeva devoutly and that He would fulfil her desire. Kashyapa tells her 'amOgha Bhagavat bhakti: netareti matirmama'. That is, he means to say 'devotion to the Lord will never go in vain. All other things are not so'.





Infant Krishna Bhajan Mandali has rendered Kirtans written on Sri Swamiji, which has been released by Chaitanya Mahaprabhu Nama Bhiksha Kendra as Guru Keerthanangal, Audio CD 6. Vol 7 available at Madhuram Stores. Plot No 11, Door No 4/11, Nethaji Nagar Main Road, Jafferkhanpet, Chennai - 600083, Ph: 9442613710

One of the prime reasons for misery is Boredom. Getting stuck in traffic; Laundry work; waiting in the long queue at the grocery store; the monotonous household chores; Long break from work or college; Weekends with no activities. At times boredom can turn out to be dreadful. In order to avoid wasting time doing nothing, some random activities are vigorously sought after. By engaging in meaningless tasks, gossips, gambling, bad habits and spending day and night on the internet, time gets wasted aimlessly. Very often this ends up in depressed mental conditions. Frequently being alone and extremely quiet are considered perilous and to be avoided. The truth is if utilized well, these states of solitude and silence can be very interesting and blissful. Here are some tips to overcome boredom in the best possible ways.

SHUN PROCRASTINATION

Many times, it is not boredom that actually hits us but we simply while away the time. It is best to find out and work on the tasks that we normally put off, and completely eschew the habit of procrastination.



READ SCRIPTURES

There are several books and information on our scriptures, ancient Indian wisdom and Sanathana Dharma. Gaining knowledge on them will help us to realize their greatness. To read divine stories and dwell in the thoughts of Lord's glories and stories of great devotees are sure ways to instill peace and joy. Books and journals on our Dharma, ancient wisdom, our heritage, not only make us feel inspired and

proud but also help us to look into everything with focus and wisdom.

PRODUCTIVE VIEW OF OUR CURRENT ACTIVITIES

If any aspect of our current life appears to be uninteresting, it could be the right time to reevaluate. Let's assume that we are not happy with our office work. Make two lists one with all the aspects that we don't like about our job, including our opinion about people, wages, roles, work hours, appreciations. Add anything that is bothersome. On the other list, include details about all that we like in our job. No matter how trivial or small it might appear, if it is productive, let us include them. Never stop until 30 such likable aspects are found. It might appear to be an impossible task, but we can take time and be creative. If the list runs out of matter, we can get back to it after taking a break. Once the second list is completed, the first list is to be reviewed by asking ourselves for each negative aspect mentioned "How have I been the cause for this negative feeling?" If we are truthful to ourselves, the answers might greatly surprise us!

START WALKING

The simple practice of walking is what is needed mostly, when our work is tiresome, especially, when the work involves long sitting hours, walking is the best way to increase the blood circulation. Get outside, walk around, see the people, observe the nature and ponder on our life and

PENNING DOWN THE THOUGHTS

the people in it.

Practise writing down any thought that come up in the mind. It could be a thought or a line or an outburst of an emotion, or an opinion about an incident. Write down any thought on which the mind dwells at that time.

CONTEMPLATE LIKE AN ARTIST OR A POET Appreciate even the tiniest thing around us. People, creation, devices, instruments, every individual entity! All of these are the work of God. Each of these is either the wondrous creation of the Lord or the work of the human brain as intended by the Lord. Observing such wonder hidden in every small detail, will drench us in pleasant shock.

MAHAMANTRA - THE WEAPON TO DISPEL BOREDOM

To any activity that causes boredom, add the suffix "MAHAMANTRA" to it. If we are waiting in the long queues at the bank or at the customer service center, we are doing "WAITING MAHAMANTRA". If we are cleaning the house, we are carrying out "CLEANSING MAHAMANTRA". If stuck in the traffic jam, "TRAFFIC JAM MAHAMANTRA".

Chanting the MAHAMANTRA while working on any monotonous job, helps the mind in making the task simpler and meaningful.

PURANAVA ANSWERS FROM LAST ISSUE Three musical instruments mentioned in the Vedas (Veena, Venu, Mridanga)

CROSSWORD

Across: 1.Jaipur 2.Ramanujam 3.Sitar 4.Lanka 5.Chess 6.Kabir 7.Thanjavur 8.Manu 9.Iqbal 10.Adi Sankara 11.Karnataka 12.Tulu 13.West Bengal **Down:** 1.Assam 2.Ravana 3.Pattachithra 4.Meera 5.Patanjali 6.Vishnu 7.Twelve 8. Kerala 9.Malgudi Days 10.Airavata 11.Konark 12.Nine 13.Golu

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Snippets We Enjoyed

A compilation of interesting news from magazines and newspapers this month

California schools to have richer content on ancient India The New Indian Express

July 16, 2016

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Education board in California in the US has approved a new school curriculum framework which will include richer content on ancient India and Hinduism for the first time. The framework now has mention of Vedic sages, Hindu teachings and philosophy, bhakti saints, music, dance, art and scientific contributions of India.

PM Modi gifted Chinese translations of ancient Indian texts

India Today September 4, 2016

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was today presented Chinese translations of ancient Indian texts including Bhagavad Gita, essays of Swami Vivekananda, Yoga Sutras of Patanjali, Narada's Bhakti Sutras, Yoga Vasistha among others.

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Puranava

Identify the Connection







Answer in the next issue



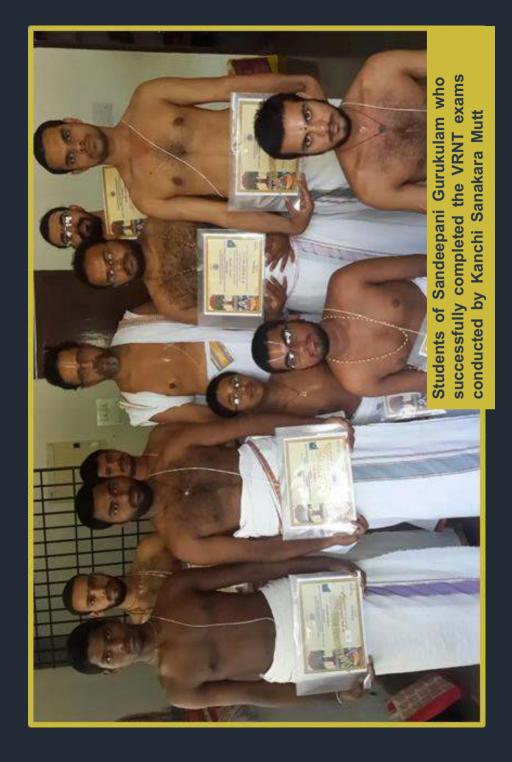
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