

Sri Hari:

MadhuraMurali

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HH Maharanyam Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji



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MadhuraSmaranam

My Guru As I See Him

Dr A Bhagyanathan

(Personal Secretary to Sri Sri Swamiji)

By the compassion of Bhagavan, a beautiful Namadwaar has come up in Udumalaipet. Smt. Pramila of Udumalaipet has been tirelessly propagating Nama for the past ten years, with the helping hands of many others. Prime amongst them, Sri Suresh and his wife Smt. Anita Suresh, make it a point to visit our ashram every Ekadashi, carrying a beautiful garland made of champaka flowers. They used to prebook train tickets to come to ashram regularly for Ekadashi. He is a school teacher and chants Nama with the entire family. In Udumalaipet, Smt. Pramila has taken efforts to inscribe Nama on 1500 walls after obtaining permission. She has dedicated her entire life for the propagation of Nama. Sri Swamiji has visited Udumalaipet many times. The arrangement for the first visit was done by Sri Ravisenthil.

The place where Namadwaar is now located was earlier a thatched hut where Namakirtan was happening. That place was a portion of the house owned by Sri Kumar and Smt Radha and Sri Srinivasan and Smt. Lakshmi.

Once Sri Swamiji had come to that particular place to conduct a satsang. The place was appealing to Sri Swamiji. Sri Swamiji thought 'This location would be ideal for Namadwaar' As the owners were also devotees, they were more than willing to offer the land. The place where Namadwaar is located is a residential colony. The residents welcomed it as well, considering it to be their fortune. The land was thus purchased and the construction began. Major portion of the funds required for the construction was borne by the devotees of Udumalaipet. The principal of Renuka Vidyalaya, who is also a devotee of our Swamiji, Smt. Vijayarani, her grandson Sri Ram Arshith along with his friend Sri Nagaraj and architect Madhulika offered their full support in bringing about the Namadwaar in an elegant way. Thus a wonderful Namadwaar was built. Sri Swamiji returned back from Hyderabad only on July 25th and went to Senganur on July 27th. As July 28th was Rohini, the procession, homam, pooja were performed in the routine manner. As it was Ekadashi too, Sri Swamiji returned back to ashram the same evening and did Thirumanjanam to Premika Varadhan.

On July 31st Sri Swamiji inaugurated a new building at Maharanyam School. It was Adi Amavasya. On the 1st of August, Sri Swamiji reached Govindapuram. The next day, that is on August 2nd, it was the Pradishta day of Bhagavan Yogi Ramsuratkumar

Bhajanashram. Abishegam, pooja were all performed with great devotion to Bhagavan Yogi Ramsuratkumar. Sri. Krupakaramurthy's family along with his brother Sri. Vijayan's family and sister Vasuki's family had come and participated in the pooja.

From there, Sri Swamiji left for Kangeyam and visited Olapalayam Sri Anjaneya Swamy temple. The next day, from Sri Anjaneyar temple, Sri Swamiji came back to Udumalaipet. As it was the day of Aadi Pooram, Sri Swamiji extolled on Sri Andal Kalyanam in the evening at Sri Ramayyar Kalyana Mandapam. Sri Ajith from Chennai spoke beautifully about the need for 'Namadwaar'. Thousands of devotees had participated.

Next day, devotees started coming to the Namadwaar premises from 6am in the morning. Namadwaar was inaugurated wilth 'Go pooja', which was then followed by abishegam, pooja and distribution of theertha prasad.

Sri Hariraj Paandi (Harish) of Virudunagar, sang Sri Swamiji's Madhuragitam kirtans in a nectarine way. Sri Swamiji offered prasad to everyone who had dedicated themselves for the construction of Namadwaar. Devotees rejoiced that it rained so aptly right after the Namadwaar inaugural function.



Answers and Beyond



Q: Why did living beings originate in this world?

A: To tell you the truth as is, there is nothing called origin. Origin and end are concepts created by our mind!

Q: Why did God create me as a human being?

A: To make this question arise in your mind.

Q: Why did God have to create living beings, and then show us different paths to liberation? He could have refrained from creation, in the first place! I request you to give me clarity on the purpose of creation!

A: Before seeking an answer to this question, if you contemplate on who made this question arise in your mind, you will understand the purpose of creation.

Q: I need to go abroad for work purposes for a certain period. It is my desire that - I should always be thinking of Sri Krishna; At some point, Bagavan should accept me as one among his million bakthas; he should bless me with service unto him always. I am scared that circumstances in the place where I am going might distance me from my desire. Kindly show me the proper means for this.

A: If you apply oil to your palms and cut a jackfruit, it will not stick to your hands, isn't it? Similarly, catch hold of the mahamantra and boldly go about doing your worldly duties. If the mahamantra is in your lips, worldly matters will not affect you. One who chants the mahamantra resides only in the shadow of the Holy Feet of Lord Krishna.

Q: A person lives in the belief that Bagavan is always talking to him, walking with him and accepting whatever he offers to him. Isn't this mere imagination?! Where is the real spiritual experience in this?

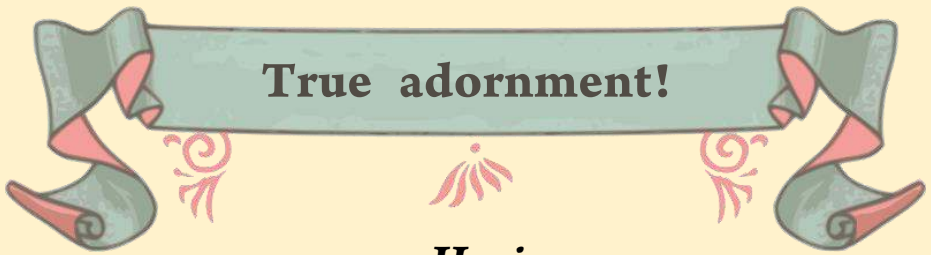
A: Initially this might seem like mere imagination, but gradually this will flower into 'bhava bakthi'. To realise 'bhava bakthi' is not an easy thing. As that 'bhava' strengthens, by the Guru's grace, it will become a real experience. This is the rarest of rare high state of bakthi.

Q: Every man's mind is subject to various forms of stress because of the love, concern and worry about the welfare of the family and children. Amidst this, is it possible for him to peacefully think of God?

A: Let us take a bus, for example. Only the bus driver and the passengers travelling in that bus worry that the bus should travel safe, but will the bus worry at all? Always internalise and think, "I am merely an instrument. Only Lord Krishna is controlling us". Even an ordinary employee of a successful multi-national company will be secure without any worries. One born in an affluent family will be courageous because of his wealth. Once we understand that we belong to Bagavan who is Sarveswaran(Lord of all) and surrender unto him, our life will be free of worries.

Q: I am 20 years old. I am addicted to a few bad habits. I also have strong belief in God. How do I get out of these vices?

A: It is a good thing that you believe in God. When you pray to God for various things, also pray that, "I am sincerely trying to get out of bad habits. Only you have to rescue me from this". Be adamant that you will not let go of his holy feet until your prayer is fulfilled. God's grace and your perseverance will certainly yield good results.



- ***Hari***

Gurudev was leaving for participating in an event. He asked one of his disciples to join him. Saying he would be ready in a few minutes this disciple went in. He bathed, wore clean clothes and came out.

Gurudev asked him, "Are you ready? Shall we start?"
The disciple replied, "Yes, Gurudev! I am ready. We can leave."

But Gurudev said, "No! We cannot leave!"

The disciple asked, "Why Gurudev?"

Gurudev pointed out, "You have not adorned yourself properly. Dress properly; we can then leave."

Hearing the words of his Gurudev the disciple was surprised.

He asked in wonder, "Gurudev! I bathed just now and have worn clean clothes, how else do you expect me to dress? I don't understand; please tell what I am to do."

At once Gurudev took him in front of a mirror and said, "Look properly at your face in the mirror." And the disciple did as bid.

He then said, "Everything seems to be fine."

Gurudev looked at him and said patiently, "You bathed just a while ago and have worn clean clothes, no doubt. But your face does not show any sign of joy, self-confidence and a friendly smile. Sans these how do you expect to participate in a public event? A happy face, smile and self-confidence are the true adornment. However well you may adorn yourself, you cannot be said to have adorned yourself well if these are absent.

The disciple at once grasped the words of Gurudev and began to bring it into practice in his life.



Sri MK Ramanujam

PEACE!

Depression, anxiety – these words are commonly in vogue today. But all claim to desire peace and calm. Let us see why we get into depression and anxiety. Our mind keeps bringing back to memory only certain undesirable happenings – unavoidable events, sorrows, disappointments, mistakes in our lives. It keeps harping only on these resulting in self-pity leading to inferiority complex. When we get caught in this and are unable to come out of it, it is called depression. If only this could be set right even at the outset we can come out of it. As days pass we get so deeply entangled in it that we are unable to come out of it. There is another group of people who are least bothered about past happenings. They are not concerned about them. In their case thoughts of their future viz. ‘would I lose my job? would I be struck with some incurable disease? would I meet with an accident? would I face humiliation? would I face some danger?’ catches hold of them pushing them into deep anxiety. Their whole life passes and is lost in such worries. This is a kind of Anxiety Disorder. Only those who feel ‘whatever has happened has happened; let me worry about crossing the bridge when I come to it, for now let me carry on my duties and live happily’ can live in peace.

(Sri Swamiji is elucidating on the good virtues that one should cultivate to progress on the path of Bhagavatha dharma. The basis for all the virtues is humility. After developing this virtue, and overcoming desires and anger gradually, the next step to be pursued is elaborated here...)

We have already seen that to remove attachment towards an object, if one repeatedly sees and remembers its defects always, then over a period of time the attachment can be overcome. The current verse focuses on where one should see defects and where it should be avoided.

“piraridam kuttram pArAdhiruppAi
un kuttrathai pArkka maravAdhiruppAi”

Stairway to Devotion

- MK Ramanujam

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Lord Krishna also briefly emphasises on this point to Uddhava,

**“kim varNitEna bahunA lakshanam gunadoshayo:
gunadoshadrishirdosho gunastubhayavarjita:”**

“Hey Uddhava! What constitutes virtue and vice is only this; Seeing virtues and vices in others constitutes vice; not seeing virtues and vices in others is virtue”.

One should see one’s own vices rather than seeing it in others. Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu says that to get established in Harinama keerthanam, one should

**“trinAdapi sunlchEna tarOrapi sahishNunA
amaninAm mAnadhEna klrtanlya sadA Hari:”**

- 1. Consider oneself to be inferior to even grass**
- 2. Be patient like a tree**
- 3. Not expect any honour**
- 4. Give respect and honour to all and**
Chant the name of Hari.

Sri Swamiji identifies the source of the above virtues and indicates a simple and practical way to attain it.

When we realise our defects thoroughly and remember them, we automatically become humble. We become indifferent to whatever happens and patience also becomes our nature. Hence we cease to expect any honour or respect from others. When we don’t see any defects in others, we can give respect to them whole-heartedly, without any inhibition. Being in such a state if we chant the name of Lord Hari, will not our devotion become complete very soon? Hence Sri Swamiji sings,

**“piraridam kuttram pArAdhiruppAi
un kuttrathai pArkka maravAdhiruppAi”**

To implement this, there are three simple steps:

- 1. Where the vices of some person are being spoken, we should not listen to them and move away from that place.**
- 2. We should also never gossip and share the vices of someone with others.**
- 3. When we happen to hear or see the vices of someone, we should immediately pray to Lord Krishna, “By your grace, please remove this defect of mine whereby I tend to see the defects in others” and chant the Mahamantra. Very soon, by the grace of God and the Guru, we will be able to overcome this defect in us.**

To obtain the grace of the Lord, a prayer combined with the chanting of the divine Name will be very effective. Only when we remember the defects in ourselves, it will transform in to a soulful prayer. The prayer will also kindle devotion in us.

Gradually we’ll acquire the attitude to view all the happenings of the world as a play of Lord Hari who is the creator, protector and dissolver of this universe and we become His ardent fan-follower! We who are habituated in to seeing this world in terms of good and bad will start seeing the things as a play of Lord Hari. This, Sri Swamiji sings as

**“ulagatthai Hariyin leelayAi pArthiduvAi
akanda nAma smaranam seidhiduvAi”**

The behaviour of an ideal devotee is indicated in Srimad Bhagavatham as

**“GrihithvApIndriyairarthAn yO na dvEshti na hrishyati |
VishnormAyAmidham pashyan sa vai bhAgavatottama: | |”**

Despite being in the world, living a routine mundane life, and seeing and speaking to various types of people, a true devotee of the Lord will see everything as His play and be without attachment and aversion and always in a state of peace. He will see the world itself as the form of Sri Hari and be enchanted by it. Now he has crossed the stage of chanting the name consciously, rather the Name stays in his tongue and heart always.

This state happens naturally to some. Others have to make effort and practise it. They should always chant the Name. They should realise that all the time that is spent without chanting the Name is actually time wasted. Like this, if we slowly chant more and more of the Name, we reach a state where we stay in the Name always continuously without a break.

(...to be contd)



Surrender is the key

Once, a spiritual master was explaining about devotion to God, to his young disciples. He said, "The feet of GOD is our ultimate shelter, we will always be protected there. If we surrender to HIM, we will not get caught in this illusory world". As if to make his point more clearly to his young disciples, he narrated a story.

Once there lived many fishes in a pond. They led a fairly peaceful existence. But this peace was disturbed once in a month. A fisherman would come, cast his big net and catch as many fish as he could. Many months passed.

One elderly fish remained safe each time the fisherman cast his net. The other fishes began talking among themselves. "He seems to know the trick of remaining safe from the fisherman's net. Let's go and ask him".

A Tale for Children

They all went to him and asked, "Grandpa, you have remained safe all these months. "We are aware that you know the secret to remain safe. Would you be kind enough to teach us too?" The elderly fish was very kind. He said with compassion, "Why not my dear ones? Not only I will tell you, I will even show you how to remain safe. Tomorrow is the fisherman's day to come here and cast the net. When he comes, all you have to do is just follow me and do as I do".

The next day dawned bright. The fisherman came and cast his big net. As the smaller fishes were looking at the elderly fish, it began swimming directly towards the fisherman and hid in between his legs. Seeing this many fishes hesitated. They were not ready to swim towards what they thought was danger. But some faithfully followed him and hid along with the elderly fish right between the fisherman's legs. And they escaped the net and certain death.

Master completed the story. The children now understood and clapped their hands in delight. The master continued, "God also casts the net of Maya or Illusion and the only way to escape that is to surrender unto HIS feet. But we are not aware of this; but we can escape from HIS Maya by surrendering with utmost faith to a Master who is aware of HIS Maya and knows the ways to overcome it."

The young disciples said, "We are so blessed to have attained a Sadguru; we will follow the path led by him. We will be protected by HIM".



Mahanyam School

- Sri Venkatesan

An initiative

***“In The
Path Of Love”***



- Many volunteers, Institutions/Organisations have been doing tremendous work in India as well as abroad , as a part of the “PATH OF LOVE” initiative of our beloved master SRI SRI Muralidhara Swamiji.
- Ever since MadhuraPuri Ashram was constructed in 1994 in Mahanyam Village, several volunteers of our organisation have been imparting education to the children in the village. It all started as free coaching to students over the week ends by the volunteers. This initiative has now grown and a full fledged centre is operating in the Ashram Premises, known as Sri Premika Varadan free education Centre”. This has given invaluable guidance to many youngsters of this village.
- Swamiji’s devotees are aware that “Vidya Daan” (Gift of Education) pleases him the most. So whenever they would request him to open a new school , he would say, “ Let the existing Panchayat schools where the most underprivileged kids of Malapattu and Mahanyam Villages go to, be improved upon. Let us all collaborate and work towards that” There is a Government run Primary School and secondary school in Mahanyam village, constructed in the year 1959. Swamiji expressed his desire that all possible help be extended to ensure proper functioning of the school by extending financial help through Sri Sandeepani Trust and God INDIA trust and also voluntary donations from well wishers of our satsangh. In that direction...

- With active contribution from our organisations, the school was upgraded as High School in the year 2005.
- Through the Parent Teacher Association of this school, our umbrella organisations Sri Sandipani Gurukula Trust and God India Trust have been paying monthly salaries to three teachers of this school.
- To encourage and increase the enrolment of new students in this school, free uniforms are distributed to new students (first standard students) every year.
- For the last five years, we have been distributing free Thirukkural and LIFCO English Tamil dictionary to all children from 1st Standard to 5th standard.
- Every year, three top scoring children of 10th standard are given scholarships, appreciation certificates and trophies, funded by Thoothukudi Srinivasan Memorial Trust , GOD India Trust and voluntary donations from well wishers.
- Further, all children scoring over 400 marks (out of 500) are also given monetary rewards funded by GOD India trust, donors and well wishers.
- To help the school achieve 100% results in the Board exams, our organisations have dedicated many efforts including payment of incentives to the teachers to motivate them. This is met from Thoothukudi Srinivasan Memorial trust, God India Trust and other volunteers and Donors.
- Such efforts have also contributed to the school has been achieving 100% result in their Board exams for the last four years.
- A financial assistance of Rs.15,000 per year is given to meet the field trip/excursion expenses of first standard to fourth standard children and a financial assistance of Rs.10,000 per year towards field trip expenses of secondary/high school children is given. This is also met from Sri Sandeepani Gurukula Tust , God India Trust and donors.
- To meet the growing infrastructure needs of the school since its upgradation from secondary to high school, Swamiji wished to improve upon the existing structure. Accordingly as part of "Namakku Naame" scheme Sri Sandeepani Gurukula trust and Thiruppur SCM Group have come forward and constructed additional class rooms and toilet blocks. Sri Swamiji inaugurated the new blocks on 31/7/2019 at about 11 am.

New Classrooms at Maganyam Village Panchayat School

Condition before construction of classrooms at Maganyam Village Panchayat School



Classrooms in the pathway



Classrooms in the pathway



Classrooms under the trees

Maganyam Village Panchayat School - New Classrooms Constructed & Inaugurated by HH MAHARANYAM SRI SRI MURALIDHARA SWAMIJI on 31st July 2019.

Public Contributions for this Project Construction is supported under SSS Scheme by Sri Sandeepani Gurukula Trust - Chennai & SCM Group, Tirupur.

After Construction



New Classrooms



Ambaram

‘Ambaram’ means the sky. ‘Chidambaram’ means ‘chit’ – chaitanyam or jnana, vast as the sky. Lord Siva is dancing on that ‘chit’ (sky) as Lord Nataraja in Chidambaram.

‘Ambaramani’ means the Sun. Since the Sun shines like a jewel in the sky, Sun is referred as ‘Ambaramani’. ‘Ambaram’ also means ‘vastram’ (dress). ‘digambaram’ means ‘to be without vastram’. Some jnanis are digambaras. Alangudi Periyava was also wandering as a digambara sanyasi. But, in order to do Bhagawatham pravachan, he got niyama sanyasam and wore a vastram.

There is a sect in Jainism, who are digambaras. Srimad Bhagawatham says “dhig vaasasO shishUn mathva”- Sanakathi rishis were also digambaras. ‘digambara’ comes from the root word ‘dhik’, which means the direction.

Ambaram means clothing. Since these sanyasis had the directions as their vastram and did not wear any other clothing, they were called digambaras.

‘Sagambara’ means the earth. Since Bhoomi has saagaram (the ocean) as its vastram, the earth is called ‘Sagambara’.

‘Peetambaram’ means yellow silk. ‘Peetambaro hari:’ – Bhagawan is wearing the this ‘Peetambaram’ – yellow silk vastram. All the bhakthas sing about this too.

In Sanskrit, the word ‘Peetambara:’ refers only to Bhagawan Vishnu, who is adorning the yellow silk vastram (‘peetham ambaram yasya sa:’)

Bhishmacharya, in his Bhishma stuthi also refers to Bhagawan as the one who is wearing bright colored vastram that shines forth like the rays of the Sun (“ravikara gouravarambaram dhadhaane”).

Lord Siva also has a name “gajasarmaambaradhara”. Purandaradasar, in one of his kritis, “Chandra chooda siva sankara”, calls Lord Siva as “gajasarmaambaradhara”. ‘Gajasarma’ means an elephant’s skin. Since, Lord Siva is wearing an elephant’s skin, He is called by that name.

Radha Rani also has the name “neelaambaradhara”, since she always loves to wear silk dress that is blue is color.

There is also a naamavali that refers to Radha rani as “Neelambaradhara radha, divya peetambaradharo hari”.

Sri Namdev

Maharaj

Shiv Kanya - Shri Kanya

Once, on the occasion of Deepavali, Namdev's house was filled with excitement. There were big rangolis drawn in front of the house. A very big pot of hot water was boiling in the backyard. As soon as Namdev woke up, he was surprised to see all this and he went to his mother and asked,

Namdev – “Mother! What is so special today? What is happening today?”

Konabhai – “Namdev, today is Deepavali festival”

Namdev – “Oh is it? Why do we celebrate this festival, Mother?”

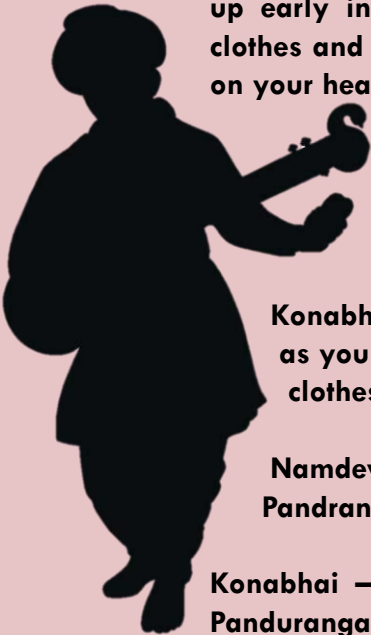
Konabhai – “This is the day when Bhagawan Sri Krishna killed the asura named Naraka and on his request in his last moments, people celebrate this day as Deepavali. People wake up early in the morning, take oil bath, wear new clothes and go to temple. So, hurry up, I will keep oil on your head.”

Immediately Namdev got very excited and started jumping and said, “Have you bought new clothes for me, Mother?”

Konabhai – “Oh, yes, Namdev, as soon as you take bath, you can wear your new clothes”.

Namdev – “Have you bought new clothes for Pandranga too?”

Konabhai – “Yes, Namdev, I have new clothes for Panduranga too.”



Namdev – “Then, I will go get Panduranga, Mother. Please keep oil for Him too. We both will wear our new clothes after we take bath.”

Then, Namdev, ran to the temple and started talking to Panduranga, “Panduranga! Mother said, today is Deepavali festival. Today, everyone does oil bath and wear new clothes. So, you come to our house immediately. Mother is waiting to apply oil for both of us. She has bought new clothes for you. Come with me to our house, take oil bath and wear new clothes with us.” Lord Panduranga was very happy that Namdev came running to call Him to their house. Panduranga said, “Namdev! This is kakad aarti (Prabodhanam) time. Now, the priests and bhakthas will start coming to the temple. If they don’t see Me here on top of the brick, they will get scared. How can I come with you now?”

But, Namdev could not accept this. He started pulling Panduranga’s hands and kept on asking Him to come over to their house for taking bath and to wear new clothes. On seeing this, Panduranga Himself gave an idea. “Namdev, I will agree to go to your house and take oil bath, if you agree to stand on this brick, in My place, till I come back.”

Namdev readily accepted this. Before going to Namdev’s house, Lord Panduranga warned Namdev. “Hey Namu! Beware! People will come in huge crowds. They will come near you and hold on to your feet. They will keep their heads on your feet. But, you should stand still. Also, during the bhog time, they will offer milk, sugar and butter and sweets. But, you should not eat anything. If you move, they will find out. While you are standing here, you should look at the tip of your nose. You should keep all this in mind, ok?”

Namdev also stood on top of the brick, with his hands on the hips and looking at the tip of his nose. At Namdev’s house, Dhamu ji and Khona bhai were waiting for Panduranga and Namdev.

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