

Sri Hari:

# MADHURAMURALI

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# Madhura Smaranam

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These are times when the whole world is struggling with no idea of what to do. Our nation is no exception. The invisible virus is affecting the whole world. The economically strong nations as well as the poor ones are all struggling. Lakhs of people have lost their lives. Moreover, the statistics of number of people affected by the virus is being published on a daily basis. The curfew imposed on March 24th continues till today. Temples have been closed; Being spring season (vasantha rithu) , it is that time of the year when all temples conduct their brahmotsavam. However, the prevailing circumstances make it impossible to celebrate the same ; marriages have been postponed. Shops, offices have been closed. India is at a stand still. People who make their living by earning daily wages will struggle during this situation. People who travelled to other towns and other countries have been stranded and are unable to return .It has been extremely difficult to perform the last rites of people who have reached the holy feet of the lord in such situations. People who run big businesses have been compelled to pay monthly wages although there is no business turnover. Some organisations have asked their employees to work from home itself. Many workers are worried about the possibility of losing their jobs. People who never visited the doctor even when they were extremely sick, now panic and run to the doctor even for a slightest cough. CORONA is the topic of discussion everywhere - the television, telephone, the newspaper. The entire world is overwhelmed by this omnipresent virus.

On one side - Debates and discussions about what caused this ? Is there a cure; or not? Predictions of astrologers on the other side.

Interviews with economic experts on the other. In such a complicated situation, the government has been functioning in an extremely efficient manner. Several voluntary organisations have been contributing to the society in a commendable manner.

Some are providing food to dogs, cats and cows on the streets. Some are feeding birds. In such circumstances, such news touches us deeply.

In this situation the service, rather sacrifice of doctors, nurses and sanitation workers is praise worthy ; and highly respectable. These martyrs who sacrificed their lives while engaging in saving lives, will certainly have gone to a better world by the grace of God. Even the elderly say that they have never seen anything like this in their lifetime.

All this on one side. Let us always be chanting the Nama, plead and pray to god constantly to destroy this deadly virus. Prayer is strong ! There is no need for worry, this situation will change very soon. Things will return to normal. Health will improve. Economy will grow. Mother India will rise strong with a new glow. India will see tremendous growth and stand tall in the next few years.

Let us keep chanting the Mahamantra and do our duties.

I have compiled Sri Swamiji's words at different instances, during this existing situation.

# *Answers and Beyond*

*In Damodar leela, when Yashodha tries to tie Krishna to the mortar, we see that every time she tries, she fell short of 2 inches of rope.*

*What is the significance of this?*

Many Mahans have written beautiful commentaries for this part. Let us also enjoy the special meaning of this here. Yashoda matha was angry with Krishna because he had just broken many pots using a grinding stone. So, she was trying to tie him to the mortar. But, according to Srimad Bhagavatam, before all this, she had seen the entire Universe in the mouth of our little Krishna twice.

Since she had seen this vision twice before, she could have wondered if it would be actually possible to get her son tied to the mortar. This might be the reason for the 2 inches short of rope every time she tried to tie him to the mortar.

*Sri Swamiji's answers  
to questions from devotees*

# True or mere illusion?

- Sri MK Ramanujam

The other day while speaking with Sri Swamiji the talk turned to the reality of the world that we perceive – is it all just an illusion or true or temporal truth. This cosmos is made up of several wonders like our and many other countries, oceans, mountains, planets, stars in space and several other wonders beyond the comprehension of science. Advaita philosophy says ‘all these are verily false; they are just a projection of our mind’.

After this kind of a discussion I went to bed. I did not get sleep. Just then I received a movie clipping in my cell phone from someone. I watched it and found it to be a story full of pathos with sorrow-filled scenes and incidents. Already I could not sleep and the scenes of this movie clipping affected me badly. I tried to console myself with the thought ‘this is just a story, sort of entertainment; just a medium playing with our emotions’. But no amount of consolation would calm my mind. My thoughts began to revolve around movies. When I became aware of this state of my mind I could understand the layman’s state very well.

When a man of character takes up and acts as the villain in movies the world views him only as such in real life, too. And, when a man of no character takes up the part of the virtuous he is taken to be as such in real life, too. All the valour that he exhibits in the movie is taken to be true. Not stopping with this, the world even deifies him and his words akin to the words of scriptures! They also sincerely believe that this man is capable of performing any feat.

In this manner my thoughts spread in all directions.

We are unable to even consider a mere movie and all connected matters as false and deem them to be true. While it is so, as far as I am concerned, to deem this world that has been visibly perceived by all for ages, as false, seem utterly false in these times.

My eyes closed with these thoughts. My thoughts and my world that is verily its product slowly disappeared in the darkness of my sleep!!



Our Krishna is the embodiment of beauty; His Name is also beautiful; His voice, flute, His lotus feet are all beautiful indeed! Our Guru Maharaj sings of this in his Madhurageetham:

needhAn azhagenDrAl un peyarum azhagO  
(un) peyar thAn azhagenDrAl un kuralum azhagO  
kural thAn azhagenDrAl un kuzhal Osaiyum azhagO || nl ||

01.Urum azhagO un leelaiyum azhagO  
mEytthiDum pasuvum kanDrum azhagO || nl ||

02.bhaktarum azhagO paripAlippadum azhagO  
azhagan un thoDarbAl anaitthum azhagO || nl ||

# Govindanukku Aatpatta Kudumbamamma...

- Sri MK Ramanujam

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O Krishna, You are beautiful! And so is Your Name!  
Your Name is indeed beautiful! And so is Your voice!  
Your voice is indeed beautiful! And so is the music of Your flute!

01. Your abode is beautiful, Your leelas are beautiful!

The cows and calves You graze are indeed beautiful!

02. Your devotees are beautiful, the way You guide them is also beautiful!

O Beautiful One! Simply through association with You, everything is indeed beautiful!

An Acharya's nectarine heart, filled with Krishna rasa, sang, "madhurAdhipate akhilam madhuram..."; while our Guru Maharaj's heart that is overwhelmed by Krishna's beauty, sings, "azhagan un thoDarbAl anaitthum azhagO!" like that of Rukmini Devi's heart which sang, "Bhuvana Sundara..."

Which name of this Beautiful One would Sri Swamiji have meant, when he sang, "un peyarum azhagO?" No doubt, it is that name that tastes sweet to the tongue – Govinda!

Has our Guru Maharaj not sung sweetly, "Govinda, undhan nAmame azhagu..." (Govinda, your Name itself is so beautiful!) This is the name that the Gopis, the epitomes of bhakti, enjoy the foremost.

Damodara is the name that shows Krishna's immense bhakta vatsalyam. Did that Krishna not allow Himself to be tied to the mortar purely due to the love of His mother?

Govinda is the name that shows Sri Krishna's empathy for His devotees, and His resolve that "I will do anything for my devotees who have surrendered to Me!" and "It is My everlasting vow that I will embrace and protect My devotees." It is inspired by the surrender of these Gopas and Gopis that Bhagavan Sri Krishna said –

"gOpAye svAtmayOgEna sOyam mE vrata Ahitah" (Srimad Bhagavatam 10:25:18)

- and became Govardhana Giridharalal.



It was Madhava who blessed the great prema bhaktas, the Gopis, and our swamini Sri Radha Rani, with the beautiful prema leelas in Brindavanam.

The first of these leelas was Damodara leela, then Govinda's Govardhana leela, and then Madhava's rasa leela. Still, this name of Govinda is the most beautiful among the beautiful; the sweetest of the sweet. This is why the Gopis sing, "Govinda, Damodara, Madhava" in that order.

Sri Andal, who did anukaranam of our Gopis' vratha (paavai nonbu), sings only the Govinda nama three times in her pasurams:

"kUDArAi vellum seer gOvinda"

"kurai ondrum illAda gOvinda"

"iTTrai parai koLvAn anDru kAN gOvinda"

It is this Govinda whom our Guru Maharaj sings as "needhAn azhagenDrAl un peyarum azhagO." Towards the end of that same song, he sings, "bhaktarum azhagO paripAlippadum azhagO, azhagan un thoDarbAl anaitthum azhagO!"

It is not that Govinda protected His devotees only on that day. He protects them always – on that day, this day, and forever. Isn't surrendering to Him and doing His bidding the way for us devotees to be connected with Him? When we are like that, He takes care of us beautifully and makes our life also beautiful.

The Beautiful One wished to listen to a beautiful song glorifying the beauty of His love for His devotees and the beauty of His devotees' lives. So He made a Madhurageetham rise in the heart of our Guru Maharaj and received it joyfully.

That most wonderful Madhurageetham is only "gOvindanukku ATpaTTa kuDumbammaA engal kuDumbam...". This Madhurageetham celebrates, dances, and sings lovingly of the beauty of Bhagavan's care for His devotees. With our Guru's grace, shall we enter into this Madhurageetham?

(Govinda's beauty will continue to shine further...)

# Be The River

Kaasi was a Manager at a multi-national company. He would donate generously for various charitable events. His sister's family was dependent on him. One day, he went to see his Tamil teacher. The Tamil teacher's house was on the bank of a beautiful river. Kaasi told his teacher, "The stress and pressure at my work place is too much. Everybody respects my work. The salary is also good. Still, I am not feeling very happy. What should I do?"

His Tamil teacher used to give him his best advice whenever Kaasi needed help. So, Kaasi used to visit him like this often.

Now, instead of answering his question, the teacher said to Kaasi, "Can you go to the kitchen and get a glass of water and some salt?" Kaasi rushed inside immediately to get the water and salt.

There was only a little pinch of salt. The teacher asked Kaasi to mix the pinch of salt with water. He asked Kaasi to drink little bit of that water. Kaasi said, "Oh, this water is too salty. I am not able to drink this."

The teacher smiled a bit and asked Kaasi to bring the same amount of salt with him. They both walked up to the river bank.

The teacher asked Kaasi to mix the salt in the river. After Kaasi mixed the salt, the teacher asked him to taste the river water.

Kaasi said the water still tasted sweet. The teacher said, "See Kaasi. It was the same amount of salt. When it was mixed with a glass of water, it tasted salty, but the same amount of salt mixed in river did not make the river water salty. Likewise, the

obstacles and hindrances that we face in life are the same size. When you remind yourself about the goal of the work, its outcome, and the charitable actions that you are doing from that outcome, you will not remain as a glass of water, instead you will be become the river. Be the river, Kaasi."

Kaasi felt immensely happy. Kaasi was very happy to listen to his teacher and feel like the river. His sorrows were all gone.

A Tale for Children

Sri Vishnupriya

## Sanskrit Word of the Month

pUrNa:  
‘पूर्णः’

The word “Poorna” in Sanskrit means “Complete”. The words “Paripoorna” and “Sampoorna” also mean the same.

Vedas and Puranas say that God (Bhagawan) is the only COMPLETE one, without any blemish. There is a very beautiful Mantra in our Upanishads. In fact, most of us are familiar with the mantra

ॐ पूर्णमदः पूर्णमिदं पूर्णात्पूर्णमुदच्यते ।  
पूर्णस्य पूर्णमादाय पूर्णमेवावशिष्यते ॥  
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

Om Puurnnam-Adah Puurnnam-Idam  
Puurnnaat-Puurnnam-Udacyate |  
Puurnnasya Puurnnam-Aadaaya  
Puurnnam-Eva-Avashissyate ||  
Om Shaantih Shaantih Shaantih

The meaning of this mantra is Brahman is complete, since that Brahman is present everywhere, everything is complete. From that Brahman, this world has manifested. So the world is also complete; even when the complete world manifested from Brahman, still the Brahman is complete .

Therefore even if we remove completeness from completeness, still completeness remains. That is the beauty of this Upanishad mantra.

From this word 'Poorna', many beautiful Sanskrit words have originated. The word "Poornakaama" means who has all his wishes fulfilled". i.e., he does not have any more wishes. So the word fits only "Bhagawan". Srimad Bhagawatham says about Krishna "Atmaaramam poornakaamam nijalaabhena nityadha". This means he is ever in a blissful state without any desires or needs. Therefore, when we worship Krishna who is complete, we can also develop these qualities.

There is another word "Poorna Prajna" some of us may be familiar with. Srimad Madhvacharya, the saint used to be known by this name. This means one whose Jnana(wisdom) is complete.

We would have also heard the word "Poorna Phalam". It means coconut. We use coconut on all auspicious occasions as we believe that using coconut which is complete fruit shall yield positive outcomes. When we welcome a revered person, we offer "PoornaKumbha". We fill a Kumbha (a vessel or urn) with water, place mango leaves and coconut on top and offer it ceremoniously reciting certain Mantras.

There is also another word "Poornahuti", which means complete offering, normally done at the end of any Yaga or Yagna. It is so called to indicate that the yaga has been completed successfully.

Another famous word is "Annapoorna" which is known to all of us. She is the presiding deity in Kashi (Varanasi) and has a vessel and ladle in her hands . She serves not only food for the hungry stomach but also complete jnana (wisdom) to the yearning soul. That is why Adi Shankaracharya has composed this verse, "Anna Poorne Sada Poorne Shankara Prana vallabhe Jnana Vairagya Sidhyartham Bhiksham dehi cha Parvathi". The meaning of the above verse is He Annapoorne, the complete one, one who is dear to Shiva, I am aware that you provide food to all the hungry and provide succour, but my prayer to you is give me the blessing of Janna(wisdom) and Vairagya (dispassion) and make me "Complete".

Let us all pray that Bhagawan blesses us with Bhakti, Jnana and vairagya and make us complete.

# Sri Namdev Maharaj

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*Shiv Kanya - Shri Kanya*

When Konanbai heard her son speak like this, her heart melted. She realized that there was no use speaking to Namdev . At the same time, she was also adamant that Namdev should return home with her. Her only refuge was Lord Panduranga himself. She decided to plead her case with HIM.

When Panduranga saw konabai coming towards him, he knew he was in trouble today. Konabai came rushing towards him and poured her heart out. “ Hey Panduranga, I have never seen a lord like you! When my son comes for your darshan, You make him forget his family. He is immersed in your thoughts day and night. He does not feel thirst or hunger! He barely acknowledges me, his mother. Now, you tell me, what do I do now??”

She continued her impassioned plea,  
“Don’t you remember the devotee  
Pundalika who made you stand here? Did

you not come to Pandharpur to see for yourself, the  
service Pundalika rendered to his aged parents??

Hey Keshavaraja, who will understand my heart?

We are a family with very modest means. We make  
a living by doing tailoring and selling the stitched  
clothes in the market. Only if Namdev comes home  
and does some work, we can run the family. Hey



Panduranga, aren't you the saviour of all those who have nobody to take care of them? Then would you not help me; I am here at your door step begging to have my son back”.

She continued, “Every mother has expectations from her children; that they would one day take over the reins of the family; that they will bethe shade under which she can spend her old age; but when Namdev comes here and starts singing Kirtans, he forgets everything. Lord Panduranga was hearing her outpourings. He sympathised with her but was very reluctant to part with Namdev. Panduranga told Konabai, “Your child has bound me to him with his pure, innocent love right from the age of five. I am a slave to his kirtans and his devotion”. There are so many children in this world. But all are busy in their lives attending to their family and friends. Only this boy Namdev comes towards me, Please let him be and leave him for me”!.

Konabai was not pleased to hear this. She said to Lord Panduranga,” Hey Panduranga, I don't know since how many births this rare bond between you two have been existing. I can't see for myself how Namdev is attracted towards you. Just as the waves in the sea always come towards the shore, Namdev is always coming towards you. He does not know anything other than your holy feet. Only you can make him understand his duty towards his family! I beseech you, Don't turn down my request. I don't have anyone to whom I can go and tell my woes. If only you can make him come home with me, I assure you , I will always take care of you. I will make varieties of tasty offerings for you. I will go to different places and spread your glories. Don't you want to see your Namdev happy with his family? I am not omnipresent like you , Please send him home with me”.

Lord Panduranga could not bear this anymore. He could not refuse Konabai's request. He took Namdev's hand and placed it gently on Konabai's hands. Konabai held it tightly and took Namdev home. But Namdev was like a reluctant child. He had tears in his eyes as he walked home with his mother.

(To be continued)



# The Centre of the Universe!

**- Dr A Bhagyanathan**

Schools had closed for summer. Sri Swamiji was wonderfully counselling our Satsang children as to how to spend the holiday in a useful manner. Sri Swamiji detests wasting anything. Even while using a paper for writing something Swamiji would use it thriftily and the rest would be carefully stored. He takes care to avoid wasting even a small fruit or flower. He is very precise even in his usage of words while conveying a matter. He simply hates wasting time. Sri Swamiji would quite frequently say 'Time is a great boon given to us by the Lord. If we fail to manage time properly we would end up spending thirty hours for a work which takes only thirty minutes.'

Sri Swamiji advised the satsang children, "Holidays should not be spent only in entertainments; instead, one should plan well and spend time in satsang, Namakirtan, learning arts, widening general knowledge, doing physical exercises, learning new subject matters that sharpen our brain."

As a part of this, one evening Sri Swamiji took the satsang children to Science Exhibition. Several deep scientific subject matters were exhibited as games so children could easily comprehend them. Sri Swamiji explained to the children, through the mode of quiz, how each and every science exhibit had already been very clearly spoken in our Santana dharma several thousands of years back and the children did not know the passing of time.

We came to the Astro part in the exhibition. Models of the Sun, planets, stars, etc. were exhibited there.

Sri Swamiji explained how the scientific findings using satellites, Hubble Telescope had been discovered to the minutest details by Maharishis merely through their power of tapas. At the time of leaving, a matter that Sri Swamiji said to the children, though in a humorous way, formed a wonderful upades that all of us should absorb and follow.

“You all saw the scientific world, right? Each one of you is a very intelligent child. Let me put a question to you all. What is the Centre of the Universe?” At once, one of the children said, “Sun, is it not the Sun?” All the rest backed up this answer. Sri Swamiji said, “Sun is the centre of this solar system. What about the entire Universe?”

Pondering over the question the children answered to the extent they knew – expanding Universe, Nebula, Big bang theory and so on. They also said that nothing could be pinpointed as the centre of this Universe, as opined by some scientists.

Sri Swamiji smiled and said, “The answers that you all gave may be true as far as science is concerned. But one group may oppose the opinion of another group. However, what I am going to say cannot be refuted by anyone. Within each of us the thought ‘I am the centre of the Universe’ has taken deep root – all planets and stars go only around me. All have been created only to act according to my desire. All are here only to do things in accordance with my desire – this is the thought that has gone to all our heads! It is verily due to this one thought that we struggle a lot and also trouble others.

Giving up the thought ‘everything is only for me’, if we take up the thought ‘I am for all’ the gap between God and us would reduce a foot at least! If that thought could consume us and we act accordingly we shall go very close to God!”

உடலால் சற்று விலகி,  
உள்ளத்தில் எல்லாரும்  
இணைந்திருக்கவேண்டிய  
நேரம் இது.

- மஹாரண்யம் பதீ பதீ முரளிதர ஸ்வாமிஜி

*This is the time  
to stay away physically,  
and stay close at heart.*

- HH Maharanayam Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji

