

Sri Hari:

September 2016

MADHURAMURALI

Spiritual Monthly



*With the Blessings of
His Holiness Maharanyam
Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji*



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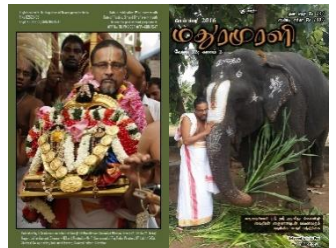
Brindavan and Nandakumara Sri Hari Babaji

Front Cover:

Madhurapuri Ashram

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Govinda Pattabishekam at Madhurapuri Ashram



ANSWERS AND BEYOND

Sri Swamiji's Answers To Questions From Devotees

Q: Is there a difference among those who chant Nama? Are all of them the same?

A: There are three types of people who chant Nama. The first kind are those who aim to be free of the troubles they are facing in their lives. They are like those who take medicine after being diagnosed with a disease. The second type are those who chant Nama to protect themselves from troubles that may arise in the future. They are like those who give themselves preventive vaccinations to protect themselves. The third kind are those who chant Nama because they like to do so; because they have the taste (ruchi) for Nama. They are like those who drink Boost or Horlicks because they like its taste. While Nama is necessary for all the three kinds of people, everyone should aspire to chant Nama like people in the third category. Because one should chant Nama due to their love of God, without the need for others to enthrall them or due to fear of future births (janmas).

Q: You say, "Tomorrow old age will come upon us; disease will come; death will strike at any time; sorrow will come; So let us chant Nama!" Is it fair to always imagine a sorrowful life?

A: You always think that you should buy a new car; you should build a big house; bank balance should increase; that you should travel abroad. Is it fair to constantly imagine only worldly pleasures like this? Because you have made up your mind to be born again and again, you live your life desiring such things. On our part, we feel that we have had enough of being born on earth, and desire Liberation. Due to this, we think of the above. Isn't it right that each person should make up their mind about what their goal is, and then think along those lines. Leave alone the discussions about the world being false, impermanent, etc. It is a fact though that the world is a place without substance.

There are innumerable people who have benefited by performing Mahamantra kirtan; the number of those continuing to reap the benefits are also countless. Is there anyone amongst us who has not reaped the fruit of Mahamantra kirtan? A jackfruit is rough outside, but inside it is sweet. Similarly, if one who is facing problems in life chants Nama, the troubles vanish and he attains peace and happiness. With Guru's grace, we see this happen directly.

In Sivakasi, a lady lived a very difficult life. She had two daughters and a son. Her husband worked in an ordinary job in a private company. Their family situation was such that they could not eat even one good meal a day.

She could not speak openly about her troubles; the mind was reluctant to become obliged to relatives. If we saw her children, our eyes would fill with tears. Even if she opened her heart and spoke about the situation with her family, the burden of the heart would remain. Whatever work she did, the question – why am I in this situation? – would continue to nag. This was her state. Yet that lady continued to chant Nama.

Can a goat that has been sighted by a tiger ever escape? It will definitely die. Similarly, the difficulties of those who do as their Guru says, will reduce, be destroyed and disappear step by step.

MADHURA SMARANAM

My Guru As I See Him

Dr A Bhagyanathan



As she could not forget her troubles even while she was cooking or involved with other chores or outside work, her mind constantly thought of her Guru, Nama and prayer. The sorrow seemed to have brought this union about. One can pray for deliverance from trouble. But one cannot decide how that deliverance should happen. That depends on the grace of God.

One day, the situation was such that there were absolutely no groceries in the house. Rice was being cooked. But she had only five rupees in her hands. What could that buy these days? Could she buy any ingredients to make sambar with that? At that time, she heard an old woman on the road who seemed to be selling curd. She thought - this sounds like a cowherdess. She bought curd for five rupees from her. That was more than enough for her and her children. Perhaps divine grace first wishes to soothe physical problems before calming the mind. From the next day, it became a routine for them to buy curd from that curd-lady and eat it. This continued and that curd-lady became her friend. Even if she gave a lot of curd, the old woman would not take more than five rupees. Over time, she began to sell her entire stock of curd to her for just twenty rupees.

The devotee lady began to make buttermilk from the extra curd and started to sell it herself. Buttermilk that brings goodness to everybody! From that, income slowly started to come in. From the buttermilk sales, she bought butter, melted it and started selling ghee. This improved the state of her family. But all through this, the devotee did not stop chanting Mahamantra and praying to the Guru. Her children stopped crying out of hunger. With Gopala's grace, there was always butter in the house. As the devotee chanted Mahamantra with a pure heart filled with faith in the Guru, Bhagavan graced the lady's house and brought her fortune through the very curd that He loves so much. What is He showing through this? Perhaps He is saying that this is His family!

Bhagavan is also the mother indeed!





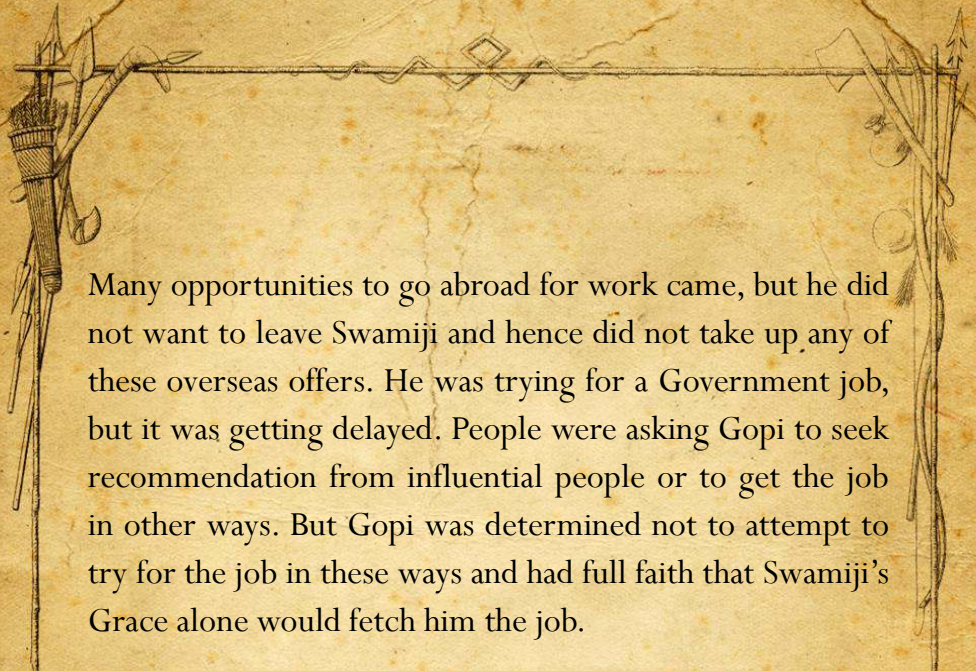
Kenguvarpatti Gopi

Nalla Hari

Many years ago, once, when Sri Swamiji was sitting in the Bhagavatha Bhavanam, a young man with thick hair was standing at a distance and shedding tears looking at Swamiji. Swamiji noticed his devotion and called him and spoke to him. His name is Gopi and his native place is Kenguvarpatti near Vathalagundu. His educational background was in agricultural field. Since that day, he was fully devoted to Sri Swamiji. He used to invite Swamiji to his native place and would organise discourses from his own funds. The deity in his native place is made of fig wood (athi maram). He offered his services to the temple and invited Swamiji to do the sacred water ceremony. Gopi and his cousin, Vinodh did a lot of service during the program. Gopi's mother would mobilise money from her small savings and would offer it to Swamiji for the Veda patasala.

When his mother was admitted in Madurai Hospital due to ill-health, Swamiji went and saw her. In due course, Gopi's mother attained the holy feet of the Lord.






Many opportunities to go abroad for work came, but he did not want to leave Swamiji and hence did not take up any of these overseas offers. He was trying for a Government job, but it was getting delayed. People were asking Gopi to seek recommendation from influential people or to get the job in other ways. But Gopi was determined not to attempt to try for the job in these ways and had full faith that Swamiji's Grace alone would fetch him the job.

He was working in Hyderabad for some time and after several challenges, as expected by him, he got an offer from the Department of Agriculture. His posting was at Virinjipuram near Ranipet. Last month Swamiji had gone to this place. Gopi had been teaching the local school children good values and behaviour by way of telling stories and had trained them to wear Tulasi beads, gopi chandan and was steering them in the right path. Swamiji was very happy to listen to these children sing namakirtan.

Because of Gopi Bhagavathar, the seeds of devotion have been planted well in the minds of Virinjipuram school children.



Garuda Seva at Kanchi

Sri Ramanujam

Sri Vishnuchittar known as Periyazhwaar who had, through a hymn of his, blessed the Lord Himself a long life was born in the famous holy place of Sri Villiputtur in the Tamizh month of Aani in star Swathi. The Pandya King Vallabhadeva who ruled Madurai announced gifting a golden bowl to one who upheld the Supremacy of the Lord ('parathva nirNayam'). The Lord appeared in Periyazhwaar's dream and instructed him to take it up and receive the golden bowl. Periyazhwaar did as bid by the Lord and winning the golden bowl sat on the royal elephant and went around the streets of Madurai.

While speaking of this Sri Swamiji shared a very interesting matter – that is, it is not only devotees who desire to see the Lord moving in procession on divine vehicles such as Garuda, elephant, etc. but also the Lord desires to see His devotees being taken on procession. Thus the Lord, in His desire to see His devotee Periyazhwaar moving in procession on an elephant, rushed on His divine vehicle Garuda and enjoyed the scene. Looking at the Lord on the Garuda, Periyazhwaar, full of empathy, sang 'Thiruppallaandu' (hymn blessing the Lord Himself with long life!). We were highly blessed to see the celebration of this event, along with our Sri Swamiji, at Kancheepuram, the most significant of the seven Liberation bestowing holy places, in the month of Aani on the day of Star Swathi.

Our Gurudev had reached Keertanavalli Mantap at Kanchi on July 13th afternoon. It was the day of Swathi star – Periyazhwaar's star: Garudaazhwaar's star: and, our Gurudev's birth star, too! It was verily our fortune that on this auspicious day we, by coincidence, got the darshan of all the three together.

Our Sadguru, in celebration of Sri Sri Anna's Keertanavalli that hymns the praise of 108 Divya desams, has constructed "Keertanavalli Mantap" at Kanchi.



All the hymns of Keertanavalli have been inscribed on stone walls and the Divine couple Lord Krishna-Radha installed here. The place was inaugurated by Sri Sri Anna's blessed hands on 21st January 2015. As soon as reaching this place our Gurudev became very eager to see Lord Varada. Just as a child who visits his town after a long gap very eagerly looks out for and enquires of all when his father would come, so too, our Gurudev kept anxiously enquiring of all those whom he saw "when will Lord Varada come?"

Learning that the Lord would arrive at '5 p.m.' our Sadguru came to Keertanavalli gates with all the required worship articles. As the temple was crowded Gurudev sent us ahead, along with the Satsang children, to the Temple entrance so that they could all enjoy the beauty of the Lord coming with majestic bearing, in beautiful hair dress and glittering dress. We were all there standing near the Rajagopuram awaiting the Lord on Garuda.

Oh, how restless is our Gurudev to see Lord Varada! Restless to behold Lord Varada, our Gurudev, standing at Keertanavalli entrance slowly moved forward and came to where we all stood! On the one side he was hesitant to move amidst the crowd while on the other side he was totally restless to see Lord Varada on Garudaazhwaar. With his eyes fixed to Temple entrance our Gurudev would walk up to the Temple entrance tower, eager to catch a glimpse of Lord Varada on Garudaazhwaar but on being told it would take time he would avoid the crowd and move back to Keertanavalli Mantap. On hearing the sound of crackers bursting Gurudev's whole attention would be on the Temple entrance.

It was 7 p.m.

Lord Varada's form here is not man made but naturally appeared one – Lord who moves elegantly on Gardudaazhwaar: who is verily the physical form of the Vedas: who pours forth His blessings through His smiling lotus-like face! Adorning beautiful coloured garlands, offering refuge through His upheld lotus-like palm, holding the Conch and Wheel, wearing a fitting crown known as 'thoppaaram', with devotees chanting "Govinda!" aloud, led by Sri Vaishnavas chanting the Srisuktis, with Vedic chant on the other side, the Lord swaying lightly, now and then jumping in Bliss came towards our Gurudev. At the Temple Tower entrance the Lord stood for half-a-second hidden by the umbrella and after the darshan of Thottaachaarya continued to move.

As soon the Lord came near our Gurudev who stood with fruit, flower and garlands offerings, the Lord, through the Priest, called him to come up close and blessed him with shataari, garland and Prasad; and, even in His haste glanced affectionately at our Gurudev! Hugging our Gurudev, Lord Varada, having Garuda for His vehicle, flew away to a hundred metres!

Sri Swamiji, too, in that human flood, with his eyes fixed on the Lord and drowned in Bliss, prayed, "Father! Would you not take me thus along with Garudaazhwaar to Vaikuntam?"

The Lord, too, blessing Sri Swamiji with divine garland, fruit and Prasad sent him back. Sri Swamiji moved back and even as his gaze was fixed on the beauty of the Lord's rear beauty returned to Keertanavalli Mantap.

Bowing down to the group of Sri Vaishnavas who followed Lord Varada, Sri Swamiji went into Keertanavalli Mantap for conducting dolotsavam. At that time Sri Swamiji told us, "Though the four thousand Divya prabandam adhyayana utsav is conducted in several temples, Veda adhyayana utsav is conducted for our Kanchi Varada alone." The, in a choked voice, he said softly 'Varada! Varada!' and went up to the sannidhi of Sri RadhaKrishna.

(That night after removing the Lord's decorations of Garuda seva, an elegant procession with just one thaazhampoo was conducted in the inner corridor (prakaaram). That wonderful experience.....The Lord's interesting Lila of giving darshan to Thottaachaaryaar will be told in the next issue.

(Varada will come..)





RATHA YATRA OF PREMIKA JAGANNATH

Avatars (incarnation) of the Lord is infinite. However, from amongst these we celebrate mainly the ten Avatars (Dasaavatars) like the Matsya [Fish], Koorma [Turtle], etc. And, even in these ten Avatars one does not find many devotees for the Lord's Avatars like the Matsya, Koorma, etc. Most are devoted to Avatars of the Lord as Rama and Krishna. From among these two Avatars, we find Sri Rama Avatar majestic while Sri Krishna Avatar is accessible and performs several divine plays.

Similarly, most Deities in Temples (archai-avatar) have majestic bearing of being visible only to a few Maharishis and Acharyas (spiritual teachers). The Lord, in most of His archavatars, does not mingle with His devotees and conduct divine plays. From the life histories of great devotees (Bhakta vijaya charitram) we learn that even in His archavatar only in places like Pandarpur, Bhadrachalam, Puri Jagannath, Guruvayoor, etc. the Lord, to this day, mingles with His devotees and conducts His beautiful divine plays. Stories of the Lord taking care of His devotees, indulging in and pampering them are simply delightful! There is none who has not heard of Puri Jagannath. Here, the Lila playing Jagannath has lived in the household of His devotees verily as one of them and conducted several divine plays!

A lady by name Karma bai lived in Puri Jagannath. Right from her childhood, taking refuge in Sri Hari's holy feet, she remained a great devotee of the Lord. Married early in life she soon lost her husband. She was pained at her son's unfortunate state of not getting even a glimpse of his father's face. The son grew up in her loving care. He got married and had a child. The grandmother felt elated but it did not last long, for, her son passed away. She wept bitterly. She became despondent. She found solace looking at the innocent face of her grandson. But this lasted only for six years. The grandson also went the way of his father. What can Karma bai do in such a state? She rolled on the ground and cried bitterly. She then took refuge in the holy feet of Sri Hari.

Is the compassion of Hari (Hari krupa) and that of holy ones (Sadhu krupa) different? Very soon Sri Hari came to her in the form of Sadhus. Looking at and listening to her sad state they felt deep compassion towards her. They consoled her with sweet words. They said to her, "There is no joy in this ephemeral world. True love is found only in the holy feet of Jagannath," and gave her a beautiful image of Jagannath Gopala. They blessed her with the secret of devotion – 'show Gopala the love and affection you had for your son and grandson' – and left.

Due to the grace of the Sadhus Gopala truly became Karma bai's child. He ate with relish the food she offered. He happily played with her. Is it not true that religious formalities slip away where there is untainted love? If Baby Krishna felt hungry she would at once, even without taking bath, boil milk and feed Him. Thus days flew past!

Once, an orthodox Brahmin who strictly followed all scriptural injunctions visited her home. All that he could perceive was Karma bai's irreligious worship of the Lord. He could perceive only her impious way of worship; he failed to perceive the love. He told her that one should clean the place and the body and only then conduct worship. Karma bai, obedient to his words, woke up early in the morning and swept and mopped the house with cow dung, bathed and then began to cook food. Can a little child withstand hunger? Our Krishna appeared in the dream of a priest who conducted worship in Jagannath temple and complained to him.

Early in the morning this priest rushed to Karma bai's home and there declared to all present, 'as Karma bai possesses total love, scriptural injunctions are needless; love is verily scriptural injunctions'. At once, Karma bai left the bed and fed her Gopala with flattened rice. The devotees present there were drowned in the flood of joy on directly perceiving Lord Gopala accept it. 'In this way Puri Jagannath plays divine lilas with His devotees and gives them joy' – thus did our Gurudev complete his talk on the divine play of the Lord. Listening to our Gurudev's words all of us very eagerly awaited dawn of the next day as we recollected that Ratha yatra would be conducted at Govindapuram Chaitanya kutteeram, which is verily Southern Jagannath puri, in the same way and on the same day as at Puri. Further, on learning that our Gurudev and Paranur Mahatma Sri Sri Anna were also going to participate in this event and bless the devotees we forgot all and sundry.

That holy day dawned! It was Ashaada sukla dvitiyai! (the second day in the bright fortnight of the Indian month Ashaada). July 6th. We were yet to get over the exhilarating experience of last year's Ratha yatra, and, here we were with the fortune of participating in the next one!! What and how does one speak of Guru's compassion!

The Sun rose up touching the holy feet of Sri Sri Bhagavannaama Bodendra Saraswathi Swami. Our Sri Premika Jagannath along with Balaram and Subhadra was in the chariot to go on Ratha Yatra early in the morning. Mannargudi Sri Prasanna Dikshitar along with the Vasihanavas who had studied in our Nangoor Patasala (Vaishnava Agama school) had wonderfully decorated the chariot (Ratha), the Lord and His siblings. Decorated with various kinds of fragrant flowers viz. shenbagam, mullai, malli, white lotus, tulasi, panneer rose, dhavanam, marikkozhundhu, sampangi, magizham our Krishna was a real treat to our eyes. The Chariot, too, appeared auspicious with a mix of red, yellow and blue. The auspicious Chariot with a beautiful red flag awaited the arrival of Sri Sri Anna. Even as the Bhagavathas were chanting the Mahamantra along with various instruments viz. mridangam, dholki, kOl, vina, jalra, big jalra, kottu mELam, bEri, sangam, around 7.30 a.m. Sri Sri Anna arrived with a sweet smile playing on his lotus like face.

At once the auspicious instruments were sounded, the screen of Lord Jagannath was opened and mangala haarati was shown! Loud auspicious chants of “Hari! Hari!” “Sadguru Maharaj ki! Jai!” “Jagannatha Swami ki! Jai!” rose up into the sky drowning the sound of all musical instruments! Sri Sri Anna pulled the holy Chariot with his holy hands and blessed!

Thousands of devotees from our Namadwaars in various towns, cities and villages had gathered.

Devotees filled every nook and corner of Govindapuram that wherever one turned it was only devotees that met the eyes. Devotees from several towns and even from abroad had gathered eagerly for the Rathotsav! The Mahamantra chant, which had gained strength, creating fear in Kali (the Age), pleasing the ears of devotees, blooming the faces of Sri Sri Anna and our Gurudeva, with Lord Jagannatha dancing and enjoying, roared tirelessly for three hours. The Chariot started from Chaitanya kutteeram and moved around the four streets of Govindapuram. Divine dance, joyful kirtan and the Chariot moved around like the waves rising in the divine ocean of milk, the Abode of the Lord! Sri Sri Anna and our Gurudev moved with uplifted arms even as they sang the Naama. At that instant all felt ecstatic perceiving Sri Sri Anna as verily Chaitanya deva. Thousands of devotees gathered there were wonderstruck at how, oblivious of the world, drowned in the nectar of the Divine Name and enjoying bliss, the three hours just flew away as if mere three seconds!

On returning to Chaitanya kutteeram, Sri Sri Anna conducted worship for our main Deity Lord Premika Jagannath and discoursed. He discoursed on the glory of the Divine Name and the Divine plays of Sri Krishna Chaitanya, melting every listener’s heart. That day Govindapuram turned into Jagannatha Puri. All the devotees verily experienced the Ratha yatra days of Sri Krishna Chaitanya and Nityananda. Well! To us who are now in the bliss of reminiscence (‘smaraNa sukham’) the next Ratha yatra will be here soon!

In Bhagavad Gita, the Lord says, 'Vedaanaam saama vedhosmi'. Nayanmars sing in their pasurams, 'Chandiran jadayil aNindha Sankaran saamedhi'. Azhvars also sing as, 'Thooimai yogam aayinaay, thuzhaai alangal malayay, aamayagi aazh kadal thuyindra aadi deva nin namadeyam innadhenna vallamalla aagilum, saamedha geethanaaya Chakrapani allaye'.

Under the auspices of Sri Muralidhara Swamiji Kainkarya sabha and as desired by Sri Swamiji, an 'Akila Bharatha Veda Sammelanam' was conducted from 20th to 29th of July in Bangalore Sundara Anjaneyar temple.

Ambattur Brahmasri Chandra Mouli Srowthigal led the proceedings of the sammelanam in which twenty eight samaveda vidvans participated. The family of Sri Chandra Mouli Srowthigal are fully committed to veda adhyayanam and have established a school and have been teaching sama veda to many students.



Akhila Bharatha Sama Veda Sammelanam
Sri Padmapadar

To honour his self-less and immense service to humanity, the sacred title 'Kulapathi' was conferred on him, by Sandeepani Gurukulam. His son, Siranjeevi Srimad Rama Subrahmanya Sharma had finished sama veda adhyayanam in the prescribed manner at the age of fourteen itself. For this, he was honoured with the awarding of the title, 'Bala Srowthina:'.

The veda recital (parayanam) was conducted for nearly 8 hours every day. It was a very happy occasion to listen to all the vidvans chant the vedas in unison. Sri Sankara Narayanan looked after the accommodation and food for all the vidvans and the invitees. Sri Brahmananda sasthri did a lot of service during the sammelanam.

The sacred feet of all veda vidvans who participated in the completion day were washed and adorned with chandan and kumkum by scholars, who had done veda adhyayanam themselves. Then, the vidvans were garlanded and a turban crown was anointed. Thrimadhuram, chandan and sugar were offered and finally camphor arathi was also performed.

Everyone felt very happy to have participated in the parayanam. In the midst, Sri Swamiji took part in the Radha kalyanam that was conducted in the residence of Sri Bhaskar. On 24th July evening, Swamiji did a discourse on Sri Krishna jananam at the Namadwaar Head office in Karnataka. On 25th July morning, under the guidance of Gokarnam Brahmasri Mahabaeshwar Ganapatigal (adhyapak), and on behalf of Bharadwaja Vedharanya Veda Vidya Peeta Pradishtan Trust (Gokarna), Swamiji inaugurated a Yajur Veda patasala at Sri Sundara Anjaneya temple.



KNOW WHERE TO DRAW THE LINE

Dr Janani Vasudevan

India, the socially congenial, culturally rich country with an indeed ancient history, full of traditions and immense scientific and economic prowess, also takes pride in being the most encouraging land in terms of receiving and absorbing modern concepts and granting freedom of expression. And especially, women in this country, have always been given the most admirable mix of respect and honour, combined with freedom, with no gender discrimination, in pursuing careers, creating breakthroughs in any field of expertise, and in roles that form a part of vital decision and policy making.

However in recent times, having come across gruesome incidents of a woman being hacked to death in broad daylight at a railway station in Chennai, a girl student beaten to death at Karur, a school teacher at Tuticorin scythed till she collapsed, and many other instances of abuse and acid attacks, the concern arises on whether all the modernization and social presence has compromised on safety!

On one hand, as we are achieving pinnacles of success in terms of career, entrepreneurship, social status and education, it looks like we are also becoming helpless victims of violence from society, which sometimes includes our own (sometimes unsought) acquaintances.

As much as social media and networking sites are being a platform to express, communicate, advertise, trade, learn and acquire information, the safety issues concerning their usage, also seems to be growing exponentially; and the reason for trepidation is that, the perils that are in store, are totally unpredictable, and many a times arise from unforeseen people and circumstances.

As a solution to this threatening scenario, raising voices demanding justice, discussions on mentalities, or getting into the blame game would not suffice, since these seem to be an aftermath of the horror, and does not help in safeguarding one from these dangers. It is important that we step up our game,

and target the core of this issue by taking measures to do what we can to secure ourselves from these risks; in other words 'KNOW WHERE TO DRAW THE LINE'.

It would take just a minute of rational thinking to decide whether what we are about to share on a public platform is really necessary. An information that is posted to share excitement with friends, maybe a 'Shimla, Here I come!' or an 'Its-vacation-time-for-the-next-five days' may earn the likes and 'wow's of a huge number of friends, but could also be providing the required information for someone who is vigilantly waiting for the first opportunity to burgle a house. And to worsen it, a simple 'hashtag'something search will give a list of people in the area who are on a vacation, or going to a particular place! And the hashtag culture makes it easy to track every message/ like /comment which leaves a digital foot print of our thoughts which can be used later by any agency.

It seems like a race among the younger generation to flaunt the number of friends on their list, so much so, that any stranger who claims to share a common interest becomes a 'friend' in a jiffy. It only reminds us of the first instruction taught by parents and grandparents to us as children, 'Don't talk to strangers' and 'choose your 'friends' carefully'. It seemed a very nagging and overly interfering comment as we grew older. But having seen the series of mishaps, it seems like it is the first thing one should remember on social networks. Even relationships that have been tested by time, after knowing a person, moving with them for a reasonable amount of time, turn out to be deceiving. Befriending a total anonymous, judging by what he/she chooses to reveal, is sheer negligence.

As everyday users of social media, it is going to be entirely our responsibility to ensure privacy of our public profiles. On a random overview, there seem to be a large number of social media users who are not educated about the privacy options given by the service provider. In addition to keeping ourselves informed of security preferences available, we must also keep our personal information which includes photos, friends, details of job, place of study, and date of birth etc., limited to audience that fall into our core inner trustworthy circle; so much so that social media profiles are being tracked during passport and VISA applications. Being users of multiple devices, it is essential one does not stay logged in into personal profiles at all times. Logging out after each login and frequent change of passcodes are a thumb rule.

At the tiniest hint that one receives, regarding threat to safety, the issue is best reported immediately to family, and if warranted, seek the help of law. Cameras being at everyone's disposal with just a tap on the phone screen, it is another cause of anxiety, wherein one needs to be prudent on allowing to be clicked.

As far as parents are concerned, it is a very stringent supervision that is required to balance the usage of social media by children, between that which is informative and healthy and that which is precarious. Apart from educating them on safe use of the internet, it is also essential to prevent them from reading articles, or watching videos of incidences of violence and terror, that may have an irreversible negative impact in their impressionable minds. And for this, parents must primarily practice cautious use of social media, for children to imbibe the same.

In our fast-paced life where truth is difficult to pin down and felony is ubiquitous, it is only wise to avert than regret. Having taken birth in a country that has taught dharma and righteousness to the world, and taking pride in the splendid culture and values our ancestors have left for us, it is our duty to utilise every bit of freedom, respect and celebration showered on us in the most judicious manner, and inculcate the same in the younger generation, by our actions and optimism.



SHRI JNANESHWARAR - 19 CHAARNGA DEVA

Alandi is a small village, 25kms from Pune. Though Jnaneshwar was living in a small house in that village, his fame had spread everywhere and the people of the village were always talking about him. Jealousy is a common human attribute.continued from last issue

As Jnaneshwar's fame spread more and more, Chaarnga Deva, who was living in that village started feeling more and more jealous. He wanted to meet Jnaneshwar, win a debate with him and thereby humiliate him. But it can be seen that anyone getting associated with Jnaneshwar under any pretext gets a push towards 'Jnana' (knowledge). It happened with Chaarnga Deva also. The name 'Chaarnga' or 'Charu anga' itself means one with beautiful limbs'. Chaarnga Deva had a handsome physique, with well-shaped limbs and a head full of twirling hairs. He was an 'amsa' (a part) of 'Maruths' (a kind of celestials).



**VITTALA
WOULD COME
KNOCKING AT
YOUR DOOR**

Excerpts from a TV series that conquered the hearts of millions

Many people visit temples to pray God for 'Children' or 'Marriage' or 'Cure from diseases' or that the words they speak should come true. Some others seek from God freedom from rebirths, knowledge, devotion or liberation. A few others seek mystical powers from God. Such mystical powers are big obstacles in the path towards God.

Someone asked Ramakrishna Paramahansa, "These mystical powers accrue to someone who is traversing the divine path. Then how can it be wrong to have such powers"? Ramakrishna Paramahansa replied, "We eat food to stay healthy. We excrete only because we eat food and drink water. Can it be said that we eat only to excrete? Mystical powers are like excreta and have to be discarded. For a spiritual seeker who is aspiring to destroy his mind, these mystical powers are great obstacles".

Ramana Maharishi explains this nicely. A street magician puts collyrium in a leaf and covers it with a basket. He will ask the audience to clap. In a short time, there would be a tree there, with fruits also. Everyone would be stunned. The magician knows how the tree with fruits appeared there and would not be surprised. But he will still act as though he too is astonished. Such a magician fools others though not getting fooled himself. But someone who is enamoured of mystical powers fools others and also gets fooled himself!

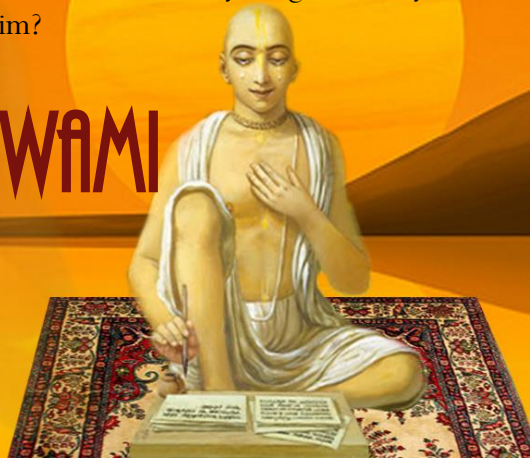
Mahaprabhu told Roopa, "Till now you thought that wealth is everything. You served in the council of Hussain Shahin only to acquire this wealth.(continued from last week)

"He is an illiterate fool, but you are a wise pandit. He was indiscriminate but you had always been alert. He was immoral but you had always been perfectly righteous. He was always inferior to you in every way and you were far superior. Yet, you were not as rich as he was. You had a deep inner feeling that money is the source of all happiness. Only because of this, in spite of your superior birth, knowledge and integrity, you did not value these virtues and was subservient to him. Now that you have realized that there is no real happiness in money and belongings, you have renounced as mud all the wealth which you earned with your blood and sweat, and have entered the path of devotion. Is it not so?" asked Mahaprabhu.

Roopa said, "Yes Prabhu, They had become a burden to me. Somehow I have managed to escape from them". Prabhu kept Roopa's hand above his hand and said, "Just think, Does greatness lie in money? You were afraid of Husain Shah, since you were worried that you may not get wealth. Having realized the futility of wealth now, you will not be afraid even if a thousand Husain Shahs come before you. The source of your fear has now been removed. Just as there is no danger to people from the fruits of a poisonous plant which has been removed from its roots, once the thought that money is everything is removed from one's mind, he need not be afraid or servile before anyone. To judge a person not by his noble virtues but by the wealth that he possesses, is a demonical attitude. A person to whom mud and gold are one and the same, need not fear anyone. A rich man and a beggar are the same to him. The insatiable hankering after wealth is what creates the division as rich and poor. If one can remain in a state where he does not need anything from anyone, then who is rich and who is poor for him?"

ROOPA GOSWAMI

Janani



Akshay was an excellent sculptor. He had learnt that art very well from his father. He would sculpt any statue in a very realistic manner. The sculptures he made would be flawless. If he sculpted something, there would be no difference between the original and his statue. He was that great a sculptor, that everyone was awestruck by him.

He was very conceited because he possessed such rich artistic talent. He would speak to everyone insolently, and talk to no one with respect. However, because he delivered his work as promised by him, he had earned a very good name in his profession.

One day he had a strange dream. Ever since he had that dream, he was in a confused state of mind and stayed in solitude. Even though his wife and family all nagged him to tell them what the matter was, he did not talk about it.

A TALE FOR CHILDREN

Which Is Fake!



He had dreamt that his death was going to happen within a month. For some reason, he believed it was going to happen in reality. Akshay, who had , until now, won over all by his talent, decided to conquer death too.

A few days after the dream had occurred, having come to a decision, he selected ten identical stones. He had, very patiently started sculpting statues from those stones. His sculptures from the stones looked identical. Finally, by the time he finished those statues, anyone who had seen them, would have been amazed. The reason being, he looked exactly like that statue. Those statues looked like a real image seen in the mirror. After closely inspecting those statues, he took one statue alone and threw it away at a distance. He probably did not like it.

Exactly after a month lapsed, he went and lay down as one among those statues. At that time, the yamadooth (emissary of Lord Yama) came to take away his life. On seeing those statues, he got confused. He could not find out which one was the real Akshay, which one was the statue. Unable to identify even after a long time, the yamadooth went to Yamaloka and explained his plight to Dharmaraj (yama-lord of death). Dharmaraj himself came down to earth. The statues were so identical that, even he could not find out. Dharmaraj, looked around and on seeing a statue flung away, was able to understand what had happened. Yamaraj, deciding that only one of these statues was the live Akshay, told his messenger loudly, “There is a flaw in one statue alone”.

When he heard that there was a flaw in the statues he had made, Akshay could not tolerate it. He got angry. Which statue was faulty? The more he thought about it, his vanity fuelled his anger, and after a few minutes, he just got up and asked Yamaraj, ‘Which statue is faulty?’ At once, Yamaraj caught hold of Akshay tight, and thereby showed that, ‘Conceit can make even a living thing a lifeless statue’! If we avoid ‘Me’ and ‘Mine’ we can always be with Lord Krishna!



Janani

BRINDAVAN AND NANDAKUMARA

SHRI HARI BABAJI – 7

Once there was a severe drought in those areas. The people suffered for want of rain. They approached Baba and prayed to him, “Maharaj! Please do something. Or else, we don’t know how many households will be destroyed! How many lives will be lost! Can’t say!” Baba told them, “Nama Bagavan is with you. Then why do you worry? Is there any such thing as impossible by His Grace? Surrender unto Him and be thoughtless(without worry)”.

It was then decided, after jointly consulting with many, that four devotees along with Baba would consume milk alone for seven days and go around the village doing nama sankeerthan. It was decided that they would be seated only during the kathakalakshepam (a form of religious story telling) in the evening. It was finalised that on the eighth day, the whole village would get together and do akhanda nama keerthan and samashti bojanam (mass feeding). In this manner, nama keerthan happened. On the eighth day, at 12 in the night, clouds gathered from somewhere. Heavy rains with thunder and lightning started pouring.

A man by name Lala Kundanlal had great nishtai(fixedness of mind) in bhajan(nama keerthan). He worshipped sadhus as God. Baba respected him a

lot. Once, his grandson Rameswar fell sick. In spite of spending several thousands of rupees for treatment over a period of 14 months, there was no improvement. The famous doctors of Calcutta were unable to do anything. At that time, Baba advised that akhanda nama keerthan should be arranged for a few days, for the sake of that lad. Arrangements were made accordingly. For three months nama keerthan was continuously done. But, there was no improvement in the condition of that lad. Those doing keerthan also grew weary. People at home also started losing hope. They continued to drag the nama keerthan, for the sole reason of not going against Baba's order. On seeing this, Baba said, "What is the use of doing keerthan like this? By doing nama keerthan with no belief on nama at all, will only bring about nama abachara (indignity/disrespect to nama). If you truly want Rameswar's health to improve, if you want to save him, keep your lives at stake and do nama keerthan with sincerity. There isn't even an iota of doubt that he will recover".

As soon as they heard Baba's words, Nama keerthan resumed with renewed enthusiasm and belief. They made Rameswar lie on a reclining chair and brought him to the place where keerthan was held. Now and then baba would also participate in the keerthan and inspire everyone. One day, Baba was ringing a huge bell and going round like a wheel in the bhajan hall. At the same time, a devotee from Nijampur, named Gubeeram was overcome by a strange excitement. As he was dancing, he went near Rameswar, looked at him and shouting, 'All of us are dancing to Bagavan's keerthan. You, however, are seated stylishly in the chair. Probably because of the conceit of belonging to a rich family', hitting him twice, forcibly pulled him to the middle of the keerthan and made him stand. As soon as he stood, Rameswar's legs started trembling initially. But, very soon, not only did he manage, but also raised his hands and started dancing. On seeing him, who had been unable to get up from his bed for 18 months, dancing in a delirious state today, everyone was overcome with surprise and joy. From that time, he got completely cured.

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Satsang Dates

13 September 2016	Ekadasi
27 September 2016	Ekadasi
1-10 October 2016	Sri Swamiji's discourse at Bhuvaneshwari Amman Temple, KK Nagar



Janmashtami, Premika Bhavanam, August 26, 2016



Independence Day, August 15, 2016

