

Madhura Murali



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Madhura Smaranam

MY GURU AS I SEE HIM

~ Dr A Bhagyanathan

GURU'S GRACE SO CASUALLY BESTOWED THE PEACE THAT CANNOT BE ENJOYED BY THE MIND EVEN THROUGH THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF SPIRITUAL AUSTERITY! OUR MIND DOES NOT HAVE THE POWER OF REALIZING THE DEPTH OF IT; THIS IS THE TRUTH.

Each and every devotee nurtures deep desire to visit and enjoy the places where his favourite god had lived and performed divine plays (lilas). A devotee of Lord Rama would desire a visit to Ayodhya while a Krishna devotee would desire a visit to Mathura and Vrindavan, and a Siva devotee a visit to Chidambaram. They visit these places now and then and experience great joy. Mahans (saints) are able to perceive the divine presence of the Lord in these places where He had incarnated. To Sri Ramakrishna the whole holy land of Varanasi appeared radiant like gold. There he actually saw Lord Siva chanting 'Rama Rama' in the ears of those who died there. Through the life history of Bhakta Mira we learn that the Vrindavan seen by her and that seen by us is entirely different. We know that our Guru Maharaj enjoys visiting and doing Namakirtan at Pandarpur, Dwaraka, Vrindavan and such other places of Krishna where His divine plays took place.

In the same way, holy places like Kaladi where mahans like Sri Sankara had taken birth are also filled with *sannidhya* (divine presence). We find devotees in huge groups visiting and enjoying various places like Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's Nawadweep, the tamarind tree under which Nammaazhwaar had sat in tapas, places connected with Pandarpur devotees like Tukaram, Jnaneshwar and others, Sri Ramakrishna's Kamarpukur. Devotees consider the birthplace and the places where their Guru had lived as a holy *kshetra*. To the disciple the Guru's holy feet is itself Ganga, Cauvery, etc. This is the tradition found in India since time immemorial.

The town Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu is part of what is called 'Nadu-naadu' (literally, 'middle-land'). There is a Tamil adage that says '*nadu-naadu saandrOrudaitthu* (Nadu-naadu is filled with great souls). From this, one can understand the glory of that region. To say that the greatness of Nadu-naadu is unlimited is no exaggeration. The holy place Attaveeranam is also situated here in Nadu-naadu. Vedanta Desika who had incarnated in Thoopul also lived here only. Of the four prime devotees of Lord Siva three belonged to this Nadu-naadu. Arjuna, during his pilgrimage, has visited places on the banks of River Thenpennai. Tiruvannamalai is also here – the place where numerous mahans like Guhai Namasivaya, Guru Namasivaya, Seshadri Swami, Ramana Maharishi, Yogi Ramsurat Kumar have lived! There is no limit to this. It is in Nadu-naadu that Tirukkivilur where Swami Jnanananda had lived is situated. Ragotthama swami also lived here. The life of Appar who had undergone several trials and tribulations, like Prahlad, for chanting the Lord's Name is also linked to this place. This Nadu-naadu which enjoys such great glory is also the birth place of our Guru Maharaj. We have heard, in detail, about this in Madhurasamaram, have we not?

Recently a group of devotees from Virudunagar satsang decided to visit the house in Cuddalore where Guru Maharaj had lived. They initially planned to undertake the journey in a van. But one of the devotees in the group was

not in a position to travel by road due to health problems. Therefore, the group was under compulsion to travel by train. The devotee inquired the cost of travelling by train and learnt that it would cost one thousand rupees. Her family circumstances would not permit such spending. She lamented to her friends, "I deeply desire to go. But my family circumstances brings up the question if this spending is really necessary." However, her friends pointed out to her that mahans have said that sincere spending of money, time, service and articles for the sake of satsang never goes in vain and encouraged her to come along. She then took the bold step of joining them in their trip to Cuddalore.

As soon as she decided to visit her Guru Maharaj's birthplace she was filled with joy. But while in the train she did feel disturbed over the amount involved, but at the same time felt excited about seeing the house where her Guru had lived.

Sri Swamiji's mother's name is Savitri Rajagopal. Hence, this house where she had lived is now named after her as 'Srimati Savitri Sadanam' and houses the Cuddalore Namadwaar. The satsang group reached Cuddalore and with loud chanting of the Mahamantra eagerly entered Savitri Sadanam at Manjakuppam.

That lady devotee who had come with some hesitation also walked into Savitri Sadanam. She prayed wholeheartedly and sang the Mahamantra kirtan. She felt her mind glow and, therefore, felt blissful. All the questions, confusions, thoughts that had filled her mind until then slipped away and dissolved as Nama (the Divine Name) was chanted. Her eyes filled with tears. She felt - Is there any price for this peace? Oh, the whole weight has been lifted off! What joy! Ah! Is it due to this that great souls say that bliss is found in deep silence!

Guru's grace so casually bestowed the peace that cannot be enjoyed by the mind even through thousands of years of spiritual austerity! Our mind

does not have the power of realizing the depth of it; this is the truth.

On the return journey the mind was totally content. “Was I not thinking of the family circumstances where even a thousand rupees could not be spent? But this experience...can this be attained even through several crores of rupees?” such thoughts filled the lady and she felt overwhelmed. Is it because of this that devotees praise the god they worship as ‘ponnappan, yennappan’!

This devotee was in for another pleasant surprise when she entered the train compartment with her friends and mused over all that had happened. They found some persons occupying their reserved seats claiming it to be theirs. When checked, both the set of tickets showed the same coach and seat numbers! Now, who had the right to the seats? What was to be done? Praying to Guru Maharaj mentally the devotees decided to wait for the ticket-checker to arrive.

The ticket-checker checked the tickets and without demanding any further cost allotted seats for these devotees in the air-conditioned coach! This lady devotee had never before travelled in an air-conditioned coach. That comfort was bestowed on her now without seeking! This was physical comfort. While coming to Cuddalore the mind was filled with so many doubtful thoughts. But now after the visit to the place where Guru Maharaj had lived, the mind was at peace. Both the mind and body were cool. The mind and the body had a soothing experience.

When we start the journey towards the Guru and Satsang ‘*yihadalli yishta unttu, paradalli sukha unttu*’ (a hymn by Saint Sri Purandara dasa) – you can have both fulfilled – worldly desires and spiritual comforts.

Answers & Beyond

SRI SWAMIJI ANSWERS QUESTIONS FROM DEVOTEES

Q: There are so many people in this world who do not chant Nama. However, whenever someone tells you about any problem, you say, "Chant Nama; Your prayers will be answered". Why should we alone chant Nama. There are so many people who are doing good without chanting Nama!?

A: *Most couples are blessed with a child soon after marriage. For some, a child isn't born even after a long time of marriage. They do not leave it like that. Some, perform remedies prescribed by astrology. Some take medical treatment. Then a child is born. It is some sin that has been committed in the past, that obstructs a normal happening from taking place in their lives. To be redeemed of those sins, I ask you to chant Nama. Moreover, even if Nama that you start to chant for a specific, catches hold of you, it is for your good.*

Q: I do not have any difficulty now. So, I do not have to chant the Nama now, do I?

A: *When a child is born, even if it is normal (has no disease), it is given vaccines, to prevent the disease from coming later. Likewise, let us chant the Nama now, to prevent difficulties from coming later.*

Q: What is the purpose of chanting Nama, if I am not going to face any difficulty in future?

A: *Even though we are in good health, keeping our general health in mind, we take many vitamin tablets. Similarly, for a healthy mind, let us keep chanting a lot of Nama.*


Q: Isn't Nama for the purpose of seeing God??

A: *If Nama is for the purpose of seeing God, that desire alone should be kept in mind, without any other desire, and should be chanted day and night for years together.*

Sri Ram 'Naam' Treatment

A scholar by name Sivakumar Upadhyayi lived in Bhoodapur village on the banks of the Ganga. A healthy man, he was suddenly struck with a disease. Ancient traditional treatment was given to him. Strict dietary restrictions was advised. It is indeed true that when medicine is taken along with prescribed diet restrictions it would give the desired result; the disease would go. But nothing came out of the medical treatment given to Sivakumar. Instead, it only grew worse. The state of 'no treatment can cure him' had been reached.

Sivakumar had only his mother. He had no other relative. The mother sold all her properties and brought the son to Kasi for treatment. The loving mother tried English medicines. Even after some months of this treatment there was no progress in his health. The mother lost faith and was drowned in sorrow. She shed copious tears. Is it possible for a mother to bear the sight of her son being bed ridden?



राम
(RAM)

In Kasi their neighbour Viswanathan did daily reading of the Ramayana. He had a kind heart and helping tendency. One day Sivakumar's mother stepped out to go to his house; but midway she fell down either due to weariness or just tripped. Viswanathan who happened to come out of his house then found her fallen down and helped her. Even in that state the mother, in a trembling voice, said to him, "In spite of several medications my son does not seem to recover. The doctors have all given up. Of what use am I to myself or to others? I cannot bear to see him die. Therefore, I shall fall into the Ganga and give up my life. I was coming to your place to meet you. You are a good man. Please render the required help to my son and conduct his last rituals. This is the money left with me after the various medical treatments given to him. Please accept this." She tried to get up and leave.

At once, Viswanathan said to her in a kind voice, "Mother! Why do you fear? God is the greatest doctor. A doctor can only cure the disease; God can even give life; please have faith in Him. Please pray to Him."

He further said, "Shirk fear. It is irrelevant to you. Trust the doctors' doctor. That doctor will cure the disease and also save the life. His power is limitless. Pray to Him with faith."

Then he went to Sivakumar's house and saw him who had been reduced to mere flesh and bones. Sivakumar was conscious but unable to respond. Viswanathan sat near Sivakumar and said loudly in his ears, "Please shirk your fear. From tomorrow write 'Ramajayam' to the extent possible. It is enough to write to the extent possible by you. Rest frequently and write."

He then added, "If you do this your disease will gradually disappear. While writing the mind would get deeply involved. When the mind and action move together it would do us good. Write enthusiastically without being

dispirited and with faith. God **will** help.” He said this with full of faith. The bedridden Sivakumar understood that none could render any help to him at that stage. Therefore, he began to have more faith in God. On the first day he could not raise his hand; yet, with difficulty he wrote Ramajayam. Some days passed in this manner.

After some days, Viswanathan visited Sivakumar. Sivakumar smiled at Viswanathan with cheerful face. It could be seen that the intensity of the disease had reduced.

Viswanathan asked, “How are you?”

Sivakumar said, “On the first day I could not write at all. Yet, stubbornly I wrote a little Ramajayam. Gradually I increased the number. I wrote taking rest now and then. Now I can even write up to five hundred.”

From his reply Viswanathan understood that Sivakumar liked writing it. Viswanathan sat there for a while speaking to him and then returned to his home.

“In this age of Kali there is no way other than the Lord’s Name (Bhagavan Naama) to earn the good things sought.”

Gradually this spiritual austerity of Ramajayam (Ramajayam tapas) grew bigger and began to do its work. His mind became joyful and faith sprouted in his heart. The body also became healthy. Within a short span of time he was cured completely and returned to his village. His mother, too, began to worship the Lord with devotion and in two years’ time Sivakumar became healthier than before.

This is a true incident.

In this age of Kali there is no way other than the Lord's Name (Bhagavan Naama) to earn the good things sought. It is very difficult to chant with control of senses and one-pointed mind. That is why Kanchi Mahaswami had been advising 'likita japa' – writing chant. While writing, the eyes see the letters, the hand writes, the mouth chants and the mind meditates. Is there an easy way to bring together the senses and the mind in this way other than writing Ramajayam? For man beset with various kinds of troubles to enjoy great peace there is no better way except Rama Naama (the Name 'Rama') for one-pointed chanting (japa). By writing that RAMA NAAMA and consequently chanting with one-pointed mind one can earn all round welfare very quickly.

Sri Swamiji's Kirtan

Ragam: Durbar

Talam: Jampa

PALLAVI

nambi vandEnE sundara AnjanEyA, undan sannidikku tanjam endru nAn

CHARANAM

ODi oLindu bayandu vAzhnda sugrIvanin

tuyarangaLai tudaitu arasanAkkiyadu nlyanDrO (nambi)

kaDalai kaDandu jAnakiyai kanDu

mOdiram tandu Arudal aLitadu nlyanDrO (nambi)

sanjIvi parvadatai noDiyil koNarndu

rAma lakshmaNarayum pAlittadu nlyanDrO (nambi)

agni pravEsam seyya tuNinda

baratanai taDuttu pAlittadum nlyanDrO (nambi)

tAba trayangaLAl taLLAdidum enayum

abayam tandu kAkka vENDiyadum nlyanDrO (nambi)



I Froze!!!

~ PADMAPADHAR

Once my work colleague came to see me. He is also my friend for a long time, so he shares his family matters with me comfortably. Recently his father had passed away. At time of his death, my friend's father had called him and after evaluating all his assets, divided them and asked him and his brother to take them. Hearing this, I also told him, 'it is fair that you settle the assets as per your father's wish as your brother is your only sibling'. My friend said, 'my brother is not in a good job and he also has more children. Hence, I am thinking of giving my share of the wealth also to him'. I was surprised that such people exist in today's world.

He continued, 'My father told us to take equal share of the wealth only. I only wanted to give up my share because I feel my brother needs it more. But, if my brother found out about this, he would not like to take it out of pride and his stubbornness. I told him, 'if that is the case, you could tell a lie that your father left his whole wealth for him and give it all to him'. I added that it is not wrong to lie for a good cause. My friend then said, 'it can be done like that, but if I did that, I wouldn't be able to tell anyone proudly about me giving up my share of wealth for him. What's the use then?'

I stood completely frozen. People are willing to give up even their wealth but not self-praise. This is the truth.

Rare it is for a person to even earn serene devotion for Lord Hari (sattvic Hari Bhakti). Rarer still it is to sustain it. For the lush growth of such Bhakti one should, first of all, abstain from self-praise. In Srimad Ramayana, nowhere does Hanuman, in spite of performing great feats, brag.

When Rama and Lakshmana entered Kishkinta, Sugreeva was gripped with fear as he suspected them of being Vali's men. It was Hanuman who went up to them first, made enquiries and brought about friendship between Rama and Sugreeva, holding Agni (the fire god) as the witness. Hanuman crossed the ocean easily and found Sita. He coped with several hurdles during his journey across the ocean.

Sita, out of fear, suspected Hanuman to be Ravana or some demon in disguise. But Hanuman cleverly narrated the life story of Rama to Sita and

~ NALLA HARI



**FENCE TO BE LAID FOR LUSH
GROWTH OF THE CROP 'BHAKTI'**

gave her Rama's ring. Taking the head ornament (choodamani) given by Sita, Hanuman visited Ravana in the latter's court and spoke of peace. Returning, he gave the head ornament to Rama and narrated all that had taken place. He carried Rama and Lakshmana on his shoulders and reached the shore. He brought Vibhishana and Rama together. Building a bridge across the ocean they reached the other shore. In the battle Rama, Lakshmana and the whole monkey army fell down unconscious. All, including Rama and Lakshmana, could be brought back to life only if Sanjeevi Mountain was brought there, as advised by Jambavan.

Well! What would someone like us think at that instant? 'All along we had believed Rama to be God and that he would save us. But it has turned out to be otherwise. It is I who have to save him now! Only if I bring Sanjeevi Mountain will Rama return to consciousness. What sort of a God is He?' Our thoughts may run along such lines. But what did Hanuman do in such a state? He looked at Rama and said 'you are enacting this drama to suit the human Avatar that you have taken. Even spotting this Sanjeevi Mountain will come about only if I am blessed with your Grace; only then can I bring it here'. Hanuman left only after taking the dust from the feet of Rama who lay unconscious and wearing it on his head. Sanjeevi Mountain was brought and the battle continued. Later, Hanuman stopped Bharata who was ready to enter the fire by giving him the message of Rama's arrival. What is the response of Hanuman when Sri Rama said to him 'how great a feat you have achieved'? Hanuman told Rama, "O Lord! You speak of my having achieved some great feat. I do not think so. O Lord! Even an ordinary monkey in this crowd would have successfully done this if you had willed so and blessed him. It is verily your, the Lord's, blessing and will that is the reason behind a person's achievement. "

Only if one is, like Hanuman, without self-praise will the crop of Bhakti grow.

To strengthen the dispassion in Roopa Goswami, Mahaprabhu said, "Roop! The way to God is just in the opposite direction to the three evils, 'Women', 'Money' and 'Fame'. Only when a person mentally renounces all these three, does he get the eligibility to proceed in the divine path. When the mind gets joy from these three, where is the chance that he is going to attain God or divine love?"

Roop! Just look in to the real nature of these three, 'Women', 'Money' and 'Fame'. The world is madly running after women. But what really exists in the body of a woman? Only disgusting things like bones, flesh, urine and other excreta. Even the body of a beautiful woman who falls sick emits a bad odour and her appearance becomes sickening, which drives away even her husband who was till then enamored of her. Where is the peace and happiness in this body made of the five elements with nine holes? Even the apparent pleasure which exists in this body is only a reflection of the Brahman. Hence peace is achieved only when the reflection is discarded and the truth is caught hold of.

Roop! Wealth is also like this. Nobody feels contented even after acquiring any amount of wealth. If a person becomes the owner of the seven continents, he would still wish to rule over the three worlds. When he would not be satisfied with suzerainty over the entire universe, how stupid is it that he wishes to make himself happy through ruler ship over thirty or even thousand villages?

Rupa Goswami

JANANI



You have to think over one point deeply. What really is the difference between gold and the earth? Just as from different places of the earth we get white sand, yellow sand, black sand and so on, gold and silver are also yellow & white sand only. It is only a mental fantasy that they are superior. It is you who attach importance to it and then madly endeavour to acquire it. The shadow of a body does not have any separate existence apart from the body. The shadow is only of the body. If due to intense attachment you seek the shadow, you will never be able to catch it. Just by running backwards, can someone catch the shadow? Instead of thinking that the shadow is different from you and running after it, if you consider that the shadow is only you and run away from it, you can notice that it is following you. Where can it go away from you? Do you understand what I say?

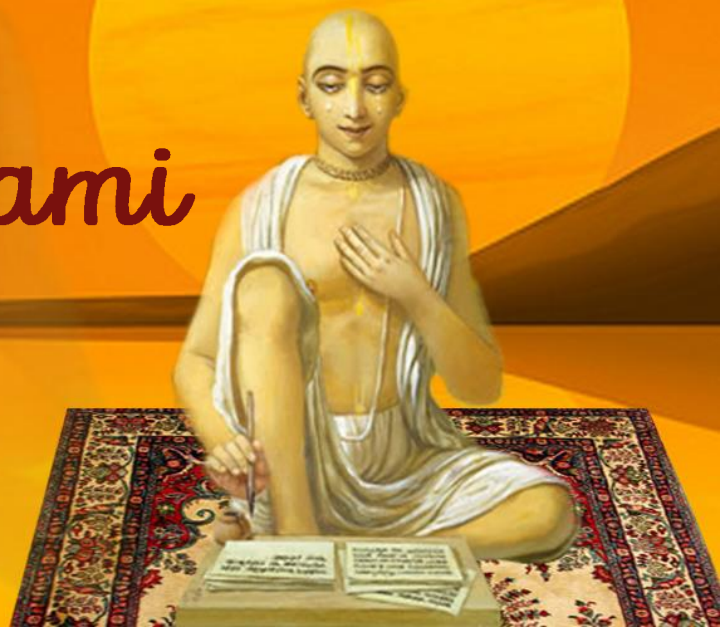
Roopa Goswami slowly replied, "Yes Prabhu. I understood a little ... The superiority attached to gold and the inferiority attached to the mud is in reality a mental phenomenon and not true".

Mahaprabhu acknowledged, "Yes, that's true. Till now you thought that wealth is everything. You served in the council of Hussain Shahin only to acquire this wealth. In spite of being born in a noble family, you worked under him. He is an ungrateful person who would harm even his king. But you follow the dharma and do your administration virtuously. He is stupid but you are a learned pandit. He is irresponsible but you have always been alert. He is an immoral person; you on the other hand have been a paragon of virtue.

Rupa Goswami

JANANI

...to be contd



SHRI GNANESHWARAR - 18 GNANESHWARI

Today, the stone pillar on which Gnaneshwar leaned, is also worshipped as God. More Puja is being done to this pillar than even to the deity Kalleswar! People worship this pillar by adorning vastram (clothes), offering garlands, flowers and performing Pooja and Arathi. Above this pillar, Gnaneshwar's commentary on the Bhagavad Gita, 'Bhavaartha Deepika' has been kept. The inscription of Sun and Moon on this pillar can be seen even today. This implies that Gnaneshwar's 'Bhavaartha Deepika', otherwise known as Gnaneshwari, will live as long as the Sun and Moon are present in this world.

Gnaneshwar's guru is his own elder brother Nivrittinath. Gnaneshwar begins his work Gnaneshwari with the invocation of his Guru Nivrittinath and also of Lord Ganesha. This work is translated to many languages worldwide. It is filled with wisdom and devotion. There is one more miracle which occurred in the life of Gnaneshwar. One day, a person came and prostrated to Gnaneshwar and said with tearful eyes, "Swamiji! Today, we have our forefather's ceremony at home. We have to pay homage to our ancestors and make offerings to the

VITTALA
WOULD
COME
KNOCKING
AT YOUR
DOOR



Excerpts from a TV series that conquered the hearts of millions

brahmins. But I don't have enough money". A compassionate Gnaneswar took pity and blessed him. That day, his forefathers themselves came in person, and accepted his offerings.

Gnaneswar's life is replete with many such miracles. He made a buffalo to chant Veda; brought back a dead man's life and made the manes to physically come and partake the offerings. Among the many such miraculous events that took place in Gnaneswar's life history, the story of Sarangadeva is noteworthy.

SARANGADEVA

Gnaneswar's Samadhi is situated in Alandi, a place 25km away from Pune. Gnaneshwar lived in this village in a small hut whose walls were made of mud. Though he was young, the legends of his many miraculous deeds spread everywhere and made him well known in Prathishtanapuram and Mewasa.

The villagers were always recounting the many miraculous deeds of Gnaneshwar and about his brothers and sister – 'he made a buffalo recite Vedas – he brought a dead man to life – he wrote a commentary on Gita – his brother is born as an 'amsa' of Lord Shiva - he himself is an incarnation of Lord Hari – his another brother is born as an amsa of Lord Brahma – his sister is an amsa of Goddess Durga – the pundits themselves have certified them as complete Jnanis – , and so on. Jealousy is a normal human attribute which can strike anyone. Lord Rama himself has vouched for this. When Rama was leaving for the forest, he initially did not intend to take Sita with him. During that time he gave many useful advices to Sita. One of this was, "Sita, If Bharatha comes to you and calls you to inspect a pond or bridge that he has constructed, don't ever mention that my Rama would have done this in a better way. A younger brother cannot even stand his own elder brother's fame". Lord Rama gives this advice indirectly to us while as though referring to his brother Bharatha. If this is the situation with Bharatha himself, there is no need to mention about ordinary people like us.

Madhavan was a boy capable of studying well. He was studying in Class XI. His mother Kamakshi noticed that the usually cheerful boy, for the past few days, soon after he returned from school, would keep his chin in his hands and without any enthusiasm, sit lost in some thought. While serving Madhavan his food, his mother slowly asked him, "Madhava! Why are you appearing so dull and listless? What's the matter?"

At that time, Madhavan's father Natesan who was nearby interrupted and said, "I know everything. I also asked him why. It seems he has to study fifteen lessons in the next thirty days. Moreover, the forthcoming year is Class twelve. He is thinking, he needs to study for that very well. I'm feeling proud that he is thinking and acting". Further, he looked at Madhavan and said, "Think well decide properly and act rightly. Pay attention and study well". Madhavan nodded yes. His dad ate fast and saying, "I have some urgent work; I'll return soon" left the house.

A Tale for Children

A LESSON FROM KRISHNA



But, Madhavan's mother Kamakshi who was observing all this, felt there was nothing wrong with Madhavan who was already studying well. Kamakshi asked Madhavan, "How many lessons can you study in one day?" Madhavan replied that he could study only one lesson in a day so that it could register well.

At once Kamakshi asked him, "Okay, how many more days are left until this year's exams?" He replied that there were totally 15 lessons; only 30 days left. At once, his mother said, "Then why do you worry. If you can do one lesson in one day, you will finish all lessons in fifteen days? There are 15 more days ? Don't think of something else, and forget to study these fifteen lessons".

As soon as he heard this, Madhavan felt a weight lifting from his mind. "Mother ! What you say is true. I'll study this. But what will I do next year? That is an important exam, isn't it?", he said.

At once, his mother Kamakshi smilingly replied, "The time to study for it will come only next year, isn't it? Just like you are studying this year, You will study next year also, won't you? By sitting and worrying like this, you are only forgetting the lessons you ought to be studying now. Only time is getting wasted".

Madhavan felt what his mother said was right. "Yes mother! What you are saying is correct. Why should I worry unnecessarily". He immediately became his usual cheerful self. In the meantime, his father Natesan who had gone out returned. He was surprised to see Madhavan now.

“What happened Madhava! It looks like you have decided how you need to study; Good.” Madhavan replied, “No father! There is no use thinking too much about next year’s studies; just as I’m studying well this year, I’ll definitely study next year too. You are going to see it”.

His father Natesan was surprised. He said “Kamakshi! See how nicely Madhavan is talking”. At once Kamakshi replied, “ When I was young, my mother always used to tell me about the Mahabarath war, where Lord Krishna was constantly encouraging and energising Arjuna. He was constantly telling Arjuna that he could. So, she taught us that as far as possible we should encourage and cheer people and make them believe they can achieve. That’s just what I said. How do I know what he’s studying”.

Natesan thought calmly for a moment. Then he said, “ Kamakshi, only you are bringing up our son properly”.

If we listen to and follow Krishna Paramatma’s words, isn’t success assured! Hence, let us practise living with confidence.

For this body blessed on us by Lord Gopal let us fall down, again and again, in prostration in His Presence (sannidhi). Let us, at least mentally, offer the food to Him and then eat. Let us chant His Name daily to the extent possible.

~ HH Maharanyam Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji

Wonders and miracles are not the end state of spirituality. Peace and bliss are the end state of spirituality.

~ HH Maharanyam Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji

BLISSFUL BLOSSOMS

SvathaPrakash Maharaj looked at the old man and saying, “ Sir! You appear to be very tired. Let us rest in the shade for awhile and then leave. I shall lower the basket from your head”, lowered the basket and kept it down. After resting for some time,when the potter prepared to continue his journey, SvathaPrakashji told him, “Please put the basket on my head now. You chant the Hari Nama and follow me. I’ll do your work. You do my work”.

Ignoring the words of the potter who said “No No Baba! How can I do that”? , Svatha prakashji raised the basket on his head and started walking. The potter as if bound by the mantra followed him , doing nama sankeerthan. When they neared Sindhouli village,



Brindavan and
Nandakumara

~ JANANI

Svathaparakashji keeping the basket on the floor, told the potter, "Look here Sir! I bore your burden. As a payment for that, you should chant the Hari Nama for a short while everyday. You will-won't you?". "I certainly will"agreed the potter. At that time, (Babaji's emotion filled face) alongwith Hari Nama got embedded permanently in the potter's mind.

In this manner, by cutting grass for one, helping another in farming, digging a well for one, someway or the other capturing their mind and soul,he would get a promise from them to do Hari Nama Keerthan.

Haribaba would play many games with the village people. Even in these games, Hari Nama would be the vital aspect. For example, during a game of kabbadi, instead of saying 'kabbadi kabbadi' Hari Nama would be chanted. Moreover, he would do anukaran (mimicry) of Mahaprabhu's leelas together with the village people. He would himself take on the role of Mahaprabhu. While he was doing anukaran of Mahaprabhu's sanyasa leela, he would attain Dhadhathyama , and the same night, just like Prabhu, he would go off to an unknown place without telling anyone. Unable to bear the separation of Haribabaji, and with the intention of bringing him back to them, the village folks would do Hari Nama keerthan continuously for several days. Then, baba would also return. Again, he would resume keerthan, leela

abhinaya(enacting of leelas), and games .

In this manner, Hari Nama prachar(propagation) happened largely in this place. A great belief and shradhdha(faith) in Nama happened in those people. During happy times, they would do Hari Nama keerthan as a means of expressing their joy and happiness. During sad times, they would do Nama keerthan to get relief from their sorrow. In this way, because they kept doing Harinama keerthan at all times, they experienced many miracles.

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!"

In our striving to have the direct vision of God through divine songs and meditation let us not feel dispirited with the thought 'while even several great souls (Mahans) have struggled to have the direct vision of God how can I achieve it?': instead, with ardent faith *'I can also see God'* we should strive with the help of Guru's grace.

~ HH Maharanyam Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji

Desire to be the one who chants the highest number of Mahamantra in the whole world.

~ HH Maharanyam Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji

BLISSFUL BLOSSOMS

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**Translation of original
articles to English
done by**

Smt Nirmala Giri
Smt Jayanthi Sundararaman
Smt Jeyashree Ramakrishnan
Smt Nisha Giri
Smt Sujatha Manikandaan

**To convey your prayers to
Sri Sri Swamiji, mail to**

Dr A Bhagyanathan, Personal Secretary to
HH Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji
Plot No 11, Door No 4/11,
Nethaji Nagar Main Road,
Jafferkhanpet, Chennai - 600083
Tel: +91-44-24895875
Email: contact@namadwaar.org

na hi pratijnAm kurvanti
vitathAm satyavAdinah |
lakshaNam hi mahattvasya
pratijnA paripAlanam ||

Truthful men do not make a false promise.
Fulfilling one's promise is a sign of greatness
~ Valmiki Ramayana
Yuddha Kanda/102/49