

Balambika Divya Sangam

Balavin Kural

BDS Events

Bala Sahasranamam

Parayanam:

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Ohio, USA.

95chikki@gmail.com

Anuradha Srinivasan's residence,
Chicago, USA

asriniv65@gmail.com

Dolai Utsavam:

Dolai Utsavam will be performed for
Sanchara Bala, in the privacy of one's
home, amidst a social gathering.

Devotees who are interested,
please contact Smt. Asha Manoharan

asha.raji@gmail.com

Annadanam and Milk Scheme:

Annadanam and serving of milk to
nursery children, is performed at
Modern English School, Malur.

Those who are interested in contrib-
uting towards this cause, please con-
tact

Smt. Asha Manoharan

asha.raji@gmail.com

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Editor's Desk...

Namaskarams,

In this edition let us look at dharma and why it is so important in our lives. What is dharma? It is very essential for us to understand this concept, because of its ambiguous nature we are often misled by elocutionist who try to justify the wrong to be right and the right to be wrong, so it befall on us to understand dharma as it is. It is confusing, but at some point it needs to be addressed so that we lead a peaceful life.

Rishi Kanada, founder of the Vaiseshika system of philosophy, has given the best definition of Dharma, in his Vaiseshika Sutras: "That which leads to the attainment of Abhyudaya (prosperity in this world) and Nihshreyasa (total cessation of pain and attainment of eternal bliss hereafter) is Dharma".

Just as a doctor prescribes different medicines for different people according to their constitution and the nature of their disease, so also Hinduism prescribes different duties for different people. Rules for women are different from the rules for men. The rules for Ashramas (the four stages of life) vary. But, non-violence, truth, non-stealing, cleanliness and control of the senses, are the duties common to all. Dharma depends upon time, circumstances, age & degree of evolution. What is Dharma in one set of circumstances becomes Adharma in another set of circumstances. That is the reason why it is said, that the secret of Dharma is extremely profound and subtle. Lord Krishna says in the Gita: "Let the scriptures be the authority in determining what ought to be done and what ought not to be done" - Gita, Ch.16- 24). The truth of Dharma lies hidden. The way of Dharma (which is) open to all is that which a great realized soul has traversed. Dharma alone is the gateway to Moksha, to immortality, infinite bliss, supreme peace and highest knowledge. Practice of Dharma leads to the perfect realization of essential unity the highest good— Moksha. The practitioner experiences peace, joy, strength and tranquility within himself. His life becomes thoroughly disciplined. His powers and capacities are exceedingly intensified. He realizes that there is one underlying homogeneous essence, a living truth, behind these names and forms. He is transmuted into divinity. His whole nature gets transformed. He becomes one with the Eternal .



Mrs. Asha Manoharan
President of Balambika Divya
Sangam

EDITORIAL TEAM

1. Mrs. Asha Manoharan
2. Mrs. Latha Chakravarthy
3. Mr. Ramesh Chakravarthy
4. Mr. Anthil Anbazhagan



Bala Speaks

“Nearly everyone has been hurt by the actions or words of another. Perhaps your mother criticized your parenting skills, your colleague sabotaged a project or your friend has betrayed you. These wounds can leave you with lasting feelings of anger, bitterness or even vengeance. Forgive those who did these things to you. That doesn't mean that you deny the other person's responsibility for hurting you, and it doesn't minimize or justify the wrong. You can forgive the person without excusing the act. Forgiveness brings a kind of peace that helps you go on with life. Forgiveness is a commitment to a process of change. By embracing forgiveness, you also embrace peace, hope, gratitude and joy”.

Schedule of Events

Mon—Fri all working days—Milk distribution at Modern English School—Malur

APRIL 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Abhishekam	16	17	18 Abhishekam Chaturthi	19 Panchami
20 Shasti	21	22 Abhishekam	23	24	25 Abhishekam Ekadesi	26
27	28 Amavasya	29 Abhishekam	30			

MAY 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 Abhishekam Chaturthi	3
4 Panchami	5 Shasti	6 Abhishekam	7	8	9 Abhishekam	10 Ekadesi
11	12	13 Abhishekam	14 Pournami	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Sivaloganathar Temple—Tirupunkur

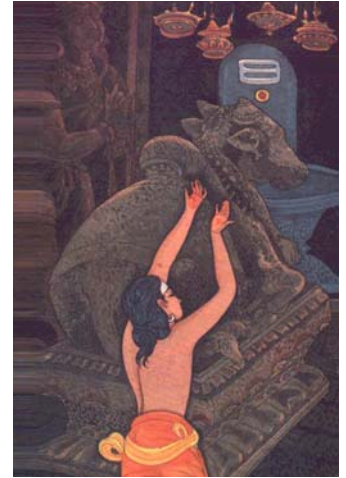
This sthalam is known as Tirupunkur because Lord Shiva gave darshan to his devotees under the punga tree. Nandanar, an ardent devotee of Lord Shiva was born in a lower caste and the people born in that caste were not allowed to enter the temple premises in those days. Nandanar used to stand outside the temple at a distance to worship and pray to God Shiva. In all Shiva temples, Nandi—the vehicle of Lord Shiva is kept in a straight line facing the God and this was a great hindrance to Nandanar as the Nandi blocked his view of Lord Shiva. Nandanar was troubled as he did

not have the view of his God. Seeing this Lord Shiva ordered Nandi to move sideways from the straight line so that Nandanar could have clear darshan.

Lord Shiva is known as a Sivaloganathar and Ambal is called Soundaranayagi or Sokkanayagi.

This sthalam is said to have been visited by Sundarar, Sambandar and Thirunavukarasar.

This sthalam is located 3 Kms from Vaitheswaran Kovil and 10 Kms from Sirkazhi.

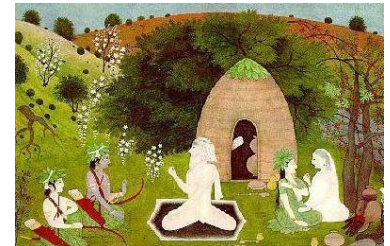


Nandanar was troubled as he did not have the view of his God.

Atri Rishi—Simple and Scholarly

Atri Rishi was one of the saptharishi, a great poet and a scholar. He was the human son of Lord Brahma and he is supposed to have originated from Bharma's eyes. People born in this family (gotra) are considered to be Saint Atri's descendants. He married Anusuya who was a daughter of Kardam and had three sons. They are Datta, Durvasa

and Som. He is believed to be a scholar of mantras. Some of his works are Atriya Mandal, Kalyan Sukta and Svasti Sukta. Lord Ram visited Saint Atri's ashram because he was impressed by their devotion. They also provided Lord Ram and Sita with clothes and ornaments. Saint Atri lived a simple life in the forests of Chitrakoot.



Rama visiting Atri's hermitage. As Atri talks to Rama and Lakshmana, Anusuya talks with Sita.

Sattvic Food

Sattvic food helps a person to be pure, creative and provides clarity in perception.

Sattvic food include: Fruits, nuts, rice, bean sprouts, butter, buttermilk (fresh), cabbage (cooked), cardamom, carrots, cauliflower, celery, cheese (freshly made), cherry, coconut, corn (fresh), cornmeal, cranberries, cream (sweet), cucumber, currant, dates (fresh), fennel, figs (fresh and dried), fruit juices (freshly made), ghee, grapefruit, grapes, honey, honeydew melon, lentils, lettuce, mango (ripe),

maple syrup, milk, millet, mung dal, mustard greens, nectarines, cashew, chestnuts, peanuts, pine, walnuts, oats, oranges, okra, papaya, paneer parsley, peaches, peas, pineapple, plum, pomegranate, pumpkin, raisins, raspberries, sesame seeds, saffron, spinach, strawberries, sugar cane (raw), summer squash, sunflower seeds, sweet potatoes, tangerines (sweet), turnip, watercress, watermelon, wheat, wild rice, winter squash, yogurt.



Chandi Homam—June, 2014



DATE	TIME	PROGRAMME	
10.06.2014	8.00 AM - 12.00 NOON	Ganapathy pooja	
		Anukyai Sangalpam	
		Punyakavajanam	
		Maha sangalpam	
		Sakthi Ganapathy homam	
		Navagraha Homam	
	12.00 PM - 1.00 PM	Lunch	
11.06.2014	4.00 PM - 6.00 PM	Bala kalai Vaibhavam	
		6.00 PM - 7.30 PM	Velaku Pooja
		7.30 PM	Prasadam distribution
		9.00 AM - 12 NOON	Ganapathy Pooja
			Anukyai Sangalpam
			Sangalpam
	12.00 PM - 1.00 PM	Maha lakshmi Homam	
Lunch			
4.00 PM - 8.00 PM		Kalasa Sthaapana	
		Chandi Japam	
		Parayanam Samarpanam	
8.00 PM		Bala's Birthday celebration	
	Akshara abiyasam		
	Prasadam distribution		
	12.06.2014	6.00 AM - 2.30 PM	Ganapathy pooja
			Ankyai Sangalpam
			Sangalpam
Chandi Homam			
Kho pooja			
Suhasini pooja			
Kanya pooja			
Bharmachari pooja			
Thambathi pooja			
Vasodhara Homam			
Poornaahuthi			
Maha Naivedyam			
Balatripurasundari Abishekam			
Alankaram			
Maha mangalarthi			
2.30 PM - 3.30 PM		Lunch	
6.00 PM - 7.00 PM	Pournami pooja		
7.00 PM	Prasadam Distribution		







Life after Death



Have you wondered how will it be after you die?

Here are the four stages that all of us will go through.

1. Review

As soon as we realize that we've died (or in some cases, just before the moment of death) we experience the first of two life reviews, in which we see and feel every detail of the life just lived; not sequentially, but all at once, in a single flash. A second and much longer life review takes place later, during stage three.

2. Purification

This second stage begins when we become aware of our subtle body and engrossed in what appears to be happening around us. Usually, at this point, we meet our spiritual guide who helps to orient us in our new surroundings

and guide us through the various stages of death. Our guide may appear as a religious figure, a saint, a trusted friend, or simply a presence we feel has been with us always.

3. Extraction Process

The purpose of this stage is to extract the spiritual essence of the life just lived. We do this by re-living our Earth life, with particular focus on the deeper meaning and finer feelings of each experience.

During this process, countless psychic impressions are sifted and reviewed in great detail. Whatever material is no longer useful is cast aside, like chaff from the grain. At the same time, the true meaning of our experience is gathered together into a concentrated spiritual essence acting the essence.

4. Spiritual Plane

The Spiritual Plane marks the beginning of what is real and eternal in creation; where the finest impulses of experience begin to merge with Divine Consciousness. It's a realm of golden light, which contains within it a number of spiritual worlds and ascending levels. Up to this point in the stages of death, all experience has occurred within the framework of individual consciousness. Since individual consciousness is a reflection which has no absolute basis, all experience up to this point is in the nature of a dream. In contrast, the Spiritual Plane exists in its own right. No longer illuminated by the reflected light of individual consciousness, the Spiritual Plane is lit directly by Divine Light.

Mahavidyas— Kali



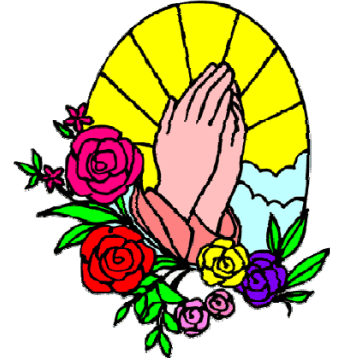
Kali is the first of the Mahavidyas. She is fearless with her hair untied and loose; her body the color of a dark cloud. She has deep set eyes and eyebrows shaped like curved swords. She stands on a corpse, wears a garland of skulls, and earrings made from the bones of corpses. She has four hands – on one hand she has a skull, and the other a curved sword with blood dripping in it. She has mudras on her other two hands – one giving freedom from fear and the other giving blessings. She roars and all ten directions are filled with that ferocious sound. The exploits of Goddess Kali is outlined in the Chandi Path. She is the Goddess that killed Chanda and Munda and also drank the blood of Raktabija. She is known as Kaushiki - She who came from within, and is the Slayer of Shumbha and Nishumbha. She is beyond time. She takes away the darkness and fills us with the light of Wisdom, which is why She is the embodiment of Jnana Shakti. She resides in the cremation grounds, where all creation dissolves.

To be continued...

Morning Prayer

*“Karaagre vasate Lakshmi, Karamadhye Saraswathi
Karamuule Tu Gowri Prabhaate karadarshanam
Samudravasane Devi parvatastana mandale
Vishnupatni Namastubhyam, Paadasparsham Kshamasva me”*

The front part of the hands is credited to Goddess Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. The palm is credited to Goddess Saraswathi, the goddess of learning; the root (wrist) to Gowri. So every morning one should have a reverent look at one's hand which represent sincere labour. I bow to Mother Earth, who has manifested jungles in Her body and whose clothing is the Ocean. The wife of Lord Vishnu pardon me for touching you with my feet.



Gods, colours and flowers

Vishnu: Lord Vishnu likes white and fragrant flowers like mogra, jasmine etc

Shiva: He loves wild flowers like Dhatura and the poisonous flower Akondo or Apple of Sodom. Akondo is a white flower with a bluish tinge that matched the bluish hue of Shiva's throat. He also likes vilva leaves.

Adishakti's favourite colour is Red and she is worshipped with Red hibiscus flowers.

Saraswathi: Her favourite colour is white and yellow. She is worshipped with Chamba and yellow palash (flame of the forest)

Lakshmi : Her favourite colour is Red. She is often worshipped with Roses or any red flowers.

Ganapathi's favourite colour is red and his favourite flower is marigold.

Lotus is the common flower liked by all gods. Most Hindu Deities have names inspired by or associated with the lotus, most especially Lakshmi. She is commonly called:

Padmini- possessing Lotus
Padmesthita-standing on Lotus
Padmavarna -Lotus colored
Padmasambhava-Lotus born
Padmakshi-eyes like Lotus
Padmanana-face like Lotus
Sarasijanilaya-dwells in lotus
Padmapriya-fond of Lotus
and Padmahasta-holds a Lotus in her hand.



Flowers and ancient texts

We find the mention of many flowers in the ancient texts which are not known today by the same name.

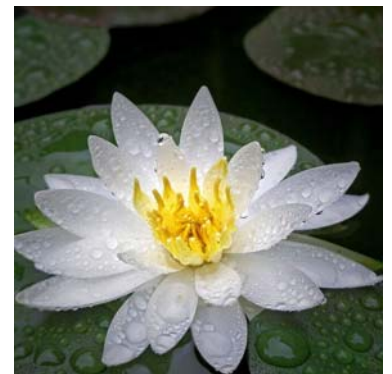
Kund: (star jasmine) Kund is known for its whiteness. Instead of the western phrase white as snow, they compared whiteness to kund. Also beautiful white teeth is often compared to Kunda buds.

Kumud: (white water lily) white

water lily is another romantic favourite. Moon is her friend (since she blooms at night) and the sun is her enemy. A woman's face is compared to her cool white beauty. A pond full of lilies (kumudini) is also a favourite simile for beauty.

Neel Kamal (blue water lily): The dark complexion of Krishna is compared to that of Neelkamal. For this reason, it is also called Krishna Kamal.

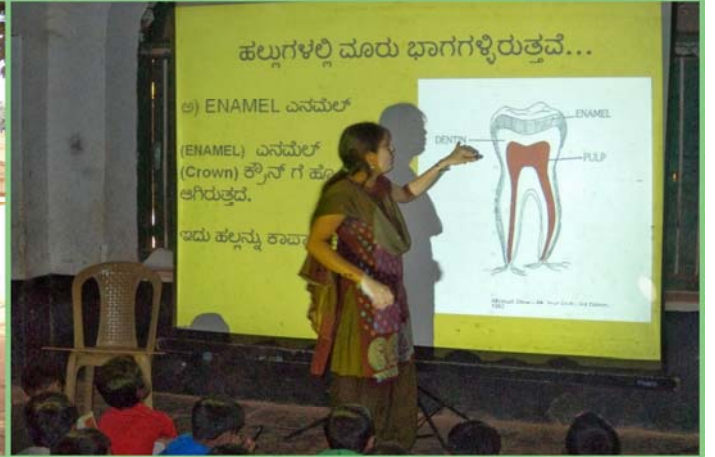
Rama wanted the blessings of Devi Durga to fight Ravana . He came to know that the Goddess would be pleased if she is worshipped with one hundred 'NeelKamal' or blue lotuses. after travelling the whole world, he could gather only ninety nine of them. He decided to offer one of his eyes, which resembled blue lotuses. Durga, being pleased with his devotion appeared before him and blessed him.

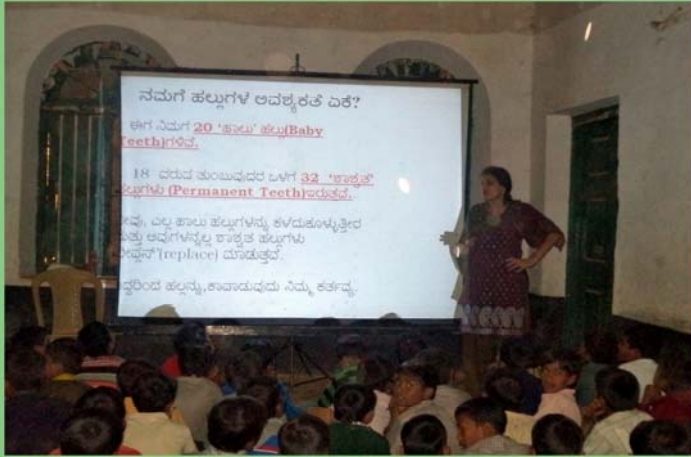


White water lily











Bala Prastha

Once a famine broke out in a country. Everyday the children of the city flocked at a rich man's house to get loaves of bread. As soon as the servants brought out loaves, they fought among themselves and struggled hard to get them. One little girl did not fight. She waited patiently for her turn and got the smallest loaf last of all. One day as usual, she brought the smallest loaf. When she cut it, she found two rupees in it. She went back at once to return the money.

The rich man was pleased at her honesty. He gave her not only those two rupees, but two rupees more as a reward.

Moral:

Patience brings its own reward.

Flowers and food



Violets

Famous edible flower, violets are floral, sweet and beautiful as garnishes. These flowers are used in salads and to garnish desserts.

Rosemary

Flowers taste like a milder version of the herb; nice used as a garnish on dishes that incorporate rosemary.

Rose: Remove the white bitter base and the remaining petals have a strongly perfumed flavor

perfect for scattering across desserts, and for a variety of jams. All roses are edible, with flavor more pronounced in darker varieties.

Lavender

Sweet, spicy, and perfumed, the flowers are a great addition to both savory and sweet dishes.

Jasmine

These super-fragrant blooms are used in tea; you can also use them in sweet dishes, but sparingly.



Did you know?

A pen which vibrates when the person using it makes a mistake, could soon be used in the classroom.

The Lernstift or "learning pen", doesn't need ink or special paper to work and uses a special mechanism to work out what is being written.

It's connected to a mobile phone app that flashes to let the user know they've gone wrong.

It was invented by a dad for his son in Germany.

Riddles



1. I have holes in my top and bottom, my left and right, and in the middle. But I still hold water. What am I?
2. Give me food, and I will live; give me water, and I will die. What am I?
3. The man who invented it doesn't want it; The man who bought it doesn't need it; what is it?
4. What is black and white and red all over ?
5. I can run but not walk. Wherever I go, thought follows close behind. What am I?

Answers:

A sponge; fire ; coffin ; newspaper ; nose

Colourful festivals around the world

March—April is the most colourful month both in the east and west. Look at the different festivals which are celebrated .

1. Holi—Indian festival which usually falls in the month of march to celebrate the coming of spring. This is celebrated with different colour powders.
2. St.Patrick 's day— 17 March. A tradition is to wear something green otherwise you'll get pinched! Why green? Nobody knows for sure
3. Earlier this month, the town of Ivrea in Italy held its annual orange fight called the Battle of the Oranges.
4. Fallas Valencia—This month the Spanish carnival festival was held in commemoration of saint Joseph.5. Binche carnival in Belgium is commemorated as one of the wildest parties. In Belgium, a UNESCO heritage event is celebrated between 2– 4 March.
5. Hungary—Budapest music festival– all sorts of arts, music, dance drama exhibition happens every year in march—april.
6. Netherlands—Amsterdam celebrated their kings day as orange festival day a massive street canal boat party– 27 march.



Holi is to celebrate the coming of the spring

Lateral thinking puzzle

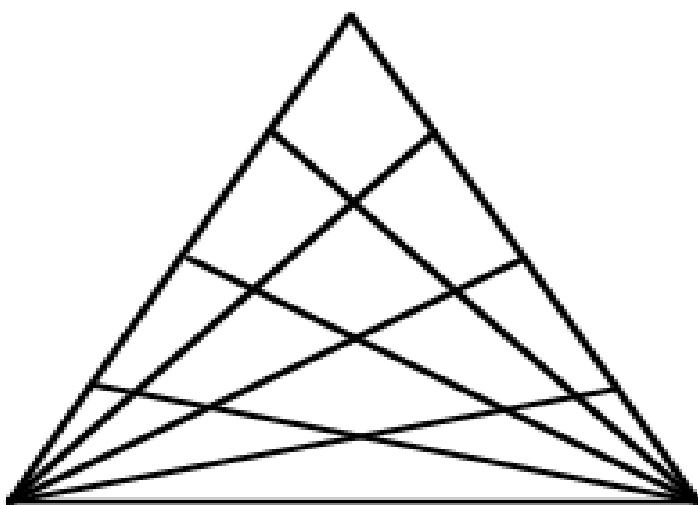
The scenarios given on this page are realistic, if unlikely. The clues can all be taken at face value, although that's not to say their implications can't be misleading.

A man lives on the twelfth floor of an apartment building. Every morning he takes the elevator down to the lobby and leaves the building. In the evening, he gets into the elevator, and, if there is someone else in the elevator -- or if it was raining that day -- he goes back to his floor directly. Otherwise, he goes to the tenth floor and walks up two flights of stairs to his apartment. Why?

Solution:

The man is a dwarf. He can't reach the upper elevator buttons, but he can ask people to push them for him. He can also push them with his umbrella.

Puzzle



How many triangles and quadrilaterals are there in this picture?

Answer:

64 Triangles
36 Quadrilaterals
Total: 100 shapes.

Balambika Divya Sangam

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Vision of Balambika Divya Sangam

As passionate devotees of Goddess Balambika, and overwhelmed by her grace and benevolence, we have come together from diverse scenarios as one unifying force to form Balambika Divya Sangam. The principal focus of the Sangam is to pursue the age old tenet—**sarvejana sukhinobhavanthu** and pay obeisance to the divine Mother, who is the cause of welfare of the world. Through worship we realize that cast, creed, religion and social status, all melt away before her, for in her eyes, we are all her children.

Sarve Janah Sukhino Bhavanthu

We are on the Web!

<http://balambikathirupanitrust.webs.com/>

We thanks our Sponsors!

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6. Anthil & Richa
7. Narasimhan Varadarajan
8. Rohit Chakravarthy
9. Sasikala

Pooja Items—Bala's House:

1. Vasanthi
2. Lakshmi V
3. Roopa V
4. Banumathi
5. Jayalakshmi A
6. Sowmya Ganesh
7. Gowri Shekar
8. Radhika Venkat
9. Shashikala V
10. Thothadri
11. Bhuvana K
12. Lalitha R
13. Purnima Prasad
14. Indumathi Sundar
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16. Muralidharan & family