

BALAVIN KURAL

Balambika Divya Sangam



Editor's Desk...

Balambika Divya Sangam extends warm wishes for a Happy Tamizh New Year. We are also excited to let you all know that in a year, during the spring months of *Chithirai-Vaikasi*, in 2017, we will be ready for the much awaited *kumbhabhishekam* of Sri Balambika Temple at Malur. This colossal milestone could not have materialized without the effort, support and prayers of our members. As the planning unfolds for this inaugural function, do stay tuned for the latest information regarding participation, sponsorship, and ceremonial details. Indeed, from conception to reality, this dream of Sri Balambika Temple has borne through the tests of time, patience and belief. For many of us it may seem as if we are in the midst of this journey for the past six years, while the bitter-sweet truth is this – generations have gone by, centuries have passed, and now we are here to witness and experience this auspicious event!

As the torches of culture, traditions and customs are handed down to us from our forefathers, we as the torch-bearers have to keep the flame alight, and pass it down to the young ones after us. This flame of knowledge and wisdom could be as simple as our everyday chores, or as

deep-rooted in meaning as understanding God. The lilting melody and enticing lyrics of “Azhagukku Azhaganaval” - explains the simple truth that every little custom has more to it than just the visual, mechanical aspect. In “Bala Speaks”, She further explains how time and talent are our best resources to grow and ripen. Indulge in the lucid explanation in the fourth verse of Bala Sahasranamam, as to how simple it is to please Ambal – our universal Mother.

Finally, an overall update on our monthly Sangam activities. *Pournami pooja, dolai utsavam, abhishekam* and *archanas*, are conducted regularly with divine pomp and splendor. These auspicious events are currently being conducted in Tirumala Choultry at Malur as well. The BDS Outreach program is also conducting several youth programs in and around the vicinity of Malur. Currently, most of our Sangam initiatives – spiritual and otherwise are centered at Malur, which is the seat of Sri Balambika. Please do participate in these events if possible, physically, and in the form of sponsorships. As always, we welcome your feedback, and look forward to your encouragement.



Mrs. Asha Manoharan
President—BDS

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Bala Speaks...



You were sent into this world with a pocket full of talent and tons of wealth called time. Everyday, both time and talent should be used effectively, in knowing yourself, fighting against demons, and delivering your self for the welfare of this humanity. When you let go of your ego, your greed, your self obsession, you will become what you might be. So let go of yourself, use every single talent you have in every single second of your life, so that at the end of your life you can be proud of yourself by saying, "I used up every bit of talent God gave me and every bit of time that She gave me."

Updates from Bala's House

Abhishekam and Archanas are happening regularly at Bala's house. Dolai and Pournami pooja were conducted at Tirumala Choultry, Malur with utmost enthusiasm. Special Archanas and Abhishekam was performed for sponsors' families.



Sri Balambika Temple Malur

A fund raising update...

We belong to the land, which is rich in culture and traditions. This land has so many kind people, varied cultures, traditions, ways of living, yet we live as **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam** - one big family.

To better the society, uplift the morale of the people who are in distress, share and care for the living and to help mankind, we the likeminded people have come forward to build a temple for Sri Balambika. The temple is located in a serene environment amidst the eucalyptus grove at Malur, which is 46 kms from Bangalore. The temple is in its near completion and the inaugural ceremony—**Maha Kumbhabhishekam** will be during Chaitra-Vaisakha month of 2017.

To speed up the construction activities and bring our Ambal to the temple, we have organized several fund raising activities across the world. We want all of you to be a part of it and your one step forward will make a thousand step difference to us.

How you can be a part of it:

- ◆ The receipt books for Kumbhabhishekam are printed, those who want to do the service of collecting funds, you can contact our Temple Manager—Ms. Priya, 8050511146
- ◆ We can arrange Lalitha Sahasranamam chanting among various groups/ Sangam in your area on any day, as per your convenience. Through this, our temple and Ambal pracharam will be done.
- ◆ You can be part of Dolai Utsavam. This is being arranged at many villages in and around Malur, at devotee's residence, at Chennai and other places across India to do pracharam of our temple to everyone.

All your support is required for this cause. We as one family will move forward to better the society.

To share your ideas and thoughts and for more details, email Balambika.events@gmail.com or Telephone/WhatsApp to 9902703113 or 8050511146.



Sarve Janah Sukhino Bhavanthu

This song is written to show how beautiful Ambal is, not only physical beauty, but also Her inner self. Let me narrate an incident which is so fresh in my heart. I hope you also feel the warmth of Her love and affection.

Everyday, my mother would ask me to light the lamp in the pooja room. Sometimes, I would light the lamp willingly, but sometimes I would be lazy to do it. I would run out and play. One day, my mother was finishing up her work in the kitchen and she called out to me to light the lamp and continued saying, "Get some flowers from the garden and leave it in the pooja room, so that I can come and do the pooja."

I was too lazy to do it, and I just sat in the corner playing with my toys. She yelled at me again, making me so upset, that with a grumpy face I went into the pooja room, picked up the basket and went outside to collect the flowers. Our garden was small, but had every type of flower for the pooja. It had high perfumed roses, beautiful jasmine, dew drops sprinkled pink oleander, hibiscus, anthi mantharai, parijatham and so on. Dragging my feet, I looked around to see which one I could pluck. I went near the roses, but didn't feel like plucking them from its plant, then went around to see which one I could. As I touched the hibiscus, I heard a voice close by, and turned around to see Bala standing there with Her usual smile. I still looked grumpy. She took my chin in Her hands and asked, "What happened?"

"Oh! Nothing," I replied.

"But I heard your mother yelling at you for something, what is it then?" She asked.

I looked up and was perplexed at how She knew it, but said nothing.

She took my hand and took me to a small concrete seat and made me sit and She sat next to me. Smiling, She said, "Look, you should listen to your mother, you should learn to do things as you grow, it will not come in one day, you need to practice to live a disciplined life, you need to follow a daily routine, it helps you to organise your work."

I looked at Her and said, "But why should I light a lamp and offer flowers to God?"

She smiled and replied, "Women and young girls should often light the lamp, to let the other members of the family know that they possess the qualities such as love and compassion and work very hard for the welfare of the family. Like a wick in the lamp burning itself totally, it also tells them that the women of the house are intelligent enough to understand the world around them. It exemplifies patience in a person, it also demonstrates that it is the women of the house who can dispel fear and sorrow in a man's life. So it is essential that you light a lamp everyday to let yourself know and become confident that you are the one who can help your family to grow and live in harmony."

I looked at Her and understood how important it was for me to know what I was doing was not just a ritual, but to gain confidence and feel that I am doing it to deliver a message to myself and my family.

I thanked Her and collected some flowers and gave a beautiful red rose and said how much I loved Her. She smiled and disappeared. I went inside the pooja room with new found enthusiasm and cleaned the place and arranged the flowers for my mother's pooja and lit the lamp. I stood in front of the pooja altar and closed my eyes. I felt a tremor up my spine and quickly opened my eyes, and there in the flame stood Bala with the red rose in her hand, so radiant, so powerful, yet very calm and She glittered like gold. She smiled, and tears rolled down my cheeks and hundreds of incidents that went between us appeared before my eyes. I stood motionless and throughout the pooja, my eyes were fixed on the lamp alone.

From that day onwards, I never miss lighting the lamp and offering flowers, and She never missed appearing in it. This song is dedicated to that beautiful experience which started a new page in our relationship.

Down Memory Lane

By Smt. Asha Manoharan

Background behind the song *Azhagukku Azhakaanaval...*

அழகுக்கு அழகானவள்

அழகுக்கு அழகானவள் அபிராமி

மனதிற்கு இதமானவள் நீதாண்டி.....

அழகுக்கு அழகானவள் அபிராமி

மனதிற்கு இதமானவள் நீதாண்டி.....

ஏற்றிய தீபத்தில் முகம் பார்த்து நின்றேன்

உச்சி முகர்ந்தென்னை ஆட்கொள்ள நின்றாய்

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கண்ணீர் நிறைந்த என் கண்களை துடைத்தாய்

ஆனந்தம் நான் கண்டேன் உன்னிடம் தாயே

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அறிந்தேன் எவரும் அறியாத உன் அன்பையே

பற்றினேன் உன் பாதம் பாவங்கள் கலைந்திட

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ஏற்றினேன் நெய் விளக்கை உன் முகம் கண்டிட

பிரிந்தேன் இம்முறை உன்னை நான் அடைந்திட

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மனதிற்கு இதமானவள் நீதாண்டி...

கருத்தினுள் நின்றாயே உன் நாமம் ஒலித்திட

கருத்தினுள் நின்றாயே உன் நாமம் ஒலித்திட

கேட்டேன் உன் புகழை பிறர் வாயால் உரைத்திட

கேட்டேன் உன் புகழை பிறர் வாயால் உரைத்திட

மூத்தவளே நீ என் உயிர் மூச்சையும் காத்திட

வேறொரு தெய்வமும் எனக்கில்லை அனுகிட....

அழகுக்கு அழகானவள் அபிராமி

மனதிற்கு இதமானவள் நீதாண்டி.....

AZHAGUKKU AZHAKAANAVAL

Azhagukku azhakaanaval abhirami

Manathirku ithamaanaval neethaandi.....

Azhagukku azhakaanaval abhirami

Manathirku ithamaanaval neethaandi.....

Etriya deepathil mukam paarthu nindraen

Uchi mukarthu yennai aatkolla nindraai

Etriya deepathil mukam paarthu nindraen

Uchi mukarthu yennai aatkolla nindraai

Kanneer niraintha en kangalai thudaittai

Aanandam naan kanden unnidam thaaye

Kanneer niraintha en kangalai thudaittai

Aanandam naan kanden unnidam thaaye

Azhagukku azhakaanaval abhirami

Manathirku ithamaanaval neethaandi.....

Arinden evarum ariyaada un anbaiye

Patrinen un paadam paavangal kalainthida

Arinden evarum ariyaada un anbaiye

Patrinen un paadam paavangal kalainthida

Etrinen neivilakkai un mukam kandida

Pirinthen immurai unnai naan adainthida

Etrinen neivilakkai un mukam kandida

Pirinthen immurai unnai naan adainthida

Azhagukku azhakaanaval abhirami

Manathirku ithamaanaval neethaandi.....

Karuthinul ninraaye un naamam olithida

Karuthinul ninraaye un naamam olithida

Ketten un pugazhai pirar vaayaal uraithida

Ketten un pugazhai pirar vaayaal uraithida

Moothavale nee en uyir moochaiyum kaathida

Veroru deivamum enakillai anukida.....

Azhagukku azhakaanaval abhirami

Manathirku ithamaanaval neethaandi.....

ಅಳಗುಕ್ಕು ಅಳಗಾನವಳ್

ಅಳಗುಕ್ಕು ಅಳಗಾನವಳ್ ಅಭಿರಾಮಿ

ಮನದಿರ್ಕು ಇದಮಾನವಳ್ ನೀದಾಂಡಿ

ಅಳಗುಕ್ಕು ಅಳಗಾನವಳ್ ಅಭಿರಾಮಿ

ಮನದಿರ್ಕು ಇದಮಾನವಳ್ ನೀದಾಂಡಿ

ಯೇಟ್ರಿಯ ದೀಪತ್ತಿಲ್ ಮುಗಮ್ ಪಾರ್ತು ನಿನ್ನೆನ್

ಉಚ್ಚಿ ಮೂಕರ್ಥು ಯೆನ್ನೆ ಆಟೊಳ್ಳಿ ನಿನ್ತಾಯ್

ಯೇಟ್ರಿಯ ದೀಪತ್ತಿಲ್ ಮುಗಮ್ ಪಾರ್ತು ನಿನ್ನೆನ್

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ಕಣ್ಣೀರ್ ನಿರೈಂದ ಯೆನ್ನೆ ಕಣ್ಣಿಳ್ಳಿ ತುಡೈತ್ತಾಯ್

ಆನಂದಮ್ ನಾನ್ ಕಂಡೇನ್ ಉನ್ನಿಡಮ್ ತಾಯೇ

ಕಣ್ಣೀರ್ ನಿರೈಂದ ಯೆನ್ನೆ ಕಣ್ಣಿಳ್ಳಿ ತುಡೈತ್ತಾಯ್

ಆನಂದಮ್ ನಾನ್ ಕಂಡೇನ್ ಉನ್ನಿಡಮ್ ತಾಯೇ

ಅಳಗುಕ್ಕು ಅಳಗಾನವಳ್ ಅಭಿರಾಮಿ

ಮನದಿರ್ಕು ಇದಮಾನವಳ್ ನೀದಾಂಡಿ

ಅರಿಂದೇನ್ ಯೆವರುಮ್ ಅರಿಯಾದ ಉನ್ನೆ ಅನ್ನಯೇ

ಪಟ್ರಿನೇನ್ ಉನ್ನೆ ಪಾದಮ್ ಪಾವಂಗಳ್ ಕಲೈಂದಿಡ

ಅರಿಂದೇನ್ ಯೆವರುಮ್ ಅರಿಯಾದ ಉನ್ನೆ ಅನ್ನಯೇ

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ಪಿರಿಂದೇನ್ ಇಮ್ಮುರೈ ಉನ್ನೆ ನಾನ್ ಅಡೈಂದಿಡ

ಯೇಟ್ರಿನೇನ್ ನೆಯಿವಿಳಕ್ಕೈ ಉನ್ನೆ ಮುಗಮ್ ಕಂಡಿಡ

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ಅಳಗುಕ್ಕು ಅಳಗಾನವಳ್ ಅಭಿರಾಮಿ

ಮನದಿರ್ಕು ಇದಮಾನವಳ್ ನೀದಾಂಡಿ

ಕರುತಿನುಳ್ ನಿನ್ತಾಯೇ ಉನ್ನೆ ನಾಮಮ್ ಒಳಿತ್ತಿಡ

ಕರುತಿನುಳ್ ನಿನ್ತಾಯೇ ಉನ್ನೆ ನಾಮಮ್ ಒಳಿತ್ತಿಡ

ಕೇಟ್ಟೇನ್ ಉನ್ ಪುಗಳ್ಳಿ ಪಿರರ್ ವಾಯಾಲ್ ಉರೈತ್ತಿಡ

ಕೇಟ್ಟೇನ್ ಉನ್ ಪುಗಳ್ಳಿ ಪಿರರ್ ವಾಯಾಲ್ ಉರೈತ್ತಿಡ

ಮೂತ್ತವಳೇ ನೀ ಯೆನ್ನೆ ಉಯಿರ್ ಮೂಚ್ಚೆಯುಮ್ ಕಾತ್ತಿಡ

ವೇರೂರು ದೈವಮುಂ ಯೆನಕ್ಕಿಲ್ಲೈ ಅಣಗಿಡ

ಅಳಗುಕ್ಕು ಅಳಗಾನವಳ್ ಅಭಿರಾಮಿ

ಮನದಿರ್ಕು ಇದಮಾನವಳ್ ನೀದಾಂಡಿ

అళగుక్కు అళగానవళ్

అళగుక్కు అళగానవళ్ అభిరామి

మనదిర్కు ఇదమానవళ్ నీదాండి

అళగుక్కు అళగానవళ్ అభిరామి

మనదిర్కు ఇదమానవళ్ నీదాండి

యేత్రియ దీపత్తిల్ ముగం పార్తు

ఉచ్చి ముకరంతెన్నై ఆట్కోళ్ళ నిన్దాయ్

యేత్రియ దీపత్తిల్ ముగం పార్తు

ఉచ్చి ముకరంతెన్నై ఆట్కోళ్ళ నిన్దాయ్

కణ్ణీర్ నిరైంద యెన్న్ కణ్ణళై తుడైత్తాయ్

ఆనందం నాన్ కండేన్ ఉన్నిడం తాయ్

కణ్ణీర్ నిరైంద యెన్న్ కణ్ణళై తుడైత్తాయ్

ఆనందం నాన్ కండేన్ ఉన్నిడం తాయ్

అళగుక్కు అళగానవళ్ అభిరామి

మనదిర్కు ఇదమానవళ్ నీదాండి

అరిందేన్ యెవరుం అరియాద ఉన్న్ అన్బయ్

పత్రినేన్ ఉన్న్ పాదం పావంగళ్ కలైందిడ

అరిందేన్ యెవరుం అరియాద ఉన్న్ అన్బయ్

పత్రినేన్ ఉన్న్ పాదం పావంగళ్ కలైందిడ

యేత్రినేన్ నెయివిళక్కై ఉన్న్ ముగం కండిడ

పిరిందేన్ ఇమ్మూరై ఉన్నై నాన్ అడైందిడ

యేత్రినేన్ నెయివిళక్కై ఉన్న్ ముగం కండిడ

పిరిందేన్ ఇమ్మూరై ఉన్నై నాన్ అడైందిడ

అళగుక్కు అళగానవళ్ అభిరామి

మనదిర్కు ఇదమానవళ్ నీదాండి

కరుతినుళ్ నిన్దాయ్ ఉన్న్ నామం ఒళిత్తిడ

కరుతినుళ్ నిన్దాయ్ ఉన్న్ నామం ఒళిత్తిడ

కేట్టేన్ ఉన్ పుగళై పిరర్వాయాల్ ఉరైత్తిడ

కేట్టేన్ ఉన్ పుగళై పిరర్వాయాల్ ఉరైత్తిడ

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అళగుక్కు అళగానవళ్ అభిరామి

మనదిర్కు ఇదమానవళ్ నీదాండి

Pournami Pooja & Dolai Utsavam

An update by Mrs. Padma Srinivas

It was the time for devotees to gather again to welcome our Kutti Bala on the occasion of Pournami Pooja and Dolai Utsavam. This monthly festival was held at Malur on Wednesday, 23rd March 2016 at Tirumala Choultry – Malur from Time: 4.00 PM -7.00 PM.

The whole event was spectacular and enchanting. Many devotees participated to do the service. They took part in

- Poorna Kumbha Swagatham for Ambal
- Abhishekam for Bala
- Archana for Bala
- Recitation of Bala Sahasranamam
- Bala Bhajans
- Pournami pooja
- Dampati/Kanya/Sumangali Pooja

With Mahamangalarati and prasadviniyogam, the event came to a closure. Bala came back to Bangalore and devotees went home with memorable thoughts.

With the local support, Smt. Kousalya and Smt. Priya Kasturirangan coordinated well for the entire event. There were many sponsors for this event. Their timely contributions made the event more colourful and splendid. The list of sponsors are:

- 1) Sri Vinay and Sri Vivek Srinivasan - Pradhana sponsorship for Dolai and Pournami Pooja
- 2) Smt. Myla and Sri Kannan for Pournami Pooja and prasadam
- 3) Smt. Janaki and Family for Pournami Pooja
- 4) Smt. Mythili Sunderajan for Travel cost sponsorship
- 5) Smt. Vani Muralidharan for Dampati pooja, Kanya pooja and Sumangali pooja sponsorship.

Upcoming events:

Chitra Pournami and Dolai Utsavam on 21st April 2016 at Tirumala Choultry from 4.00pm to 7.00pm.

Those who want to be part of the event through your service /contributions, can contact Mrs. Priya /Mrs. Kousalya/ BDS member

Contact Details:

Temple Manager : Mrs. Priya K Rangan - 8050511146

At Malur: Mrs. Kousalya Raman - 9886516637

Event Coordinator: Mrs. Padma Raman - 9902703113

E-mail: Balambika.events@gmail.com

For online transfers - the details are given below,

Account: Balambika Divya Sangam
Name of the Bank: Indian Bank
Account No: 6305564719
IFSC code: IDIB000M095

Kindly contribute and mention it as **“Towards Special Pooja - mention the Pooja details”**.

The contribution Details:

Dolai: Rs. 7000/-
Pournami Pooja: Rs. 1000/-
Prasadam: Rs. 500/-
Dampati/Kanya/Sumangali Pooja: Rs. 250/- Each
Archana: Rs. 250/-



BDS Outreach Programs at Malur



Health & Hygiene Program at Malur



The H&H program was the first of the BDS outreach initiatives formerly known as Yuvasena. This program is aimed at children who are in their adolescence, hoping to inculcate good personal hygiene practices in and around them. These weekly workshops encompass varied branches of hygiene such as hand hygiene, bathing hygiene and oral hygiene. These simple, yet powerful concepts and practices are delivered to the children from interactive and creative methodologies such as games, puzzles, power point presentations, demonstrations and experiments. This initiative of BDS outreach is one of its kind which has brought awareness to more than thousand kids in the past four years. Through proven methods of alternative teaching, we conduct these programs. We have worksheets/activities/demos/talks by doctors, eminent personalities and so on, to name a few, in our weekly workshops conducted on Saturdays for two hours.

In the month of March, Hand and Bathing hygiene modules were conducted at KLE primary school, Malur. With this, we have come to the end of the first season in 2016. This program will continue from June 2016 in other schools in Malur.

If you are interested in joining the H&H program at Malur as a volunteer, please contact the Program Anchors Sharanya S Rajan / Padma Srinivas at 9663422335 / 9902703113 / balambika.outreach@gmail.com

BDS Outreach Programs at Malur



Reading Club at Malur



BDS Outreach Team has started a Pilot Program on Reading Club at Malur. Reading Club is geared towards inculcating Reading habits for young children (age group of 7-8 years) with primary focus on vocabulary, pronunciation & to enable children to be comfortable with the English language. BDS outreach team successfully completed the first season of the program in March. The team conducted activities such as enabling children to learn simple English words via action verbs, completed a read out of the entire King of Birds story and finally enabled children to perform a simple skit, based on the characters of the story. The children simply loved this season of Reading Club and wanted us to do another story, starting June 2016.

If you are interested in joining the Reading Club at Malur as a volunteer or if you would like to be part of the creative team, please contact the Program Anchors Sindhu Kashyap / Priya K Rangan at 9036178892 / 805051146 /

balambika.outreach@gmail.com

Annadanam Program at Malur



The BDS outreach program has taken initiative to provide Breakfast meals to the children on Monday and Wednesday every week. Two Govt. schools are covered under this Annadanam scheme in which Breakfast meals are being provided to 100 underprivileged kids. We want to expand this program on all the days, for which we want more volunteers to join hands. Your small step forward will make a huge difference in this service.

We extend our sincere thanks to the following sponsors for the month of March 2016:

- 1) Sri. Srinivasan
- 2) Sri. Sampath & Smt Alamelu
- 3) Sri. Sampath Manimaran
- 4) Smt. Nalini Manimaran
- 5) Sri Raghuram
- 6) Sri. Parthasarathy Sridharan
- 7) Sri. Trishta
- 8) Smt. Lakshmi & Sri Vishnudev
- 9) Sri Varadarajan
- 10) Sri. Dakshesh Anthil
- 11) Sri. Ravindran Seshadri
- 12) Dr. K Gururajan and Karthik Gururajan

For sponsorship, please contact Program Anchor Priya Kasturi Rangan at 8050511146 / Balambika divya sangam 2015@gmail.com

During April and May 2016, there will be no Annadanam due to summer holidays.

To Contribute towards the breakfast meal program, Cheques can be issued in the name of Sri Balambika Divya Sangam or refer to the Indian bank details for online transfer.

Sri Bala Sahasranamam

With Meaning & Commentary by Smt. Asha Manoharan

References to Goddess Balambika (Bala) can be found in the Brahmanda Puranam. Sri Bala Sahasranama Stotram describes and praises the various attributes of Sri Balambika in 113 verses. Since each *nama* represents a unique nature and quality of Sri Balambika, it can be interpreted and discussed to cater to the different needs of an individual. Along with a direct meaning of each *nama*, Smt. Asha Manoharan has provided us with intriguing commentary and examples that a common man can relate to and apply in everyday life. So the next time we chant Sri Bala Sahasranamam, we will not only know the literal meaning of the *stotram*, but will also find a unique way to connect and relate to Sri Balambika.

*śobhā 'bhirāmā ramaṇī ramaṇīyā ratipriyā /
manonmaṇī mahāmāyā mātaṅgī madirāpriyā //*

Shobha:

She is brilliant.

Look at the brilliance of Ambal from your point of view.

She had laid the foundation for your future, from the first moment of your life. It is not by chance that you were born of such parents, in a particular part of the world, at a certain time. It has all been planned by Her in the wisest manner.

Look at Ambal's creation around you, like the display of seasons. We cannot look at autumn and say God has punished the trees. It is for a reason, for them to come out in full bloom during spring, to display their vibrant colours.

God is infinitely wise and beneficial. Winter belongs to the plan She has formed. If this season did not exist, spring and summer would not have had their charm, the fertility of the soil would diminish, commerce would be at the lower end, and part of the woods and forests would have been created for no purpose. Considered in this light, winter is certainly very useful, it is the work of the creator at its best.

Look at life and death. Both are the work of God at its best. The preservation of life, if we reflect on the several causes and effects which combine for that purpose, is no less wonderful than the resurrection of the dead.

Abhirama:

Easily pleased.

In general, people have a very wrong notion about Ambal, that She is a wild, angry and ferocious Goddess, but Ambal is like a small child, who can be very easily pleased. Ambal is known to grant boons to Her devotees more frequently than any other Gods. She is very pure at heart and easy to please, even if it happens to be the wicked ones. If you love Her and worship Her and even if you have flaws and weaknesses, you can be assured of Her love and compassion. Ambal is beyond social customs. She is the queen of tantras, that permits left hand method of worship to sublimate evil tendencies, which shows that we need to transcend all dualities and judgement to achieve liberation. This means that you do not have to worry about what lifestyle you follow, what norms of practice you follow. To worship Ambal, all that you need is a clear heart and the only thought is to

offer your prayers and there She will be, to accept your prayers and offer the love that you crave for.

That is why She is called Abhirama.

Ramaniya:

Her presence is an enjoyable one.

The presence of Ambal is an enjoyable experience. She walks around us, waiting to talk to us to let us know how much She loves us and like a little girl wanting to give us little surprises, so that we enjoy life and enjoy our experiences with Her.

Many of you had asked me the question of how is it to feel the presence of Ambal? What do you mean when you say Ambal is there in front of me? To different people, She makes it known in different ways.

Let me tell you the common ways in which She shows herself:

1. You will feel a very powerful sense of connection with Ambal, a sudden outburst of love and affection.
2. here will be lightness in the air.
3. Your heart becomes very light after your prayers.
4. With Ambal, it is never magic. It will normally be a process of evolution, you will go from strength to strength in your life.
5. Lastly, when you look back at the events that has happened in your life, you will understand the purpose of it and a strong sense of purpose will run through the entire process of your life.

That is why we say Her presence is an enjoyable one or Ramaniya.

Ratipriya:

One who loves to be in unison with Lord Shiva.

Many of us think that leaving family life and being in solitary confinement is being religious or spiritual. Many youngsters think that they have to be religious or spiritual only at the age of 50 or 60. NO, it is not true. Shiva shakti *thatuvam* is about the Self and the cosmos. The physical body needs to sync itself with the cosmic energy, only then can it work in harmony with nature and bring happiness to the Self. It is about our life and how we must live it. It shifts the cosmic energy into oneself and then the difference between the exterior and the interior vanishes, and that harmony is like a beautiful music which brings happiness and elevates us to do our best in our daily lives. It regulates our systems and the cycles of the system are maintained, bringing harmony within and in turn, the inner self begins to understand the exterior, thereby sinking itself into the cosmos. Understanding this in the old age is not going to help the self. It just remains as a knowledge alone, never put into practice and cannot be used to its fullest potential without the body regulating its chemical and enzymatic reactions.

Let me give you a simple example. During winter, the temperature outside is lower than the temperature inside the body, so what do we do? We either condition the room with heaters or cover ourselves with sweaters or shawls. Our Hindu practices teach us how to overcome this and regulate our body temperature on the inside through various methods. Whether we lie down and cover ourselves or cover ourselves first and then lie down is the same. So to bring harmony within and the surroundings, it needs to be understood and then practiced. This cannot come when we are old. It cannot happen in one day. That is why we stress, that spiritualism should be a part and parcel of one's life to lead a healthy, happy and harmonious life. Remember the 3H's in your life. Bala sahasranamam also conveys this through the word Ratipriya.

Manonmani:

This is a very beautiful word for Ambal, which means, one who draws the mind to a yogic level.

In between the brows and just above the brahma mantra lies the Bindu. Here, there are seven levels of consciousness which make up the path of spiritual development:

1. The state of waking consciousness
2. Deep sleep
3. Dreams
4. Transcendental consciousness
5. Cosmic consciousness
6. God consciousness
7. Unity Consciousness

The first three states are known to every human being with a functional nervous system.

The last four are not available right away. These states become accessible only as one engages in regular practice of meditation. The final unity consciousness is called *unmani*, which is otherwise known as *manonmani*. It is here that full awakening of the self takes place. The inner and the outer becomes one. The real and the unreal become one. The self and the non-self become one. The relative and the absolute become one. The eternal and the temporal become one. In unity consciousness, myself is the self of all, there is only one self. Atman is Brahman. One discovers that this *atman* which was once inner, is actually encompassing. Everything which is in myself is myself. Ambal resides here and blesses each one of us and hence, she is fondly called as Manonmani.

Mahamaya:

Divine power of illusion.

Ambal is often referred to as mahamaya and we have a misconception, that She is an embodiment of great deceit and illusion; that is not the case.

Illusion is a word which is used when a normal brain cannot comprehend or organize.

Ambal's divine power is something that the normal brain cannot comprehend or organize, so the brain sends out a signal saying that this divine power is unlisted, which is translated as illusion. Anything that is unlisted by the brain is considered as maya or deceit.

In the olden days, when they had no knowledge of a radio, they thought it was maya if they heard sounds and music from a device. That is because the brain cannot capture radio waves, so when it happened - it was thought and interpreted by the brain as unlisted, meaning maya.

In Devi Gita, Ambal says, "My atman is beyond mind, beyond thought, beyond name or mark, without parallel and beyond birth, death or change."

This Supreme Brahman which is unknown to mankind, can be understood through Brahma Gyana.

Just as we say: to understand the working of the levers and pulleys, we need physics, or to understand the reactions of metals we need to know chemistry, so does maya; to understand maya, one needs to study this course which is called Brahma Gyana.

Now what is this Brahma Gyana?

The vedas explain that having created this vast Universe, the Supreme Brahman enters every aspect of Her creation in Her total entirety. This truth will be accepted as an intellectual knowledge by many, but to experience it as the absolute truth is the essence of Brahma Gyana or enlightenment.

Now we know that this is the syllabus, but what is the requirement to enter into this course?

The student of Brahma Gyana first equips himself with four things:

1. Discrimination (Viveka)
2. Dispassion (Vairagya)
3. The Sixfold Virtues (Shat-Sampat) —viz., tranquility (Sama), restraint (Dama), satiety or renunciation (Uparati), endurance (Titiksha), faith (Sraddha) and concentration (Samadhana)
4. Strong yearning for liberation (Mumukshutva)

Then, he hears the scriptures from a knowledgeable guru who directs him towards the path of Brahma Gyana by dispelling all his doubts about the Maha Supreme and teaches him the art of meditation, which helps the soul to reach out to that Supreme Brahman and once in unison with Her, attains Brahma- Sakshatkara.

He becomes a Jivanmukta or a liberated sage. He is thus released from all attachments even while he is in this body.

So, the Maha Supreme with whom he is now in unison, is none other than our own Mahamayi as we creatively call Her.

Note: The final stage of jiva mukti is like attaining a Ph.D in Brahma Gyana .

Matangi:

Goddess who presides over our thoughts.

Ambal presides over our thoughts so that we find everlasting happiness. She focuses only on that eternal happiness. Yes, she wants us to be happy on this earth, but Her goal is to transform us to a pure unblemished soul, in spite of our experience on this earth.

As a human, we view our life with what we are experiencing right here and now. Ambal looks at things from an entirely different perspective.

Let me try and explain two things which are very basic:

1. Why do we say God is universal, or God is everywhere?

Modern Physics helps us to explain just that.

Time and space are properties of matter. She exists above and beyond this material universe, which is not limited to time and space as we are. So, She can be present in all time and all space at once, which helps us to understand her Universal nature.

2. God, rishis and munis see our past, present and future - how?

Let me try explaining this according to modern physics.

Each one of us in this world travel in our own path and experience time to be linear, while all other things around them are sequential; so you travel with time like how you travel in a train.

When you travel in a train, you hardly can feel it moving, but people standing outside the train can see the speed at which the train is moving, isn't it?

It is the same thing, you travel along with time, so you cannot feel or see anything before you. But Ambal, who stands outside on the platform, can see both ends of the line, which is the past on one end, the present as you move past Her and the future, which is what you are moving towards.

So, when you understand these principles, you will let Ambal preside over your thoughts and enjoy the beautiful life which lies ahead of you.

Madirapriya:

Lover of nectar.

Here, the nectar refers to the love towards Her devotees. To Her, the children are as sweet as honey. They are Her Jewels.

She loves us so much that She gives every bit of Herself to this colorful nature around us. We sometimes have strange ideas about Her and Her love towards us. She loves everyone of us equally, be it a starving child, a sick person or a wealthy businessman. She is in love with every human, nothing will ever stop Her from loving us.

Her love keeps reaching us like a thendral in your garden, like the flowing Ganges, irrespective of the way you treat Her. Climbing like a leopard on the mountain of your dishonesty, hatred, adultery, fear and death, She roars, destroying it and fills your life with only love and warmth.

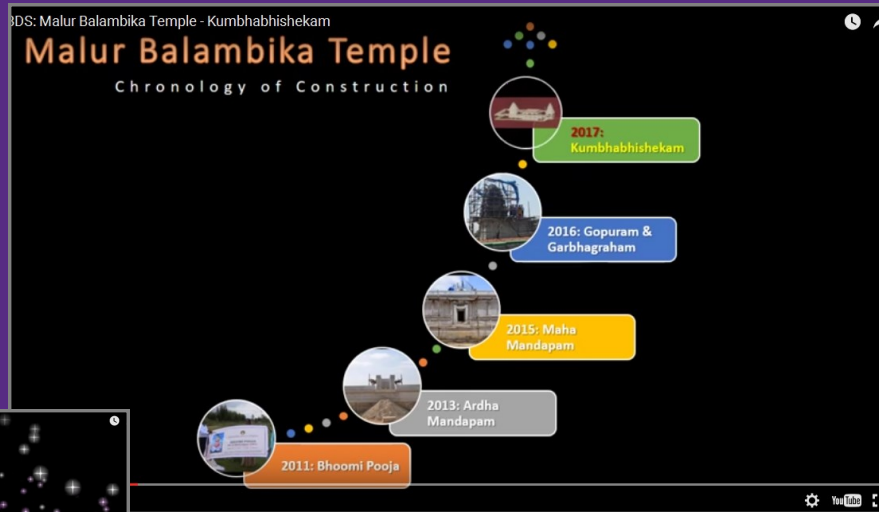
Wherever you go, whatever you do, Her love for you will never diminish. It is distributed equally and She symbolically shows Her affection through the drizzling rain, flowery snow fall, and the dancing northern lights.

She is not human, Her love is not fragile and fickle. Her love for you is eternal and She drinks your love from the cup of life which you offer Her.

That is why we passionately call Her Madirapriya.

Bala Sahasranamam on Website, Facebook and YouTube





As we fervently move towards the completion of the Temple construction and Kumbhabhishekam, here is a video which traverses through this beautiful journey. The Kumbhabhishekam is the divine culmination of a beatific dream and we want all of you to join hands and be a memorable part of it.

<https://youtu.be/IK6VZZYuDcl>

BDS: Upcoming Events...

Fri Apr 15	10:00am – 11:00am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI MAHALAKSHMI ⊖
Mon Apr 18	10:00am – 10:45am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI NITHYA SUNDARESHWARAR AND SRI ANNAPOORNESHWARI - Bala's house ⊖
Tue Apr 19	10:00am – 11:00am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI SIDDHI VINAYAGAR ⊖
Thu Apr 21	4:00pm – 7:00pm	⊕ Chitra Pournami and Dolai Utsavam - Tirumala Choultry, Malur
Fri Apr 22	10:00am – 11:00am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI MAHALAKSHMI ⊖
Mon Apr 25	10:00am – 10:45am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI NITHYA SUNDARESHWARAR AND SRI ANNAPOORNESHWARI - Bala's house ⊖
Tue Apr 26	10:00am – 11:00am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI SIDDHI VINAYAGAR ⊖
Fri Apr 29	10:00am – 11:00am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI MAHALAKSHMI ⊖
Mon May 2	10:00am – 10:45am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI NITHYA SUNDARESHWARAR AND SRI ANNAPOORNESHWARI - Bala's house ⊖
Tue May 3	10:00am – 11:00am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI SIDDHI VINAYAGAR ⊖
Fri May 6	10:00am – 11:00am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI MAHALAKSHMI ⊖
Mon May 9	10:00am – 10:45am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI NITHYA SUNDARESHWARAR AND SRI ANNAPOORNESHWARI - Bala's house ⊖
Tue May 10	10:00am – 11:00am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI SIDDHI VINAYAGAR ⊖
Fri May 13	10:00am – 11:00am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI MAHALAKSHMI ⊖

BDS Contacts

Bala Sahasranamam Parayanam:

Chakravarthy's residence, 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 Temple Manager:

balambikadivyasangam2015@gmail.com

Annadhanam Scheme:

We are feeding the under nourished, low income children in government higher primary school.

Those who are interested in sponsoring, please contact Temple Manager :

balambikadivyasangam2015@gmail.com

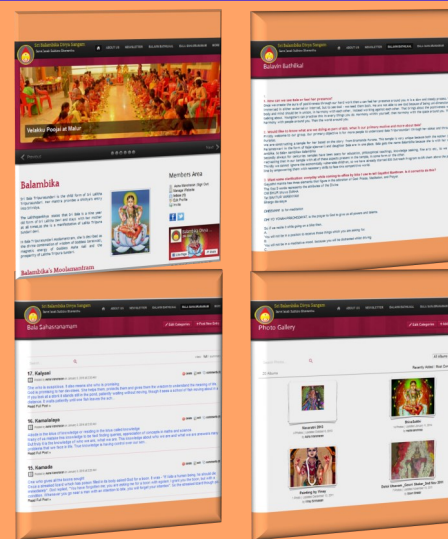
BDS Outreach:

We are having health and hygiene awareness and also dental care for children , if you could sponsor for this program, we would cover more children and help them have proper dental care.

Those who are interested in contributing towards this cause, please contact Temple Manager : balambikadivyasangam2015@gmail.com

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.



We are on the web!

<http://balambikathirupanitrust.webs.com>

This is a good place to catch up on all the Sangam activities such as About Us, Temple Updates, Balavin Bathikal, Bala Sahasranamam, archives of earlier Newsletters etc.

Join us on WhatsApp!

To join Balambika Divya Sangam WhatsApp group, please send an email along with phone# to our President Smt. Asha Manoharan at asha.raji@gmail.com



Archana Contributions

Natarajan
Bharath Bhushan
Trishta
Ranganathan
Parthasarathy Sridharan
Saroja Narayanan
Srinivasan Chakravarthy
Sudharshan Chakravarthy
Murali Chakravarthy

Sponsor's Corner

Pournami Pooja Sponsors

Smt. Myilarasi and Kamala Kannan
Smt. Janaki and Family
Sri. Srinivasan and Family
Smt. Vani Muralidharan and Family

Dolai Sponsors

Sri. Vinay Srinivasan
Sri. Vivek Srinivasan
Smt. Mythili Sunderajan