

BALAVIN KURAL

Balambika Divya Sangam



Editor's Desk...

Balambika Divya Sangam (BDS) wishes its members a very happy new year 2018, and greetings for a joyful Pongal-O- Pongal! As our austerities in the hallowed month of Margazhi culminates in the Pongal festival, every home, family, and community comes together to celebrate during this auspicious time of the year. Our Hindu traditions have patronized community worship, where homes and hearts become one, with women spreading their warmth and cheer, and the menfolk extending their camaraderie above and beyond. There is a sense of overwhelming fulfilment in sharing the happy moments of the festivities with those around us – an unwritten decree laid out by our forefathers. In fact, our ancestors have professed the goodness and value of gathering and taking as many people as we can with us, in the path of worship, especially in temples. Indeed, one cannot envision a better way to start the New Year – such is the significance and propitious nature of the Pongal festival.

Every individual's first community is his home – a haven where he learns from his family, which in the golden days of yore housed three generations of love, wisdom and experiences. The bond shared between the growing child and the endearing household strengthens over time, creating an indestructible trust that each family member has for one another. Every individual takes this

trust with him, as steps out of the microcosm of his home, into the community outside that he learns to accept as his extended family. All our ancient customs and traditions have revolved around the concept of knitting people together into one big family. Most of our Hindu festivals are therefore communal events that bring everyone together. "Pongal - O- Pongal", the jubilant chant of the people of Tamil Nadu during Thai Pongal is by far the most reveled, where the Gods are thanked for a plentiful harvest, and birds, beasts and nature are revered for their share of being a part of our joy and contentment, and brothers and sisters pray for each other's well-being.

Balambika Divya Sangam is proud to host the Pongal celebrations for the first time at the Malur temple, with all the traditional bells and whistles in place, as we strive to revive the good old customs and traditions. As devotees flock to the temple premises to cook their pongal on the home-style stone and wood fireplace, it kindles old relationships, brings families and friends together, over the ever faithful hearth that feeds everyone to their heart's content. We hope to spread these good wishes to one and all, and pray for prosperity and peace throughout creation.

Sarvejana Sukhino Bhavantu.



Mrs. Asha Manoharan
President—BDS

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Bala Speaks...



Faith, called astikya in Sanskrit, is the fourth of ten spiritual practices called niyamas, literally meaning "to unleash". The niyamas are ethical and religious practices that release or cultivate one's refined soul qualities. The cultivation of faith can be compared to the growth of a tree. As a young sapling, it can be easily uprooted, just as faith based solely on belief can easily be shaken or destroyed. Faith bolstered with philosophical knowledge is like a medium-sized tree, strong and not easily disturbed. Faith matured by personal experience with God is like a full-grown tree that can withstand external forces .

BDS Notice

The Editorial team is considering format and content changes to the newsletter. In the regards, we would appreciate feedback from all BDS members.

Please send your comments and suggestions to us at: editorial.bds@gmail.com









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