BALAVIN KURAL

Balambika Divya Sangam









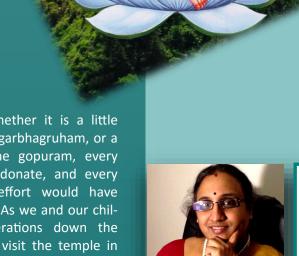




Today, as a part of Balambika Divya Sangam, we are all united in keeping as our focus, our vision to serve the community, and move closer to God. For many of us, we have seen the Sangam grow from a handful of soulsearching, like-minded individuals, to a huge family of selfless and enterprising volunteers, who strive hard to pursue our mission. What is it that has brought us together, from different parts of the world, and what is it that keeps us moving forward? Would the little squirrels ever have thought that they would help Sri Rama build the bridge to Lanka, and be a part of a great play of God on Earth? Or were the frivolous monkeys chosen by chance to help Sri Rama fight the war of good over evil? Nothing happens by chance! If we are here together, we have been brought together by divine grace, to fulfill some great deed that is going to bring us closer to Ambal.

As all little rivers and streams reach the ocean, all good deeds - big and small, reach the feet of God. We are blessed to be a part of building a temple for Sri Balambika, and each individual's efforts towards the construction of the temple will live on for their future generations as a special punyam. Whether it is a little stone inside the garbhagruham, or a kumbham on the gopuram, every penny that we donate, and every ounce of our effort would have reached its goal. As we and our children, and generations down the road, come and visit the temple in Malur, it will stand as a testimony to our dedication and commitment to serving Ambal.

But as always, a lofty ideal can only fly high if the winds are in the right direction. As we are nearing the completion of Phase I of the temple, we request each and every one of you to reach into your hearts, and to your friends and family to contribute towards the completion of Malur Sri Balambika Temple. As we read, the mahamantapam roofing would have been completed, and over the next several months, all the divine vigrahams will be in the sculpting process and several vital structures inside the temple will have to be installed. The divine aura and positive energy that this initiative radiates, will live on with us forever. And as we all have probably heard and experienced... "If we take one step towards God, God takes ten steps towards us."



Mrs. Asha Manoharan

President—BDS

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Bala Speaks...

Lying in any form is deception. Lie can be in words or in action. Ask yourself how you would react when you found out that someone is lying to you. Providing justification for lying is easy, but to choose the truth as the only option is what we need to preach and practice. Find out if there are other truthful alternatives which you could use, instead of a lie.

"No one is ruined by speaking the truth, no one has prospered by lying."

Abhishekam and archanas were performed regularly at Bala's house. Pournami puja and dolai at Malur was celebrated with fervour by devotees. Ambal was received at Malur with enthusiasm. Elaborate abhishekam was performed with milk, curds, honey, sandal paste, and panchamrutham. Ambal was decorated with pattu pavadai and varieties of colourful flowers. Bala's songs were sung by devotees. Arati was performed to Ambal followed by prasadam distribution.



Down Memory Lane

It was my 16th birthday, the day started with unexpected events at home.

By Smt. Asha Manoharan

My periappa was not well. He was rushed to the hospital and

Background behind the song Eppadi Paaduveno...

my parents left in a hurry without even wishing me. I had to make my own breakfast, which I am not good at. To top it all, there was no sign of Bala for a week.

I had my bath and quietly slipped out of the house with my bike. As I came onto Nelson Road, I saw Bala leaning on a lamp post. My heart skipped a beat, was it really Her? Wondering, I went closer and she stepped away from the lamp post and came towards me. I pretended to be angry with her and braked right in front of her with a glum face. With my toes just touching the ground, I stood in front of her. She put out her hand and there, she had some wild flowers in pink, lavender and yellow colours, which were simply fresh with a slight fragrance. She said, "It is your birthday, so how old are you?" She asked as though she really wasn't aware of my age. I smirked and said, "I think I am 16, does it matter?" I asked politely, but my annoyance was noticeable by any standards. "No, it doesn't matter at all, so are you going somewhere?" she asked. "Yeah, going to the temple," I replied. There was a bit of awkward silence, then Bala spoke, "Are you not going to ask me why I was waiting?" "No, I am not, can I leave, if I may?" I was now shaking with anger. "No, you can't, because I was waiting for you to drop me near the main road, can you?" she asked, raising her eyebrows.

I waved my left hand and showed her the handlebar, her favourite place. She sat on it, turned and looked at me and said, "Are you angry with me, by any chance? If so, why don't you tell me. I know you are upset with me, but don't know why, is it something that I must know?" "Yes, Bala, you should know I am upset. You should know that you cannot just disappear, you should know I miss you so much", I said and tears just rolled down my eyes and I couldn't control my grief. She turned around, touched me and said, "Don't cry, I cannot see you cry. I never left you, I am by your side when you don't think of me and in front of you when you think of me, that is all." She lifted my chin and continued, "I will never leave you and cannot, so don't feel sad. I came here only to make you happy, not to make you sad. I know it is difficult for you, but that is how it is going to be for the rest of your life." Saying this, she touched me again. I folded my arms, looked at Her and said, "I am sorry, I don't understand you, but I know when you are not around, I miss you." She jumped from the cycle and shook her head and said, "Oh, really."

She waved and the flowers appeared. She ran in front of me.. I followed her and tried to go past her. We raced down the lane on to the Hume Pipe bridge and down the road, until I gave up. She retreated back looking calm as ever and jumped on to the handle bar. Smiling, she asked, "Shall we go?"

I cheered up and said, "Ok, where do you want me to leave you." She replied, "No, I am not leaving you, let us go for a ride." I knew what it meant, "racing".

My parents had warned me not to race with buses, especially on the main road, but both of us loved it. We simply couldn't resist the adrenaline rush.

So, all was forgotten. I pushed her flowers on to the cycle bar, and with Bala in front, I pedalled first slowly, then picked up speed with Bala shouting "faster, faster and faster".

We cycled down Srirangam main road and on to the side road, leading to the Cauvery karai road. We lost all consciousness of time. As I rode, Bala was drawing figures in the air, time stood still.

This song is a tribute to that beautiful relationship that we have, even to this day.

எப்படி பாடுவேனோ

எப்படி பாடுவேனோ, தேவி எப்படி போற்றுவேனோ, உன்னையே எப்படி பாடுவேனோ..........

> அழகிய தோற்றம் கொண்டவள் நீயோ தாமரை மேலே வீற்றிருப்பவளோ.... (2)

வாசவி என உன்னை நானும் தான் வணங்கவோ வாசவி என உன்னை நானும் தான் வணங்கவோ

சொல்லடி நீயும் உமையவளே (2)

எப்படி பாடுவேனோ, தேவி எப்படி போற்றுவேனோ, உன்னையே எப்படி பாடுவேனோ........

இளமை குன்றா எழில் தோற்றம் உனக்கோ பொன்னொளி கொண்டு ஒளிர்பவள் நீயோ.... (2)

மீனாட்சி என உனை நானும் தான் அழைக்கவோ மீனாட்சி என உனை நானும் தான் அழைக்கவோ

சொல்லடி நீயும் உமையவளே (2)

எப்படி பாடுவேனோ, தேவி எப்படி போற்றுவேனோ, உன்னையே எப்படி பாடுவேனோ.......

மங்கள குங்குமம் அணிந்தவள் நீயோ மங்கள உருவின் மாசற்ற மணியோ.... (2)

சாரதா என உனை நானும் தான் துதிக்கவோ சாரதா என உனை நானும் தான் துதிக்கவோ

சொல்லடி நீயும் உமையவளே (2)

எப்படி பாடுவேனோ, தேவி எப்படி போற்றுவேனோ, உன்னையே எப்படி பாடுவேனோ..........

EPPADI PAADUVENO

Eppadi paaduveno, devi eppadi potruveno, Unnaiye eppadi paaduveno......

Azhakiya thotram kondaval neeyo Thaamarai mele veetriruppavalo Azhakiya thotram kondaval neeyo Thaamarai mele veetriruppavalo

Vaasavi ena unnai naanum than vanangavo... (2)

Solladi neeyum umaiyavale
Solladi neeyum umaiyavale
Eppadi paaduveno, devi eppadi potruveno,
Unnaiye eppadi paaduveno......

Ilamai kundra ezhil thotram unakko Ponnoli kondu olirbaval neeyo Ilamai kundra ezhil thotram unakko Ponnoli kondu olirbaval neeyo

Meenatchi ena unai naanum than azhaikkavo... (2)

Solladi neeyum umaiyavale
Solladi neeyum umaiyavale
Eppadi paaduveno, devi eppadi potruveno,
Unnaiye eppadi paaduveno......

Mangala kumkumam anindaval neeyo Mangala uruvin maasatra maniyo Mangala kumkumam anindaval neeyo Mangala uruvin maasatra maniyo

Sharada ena unai naanum than thuthikkavo... (2)

Solladi neeyum umaiyavale
Solladi neeyum umaiyavale
Eppadi paaduveno, devi eppadi potruveno,
Unnaiye eppadi paaduveno.....

ಎಪ್ಪಡಿ ಪಾಡುವೆನೊ

ಎಪ್ಪಡಿ ಪಾಡುವೆನೊ,ದೇವಿ ಎಪ್ಪಡಿ ಪೊಟ್ರುವೆನೊ, ಉನ್ನಯೇ ಎಪ್ಪಡಿ ಪಾಡುವೆನೊ......

ಅಳ್ಜಗಿಯ ತೊಟ್ರಮ್ ಕೊಂಡವಳ್ ನೀಯೋ ತಾಮರೈ ಮೇಲೇ ವೀಟ್ರಿರುಪ್ಪವಳೊ... (2)

ವಾಸವಿ ಎನ ಉನ್ನೈ ನಾನುಂ ತಾನ್ ವಣಂಗವೊ ವಾಸವಿ ಎನ ಉನ್ನೈ ನಾನುಂ ತಾನ್ ವಣಂಗವೊ

ಸೊಲ್ಲಡಿ ನೀಯುಂ ಉದುಯದಳೆ... (2)

ಎಪ್ಪಡಿ ಪಾಡುವೆನೊ,ದೇವಿ ಎಪ್ಪಡಿ ಪೊಟ್ರುವೆನೊ, ಉನ್ನಯೇ ಎಪ್ಪಡಿ ಪಾಡುವೆನೊ.....

ಇಳಮ್ಮೆ ಕುಂಡ್ರಾ ಎಳ್ಜಿಳ್ ತೊಟ್ರಮ್ ಉನಕ್ಕೊ ಪೊನ್ನೊಳಿ ಕೊಂಡು ಒಳಿರ್ಭವಳ್ ನೀಯೊ... (2)

ಮೀನಾಕ್ಷಿ ಎನ ಉನ್ಯೆ ನಾನುಂ ತಾನ್ ಅಳ್ಬೆಕ್ಕವೊ ಮೀನಾಕ್ಷಿ ಎನ ಉನ್ಯೆ ನಾನುಂ ತಾನ್ ಅಳ್ಬೆಕ್ಕವೊ

ಸೊಲ್ಲಡಿ ನೀಯುಂ ಉದುಯದಳೆ... (2)

ಎಪ್ಪಡಿ ಪಾಡುವೆನೊ,ದೇವಿ ಎಪ್ಪಡಿ ಪೊಟ್ರುವೆನೊ, ಉನ್ನಯೇ ಎಪ್ಪಡಿ ಪಾಡುವೆನೊ..... ಮಂಗಳ ಕುಂಕುಮಂ ಅಣಿಂದವಳ್ ನೀಯೊ

ಮಂಗಳ ಉರುವಿನ್ ಮಾಸಟ್ರ ಮಣಿಯೊ... (2)

ಶಾರದ ಎನ ಉನ್ಯೆ ನಾನುಂ ತಾನ್ ತುದಿಕ್ಕವೊ ಶಾರದ ಎನ ಉನ್ಯೆ ನಾನುಂ ತಾನ್ ತುದಿಕ್ಕವೊ

ಸೊಲ್ಲಡಿ ನೀಯುಂ ಉಮಯವಳೆ... (2)

ಎಪ್ಪಡಿ ಪಾಡುವೆನೊ,ದೇವಿ ಎಪ್ಪಡಿ ಪೊಟ್ರುವೆನೊ, ಉನ್ನಯೇ ಎಪ್ಪಡಿ ಪಾಡುವೆನೊ.....

ఎప్పడి పాడుపెనొ

ఎప్పడి పాడుపెనొ,దేవి ఎప్పడి పొట్టుపెనొ, ఉన్నయే ఎప్పడి పాడుపెనొ......

అళ్లగియ తొట్రం కొండవళ్ నీయో తామరై మేలే వీట్రిరుప్పవళో... (2)

వాసవి ఎన ఉప్పై నానుం తాన్ వణంగవొ వాసవి ఎన ఉప్పై నానుం తాన్ వణంగవొ

నొల్లడి నీయుం ఉమయవళె... (2)

ఎప్పడి పాడుపెనొ,దేవి ఎప్పడి పొట్టుపెనొ, ఉన్నయే ఎప్పడి పాడుపెనొ.....

ఇళమై కుండ్రా ఎళ్హిళ్ తొట్రం ఉనక్కొ పొన్నొళి కొండు ఒళిర్భవళ్ నీయొ... (2)

మీనాక్షి ఎన ఉసై నానుం తాన్ అళ్హెక్కవొ మీనాక్షి ఎన ఉసై నానుం తాన్ అళ్హెక్కవొ

నొల్లడి నీయుం ఉమయవళె... (2)

ఎప్పడి పాడుపెనొ,దేవి ఎప్పడి పొట్టుపెనొ, ఉన్నయే ఎప్పడి పాడుపెనొ.....

మంగళ కుంకుమం అణిందవళ్ నీయొ మంగళ ఉరువిన్ మాసట్ర మణియొ... (2)

శారద ఎన ఉసై నానుం తాన్ తుదిక్కవొ శారద ఎన ఉసై నానుం తాన్ తుదిక్కవొ

నొల్లడి నీయుం ఉమయవళె... (2)

ఎప్పడి పాడుపెనొ,దేవి ఎప్పడి పొట్టుపెనొ, ఉన్నయే ఎప్పడి పాడుపెనొ.....





OUR MISSION

We the members of this trust are ardent devotees of Sri Raja Rajeswari and Sri Balambika is our family goddess. We have been very fortunate to have her guidance and affection for generations together and we thought it was time to do some service to our beloved mother by helping people, to understand her as a mother, friend, philosopher and as the almighty. Our vision is to move closer to God, through love and service to the community, to realize the true value of life and elevate our soul into true consciousness. We have moved forward to do various services towards society through the three paths (*marga*) given by Hinduism.



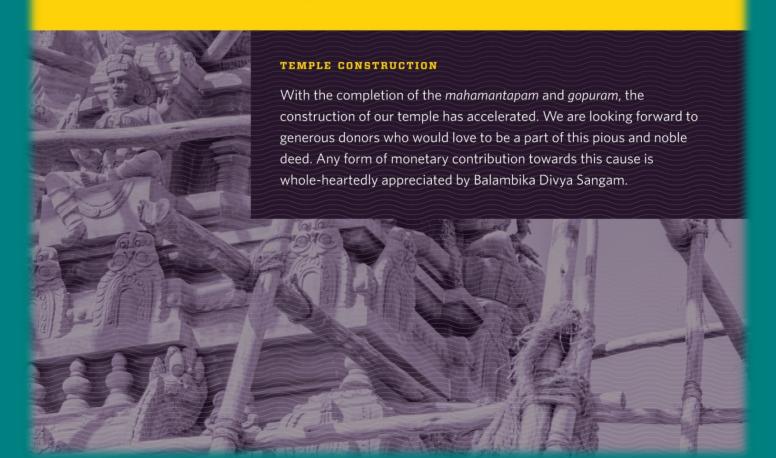
BHAKTHI MARGA path of devotion



KARMA MARGA
path of work & action



JNANA MARGA path of knowledge





KARMA MARGA 🌞 Annadanam

₹1000 | \$15 | £10

feeds ~ 100 children ages 5-12*

*varies by attendance

We are distributing breakfast for approximately 100 school children (ages 5 to 12) at Malur (25 kms from Bangalore) on Mondays and Wednesdays. Celebrate your birthdays, wedding anniversaries and all your important events with these kids who need our support and compassion, by contributing to this wonderful cause.

BHARTI MARGA A Dolai Utsavam

₹5000 | \$75 | £50

fulfills 1 dolai utsavam, per request

Invite Bala to your own home! As part of this delightful ritual, Sanchara Bala will come to each devotee's house, as requested, and accept their services and bless them with happiness and prosperity. A special abhishekam, archana, followed by bhajans will be observed.





Pournami Pooja

₹2500 | \$35 | £25 fulfills 1 *pooja* for the month

The full moon day of every month is celebrated with the *pournami pooja*. This special *pooja* is conducted once a month at Malur by performing *abhishekam* and *archana* for Bala, along with *sumangali pooja* and *kanya pooja*. The importance of this festival is explained through stories.



₹250 | \$5 | £3

fulfills 1 archana or abhishekam

Regular *archanas* are performed daily at Bala's house, and *abhishekam* is performed every Tuesday and Friday. Birthdays, anniversaries, and other special occassions are a great opportunity to celebrate with this auspicious offering to the Goddess, Sri Balambika.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Vasantha Navarathri will be celebrated this Spring 2016. Stay tuned for more details on special dates and timings. FOR MORE INFORMATION

Mrs. Priya Rangan (Temple Manager) Ph. 91 80 50511146

|| sarve janah sukhino bhavantu

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Temple Construction Updates

The *mahamantapam* roofing is complete with only a small portion of the finishing work left. The next project in the pipeline would be fixing doors for the *mahamantapam*, steps around it and *dwajasthambam*.



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BDS Outreach Programs at Malur



Free Dental Drive at Malur

This program is aimed at making children aware of the dental problems, to bring awareness about Oral hygiene and providing free treatment for children needing dental care. As a follow up from the dental checkup drive conducted during January, an orientation program session was organized on 6th Feb 2016. Dr. Praveen handed out the Dental reports to children and had a 3-5 min counselling session with each student. Counselling was about preventive care and corrective action for children's dental problems.

BDS Outreach Team also conducted the second Dental Checkup Drive on 5th March 2016 at Govt. Girls Higher Primary School, Malur. Dr. Praveen performed detailed Dental Check-up for 73 Students belonging to Class VII. We have also identified local dental firms at Malur for providing free treatment to children, talks are underway. A firm plan on corrective action and fund raising is likely to crystalize during March 2016.

BDS Outreach extends sincere thanks to Dr. Praveen for spending his valuable time with kids and the team of volunteers who helped us in making the event successful.

If you are interested in joining the Monthly Dental Checkup Drive at Malur, please contact Vivek Raman @ 8861008791 / <u>balambika.outreach@gmail.com</u> or if you would like to contribute towards the treatment, please contact Padma Srinivas @ 9902703113



BDS Outreach Team has a 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. With the help of interactive activities, games and storytelling, the whole program is designed to make reading more interesting for kids. BDS outreach team has so far completed 5 weeks of the program. In the month of February, the team conducted activities that enabled kids to learn simple English words such as action verbs. This was followed by a reading of the King of Birds story and interactive games.

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.

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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 February, two schools underwent this program for the complete month- Govt. Girls School- Malur and KLE Primary School-Malur. The dedicated volunteers, committed teachers and enthusiastic children were part of this workshop.

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.

Pictures continued in the next page...



Annadanam Program at Malur



BDS outreach program has taken the initiative to provide Breakfast Meals to the children every Monday and Wednesday of 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 to all the days, for which we want more volunteers to join hands. Your small step forward will make a huge difference in the service.

We extend our sincere thanks to our sponsors for the month of Feb-Mar 2016.

- 1. Smt. Charanya
- 2. Ramanujam, Vinay
- 3. Smt Lakshmi and Vishnu dev
- 4. Srinivasan Chakravarthy and family
- 5. Trishta
- 6. Dakshesh Anthil
- 7. Dr.K.Gururajan and Karthik Gururajan
- 8. Ravindran Seshadri

For details, please contact Program Anchor Priya Kasturi Rangan at 8050511146 / Balambikadivyasangam2015@gmail.com

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.

subhadrā 'khyāti ramaņī sarvā sādhvī sumaṅga<u>l</u>ā / rāmā bhavyavatī bhavyā kamanīyā'ti komalā //

Subhadrā:

She who protects Her devotees in distress.

Ambal is always there to protect us not only from troubles, but sometimes even from ourselves. You might wonder why I said, to protect from yourself. If your thoughts are not according to God's will, then you will feel discontented, bitter, dissatisfied and unhappy. You should take a step forward to call Ambal, to help you decide to take the right path. You must learn to watch your thoughts and make sure it is in Ambal's channel only.

Let me give you an example:

Once a climber was determined to reach the summit of a high mountain. After years of preparation, he began his adventure. Only he journeyed, because he wanted all the glory to himself. He climbed and climbed until night fall. He was only a few yards away from the summit, when he slipped climbing a ridge and fell at frightening speed. Suddenly, he felt the tightening of the rope around his waist that tied him to a nail embedded in the rock wall. In desperation, he cried, "God save me." A deep voice replied, "Do you really think I can save you?" "Of course," said the man. "Well then, cut the rope," said the voice. There was a moment of silence, then the man tightened the rope around the waist. The next day, the mountain rescue team found a man frozen to death, his hands wrapped firmly around a rope tied to his waist, just two feet from the ground.

So how tight are your ropes? Would you let go?

'Khyāti:

She who brings joy into your lives.

God brings joy into people's lives. She also finds joy in Her creation. So, She is both joyful and the source of joy. When I say She brings joy into your lives, you might wonder how?

When you do things that please Her, you experience Her joy. As Her love is manifested in us and revealed through us, touching others, you share Her joy.

It depends on three basic principles:

- 1. Love and compassion towards others.
- 2. Doing things according to the will of God.

3. Making a difference in somebody's life everyday.

Once upon a time, there was a writer who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work. One day he was walking along the shore. As he looked down the beach, he saw a young man moving here and there. He smiled to himself at the thought of someone dancing to the day. So he began to walk closer towards him. As he got closer, he saw that he wasn't dancing, but instead, he was reaching down to the shore, picking up something and very gently throwing it into the ocean. As he got closer, he called out, "Good morning! What are you doing?" The young man paused, looked up and replied, "Throwing starfish in the ocean." "I guess I should have asked, why are you throwing starfish in the ocean?" "The sun is up and the tide is going out. And if I don't throw them in, they'll die." "But, young man, don't you realize that there are miles and miles of beach and starfish all along it. You can't possibly make a difference!" The young man listened politely. Then bent down, picked another starfish and threw it into the sea, past the breaking waves and said, "It made a difference for that one."

Ramanī:

Young and beautiful.

Beauty is Divine Mother personified.

As I stand looking at Her, my feet cannot push itself forward without the grace of the Mother. I am spellbound without the grace of the Mother. She weaves words into my mouth. Without the snap of Her fingers, I stand rooted to the ground. Understanding my inefficiency, She come to my rescue.

Beauty separates herself from the Mother and appears before me like a young mother, half shy of Her own glory. The earth tremors beneath me and the sky quivers above me, reminding me that beauty is the rampaging courage of every man. She sighs as She walks past me, reminding me of a quivering faint light which never gives up life until the last moment, helping every man to understand his contribution to the world.

Her gentle kind fingertips remind me of the love and compassion that every man should possess. Her shady eyes discloses Her sleepless night, but ready at the wake of dawn reminding every man of his duties. She leaps over hills, dances with the autumn leaves drifting with the snow in Her hair, looking ravishing, but subtle, reminding mankind that simplicity and humility draws him closer to the Divine Mother.

For beauty is always divine.

Sarvā:

She is the Universe.

Whenever I have a conversation with members, I always remind them about how they can look at nature and understand God's ways.

Look at the amazing Universe. It has plenty of galaxies, stars and planets. They are all magnificently huge, and they all move around doing their work silently without a glitch. God is also like that. With all Her powerful attributes, She appears as a simple humble person before Her devotees. Look at the tall mountains, don't they remind you of Her, seemingly large, but very accommodating and cradles every living thing that comes to them. Look at the oceans, they have all the wealth in this world, but they never cross their borders, nor do they harm any living thing, being generous like the Mother Goddess. Look at all the living organisms in this world, they are very generous to each other. Each and every creature teaches Man a vital lesson which he has forgotten to learn, but look at Man, he says he wants to know God, but leaves Her path and looks for Her somewhere else. He is clueless as to what he is doing, he has forgotten his direction and is in pursuit of something which is not his own.

In spite of all this, the Mother looks calm and serene, waiting for Her children to get back on track and that is why we call Her sarva lokeshwari, sarva matha and sarva vyabhi.

Sādhvī:

She who adorns a noble status.

God adorns a noble status not because She is all powerful and all knowing, but because She presents noble gifts to mankind.

They are:

- 1. Wisdom: There are two types of wisdom. One from God which is pure, peace loving, gentle and approachable. The second one comes from this world, which has rivalry, jealousy and brings disharmony.
- 2. Understanding: This is a gift given to us to understand the will of God. To walk in Her path is difficult and hard, understanding Her will would overcome the obstacles. This teaches us to face our own demons and helps conquer them.
- 3. Hope: This is a special gift from God to mankind. She gives this virtue to help us learn the art of patience. Never lose hope, because God is all knowing and all powerful, whatever She does, She does it for a reason. She understands us more than anybody else in this world.

These gifts from God help man to understand himself, and his relationship with God and also his relationship with others around him.

Sumanga<u>l</u>ā:

Bringing good fortune.

God has a purpose for us in this world and there is no event in our lives that is not in some way a part of that plan. God's blessing often brings good fortune. A blessing itself is defined as to invoke divine care. The source of blessing is God Herself. A blessing is very different from the idea of luck. A blessing is divine protection and help. Luck can be good or bad, but a blessing is always good. God cares for us and Her concern for us arises out of love and compassion for us. When we trust Her and follow Her ways, nothing can harm us. Her presence should be felt and we should stop expecting Her to do things for us, because expectation stops us from seeing Her blessing, which always comes in disguise.

Here is a story to illustrate it.

There was a man who owned a beautiful house on the bank of a river. One day, the town where he lived was hit by one storm after another, and with each storm, the river rose. The local news forecasted that it was the storm of the century. This man's house and life were in danger. He ignored the evacuation suggestion and shouted at the TV, "God will take care of me!" The river water continued to rise. Local neighbors with boats rode around and offered him a ride to safety, but he said, "No thanks, God will take care of me!" He was now sitting on his rooftop, because the water was up to the second floor of his home and was still rising. The Coast Guard sent a helicopter to his house to rescue him. He refused to leave and told the Coast Guard, "God will take care of me!" The water continued to rise and finally, he drowned. He asked God when he met Him, "How could you let me die when I had such faith? I always believed God would take care of me. How could you forsake me now, when I needed you the most?" God gave out a sigh, "I tried to take care of you, but you refused help. I sent you a warning and suggestion to evacuate in the newscast, I sent you a rescue boat and then, I sent you the Coast Guard in a helicopter. But, you refused all the help that I was sending you, because you were failing to see that I can only help you, if you let me. Everything was right before your eyes and you refused to pay attention and accept it."

So, don't expect anything from God, everyday is a blessing in disguise.

Rāmā:

Very dear to all of us.

God is lovable, endearing, charming and adorable. Her wonderful qualities are seen and felt by all of us, every moment of everyday. Even to the non-believers, She is compassionate and She never deserts them because they don't believe Her. Her love for all of us is immeasurable.

Here is a story which shows how endearing She is.

There was a child going to be born. The child asked Ambal, "They tell me you are going to send me to Earth tomorrow, but how am I going to live there being so small and helpless." Ambal replied, "Among the many angels, I have chosen one for you. She will be waiting for you and will take care of you." The child said, "But tell me, here in Heaven, I don't do anything else but sing and smile. That's what I need to be happy!" Ambal replied, "Your angel will sing for you every day. And you will feel your angel's love and be happy." The child asked, "How am I going to be able to understand when people talk to me, if I don't know the language that men talk?" "That's easy", God said. "Your angel will tell you the most beautiful and sweet words you will ever hear and with much patience and care, she will teach you how to speak." The child looked up at Ambal saying, "And what am I going to do when I want to talk to you?" Ambal smiled at the child saying, "Your angel will teach you how to pray." The child said, "I've heard on earth, there are bad men. Who will protect me?" Ambal replied, "Your angel will defend you, even if it means risking her life!" The child looked sad and said, "But I will always be sad, because I will not see you anymore." Ambal replied, "You angel will always talk to you about me and will teach you the way to come back to me, even though I will always be next to you." At that moment, there was much peace in Heaven, but voices from earth could already be heard. The child in a hurry, asked softly, "Oh divine Mother, am I dear to you?" Ambal replied, "Yes dear, you are, that is why I sent the angel to take care of you, to look after you and to keep you happy." "What is my angel's name?", asked the child. "Her name is not important my dear, you will simply call her Mother."

Such is the love of our divine Mother for us. Lost in Her lovely charm, we call Her Rama.

Bhavyavatī:

Grand and righteous way.

Ambal follows a righteous or the dharmic way. She always does what is right, what should be done. She does it consistently, without partiality or prejudice. Divine laws are faultless, upright, innocent and guiltless.

When we look at a rich man, we often think, God has been very partial, She has given all the riches to one person only, or when we see a very intelligent person, we accuse God of being cruel to you. We never stop to think, what we need to do to achieve it? We should not judge things too quickly. We too had moments of joy, grief, love and happiness. Many times we never acknowledge this, but that is the truth, we cannot run away from it.

Here is a story illustrating how we should not be judgmental in life.

There was a man who had four sons. He wanted his sons to learn not to judge things too quickly. So he sent each of them on a quest, to go and look at the Himalayas, which was a great distance away. The first son went in the winter, the second in the spring, the third in summer, and the youngest son in the fall. When they had all gone and come back, he called them together to describe what they had seen. The first son said that the trees were ugly, bent, and twisted. The second son said that the trees were covered with green buds and full of promise. The third son disagreed; he said it was only too hot there. The last son disagreed with all of them; he said it was very bare, leaves were dropping off from the tree and it was not pleasant. The man then explained to his sons that they were all right, because they had each seen, but only one season in the tree's life in the Himalayas. He told them that you cannot judge a tree, or a person, by only one season, and that the essence of who they are and the pleasure, joy, and love that comes from that life can only be measured at the end, when all the seasons are up.

Bhavyā:

Being gracious.

Ambal is very gracious. What does that mean? It is a way of expressing your thoughts to others without hurting their feelings. Ambal is described here as being gracious, because She is always pleasant, loving and kind. She teaches mankind the art of pleasant kindness through Her actions.

- 1. She listens to every word Her devotee utters.
- 2. She is never spiteful, She understands why we do certain things a certain way.
- 3. She always makes you feel comfortable in this world, by providing the scenic nature around you, the fruity fruits, the crackable nuts, the nectar filled flowers and to top it all, She has given you a father and a mother to take care of you.
- 4. She has given you the most precious thing in this world, which you can never buy, which only She can give you TIME.
- 5. She is gracious enough to give you a body, soul and mind.

Body - To make you a unique individual in this world.

Soul - To receive Her love and compassion.

Mind - To make your own independent choices. She has provided every man in this world a mind to make their own choices, so that he feels he has lived his life.

Ambal through Her actions teaches us to be understanding, un-spiteful, loving, and grateful to all living things, big or small in this world.

That is why we so lovingly call Her BHAVYA.

Kamanīyā'ti:

Most desirable.

Ambal is not only the most reliable, but also the most desirable. It is the confidence She has in us, that She comes with Her promises. She keeps that promise, no matter what happens. That promise is more to be desired than all the worldly desires put together.

This world promises everyone that it can provide love, acceptance, purpose, and happiness. These promises come with materialistic possessions, relationships and temporary blessings, that seems so desirable. The world and its desires will pass away, but the will of Ambal stays forever. Her promise far outweighs anything offered by this world. All of us look for reliability in the wrong places. We want immediate gratification, but this is not going to help us. Ambal is dependable, She helps us see things that normally we ignore. Holding Her hand, walking the path of truthfulness will help us understand Her ways and resist temptation. Our temptation rejects Ambal as an object of affection, and sets up a separate and opposite and unworthy interest. The temper of temptation and the temper of Ambal is opposite. The plans of temptation and the plans of Ambal are opposite. If the purpose of temptation goes into operation, the purpose of Ambal is defeated. So, never let Ambal's purpose for your life get defeated. Resist temptation and bring Ambal into your life.

Komalā:

Gentle and delicate in Her ways.

When we think of the word 'gentle', it reminds us of a mother caressing her new born baby.

Ambal always says, "You need to stand up to pride, but bow down to humility."

Gentleness is also the willingness to help others, instead of wanting to be superior to them. This attitude comes only when there is real love for others.

Look at Ambal, She is all powerful, yet She is very gentle with us, She wants us to be like Her.

Ambal wants us to show the same gentleness that She has for us.

The reasons are:

- 1. No man is perfect. Opportunities have to be given, for them to change.
- 2. Situations ruled by rude emotions, is not going to help anyone.
- 3. Anger comes from ignorance. It is a sign of weakness, not strength.

At the end of the day, ask yourself the following questions:

- 1. Do I exhibit the same gentleness that Ambal has shown me?
- 2. Did I act gently under stressed conditions today?
- 3. Did I gently tell people that they are wrong, if they were wrong?

If we develop this habit, we can bring about a change in ourselves as well as help others to change their lives.

Bala Sahasranamam on Website, Facebook and YouTube







BDS: Upcoming Events...

Tue Mar 15	10:00am – 11:00am	⊞ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI SIDDHI VINAYAGAR 12 □
Fri Mar 18	10:00am – 11:00am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI MAHALAKSHMI 💆 📮
Mon Mar 21	10:00am – 10:45am	Bala's house □
Tue Mar 22	10:00am – 11:00am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI SIDDHI VINAYAGAR 🔯 📮
Wed Mar 23	4:00pm – 6:30pm	⊕ Pournami Puja ថ
Thu Mar 24	All day	⊕ Birthday - Archana
Fri Mar 25	All day 10:00am – 11:00am	⊞ Birthday - Archana ⊞ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI MAHALAKSHMI ゼ □
Sat Mar 26	All day	⊕ Birthday - Archana
Sun Mar 27	All day	⊕ Birthday - Archana
Mon Mar 28	10:00am – 10:45am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI NITHYA SUNDARESHWARAR AND SRI ANNAPOORNESHWARI - Bala's house 🔯 📮
Tue Mar 29	10:00am – 11:00am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI SIDDHI VINAYAGAR 🔯 📮
Wed Mar 30	All day	⊕ Birthday - Archana
Fri Apr 1	All day 10:00am – 11:00am	⊞ Birthday - Archana ⊞ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI MAHALAKSHMI ゼ □
Mon Apr 4	10:00am – 10:45am	Balshekam for SRI NITHYA SUNDARESHWARAR AND SRI ANNAPOORNESHWARI - Bala's house □
Tue Apr 5	10:00am – 11:00am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI SIDDHI VINAYAGAR 🔯 📮
Fri Apr 8	10:00am – 11:00am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI MAHALAKSHMI 💆 🗈
Sat Apr 9	All day	⊕ Birthday - Archana
Mon Apr 11	10:00am – 10:45am	Bala's house □
Tue Apr 12	All day 10:00am – 11:00am	⊕ Birthday - Archana ⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI SIDDHI VINAYAGAR ◘ □
Fri Apr 15	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 over whelmed by her grace and benevolence, we have come to gether 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 Bathilkal, 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

Bala and Rajiv

P. Narayanan and Saroja

Vasu and Latha Chakravarthy

Thangam and Siddaiyan

Shruthi Muralidharan

Dev Iyengar

Krishna.M.K

Vignesh Raghuram

Rishi Vaidhyanath

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