

BALAVIN KURAL

Balambika Divya Sangam



Editor's Desk...

In this era of science and technology, where our life and style is engulfed by gigs and gadgets, we believe that everything has a scientific meaning. But we sometimes think about our ancient heritage - held unblemished and pure, and wonder about the myths and legends that we have heard since our childhood years. We never questioned about the multi-headed *rakshasa*, or the magical chariots. We believed and accepted them and cherished these stories within ourselves. But nowadays, our children are not as gullible, or more appropriately, as naïve and accepting as we were. They flood us with questions, and sometimes, leave us feeling a little curious about the scientific explanation behind the stories. In an attempt to find answers to their ceaseless array of questions, the need had come to dig out the truth behind those tales and come back armed and equipped with retorts. After much research, the reality was that all those tales indeed had a logical explanation... just as there is no smoke without fire, there is no legend without science. Our rich Hindu heritage has never strayed from the path of science. Science is the way of life, be it back in the age of the dinosaurs, or be it in the future age of star wars.

Let us explore some simple examples: Even today, in most households, elderly women in the position of aunts and grandmas have always resorted to some form of ayurvedic 'kai vaidyam', or in other words, a handy home remedy to cure aches, cuts and colds, and not to forget, some really effective beauty creams! Quite surprisingly, they have worked and left us wondering how. Our astrologers have used fingers and their

memory power to compute not just horoscopes, but the *panchangam* for the next several centuries. How? On a more spiritual plane, there is the question of why the famous Dasha Avatars of Lord Vishnu had to reincarnate in those specific life forms. Instead of accepting and moving on, we have attempted to dig a little into the fossils of time, put the pieces together and present the facts to the next generation, so that the intrinsic value in these 'myths' is not lost in the questioning minds of our youth.

In this newsletter, we have put together a few articles that bring a breath of fresh air to our thinking minds. **Thirugnana Sambandar...** the great *nayanmar's* experience with Goddess Periyannayaki in the spiritual town of Thiruvengadu, has been vividly portrayed and expressed, leaving one mesmerized with the narrative. We are also featuring the 'Who am I?' series of clever questions, which will leave you guessing as to who the great personality is! A **snippet of the science** behind several myths has also been tossed in to feed our intellect. Don't miss Bala's inspirational role in the composition of 'En paadal Unaithaane...', which will surely keep the young and the old praying for chocolates!! This year **Bala's birthday falls on the 21st of May** and is going to be celebrated in splendor and style at Malur. Of course, do stay tuned and informed about our Sangam's ever-growing list of ways to deliver, through sarvejana sukhinobhavanthu.



Mrs. Asha Manoharan
President—BDS

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Bala Speaks...



Anger is a blanket provided by impatience and sadness. It doesn't solve your problems, it only makes matters worse. Never talk to anyone when you are angry, it abuses a person mentally, which leaves a scar that never heals. When anger is in motion, walk away. It is like a wild lion, fierce but controllable, so get rid of it as soon as it is formed, otherwise it will burn you and the people whom you love.

Special Pooja & Events

- ◆ The monthly Pournami pooja and Dolai Utsavam will be organized on May 21st.
- ◆ Sanchara Dolai Utsavam will be performed on one Saturday in May (date to be finalized) at a village near Malur.
- ◆ Bala's birthday would be celebrated at Malur on May 21st at Tirumala Choultry.



The 21st of May, is a very special day of this year. It is Sri Bala's Birthday. On this day, Moon will be in its full vigour and the Vishakam star will shine brightly signifying Ambal's Birthday. The Pooja will be performed on this day to free all of us from our past karmas and spread happiness and peace to the world. The Poojas and celebrations will take place in Tirumala Choultry - Malur, from 3.00 pm to 7.00 pm.

Program Details for Dolai and Pournami Pooja:
(3:00 pm to 5:00 pm)

- ◆ Poorna Kumbha Swagatham for Ambal
- ◆ Archanai Seva (Kunkumarchanai) by all the devotees
- ◆ Bala Bhajans by BDS Group and all other devotees
- ◆ Pournami Pooja
- ◆ Dampatti and Sumangali Poojai
- ◆ Kanya Poojai will be performed to all children present at the venue
- ◆ Mangalarati

Program Details for Bala's Birthday celebrations:
(5:30 pm to 7:00 pm)

- ◆ Assemble all the children for the celebrations
- ◆ Display of all the gifts given to Bala by her devotees
- ◆ Cultural Events by the children of Malur/Bangalore
- ◆ Cake cutting celebrations
- ◆ Distribute gifts to all the children at the venue
- ◆ Prasadam viniyogam



WAYS TO PARTICIPATE:

You can come to Malur and volunteer in,

- ⇒ Decoration of the venue
- ⇒ Other arrangements and co-ordination
- ⇒ Preparation of the Prasadam

WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE:

- ◆ Dolai Sponsor: Rs. 5000/-
- ◆ Pournami Pooja: Rs. 1000/-
- ◆ Ambal Pattu Pavadai : Rs. 1000/-

- ◆ Prasadam: Rs. 500/-
- ◆ Dampatti Pooja : Rs. 250/-
- ◆ Kanya Pooja : Rs. 250/-
- ◆ Sumangali Pooja: Rs. 250/-
- ◆ Archanai with Sankalpam: Rs. 250/-
- ◆ Abhishekham : Rs.250/-
- ◆ Offer flowers : Rs. 50/-
- ◆ Cake Sponsor: Rs.1000/-
- ◆ Gifts for children: Rs.50/-per gift

Those who want to contribute /participate for the Pooja 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 Srinivas-9902703113

You can E-mail us at Balambika.events@gmail.com

For online contributions- 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".

Down Memory Lane

By Smt. Asha Manoharan

Background behind the song *En Paadal Unaithane...*

This was a song which was composed many years ago, under a very playful circumstance.

It was a bright summer morning, the sun was gleaming because it had just won a fight with the clouds, but none were happy because of its scorching heat.

I stepped into the garden to get flowers for the morning puja, when I heard the gate opening. I went to see who it was.

My niece came running towards me with a big smile. I was so happy to see her and took her in my arms and kissed her on her cheeks. A very simple, adorable child who is very playful and energetic. I love her so much that sometimes, she refuses to go back to Chennai, where her parents live. My aunt came smiling towards me and I dropped my niece and took the bag from my aunt and asked her the pleasantries.

I called out to my mom who came out to greet my aunt and kissed my niece and took her in. As they went in talking, my little niece took my hand and both of us went to the garden again and started plucking flowers.

She took the flower basket from me and ran inside the puja room and placed it near the puja shelf. I lit the lamp and placed the flowers at the altar and my niece whispered in my ears, "What are you doing?" I whispered back, "I am praying." She giggled and said loudly, "Why do we pray?" I said, "Ambal will give you what you want." She was so excited at that and said, "Ok, can I pray?" I replied, "Yes, close your eyes and ask what you want?" The little one closed her eyes and said, "Umachi (mother), can you come and give a big fat chocolate now?" Saying, she opened her eyes and quickly added, "Why is She not giving me what I want?"

I smiled and took her on my lap and said, "Close your eyes, and let both of us pray." Saying, I sang the song "En padal unaithane..."

My wonderful Bala appeared with a big chocolate and a big smile.

My niece was overjoyed at the chocolate, Bala asked her if she wants to play. The little child nodded. As Bala went past me, She remarked, "I like the song and its creator, save this for another day." Saying, She walked away with my niece chattering...

என் பாடல் உனைத்தானே

என் பாடல் உனைத்தானே அழைக்கின்றது
என் உள்ளம் உனைத்தானே கேட்கின்றது...

(என் பாடல்)

என் பாடல் தான் கேட்கின்றதா
என் மனது தான் புரிக்கின்றதா, தாயே.....

(என் பாடல்)

புன்னகை புரியும் அமுதே, ஈரேழு புவனம் உனதே
ஆகிலாண்ட நாயகி நீயே, வருவாய் நீயும் இங்கே தாயே....

(என் பாடல்)

கற்பகம் வெல்லும் கொடையே, கருணை கடலின் ஒளியே
அடியவர் தொழும் நிலவே, என்னை ஆளும் அருளே தாயே.....

(என் பாடல்)

உயிரினை காக்கும் உயிரே, ஊதியம் அளிக்கும் உயர்வே,
செல்வம் வழங்கும் செல்வியே, தரணியை ஆளும் தரணியே தாயே.....

(என் பாடல்)

நீரிலும் நெருப்பிலும் இருப்பாய், என் உடலிலும் உயிரிலும் கலப்பாய்
மனதினில் இன்பம் அளிப்பாய், தேடியே வரவும் செய்வாய் தாயே...

(என் பாடல்)

என் பாடல் தான் கேட்கின்றதா
என் மனது தான் புரிக்கின்றதா, தாயே.....

EN PAADAL UNAITHANE

En paadal unaithane azhaikkinrathu
 En ullam unaithane ketkinrathu
 En paadal unaithane azhaikkinrathu
 En ullam unaithane ketkinrathu

En paadal than ketkinratha
 En manathu than purikinratha, thaaye.....

En paadal unaithane azhaikkinrathu
 En ullam unaithane ketkinrathu

Punnagai puriyum amuthe, eerezhu bhuvanam unathe
 Akilanda naayaki neeye, varuvaai neeyum inge thaaye.....

En paadal unaithane azhaikkinrathu
 En ullam unaithane ketkinrathu

Karpagam vellum kodaiyae, karunai kadalin oliye
 Adiyavar thozhvim nilave, ennai aalum arule thaaye.....

En paadal unaithane azhaikkinrathu
 En ullam unaithane ketkinrathu

Uyirinai kaakkum uyire, oothiyam alikkum uyarve
 Selvam vazhangum selviye, tharaniyai aalum tharaniye thaaaye.....

En paadal unaithane azhaikkinrathu
 En ullam unaithane ketkinrathu

Neerilum neruppilum iruppai, enudalilum uyirilum kalappai
 Manathinil inbam alippai, thediye varavum seivaai thaaye.....

En paadal unaithane azhaikkinrathu
 En ullam unaithane ketkinrathu
 En paadal unaithane azhaikkinrathu
 En ullam unaithane ketkinrathu

En paadal than ketkinratha
 En manathu than purikinratha thaaye.....

ಯೆನ್ನ ಪಾಡಲ್ ಉನ್ನೆತ್ತಾನೇ

ಯೆನ್ನ ಪಾಡಲ್ ಉನ್ನೆತ್ತಾನೇ ಅಳೆಕಿಂತ್ರದು

ಯೆನ್ನ ಉಳ್ಳಮ್ ಉನ್ನೆತ್ತಾನೇ ಕೇಕಿಂತ್ರದು

(ಯೆನ್ನ ಪಾಡಲ್)

ಯೆನ್ನ ಪಾಡಲ್ ತಾನ್ ಕೇಟ್ಟಿಂತ್ರದಾ

ಯೆನ್ನ ಮನತು ತಾನ್ ಪುರಿಕಿಂತ್ರದಾ, ತಾಯೇ...

(ಯೆನ್ನ ಪಾಡಲ್)

ಪುನ್ನಗೈ ಪುರಿಯುಮ್ ಅಮುದೇ, ಈರೇಳು ಭುವನಮ್ ಉನದೇ

ಅಕಿಲಾಂಡ ನಾಯಕಿ ನೀಯೇ, ವರುವಾಯ್ ನೀಯುಮ್ ಇಂಗೇ ತಾಯೇ...

(ಯೆನ್ನ ಪಾಡಲ್)

ಕರ್ಪಗಮ್ ವೆಳ್ಳುಮ್ ಕೊಡಿಯೇ, ಕರುಣೈ ಕಡಲಿನ್ ಒಳಿಯೇ

ಅಡಿಯವರ್ ತೋಳುಮ್ ನಿಲವೇ, ಯೆನ್ನೈ ಆಳುಮ್ ಅರುಳ ತಾಯೇ...

(ಯೆನ್ನ ಪಾಡಲ್)

ಉಯಿರಿನ್ನೈ ಕಾಕ್ಕುಮ್ ಉಯಿರೇ, ಉದಿಯಮ್ ಅಳಿಕ್ಕುಮ್ ಉಯವೇ

ಸೆಲ್ವಮ್ ವಳಂಗುಮ್ ಸೆಲ್ವಿಯೇ, ತರನಿಯೈ ಆಳುಮ್ ತರನಿಯೇ ತಾಯೇ...

(ಯೆನ್ನ ಪಾಡಲ್)

ನೀರಿಲ್ಲಮ್ ನೆರುಪ್ಪಿಲ್ಲಂ ಇರುಪ್ಪಾಯ್, ಯೆನ್ನ ಉಡಲಿಲುಮ್ ಉಯಿರಿಲುಮ್ ಕಲಪ್ಪಾಯ್

ಮನದಿನಿಲ್ಲ ಇನ್ನಮ್ ಅಳಿಪ್ಪಾಯ್, ತೇಡಿಯೇ ವರವುಮ್ ಸೆಯಿವಾಯ್ ತಾಯೇ...

ಯೆನ್ನ ಪಾಡಲ್ ಉನ್ನೆತ್ತಾನೇ ಅಳೆಕಿಂತ್ರದು

ಯೆನ್ನ ಉಳ್ಳಮ್ ಉನ್ನೆತ್ತಾನೇ ಕೇಕಿಂತ್ರದು

(ಯೆನ್ನ ಪಾಡಲ್)

యెన్న పాడల్ ఉనైత్తానె అళైకిండ్రదు

యెన్న పాడల్ ఉనైత్తానె అళైకిండ్రదు
యెన్న ఉళ్ళం ఉనైత్తానె కేకిండ్రదు
(యెన్న పాడల్)

యెన్న పాడల్ తాన్ కేట్కిండ్రదా
యెన్న మనతు తాన్ పురికిండ్రదా తాయే...
(యెన్న పాడల్)

పున్నగై పురియుం అముదే, ఈరేళు భువనం ఉనదే
అకిలాండ నాయకి నీయే, వరువాయ్ నీయుం ఇంగే తాయే...
(యెన్న పాడల్)

కర్వగం వెళ్ళుం కొడియే కరుణై కడలిన్ ఒళియే
అడియవర్ తోళుం నిలవే, యెన్నై ఆళుం అరుళ తాయే...
(యెన్న పాడల్)

ఉయిరినై కాక్కుం ఉయిరే, ఊదియం అళిక్కుం ఉయర్వే
సెల్యం వళంగుం సెల్వీయే, తరనియై ఆళుం తరనియే తాయే...
(యెన్న పాడల్)

నీరిల్లుం నెరుప్పిల్లుం ఇరుప్పాయ్, యెన్న ఉడలిలుం ఉయిరిలుం కలప్పాయ్
మనదినిల్ ఇన్బం అళిప్పాయ్, తేడియే వరవుం సెయివాయ్ తాయే...
(యెన్న పాడల్)

యెన్న పాడల్ ఉనైత్తానె అళైకిండ్రదు
యెన్న ఉళ్ళం ఉనైత్తానె కేకిండ్రదు
యెన్న పాడల్ తాన్ కేట్కిండ్రదా
యెన్న మనతు తాన్ పురికిండ్రదా తాయే...

Pillai Idukki Amman

By Thulasinathan Kandasamy

They both were in deep *dhyān*. Shanti...silence...peace...

At some point in time, now what? The lady just woke up from *dhyān* and looked at the side to see the one with three eyes still in *dhyān*. She was wondering what is He meditating on. She looked into His 3rd eye and somehow felt that He is not in His regular meditative state. Normally, Shiva's meditation would be deep and unmoving.

She realised that Her chest was rising and falling much faster than usual, this would normally happen when someone is in trouble. Someone was calling Her. Though She has thousands of names, this time it was not one of those, this name was more sweeter to Her than Her other names (which are also honeylike).

She sensed that this is from planet Earth. This call is from the same boy who also got the milk of wisdom from Her. Though She is Unnamulaiyal/Abithakujambal, She blessed this child before. This time also, the call was with a crying tone. Amma...Amma...Amma... She was wondering with Her protection around, nothing can happen to that boy and why is he crying now.

She looked into his head to see what he is seeing. She realized that the child is seeing the place where he stands as Shivalogam and also, everything around him looked like Shivalingams. So many tiny lingams spread across everywhere, that the child didn't have a place to put his feet on. For he didn't like to step on the Shivalingam. She realized who is doing the mischief. By this time, She walked past Shiva and without turning to look at Him, She knew that there would be that familiar playful smile on His lips.

She turned around and confirmed that. While He was still in the meditative posture, She made a fist in the air and swiftly moved it, as though She was going to (playfully) punch His face. The smile on Shiva's face widened. However, He didn't open His eyes.

She just took one step and went near the child in Thiruvengadu. The child was together with disciples and devotees. Suddenly, things changed in that environment. The flowers were blooming, though it was not the season for them. The green surroundings looked greener. There was a gentle breeze. Everyone felt peace. Suddenly, they saw the child Thirugnana Sambandar raised from the ground, well above their heads and started moving in the air. They were wondering how Sambandar was able to fly. However, it didn't look like flying. It looked more like someone, maybe a tall lady was carrying the child on the hip. They couldn't see who it was though.

She crossed Thiruvengadu and left the child Sambandar in the border. There is still a statue of the Goddess in the temple, called Pillai Idukki Amman.

Demystifying Science...

All of us have, at some point in our growing years, been exposed to stories of avatars of Gods and Goddesses. In the famous Dasha Avatars of Lord Vishnu, He reincarnates in different forms - from a fish, a turtle, a boar, a half-man half-lion, to the final stage of a human. Basically these avatars have actually depicted the evolution of life on this Earth! Let us begin with Matsya Avatar. Matsya avatar portrays the beginning of life forms on Earth, which started in water. Koorma Avatar - the turtle, depicts the adaptation of life in both land and water. The advent of the mammal stage - Varaha, illustrates the advancement of life forms into the next phase, not only in terms of habitat, but also the progression from egg-laying creatures to mammals. Narasimha Avatar - the half man half lion, beautifully describes the transition from animal to man.

The subsequent avatars show how man himself has evolved from the small statured Vamana, to the more developed Parashurama, followed by the perfect man in Lord Rama, progressing through to the intellectually enlightened Lord Krishna, and the yet to come Kalki Avatar. This clearly elucidates how we have come a long way, not just in terms of the physically and structurally visible aspect of evolution, but also how the mind has progressed over the ages. Through the Dasha Avatars, our scriptures silently explain the evolution of man to his intellectually advanced form that exists today. Indeed, science strongly supports our legendary stories, and we should be proud of them!



2016-04-15: Dholai at Rama-Hanuman temple, Malur



Who am I?

1. I was born on 22nd December, 1887 in Erode, Madras Presidency.
2. I mastered a book on Advanced Trigonometry by the age of 13.
3. At the age of 16, I stumbled upon a book titled "A Synopsis of Elementary Results in Pure and Applied Mathematics" - which changed the course of my life.
4. I failed in most of my subjects in college, save Mathematics.
5. In the year 1909, I suffered from a serious health complication, but my family could not afford the surgery to remedy it. Finally, a doctor volunteered to do it for free.
6. In early 1912, I managed to get a temporary job at the Madras Accountant General's office, with a salary of 20 rupees per month.
7. I travelled to England in the year 1914.
8. I collaborated with G.H. Hardy - an English mathematician at Cambridge.
9. I was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree by Research for my work on 'Highly Composite Number'.
10. My mentor and colleague Hardy once exclaimed about me - "He can only be compared with Euler or Jacobi".
11. I always credited my acumen to the blessings of my family Goddess, Mahalakshmi of Namakkal.
12. At the age of 31, I became a Fellow of the Royal Society - one of the youngest in its history.
13. Plagued with health problems and alien weather conditions, I returned to India in 1919.
14. During my short lifetime (untimely death at the age of 32), I compiled nearly 3900 results (mostly identities and equations).
15. The number 1729 was associated with one of my famous anecdotes.
16. My birthday is celebrated as National Mathematics Day in India.
17. Recently, a biopic titled "The Man Who Knew Infinity" was released.

Srinivasa Ramanujan

was a mathematical genius from South India, who did some exemplary work in the field of Number Theory, Infinite Series and Continued Fractions. Ironically, he had no formal training in pure Mathematics. He braved so many health hardships and economic adversaries to finally stamp his authority in the world of Mathematics. He continues to be a big source of inspiration to many from this country, who strive to walk in his footsteps.



2016-04-30: Lalitha Sahasranamam, R.R Nagar, B'lore



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.

*mahālakṣmīḥ mahāśaktiḥ mahāvidyā svarūpiṇī /
maheśvarī mahānandā mahānanda vidhāyinī //*

Mahalakshmi: one who provides good fortune

The word Mahalakshmi strikes a bell as giver of money and riches. God is not an ATM and Her blessings are just not about money and wealth.

The subject of blessing and good fortune is always thought to go hand in hand. Some of us think, that if we put in the right amount of prayer, praise, worship, faith and good work - out comes the blessing of Ambal, and with Her blessing comes money. Blessing and good fortune is more than that.

Blessing and good fortune is all about peace and prosperity. Ambal thoughts concerning peace and good fortune is much higher than you imagine.

It is Her desire to bring peace and prosperity by giving you Her,

1. Favour
2. Grace
3. Protection

let us look at them one by one.

Favour: Is to afford you with comfort of joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm and loveliness. She is like the big fat hen which keeps her chick under her wings.

Grace: To lead very joyous life you need Her grace; you don't need money to have Her grace. You may have a lot of money, if your children are irresponsible or your parents are always sick and unhappy, if your wife is whiny, can you be happy? She chose you not because of what you are or who you are, only because she loves you.

Protection: She is the protector of this Universe. She protects you every day, from every trap. She is like the army at the borders, who fights for us every day without we knowing about it, but the battle goes on; she fights the enemies like that.

Ambal has not promised to protect you from everyone you might define as your enemy, but she has promised to protect you from the ultimate enemy - your sinful deeds, because they are the ones which pushes you into rebirth again and again, deterring you from dissolving into the Maha Supreme.

Since she provides these kavasam she is deliberately Mahalakshmi.

Mahasakthi: super power

Ambal is the superpower of this Universe. Her power is seen in our own galaxy. The amount of power displayed in the sky is overwhelming. The Sun lights our days so we can see nature all around us. Even the visually impaired can feel the warmth.

It is our Mahasakthi's law of physics, that visible light is the best energy for chemical reactions related to the different processes in life. It is also the foundation of all food chains on Earth. Here powers have extended wonders, great and small, that we observe in our awesome Universe.

Power of Ambal is unlimited.

Many of us want to understand her ways, her work, her divinity etc., For example, the oceans are immensely abundant source of water, but a tanker has only limited capacity to take on its water. Like that we have only limited capacity to take God's power. What is limited here is the capacity of the tanker, not the water in the ocean.

She has such tremendous amount of energy which she uses only for productive purposes, not for destruction. When I say that I hear you murmuring about the natural calamities, is it not destruction?

I would say No.

Look at man made disasters and God sent. Look at Hiroshima disaster created by man, the place cannot be fertile again. But on the other hand, look at volcanic eruption - it enriches the soil and breathes new life into people.

Think about any natural happenings, they all end up being productive and more productive.

Mahavidya: super knowledge

Knowledge of Ambal is the foundation of all true education and all true services. This is the only one which safe guards us against temptation.

To achieve this we need to do the following:

1. Transformation of character
2. Purity of life
3. Efficiency in service
4. Adherence to correct principles

Let us see how each of the term can help,

1. Transformation of character:

We need to transform our character to understand Her ways, to enjoy the freedom of joy, to experience true holiness and righteousness. That is what we symbolically do when we visit the temple: we adhere to dress code, we walk long distances, we take special items as offerings, we are offering it to Ambal to let her know we are ready to transform ourselves to know Her.

2. Purity of life:

Leading a disciplined life is a must for every individual to lead a harmonious existence within the family and with the society. For example, if a person is filled with vices like telling lies or immersing themselves in bad habits, gambling, drinking, shouting, screaming etc., - then they cannot earn respect from others within the family and outside the family. We purify ourselves through vrathas and nombus to assure ourselves that we can get rid of the vices, that it is within our reach.

3. Efficiency in service:

This is all about karma yoga. To do one's work, big or small, with utmost dedication. This is demonstrated in our daily rituals like taking bath in the mornings, praying to god after bath, doing our poojas both morning and evening etc.,

4. Adherence to correct principles:

To reach Ambal this quality is very important. We should test ourselves to see whether we can get over temptations, understand the concept of dharma and detach ourselves when we come in contact with adharma. This constant examination by us will help in moving or adhering to the path of dharma always. Dharma does not change, but it depends on the view point we take. That is why some of our festivals are based on the concept of good over evil, be it Navarathri or Deepavali.

When we follow the above principles, it automatically leads us to the Maha knowledge which is Ambal herself. The above mentioned points destroy our ignorance. When ignorance is lifted, Ambal appears as Mahavidya. So dispel ignorance and get prepared to receive Ambal as Mahavidya.

Svarupini: one who represents our own form

Ambal is represented in two forms,

1. Cosmic form
2. Human form

The cosmic form is described by great sages and rishis like Veda Vyasa in Devi Gita. The human form is explained by great poets, old and new alike.

Varuguna Pandiyan (16th Century) wrote Ambigai Malai; Abhirami Bhattar (18th Century) - Abhirami Anthathi; Adi Shankaracharya (8th Century) wrote Soundarya Lahiri and the list goes on.

Here, I am tempted to quote a tamil poem on Bala Tripurasundari whose translation is as follows:

"Dressed in red, wearing a half moon on Her hair, shining like the morning sun, holding a spatika mala, book, and seated in a abhaya vajra posture on an opened red lotus, is Bala Tripurasundari on whom I meditate."

Siddhas like Konkanar and Karuvurar were Ambal devotees. Konkanar worshipped Ambal in the form of Valai Ambigai (Bala Tripurasundari). The siddhas who practiced medicine and alchemy worshipped Bala Tripurasundari and even named the process of distilling medicine as valai, after the Goddess Bala.

Konkanar has sung a poem on valai, which is called Valaikummi in 110 verses in Kummi Metre. Ambal has been revered in human form throughout history.

Why does She appear in human form?

1. Ambal the Mother, responds to the calls of Her devotees. It is a part of Her energy that descends on Earth, which is as powerful, as graceful, as loving as Her. Ambal Herself doesn't come down because the energy level is so high that mankind cannot stand before it. It is like the sun. You cannot go near it, but its rays are important for everyday life. It is like that.
2. When man starts to disconnect with Ambal by not trusting or listening to Her, She descends down in human form to get reconnected to mankind.
3. Ambal has given humanity a special place in Her creation. Our duty is to bring peace and harmony in conjunction with Her creation. When we fail to do this, She appears in human form to direct us into that path.
4. Her love for mankind is so divine and amazing that She descends down only to give Her love and take our love, even though we are unaware of it.

Mahesvari: consort of Shiva

Ambal in Mahesvari form is the destroyer of greed.

Greed is both biological and social based. Greed is nothing but excess desire for resources; excessive in possessing something to such a degree that is harmful. For example, excessive drinking of alcohol leads to liver diseases. Excessive eating leads to obesity. These are harmful to the individual self biologically.

The next question is how could desire for wealth be harmful?

Greed is a trait of an individual. It makes him fight for food, shelter and space, and it was an instinct for survival. But it is bad for a society, because God has created everything to be shared equally; be it water, air, food, space etc.

So here some is best, more is less better, and too much is greed.

1. We need only 5 or 6 feet to sleep and lesser space when we walk around. Even when we are dead, we need only that much of space or no space at all.
2. Though Ambal has created a body with 66% of water, a person can drink only 6 litres of water per day, beyond that it leads to rehydration death.
3. Average man needs only 2500 calories of energy per day.
4. He needs only 6000 ml of air to fill his lungs.

So during creation, this is the standard that Ambal has set. So why do we need more?

Accumulation of wealth is nothing but greed, and it restricts and depletes natural resources. For example, a person needs only one house to live in. If he has more than one, he is depriving someone of a home. So to build more houses, we need to destroy forests and farm lands to build more houses, which leads to shortage of grain crops, in turn leading to shortage of food, which leads to famine and poverty. So an individual's greed becomes a social issue.

So Mahesvari destroys this greed by instilling the feeling of satisfaction, both biologically and socially, thereby removing the pains of karma not only from us, but also ensuring greater good to the society.

Maha Nanda: one who bestows great happiness

First of all let us look at happiness. Happiness according to a psychologist is associated with extraversion and low neuroticism.

Extraversion and its emotions, such as happiness is mediated by a brain chemical called Dopamine, which is produced in response to evidence, that progress is being made towards a valuable goal and which reinforces the systems of perception, thought and action that brings about a desired end.

Basically people live under two assumptions:

1. Being happy is my goal.
2. I will be happy, if my desires are fulfilled (if my needs are met).

These two driving motives have made them the most unhappy and unfulfilled people on earth. Why? Because these two innocent assumptions are not the ways of Ambal.

When you ask for these two things, She will help you gather and accumulate - but only to hand it over to the one who follows Her ways.

People believe that fulfillment is joy. Fulfillment comes from alternate lifestyles, partying, cheating and other activities that may promote it. Ambal's ways can be none of these. Her ways doesn't give joy to the body, it gives joy and happiness only to

the soul.

So instead of running around to make sense of your life, why don't you submit your life to Ambal and walk with Her humbly. If you allow yourself to be transformed in mind and heart, you will start appreciating the gift of happiness that comes from Ambal. I know it is not easy, but honesty, patience and endurance will help you get nearer to Her; the happiness which you get out of it is Maha Nanda.

Vidhayini: one who radiates knowledge

Ambal radiates knowledge to mankind, which otherwise is called the grace of God.

Ambal allegedly out of love forgives man, if he regrets for his mistakes.

This attitude however, mistakes Ambal's love for weakness and completely denies the divine justice.

According to the law of reciprocal action, everything good or bad returns back to man. Nothing can be forgiven, but all must be paid back.

You may ask me, when Ambal has forgiven me, why not divine justice?

The reason is when a person commits a mistake and regrets in a couple of minutes, he thereby considers the whole thing terminated. He does not try to make any effort to change his inner self.

Why would he do it? After all, he was told to only regret and say a few prayers as a sign of regret and the grace of Ambal would put everything back in order.

The real change should come from within us, not within our thoughts. Regretful thoughts are too shallow to touch the spirit and change something at the level of human nature. If you want to change, you have to feel the disharmony inside you, in your heart. It is not enough that you know you acted improperly, you should feel so deeply, so truly, that you will never be able to do it again, only then will Ambal's grace work.

This law is seen in the material world also:

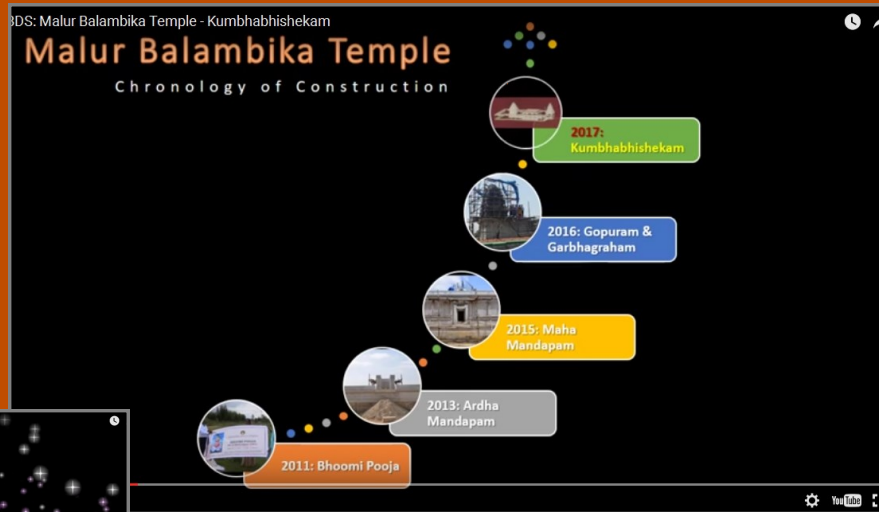
1. You cannot drill a hole in water.
2. You cannot bend an iron rod by blowing air through it.
3. You cannot catch radio waves with a butterfly.

The law also applies to the spiritual realm.

This is the knowledge that Ambal imparts and hence, She is rightly called Vidhayini.

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...

Mon May 16	10:00am – 10:45am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI NITHYA SUNDARESHWARAR AND SRI ANNAPOORNESHWARI - Bala's house ☐
Tue May 17	10:00am – 11:00am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI SIDDHI VINAYAGAR ☐
Fri May 20	10:00am – 11:00am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI MAHALAKSHMI ☐
Sat May 21	5:30pm – 7:00pm 3:00pm – 5:00pm	⊕ Bala's Birthday Celebration - Tirumala Choultry, Malur ⊕ Pournami Pooja and Dholai - Tirumala Choultry, Malur
Mon May 23	10:00am – 10:45am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI NITHYA SUNDARESHWARAR AND SRI ANNAPOORNESHWARI - Bala's house ☐
Tue May 24	10:00am – 11:00am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI SIDDHI VINAYAGAR ☐
Fri May 27	10:00am – 11:00am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI MAHALAKSHMI ☐
Mon May 30	10:00am – 10:45am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI NITHYA SUNDARESHWARAR AND SRI ANNAPOORNESHWARI - Bala's house ☐
Tue May 31	10:00am – 11:00am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI SIDDHI VINAYAGAR ☐
Fri Jun 3	10:00am – 11:00am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI MAHALAKSHMI ☐
Mon Jun 6	10:00am – 10:45am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI NITHYA SUNDARESHWARAR AND SRI ANNAPOORNESHWARI - Bala's house ☐
Tue Jun 7	10:00am – 11:00am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI SIDDHI VINAYAGAR ☐
Fri Jun 10	10:00am – 11:00am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI MAHALAKSHMI ☐
Mon Jun 13	10:00am – 10:45am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI NITHYA SUNDARESHWARAR AND SRI ANNAPOORNESHWARI - Bala's house ☐
Tue Jun 14	10:00am – 11:00am	⊕ ABISHEKAM FOR SRI BALAMBIKA AND SRI SIDDHI VINAYAGAR ☐

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

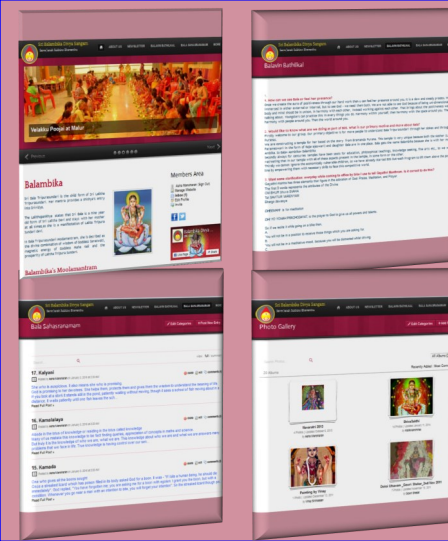
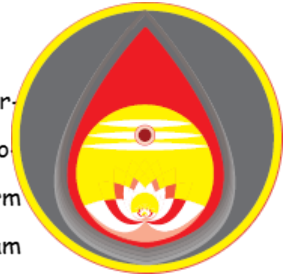
BDS Outreach:

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

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

Padma
Sundararajan
Rajiv Vaidyanath
Varadarajan
Rohit Chakravarthy
Sasikala

Sponsor's Corner

Pournami Pooja Sponsors

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