



Balavín Kural

BALAMBIKA DIVYA SANGAM
JANUARY 2012 VOL 1 ISSUE 9

Editorial Board

Mrs. Asha Manoharan

Mrs. Latha Chakravarthy

Mr. Ramesh Chakravarthy

Mr. Raghu Ranganathan

TEMPLE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

- The groundwork for the Garbhagruham has commenced, and 7 feet has been excavated for this purpose.
- The markings for the Mahamandapam were corrected, and associated groundwork has been initiated.
- Temple architect Muthiah Sthapathi visited the temple site to assess the construction progress, and ascertained that the markings are accurate.
- A signboard displaying details about the ongoing Temple construction has been designed and mounted at the temple site.
- The wiring for the fence has commenced.
- The construction of the sump has been completed.
- Construction of a Yagashala is being planned for performing future homams and poojas.
- Temporary electricity connection has been obtained.

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Upcoming religious events:

Bala Sahasranamam parayanam on February 4th, at 3:00 PM at Bala's residence

Contact: myyasundar@gmail.com

Bala Sahasranamam parayanam on February 4th at 5:30 PM at Chakravarthy residence in Ohio, USA.

Contact: 95chikki@gmail.com

Lalitha Sahasranamam parayanam at Anuradha Srinivasan's residence, Chicago, USA

Contact: asriniv65@gmail.com

Abishekam will be performed for the Dolai Utsava murthy on Tuesdays/Fridays. Devotees who are interested please contact Shashikala Venkatesh (9886895627).

Veda and Tamil online class will start soon. Please do contact us for registration and further information.

Dear Readers,

***“It is not enough to take steps which may some day lead to a goal;
each step must be itself a goal and a step likewise.”***

On this wondrous occasion of completing an eventful year filled with celebrations, achievements, and milestones, I would like to share my thoughts and spend a few moments recollecting and reminiscing over our accomplishments and thank all those who have joined hands to help us come this far. As we step into the new year, let us take stock of the previous year so that we can march forward with confidence knowing fully well that we are moving in the right direction.

2011 was a very productive year. The year started with the planning of the archanas for families of devotees, who have been very generous in their contribution. The archanas are being performed regularly, and the prasadam have been handed over to the families personally during visits, or otherwise by post. The Tamil new year was celebrated with gaiety, followed by Bala's birthday which was planned and executed by the devotees in Bangalore with the help of the trustees. I extend my heart felt appreciation to the energetic Bangalore division members.

The next big event was the Lalitha Homam which was celebrated with pomp and show. This grand affair was completely sponsored by the devotees and my heart goes out to all those who contributed towards this affair. It is the devotees support and co-operation which is stirring us forward on this wonderful journey. The Bhoomi pooja was also performed along with these festivities and we successfully laid the foundation stone for the temple which is to be built at Malur. The trustees were like the gem stone in the crown, which made the event all the more colourful. Thanks to all of them!

Every organization's spirit lies with its publication. Newsletter is the spirit and lamp of our organisation which is completely treasured by the editorial team who never fail to capture the moments of history and glory. We wanted to archive these moments and the newsletter is set on doing just that. With renewed spirits after the homam the editorial team came up with the brilliant idea of publishing literature which has never been published in five indian regional languages. The work is under way and I wish them every success.

The construction at Malur is under way and the dedicated construction team is right on schedule with the pace of the work well above the expected time line. I wish them all the best in their venture. The fund raising initiatives are in full swing and everyone is working very hard to achieve the targets set before them. The introduction of Dolai Utsavam has become an instant hit amongst the devotees and my sincere thanks to the Bangalore team. A committed and enthusiastic team is working on raising funds for book publications and CD'S. Thanks to them as well. With the goal of leaving no stone unturned in their efforts towards fund raising, the Chicago division deserves special acclaim for conducting a food drive amongst their many other fund raising initiatives.

It would be incomplete if we do not mention the fervent Bala Sahasranamam prayananam that is happening around the globe, which is another initiative taken up by the Sangam to energise the activities that we have been doing so far and the ones that will follow.

Now, as we step into 2012, we can beam with confidence that we have the agenda set with the online Sahasranamam prayananam and vedic classes coming up in January, along with publication of books and CD'S on Balambika. An intellectual once said, "Goals are the fuel in the furnace of achievement". So with goals set for this year, let me wish all of you a very a Happy New Year and a juicy Sankaranthi!

Asha Manoharan
President
Balambika Divya Sangam



Azhagin Azhagae.....

Mala was sitting on the steps of the 'teppakulam' at Akilandeswari kovil. Her thoughts were on Bala, and she was thinking about their unique relationship which gave her so much of joy, and above all, there was love, compassion and most importantly trust. Mala trusted Bala completely without a shadow of doubt. She would do anything for her without hesitation. Why? Mala had no answer. Bala was her hero. She had seen Bala in different circumstances; she was bubbly, loving, caring, compassionate, firm, angry, but one thing which puzzled Mala was, why was she so mysterious? She came when she liked, she disappeared for days and eventually come back as though nothing has happened. She was never apologetic for her actions which annoyed Mala but she liked her with all her heart. She was the only friend she had ever had..... she heard footsteps behind her and turned to see who it was and it was Bala, smiling and standing behind her!

"What are you thinking Mala? Is it about me?" Mala nodded. Bala twisted her mouth and with her index finger on her cheeks looked beyond, and with a wondering expression on her face stood thinking. Then with in a flash she said, "Yes I know." "What?" asked Mala. "You were thinking who I was, why I run away and never came for weeks...and why I am not apologetic when I don't come.... is that right?" said Bala. Mala was shocked! She jumped and said "Yes, how did you know that... Bala you are freaking me out....." Bala put her hand around her and said, "It is simple, this is what I will think when you leave me.....so it is not a great thing. Ok. Come on let us go. I wanted to show you something." They walked up the stairs, then turned right into the bazaar and quickly tackled the traffic as it was evening time with vegetable vendors trying to finish off their sales for the day. This bazaar had all sort of things, right from a 'bindi' shop to a jewellery shop! Bala was holding Mala's hand and struggled her way through the crowd looking now and then if she was ok. Mala kept pace with Bala and once out of the crowd Bala stopped and gave a sigh of relief. "Yes, we are out of that crowd. Now where....." asked Bala. Mala said "Home." "Yes..... lets go home."

When they reached home, the house was deserted. Mala went to Sarasu Aunty's house and asked for the keys. Sarasu Aunty gave her the keys and told her to stay indoors till her mom returned from the market. Mala nodded and opened the door. She called Bala inside and Bala step inside and looked around the house. Mala took her to her room and showed Bala her toys and her books. She took out her books and showed Bala a beautiful scenery which had nice lush green meadows with a beautiful cottage overlooking the meadows with the sheep grazing around. Mala liked this picture a lot and showed it to Bala and said, "Look at this! I wish I could be there one day....." Bala looked at her, "May your dreams come true!" saying which she laughed loudly.

Bala went from room to room and came back and said, "Mala, do you pray like how you used to?" Mala asked, "What pray? My mom does it...I don't. She tells me to only study. She says praying is for elders because they have so many things to ask God. I don't have any. So she said that I don't have to pray and she prays for me instead." Bala giggled, "Then why do you eat and sleep? Ask your mom to do it for you..." saying which she said "Come here, sit down." She went inside and got a glass of water, some flowers, cut fruits, kumkum, incense sticks and set it in front of Mala. Mala stopped her and asked, "Why are you doing this?" Bala looked at her and said, "I am going to teach you to pray." Mala said, "But why should I pray? I told you I have nothing to ask God." Bala replied. "Good! Then you should tell God.... You have given me everything, I have nothing to ask. Prayer is talking to God." Mala was puzzled. But she sat quietly wondering what Bala was going to ask her to do. "Bala don't bring the vighram of god here ok. My mom will not like it." "Ok. Then I will sit in front of you and you will do as you do

for the vigraham. Is that ok?" chipped Bala. Mala was perplexed but still nodded. Bala sat down on a 'manai' and looked at Mala. Mala was mesmerized! She saw Bala in a different form. Bala looked at her and said, "Ok. Think that I have come to your house as a guest. What will you do?" saying she looked at Mala. Mala looked at her, and she did whatever Bala asked her to do. Mala was spellbound with what she saw!

Bala sat there like a goddess! Mala went close to her and poured water and drenched her from head to toe. The water turned yellow on touching Bala! Then she took another container, and when she poured its contents, it turned to milk and she saw Bala enjoying it and in a distance Mala heard the ringing of bells and she could hear the chanting of vedas. She was dazzled by what she saw! The room filled with white light and the light shimmered on touching Bala. Bala glowed and her eyes were closed and Mala was astonished and dumb folded by what she saw. In a split second the whole room was covered with smoke and Bala sat there with a smile on her eyes. Bala looked like a princess. Bala said, "Sing in praise of me Mala." Mala was totally awed by Bala. She started singing "karpagavall in pourpathangal pedithey..." When she finished the song Bala opened her eyes and signalled to Mala to give her something to eat. Mala wonder struck, moved forward and gave her the fruits which were there, and Bala ate them from her hands. Bala's eyes glittered like two lotus flowers floating on water, her red lips twitched into a smile and her cheeks rounded up with that smile. Her fingers were so soft, and it looked as though they were dipped in milk and honey. Bala signalled to take arthi for her. Mala did as she was told. Mala felt that she had done all these things before! It felt strange, she could feel a tingling sensation run up her spine and she wanted to do more for her. Her eyes were filled with tears, watching Bala sit there with the abhayam posture waiting to be loved. Bala got up and came close to Mala, touched her shoulder and laughed. "What Mala, what happened?" Mala looked at her and said, "I felt as though I have known you for ages, and I have been doing this for ages, but I haven't done all this at any point in time!" Bala came close to her and said, "Yes you know me for a long time. I lost you in between and then I found you", saying she hugged Mala.

Mala could not make sense out of anything. As though understanding her confusion, Bala said, "Forget what you saw now, you will remember it when the time comes." saying she touched her forehead. Mala was dazed for a few minutes and then when she turned around she saw Bala and she couldn't remember a thing of what happened. "Ok. Mala your mom is coming, let me go." saying which Bala just walked away as if nothing had happened..... Mala stood bewildered.

Maaya Meluirvaal..... (Maaya will glitter)

The Spring of Divinity sprouts in Malur

Bhoomi Pooja of Malur Sri Balambika Temple

By Anthil Anbazhagan

It was the evening of August 23rd, when the Bali Pooja at the Malur temple site was scheduled to take place. The somber sun was heading down west when I advanced on the chequered road leading to Malur. This wasn't exactly my first foray to blessed land where Bala's temple was to spring up soon. The lush forest like greenery on either side was a welcome relief from the dusty by lanes of Bangalore. Soon the small town of Malur crept in and I took a left at the arch which had a beaming Bala inviting everyone to witness the Bhoomi Pooja of her divine abode - that was soon to be. The bumpy road that panned out seemed to have no impact on the brimming energy and zest that was filling out of my heart. This feeling was so overwhelming and contrastingly different from the spurts of joy we feel along the trails of this earthly life. In spite of being drenched in the bourgeois joy, the mind at some level remains disconnected lamenting the fact that it would not last forever. On the contrary, this feeling felt like a trickle of nectar sliding down the smooth contour of a rose petal; like the yearn of a rain drop waiting to fuse into the motherly arms of the ubiquitous ocean.



As I approached the site, a huge rectangular canvas was spread out on the ground to house the festivities planned. It seem to visually bring to life the temple which we had only sampled on the virtual animation created by Mr. Hariharan, the Architect member of Balambika Divya Sangam. Hope transcends the walls of uncertainty when the visions of the mind meet the tangible manifestation shaped out in physical reality. There I was standing at the entrance that was yet to grow out of the moist earth, staring into the mountains that majestically stood ahead. A gentle breeze was whispering music in the eucalyptus grove that lay spread out in the right. On the left, a series of teak trees stood firm hiding the human activity behind them. I was already falling in love with this place brimming with nature at its best.



With the dusk setting in, core committee members of Balambika Divya Sangam stood on the sites fervently overseeing the preparation for the planned events. Soon the priests arrived to the site to conduct the Bali Pooja. They provided us some context on the essence of this ritual and explained as to why it was required to be performed. In general the temple construction essentially subsumes the following steps on the proposed land where the construction is planned to be done:

Bhu pariksha: Examining and choosing location and soil for temple and town. The land should be fertile and soil suitable.

Sila pariksha: Examining and choosing material for image

Karshana: Corn or some other crop is grown in the place first and is fed to cows. Then the location is fit for temple construction.

Vastu puja: Ritual to propitiate vastu devata.

Salyodhara: Undesired things like bones are dug out.

Advestaka: Laying down the first stone

Nirmana: Then foundation is laid and land is purified by sprinkling water. A pit is dug, water mixed with navaratnas, navadhanyas, navakhanijas is then put in and pit is filled. Then the temple is constructed.

Murdhestaka sthapana: Placing the top stone over the prakara, gopura etc. This again involves creating cavities filled with gems minerals seeds etc. and then the pinnacles are placed.

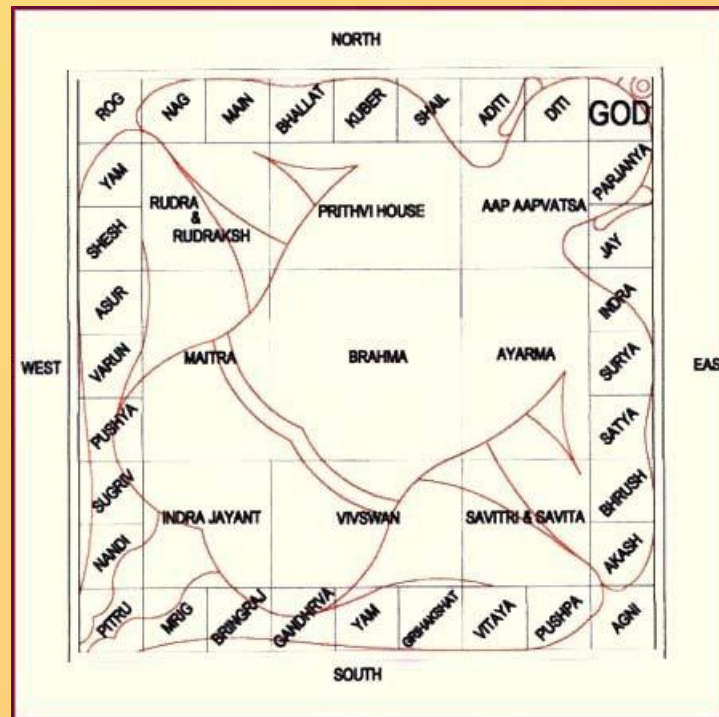
Garbhanyasa: A pot made of five metals (pancaloha kalasa sthapana) is installed at the place of main deity.

Sthapana: Then the main deity is installed.

Pratistha: The main deity is then charged with life/god-ness.

In relation to temple construction, it is the proper selection of land and direction, construction at proper and auspicious time (muhurtam) according to the principles of Vaastu Shastra, that contribute to its fame spreading far and wide even after thousands of years have passed. Those buildings which have become by Vaastu-Shanti and Vaastu Pooja have the aura to foster positive energy and neutralize the negative elements that enter the fold. North-East

Center- Brahma- Ruled by the creator of the universe (Desire)



Bali Pooja or Vaastu Shanti is a ritual where offerings are made to the malefic forces in these corners, requesting them to move out so as to enable the above listed divine forces to occupy their rightful positions. Having enriched our limited acumen with these astounding details, the chief priest proceeded to perform the rituals at the various corners of the site while the lanterns in our hands shed sufficient light amidst pitch darkness in the sky. This ritual finally concluded with a homam to appease the gods and make way for the main Bhoomi Pooja that was to take place the very next morning.



The next day started on a bright and festive note with devotees thronging the temple site to witness the Bhoomi Puja. The main site was covered with a huge pandal or shamiyana where the main pooja was being held. Adjacent to it was another small shelter created to house the distribution of prasadam to everyone. As devotees slowly streamed in, the pooja was progressing as planned. Apart from the members of Balambika Divya Sangam, a lot of local folks from Malur welcomed themselves to the event. The Chief Priest and his entourage performed pooja to the bovine pair of the cow and its calf, as is customary. Then the bricks chosen to lay the cornerstone and the nava-

rathnas were consecrated to the delight of all the devotees witnessing the ceremony. Amidst these divine proceedings, a red carpet welcome was extended to a couple of dignitaries: Padmashri Muthiah Sthapathi, the Architect of the proposed temple and Mr. Narasa Raju, Founder & Chairman of 'The Oxford Group of Institutions'. In their interaction with the President of the Sangam, Mrs. Asha Manoharan - they expressed their delight and support for this divine endeavor. Mr. Narasa Raju further went ahead to pledge his financial and moral support to the committee in their temple construction pursuits.



Once the main activities of the Bhoomi Pooja were complete, Mrs. Asha Manoharan - the President of the 'Balambika Divya Sangam' addressed the gathering to apprise them of the objectives behind this enterprise and also put forth a roadmap to bolster and sponsor various attempts in the streams of art and religion to further the cause of ancient Hindu dharma and its ageless principles for humanity. She further elucidated as to how 'Hinduism' is more a way of life rather than a religion; an accurate interpretation of Vedas would actually illuminate on this fact. Her speech also crystallized the fact that the temple would essentially be the crux around which all these activities would take shape and eventually enlighten devotees on their spiritual journey. Drenched in the shower of these words of wisdom, the gathering quelled their oppugn emanations which in the past had festered the seeds of dubie-ty in their quest for the ubiquitous and infinite Lord. On this positive note and a bright prospect for the future, the Bhoomi Pooja concluded harmoniously with the visions of a beautiful Balambika temple looming on the horizon.



Later in the morning, the core committee members came together in the presence of the temple Architect, Pad-mashri Muthiah Sthapathi to discuss the plan and next steps on temple construction. Mr. Muthiah Sthapathi graciously shared his knowledge and forethoughts in regard as to how the temple needs to be built. The assemblage was also shown the elevation plan and actual drawings of the proposed temple which provided a very good insight into the construction program. With a content heart and mind filled with hope, farewells were exchanged drawing the curtains on the Bhoomi pooja event.

Balambika Celebrations & Dolai Utsavam



Mandala pooja



Jan 1st 2012



Dolai Utsavam

*Pictures of ongoing activities at Malur Sri Balambika Temple site
- laying the foundation -*



We are very thankful to.....

Archana Contribution

K. Sreenivasan
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Vaishnavi & Mukundhan
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Bhuvana Krishnaswamy
Lalitha Raghuraman
Purnima Prasad
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Usha

Flower Donation

Muralidharan family

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B. Sunil K. Rao
M. P. Srikanth

Special Mention....

Shri Muralidharan for achieving the target of Rs. 1 Lakh
towards the Sangam's publication and CDs.

Devotees' Experience.....

It has been an wonderful divine experience performing the Doloi(Have I spelt correct?!) utsav at our home on the 2nd Nov. It was the star birth day of our daughter and what else can we ask for than the presence of the Revered Devi in our Home...

We must share the experience with the members and other devotees...

My daughter Mrridula was suffering with severe throat infection and her vocal chords were affected and she could not speak for almost 3 weeks...

Praying for a solution my wife Gowri took her to the third ENT (as per insistance of a Physician) on the 1st Nov morning, just a day before the Pooja. This Lady Doctor did something and made my daughter speak instantaneously...

It was a miracle! Doctors senior to her could not do that and this Doctor Shanthala did something immediately and the next thing we knew was that our daughter started speaking in her normal voice... What can we say? We could only see Balambike in that Doctor!

How else can I explain when our previous consultations with the Senior Male ENTs did not yield the results?!

Yes! Devi showered Her blessings on us even before she entered our home on the 2nd Nov... This was an absolute miracle and I am very pleased to share here.

I cannot explain the beautiful ambience and the feel in the house during that Pooja.

The intense concentration we all could have, the abhishekams, the lively smiling face of Balambika clearly visible to us when performing the abhishekams, the Flowers on Her and the beauty She added to the Silk skirt made for Her. or the comfort with which She was sitting on the lap of Prakash Vadhyar...many many more ..

I just can't exhaust the scenes !Every bit was divine, beautiful and profound.

We are very grateful to Her for Her Grace, Presence and Blessings.

We only hope that we could adhere to the disciplines expected of us and gave our bests. Our sincere prayers to Balambika that She will shower us with more opportunities to perform such Poojas for Her.

Our sincere thanks to Sasikala who was instrumental in bringing Bala to our home.

Also thank you Sashi for making that wonderful dress for our beloved Devi...

Our many thanks to all other Devotees who came and helped us in doing this Pooja with all Niyamamas. My very sincere thanks to Prakash Vadhyar who did the Pooja very gracefully and giving us space for immersing in the Grace of Balambika.

Our profound thanks to Madam Asha and the trust for giving us opportunity to perform this Utsav. Please have a look at the Photos and enjoy the Grace of Bala

Shekar, Gowri Shekar & Mrridula Shekar -Bangalore, India

Reader's Response.....

"The monthly news letters have excellent content, simple and easily readable."

N. Raghavan- Chicago, USA

For more information.....

If you would like to participate, contribute or require more details please contact us via email or website. Contribution can be made in cash/cheque/DD/online transfer etc. For complete details do email us.

Please give us your feedback and do share your ideas and divine experiences with us so that we can continue to give you the best and more.

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