



Balavin Kural

Balambika Divya Sangam newsletter

issue: 2
june 2011

To mark the first year anniversary of Balambika Divya Sangam, we are in the process of creating 'Divyadarshini', which will be released during the Lalitha Homam event in August. This souvenir is a complete handbook highlighting the essence of the Sangam's divine vision and the spirituality of the Malur Sri Balambika Temple. Above all, it is a treasure house of enlightening knowledge and perception of Sri Bala and Her charithram, along with Her favorite stothrams and bhajans. This priceless gem will be a worthwhile addition to your collection of devotional and holy books that you will cherish in the years to come.

Editorial Board:

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Mr. Ramesh Chakravarthy
Mr. Raghu Ranganathan

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Mr. Vinay Srinivasan

Temple Construction updates:

- A fund raising team for the temple construction has been formed.
- Taxes for the land allocated for temple construction has been paid.
- The temple plan, layout, and other relevant drawings have been shared with the Sthapathi.
- Sthapathi will review these documents and provide his comments by end of June.
- The committed donors previously identified by the committee would be contacted for funds
- A PAN number for a new bank account for temple donations will be obtained.
- Rental accommodation would be searched for people staying in Malur for temple construction.

Bala speaks...



Sri Devi said: He who worships Me with intense feeling as the Mother of this Universe and the Cause of all causes. He who performs the daily and occasional duties and all My vows and sacrifices without showing any miserly feeling in his expenditure of money. He who naturally longs to perform My festivities and to visit places where My Utsavs are held. He who sings My name loudly and dances, being intoxicated with My love, and has no idea of egoism and is devoid of his body-idea, thinking that the body is not his. He who thinks that whatever is Prârabdha (done in his previous lives) must come to pass and therefore does not become agitated as to the preservation of his body and soul. This sort of Bhakti is called the Parâ Bhakti or the Highest Devotion.

UPCOMING RELIGIOUS EVENTS:

Bala Sahasranamam recital is to be conducted on July 2nd 2011 at 3:30 PM at Bala's residence. If you want to take part kindly contact Mythili Sundararajan at:

myyasundar@gmail.com

Lalitha Sahasranamam Recitals are conducted every month.

Next Sahasranama Parayanamis scheduled to take place in Chicago at Anu Srinivasan's residence.

Devotees who want to take part in the recital can contact her:

asriniv65@gmail.com

Lalitha Homam details:

Devotees have been sent the invite along with the pooja task list and pooja items sponsorship list, for the yearly Lalitha Homam which is to be held in Bangalore from:

August 22nd – 24th 2011.

Devotees may sponsor the pooja items from the list.

Kangal Irundaal

Mala had been sitting on the steps for almost an hour now, waiting for Bala to turn up. The house was on a raised ground with four steps down, leading to the street below. She had just another 20 minutes left of her play time, before her mother would be calling her to come inside and start her homework.

Bala had promised that she would come today to take her somewhere. So Mala had been dreaming about it all day. Mala had never ventured from home, for all that she was permitted to do, was to sit on the steps and watch other children play. She hated that, and here she had a friend who was so light hearted, her mother never asked her to stay indoors. "How lucky she was.", thought Mala. Bala never spoke of her family for some reason, and she didn't mention about her father or having brothers or sisters. All Mala knew was that she had a mother, so she must be the only child, like her. It didn't matter to Mala. She found her comforting, gentle, playful and loving. In the few months she had known her, she felt she had at last found a friend.

At last, she saw Bala coming towards her. She ran down the stairs and held Bala's hand and asked her where she was taking her. Bala beamed with pride, not letting out her little secret. Mala became impatient and asked her over and over again. Bala looked at her and said. "Here, first have this", and from behind she took out a chocolate. Mala took it from her and asked her where she was taking her. Bala said, "Come with me and you will see." With her Mala went.

They passed through several streets lined with rows of houses on one side, and on the other side was the huge compound wall of the temple. The temple had 5 prakarams and each prakaram had a wall around it, and the wall had a huge walking space on the top. Such was the magnitude of the temple. Mala had wandered nearby but never this far. Now they went through smaller lanes. Mala had so many questions. Where was she taking her? Does Bala live here? What was so special about this place? But she couldn't ask her all these questions because whenever she asked her questions, Bala would smile and test her patience. So Mala walked quietly but excited inside. The alleys opened up into a small grove. Bala ran, and Mala ran behind her and there it was! A small mandapam! It looked very ancient, with walls dampened by moss and it did look exciting. Mala had never seen anything like this. The place was quiet. The chirping of birds could be heard and there were coconut trees lining the path, with a few mango trees short as they were, it was easy for a person like Mala to pluck mangoes from the trees. She didn't bother about them now. At a closer look the mandapam had a lot of characters on it. As they came closer she could see the huge archway of the mandapam which had decorated sthupis on it, which was quite a familiar sight in those areas, and the walls had inscriptions on it which dated back to the fifth century. Mala could see inside. The hall structure stood on a platform with porches. The platform was typically only a few feet tall with fluted sides. Chains of intricate carvings could be seen around the platform. The porches, typically located on all sides, gave access to the top of the platform. Granite pillars stood supporting the flat roof structure. These pillars had carvings with rampant Yalis (giant mythical creatures). The Yali pillars were facing the porch and facing the central hall portions. The other pillars had carved images of gods and other mythical themes.

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Much Thanks To...

Archana contribution

Kanchana Raghuram
Srinivasan and Anuradha
Jay
Sanjana
Mukundhan
Srinivas
Vivek and Shwetha
Richa Anthil

Flower and Oil donation

Mrs. Jayalakshmi Ananthakrishnan
Mrs. Sowmya Ganesh
Mrs. Bhuvana Krishnaswamy
Mr. Raghuraman
Mrs. Purnima Prasad
Mrs. Indumathi Sundar

Donors of the Month:

Vani Muralidharan (India)
Priya Rangan (India)
Radha Hariharan (USA)
Rohini Lingham (USA)
Sharadha Baumick (USA)

Wish List & Volunteer Needs

The sponsorship for the **souvenir** is welcome, and sponsors can make their contribution according to their convenience.

If you want 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.

This again opened up into a beautiful garden with a centre court which had huge pillars carved with figurines of the gods and goddesses. It also stood testimony to the culture, customs and even the stories of ancient people. In went Bala and Mala followed her. It was slightly dark inside, but it opened out into a bigger space which was surrounded by pillars. There was a centre area which was laid with stones, but it had grass on it, showing it was never visited. It had some characters which appealed to Mala. She had never been to such a place in her life! Her friend has opened a new world and it was quite exciting. Bala held her hand and started going round and round. The two girls laughed and giggled. Mala was jubilant! She had never done anything like this before. She could feel the tingling of fresh air, the fragrance of jasmine flowers, and the songs from the temple close by filled the air. She loved every moment of it. The two girls played around for some time and were soon tired. As Mala stepped on to the stone nearby dancing, the stone moved and she fell to the ground with a thud. Bala came up to her and held out her hand to help her get up. They looked at each other. Mala looked straight into Bala's eyes. It was only for a minute, but it looked like endless time in space. She saw the moving Universe, moving quietly as though it was just the norm of the day. The stars looked like droplets. She saw huge blocks of rock coming closer and then moving away. It was a sea of darkness with specks of light here and there. It looked as though she had stepped into space. There were rows and rows of stars, some of them close by and some so far away. There were infinite number of them, moving steadily, giving way for each of them so that they didn't collide with each other. She could sense the silence out there. She pulled herself away from Bala, stepped back puzzled, shocked and frightened. Did she see what she just saw? Or was it something that she had imagined? She froze. Bala held her hand, came closer and calmed her down and said, "It is our little secret, it wasn't meant to be like that. I didn't mean to frighten you. Look Mala, I am sorry." Mala was trembling with fear and tears rolled down her eyes. The eyes gave away something or was it everything? Mala turned and walked back. She wanted to go back home, forget everything, the place, this girl whom she had thought to be her only friend, and all what she saw, everything. There was total silence on their way back home. Both of them were in no mood to talk. Bala was holding Mala's hand, that said it all. The way back home was the longest journey she had ever taken. Will she ever see Bala again, is to be seen.....

Kaalam Bhatil Sollum.....



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