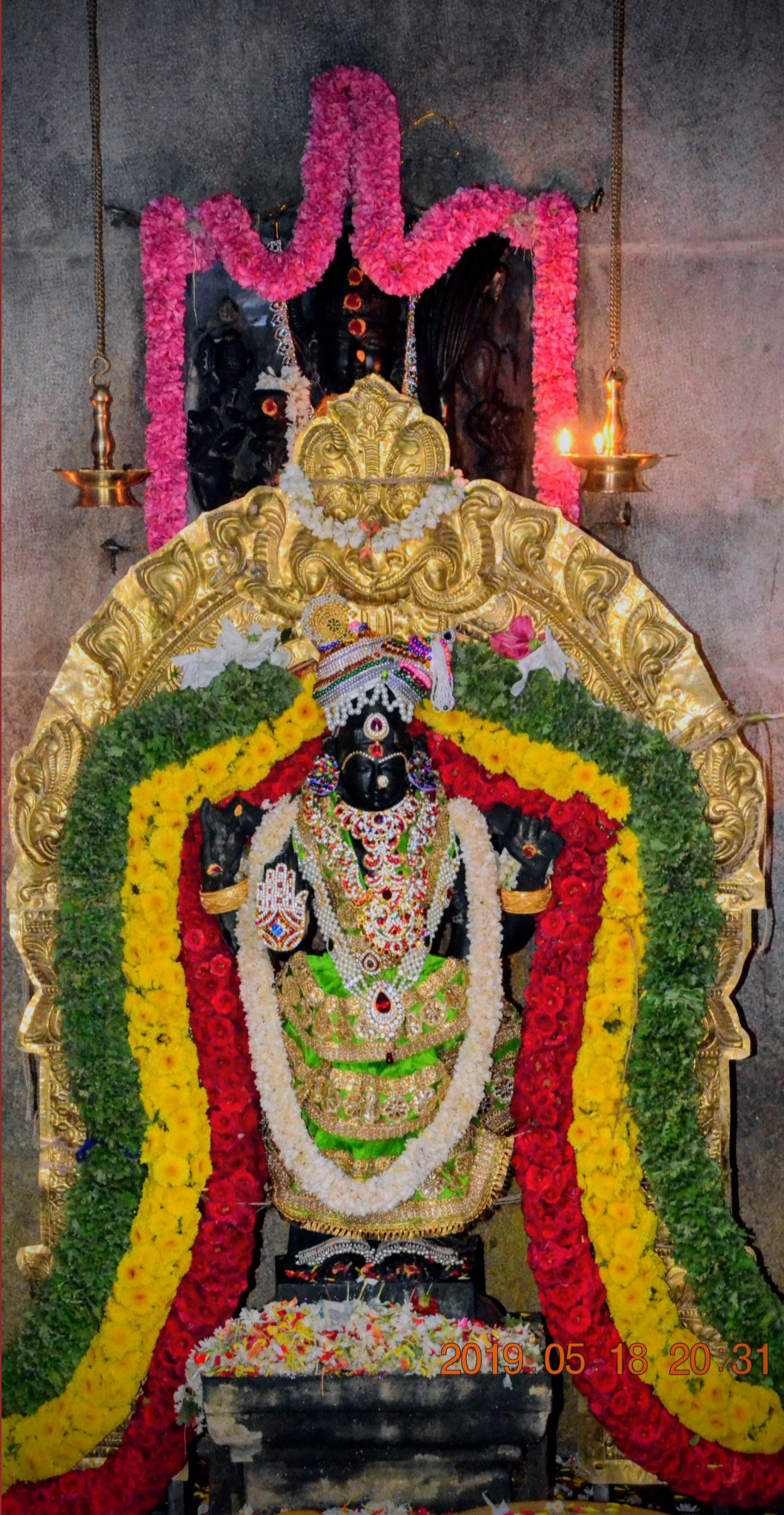


BALAVIN KURAL

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BALAMBIKA DIVYA SANGAM



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**SRI BALAMBIKA'S BIRTHDAY
SPECIAL EDITION!!!**

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From The Editor's Desk

Dear Members,

Most of us have offered our valuable services to the community around us. Some of those services could have served a simple need, while others could have served a greater good. But how many times have we helped the community around us without expecting absolutely anything in return, other than the pure satisfaction of having been able to help another soul in some way? That is the true volunteer! A volunteer has no compensation, has selflessly accepted to perform a task, expects no thanks in return, and can be neither hired nor fired. He has wholeheartedly committed to the cause, and is beyond the control of time and tide. He is neither deterred by profit or loss, nor is he stirred when acclaimed or accused. He could be a one-man-show at a simple task, or an inconspicuous part of a huge organization reaching out to the masses. But he has no dignity of labor. A volunteer has no name, for he knows that people will only remember how he made them feel, although his words and actions may be forgotten. He is unjudging in the nature of the task at hand, and simply strives to deliver the best he can. A true volunteer's service is unconditional, just as our love for God is supposed to be.

Our prayers and oblations to our Creator seek His mercy and blessings. We take vows and send forth fervent prayers for the fulfillment of our dreams and hopes, most of which are tied to the shackles of worldly desires. Even our prayers have conditions, and try as we may, we are still trapped in the whirlpool of our human cycle. It is

believed that service to the world created around us is service to the Creator. If we can practice the art of offering selfless service by being a true volunteer, it is our first step towards serving God unconditionally. If we act as true volunteers in our day-to-day lives, in our relationships with family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, strangers, birds and beasts, what a wonderful way to preserve creation!! Although easier said than done, it is not impossible, for we are always presented with opportunities where we can go out of our way and serve, for there is always someone who is in need of help. Most of us will do well for ourselves, but only a few are blessed to do good to others. As members of Balambika Divya Sangam, we encourage one and all to join us and help us serve our community, and grow together as true volunteers.

Sarvejana Sukhinobhavanthu.



Life is full of opportunities. When you miss one, there is always another around the corner, you have to recognize one to seize it. Do not take life as a project, take it as a journey to be enjoyed. When life's experiences bore you down, revive yourself by looking inside yourself, to understand what you are, what your wants are and what you are capable of.

BALA SPEAKS

பாலாவின் வார்த்தைகள்

வாழ்க்கை நிறைய நல்வாய்ப்புக்களை உள்ளடக்கியது. ஒன்றை தவறவிட்டாலும், மற்றொன்று நமக்காக ஒவ்வொரு திருப்பத்திலும் காத்திருக்கும். அதனை நாம் உணர்ந்து கையகப்படுத்திக் கொள்ளவேண்டும்.

வாழ்க்கையை ஒரு திட்டமாகக் கொள்ளாமல், மகிழ்ச்சி தரக்கூடிய பயணமாக கொள்ளவேண்டும். வாழ்க்கையின் அனுபவங்கள் நம்மை புரட்டிப் போடும்போது, நம்மை உயிரூட்டிக்கொள்ள நம் கவனத்தை உள்நோக்கி செலுத்தி, நம்மை பற்றியும், நம் தேவைகளையும், நம் ஆற்றல்களையும் அறிந்துகொள்ள முயல வேண்டும்.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT :

Q & A

With

Mrs Asha Manoharan



OM



Today, we are going to talk about a common word “Om”, that we encounter in the path to Bhakti.

The Sama veda, which is composed of melodies and chants, has each verse (saman), divided into 5 components, out of which, the third is called “Udgitha”. The chanting of udgitha begins with Om.

There are four vedas: Rig Veda, Sama Veda, Yajur Veda, and Atharva Veda.

The Rig Veda is the oldest scripture ever written, and contains more than 1,000 hymns of devotion to the various Hindu deities. The Sama Veda is essentially a book of chants and songs, and consists of 1549 verses, all but 75 of which, have been taken from the Rig Veda. The Yajur Veda serves more like a guidebook for priests and contains rituals and ceremonial instructions. The Atharva Veda has twenty books in total; containing many mystic chants, spells and prayers.

The first verse of the Chandogya Upanishad talks about the importance of “Om” and recommends meditation or dhyanam on this word. This is because, Om invokes God or Parabrahman, and is used as a noun in this context. In the verb context, the practice of meditation on Om is Pranava Yoga, as outlined in the Upanishads, the Bhagavad Gita, and the Yoga Sutras.

Let us now talk about the significance of Om.

The essence of all beings is the earth, the essence of the earth is water, the essence of water are the plants, the essence of plants is man, the essence of man is speech, the essence of speech is the Rig Veda, the essence of the Rig Veda is the Sama Veda, and the essence of Sama Veda is udgitha, or the syllable Om. Therefore, the essence and basic sound of earth is Om.

I would like to take this one step further from a philosophical point of view, and discuss about the Rig Veda and Sama Veda. The Rig Veda refers to speech and text, and Sama Veda is its pranam or breath. Therefore, there is a tight coupling between the Rig Veda and Sama Veda, similar to a husband and wife in a marriage. If we are able to control this speech and breath, we can then control our desires and senses, leading to jñānam or true knowledge. In this regard, Om is the connecting bridge between this speech and breath, which helps us achieve this objective. Hence, Om is an important aspect of Bhakti marga or Yoga marga. Once we understand the importance of Om, we will be able to unlock its full potential, and apply it to our daily lives.

வாசகரின் கேள்வியும் திருமதி

ஆஷா மனோகரன் பதிலும்



ஓம்



பக்தி வழியில் அடிக்கடி பயன்படுத்தும் வார்த்தை 'ஓம்'. இதற்கு நிறைய அர்த்தங்கள் உண்டு. அதில் ஒன்று 'ஆம்' என்பது. சாம வேத பாடல்களில் அதிகம் வருவதால் 'உத்திதா' என்றும் கூறுவர். ரிக் வேதத்தில், ரிக் என்னும் பாகம் பாடல் வடிவமாகும்போது சாம வேதமாகிறது. யஜுர் வேதத்தில் வரும் சமய வழக்கங்கள் சம்யுதா வகை, ஞானம் தரக்கூடியது உபநிஷத்.

'ஓம்' என்பது பரபிரம்மத்தை குறிக்கும். ஆதிசங்கரர், சாந்தோக்கிய உபநிஷத் பாஷ்யத்தில் இதை விளக்குகிறார். பரபிரம்மத்தை குறிக்கும் இச்சொல்லை பெயர் வடிவமாகவும் கொள்ளலாம், செயல் வடிவமாகவும் கொள்ளலாம்.

பூமியின் சாரம் நீர், நீரின் சாரம் தாவரங்கள், அதன் சாரம் மனிதன், அவனின் சாரம் அவன் எண்ணங்களும், அதனை வெளிப்படுத்தும் சொற்களும், அச்சொற்களை ஒதுவதின் சாரம் ரிக் வேதமும், அதன் சாரம் சாம வேதமாகும்.

அண்ட சராசரத்தின் மூல சப்தம் 'ஓம்'. இதைக்குறித்து தியானம் செய்வது, ஞானத்தை அடையும் முயற்சியில் நம்மை அழைத்துச்செல்கிறது.

ரிக் வேதம் பேச்சானால், சாம வேதம் அதன் பிராணன் என்று உபநிஷத் கூறுகிறது. இவ்விரண்டும் மனிதனின் புலன்கள், இந்திரியங்களை தன் கட்டுப்பாட்டிற்குள் கொண்டு வரும்போது ஞானம் சித்திக்கிறது. இந்த பேச்சையும் பிராணனையும் இணைப்பது 'ஓம்' என்ற பிரணவ மந்திரம்.

பக்தி மார்கத்திற்கும், யோக மார்கத்திற்கும் இப்பிரணவ மந்திரம் மிக அவசியம். இது மதத்தையோ, இனத்தையோ, கலாசாரத்தையோ குறிப்பது அல்ல. இது மனித குலத்தை

சார்ங்கக. இதை பரிந்து பயனடைய என் வாழ்க்கைக்கள்

PHOTO ESSAY: MONTH OF MAY



Left: Ambal in her glorious form waiting to give Anugyai (permission) to conduct the proceedings for the day

Above & Below: Graceful Kutti Bala and ever-loving form of Sri Raja Rajeshwari during the celebrations

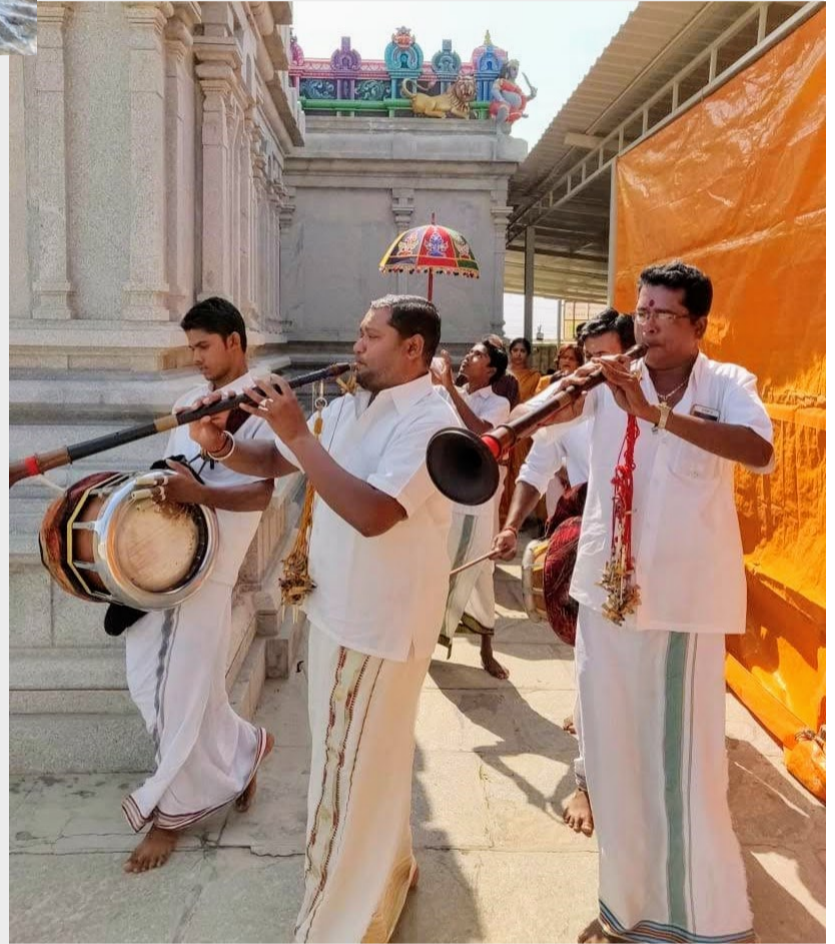


PHOTO ESSAY: MONTH OF MAY



Left : Gou Poojai in progress
Below : Vadhyam goshti at their best during kalasam procession

Below: Lalitha Homam in progress



Right: Maha Kalasam for Lalitha Homam and Bala Tripura Sundari Homam



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PHOTO ESSAY: MONTH OF MAY



Above Left: Kanya, Sumanjali and Vadagu Poojai in progress.

Above: Devotees taking Homam items for procession around the temple.

Left: Poornahuthi in progress

Right: Mangala arati for kalasam



PHOTO ESSAY: MONTH OF MAY



Left: Kutti Bala looking resplendent, dressed in Her specially designed pavada with dry fruits during the unjal sevai

Below: Mangala arati during unjal sevai

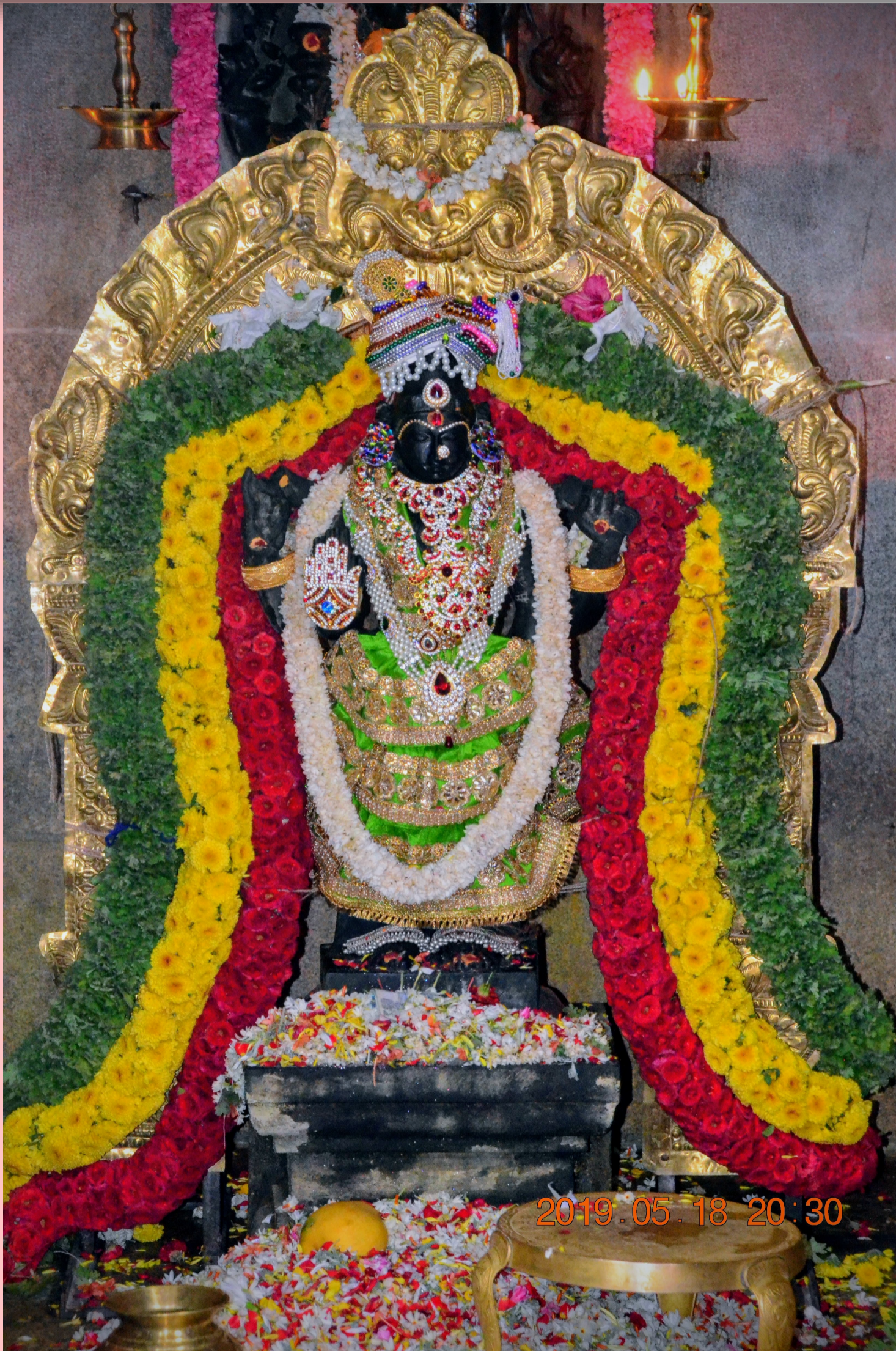


Above: Devotees singing Bhajans during unjal sevai

Right: Bala devotees enjoying the procession of Kutti Bala around the temple



PHOTO ESSAY: MONTH OF MAY



Above: Sri Balambika in Her beautiful alankaram as Sri Raja Bala on the auspicious occasion of Her birthday.

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UPCOMING TEMPLE EVENTS:

CALENDAR	EVENT	DIETY
June 15th, Saturday	Visagam	Abhishekam for Raja Bala and Kutti Bala
June 17th, Monday	Pournami	Abhishekam for Kutti Bala
June 20th, Thursday	Sankatahara Chaturthi	Abhishekam for Siddhi Vinayagar
July 6th, Saturday	Chaturthi	Abhishekam for Siddhi Vinayagar
July 7th, Sunday	Panchami	Abhishekam for all deities
July 10th, Wednesday	Ashtami	Abhishekam for all deities
July 12th, Friday	Visagam	Abhishekam for Raja Bala and Kutti Bala

Malur Sri Balambika Temple

Address:

Maruthi Extension 2nd stage,
Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District,
Karnataka—INDIA

Temple Timings:

Monday - Sunday

Mornings: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Evenings: 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM



Email: contactus@malurbalambikatemple.org

Website: <http://malurbalambikatemple.com>