



BALAVIN KURAL

A publication from Sri Balambika Divya Sangam Trust®



Inside this issue:

- Editor's Desk
- A commentary on Bala Sahasranamam
- Know your Mythology
- Science Snippets
- Sponsor's List



Featuring this Month :

Know your mythology :
Narayanastra

Written by Thulasinathan, this month's mythological feature details the events in Mahabharat when the Narayanastra weapon was used in an attempt to kill the Pandavas... See page 04

Science Snippets

Written by Latha, the science snippets section reinforces how God's innovation is visible in everything we see and feel around us... See page 06

**MALUR SRI
BALAMBIKA TEMPLE
ANNIVERSARY!!!!**

*March 27th , Saturday
&
March 28th, Sunday*



MALUR SRI BALAMBIKA TEMPLE

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Dear BDS Members,

Namaskaram.

Hope the steady flow of insightful messages from our President and videos of the various poojas and abhishekams at the temple are giving you a daily spiritual boost.

In this month's newsletter, our President Smt. Asha Manoharan continues her commentary on Bala Sahasranamam, and explains the context behind the word "Lalitha".

Most of you might remember the Ramayana and Mahabharata serials on Doordarshan, where the great warriors showered different kinds of "astras" or weapons on each other. Some of these astras used to spew fire, some heavy rain and lightning. The "Know your Mythology" section presents a reference to Lord Vishnu's personal weapon, the "Narayanastra", from the Mahabharata war, where Lord Krishna's astuteness helped avert a defeat for the Pandavas.

The Science snippets section glorifies the creativity and scientific prowess of God, and reinforces how His innovation is visible in everything we see and feel around us.

The BDS team is working on the logistics and planning for the annual Temple Anniversary event, which is scheduled to be held at the Malur temple on March 27th and 28th. As always, we look forward to your participation and sponsorship.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of the newsletter, please share your feedback and ideas to improve the content.

Sarvejana Sukhinobhavanthu.

அதன் பொருள் தூய உணர்வு அல்லது பரமா. தன்னைப் பற்றிமட்டுமல்லாமல் பிறரை பற்றியும் அறியும் தன்மை கொண்டவள். வேத்தியவர்ஜிதா என்று லலிதா ஸஹஸ்ரநாமம் அவளைப் பற்றி குறிப்பிடுகிறது. அவளைப் பற்றி அறிய நாம் முதலில் அவளது குணத்தைப் பற்றியும், செயலைப்பற்றியும் அறியவேண்டும்.

அவளது குணத்தை பற்றி பார்ப்போம். இந்த பிரபஞ்சத்தை காக்கும் எண்ணம் கொண்டு அதனை காத்து வருபவள். இரண்டாவது, தாய்மை உள்ளம் கொண்டவள். அதனால் தான் தன்னை வணங்குபவர்களுக்கு மட்டுமன்று தன்னை வணங்கும் அசுரர்களுக்கும் அன்னையாக விளங்குகின்றாள். அதனால்தான் அவளை அநேக கோடி பிரம்மாண்ட ஜனனி என்று வணங்குகின்றோம். மூன்றாவது, தர்மத்தை நிலைநிறுத்துபவள். அதனால்தான் அதர்மம் எப்போதெல்லாம் உச்ச நிலையை அடைகிறதோ அப்போதெல்லாம் அவதாரம் எடுக்கின்றாள். அதனால்தான் அவளை 'அவர்தா' என்கின்றோம்.

அடுத்தது, இந்த பிரபஞ்சத்தின் ஆதார சக்தியாக திகழ்ந்து செழுமையும் செல்வத்தையும் அளிக்கின்றாள். அதனால்தான் அவளை 'விஷ்வகர்பா' என்கின்றோம். மாயாவாக இருந்து மாயையை போக்கும் வித்தையை தன் பக்தர்களுக்கு போதித்து முக்தியை கொடுப்பவள். அதனால் அவளை 'கைவல்ய பததாயினி' என்கிறோம். அடுத்தது அவளுடைய செயல்களை பார்ப்போம். கிழக்கு, மேற்கு, வடக்கு, தெற்கு ஆகிய திசைகள் அனைத்திலும் நிலமாக, நெருப்பாக, ஆகாசமாக, நீராக, மனசாக, அஹங்காரமாக, பிரக்ருதியாக எங்கும் எதிலும் நிறைந்திருக்கிறாள். அதனால்தான் அவளை அஷ்ட மூர்த்திஹி என்கிறோம். அவளது ஒவ்வொரு திருவிளையாடலிலும், ஒன்றல்ல பல காரணங்கள் இருக்கும். அதனை புரிந்து கொள்வது மிக கடினம். அவளுடைய குணங்களையும், செயல்களையும் பார்க்கும்போது அவளை புரிந்துகொள்வது மிக கடினம் என்று தோன்றும். அதற்கு ஒரு சிறிய விளக்கத்தை அளிக்கிறேன். ஒரு முறை ஒரு சீடன் தன் குருவிடம் தான் ஏன் அம்பாளின் செயல்களை புரிந்துகொள்ளவே முடியவில்லை என்று கேட்டான். அதற்கு அவர் தன் சீடனிடம் தான் கேட்கும் கேள்விகளுக்கு பதில் சொல் என்றார். சரியென்று சொன்ன சீடனிடம் அவர் 'உன் முதுகை உன்னால் பார்க்க முடியுமா? என்று கேட்டார். அதற்கு அவன் முடியாது என்றான். 'கண்ணாடி இல்லாமல் உன் முகத்தை உன்னால் பார்க்க முடியுமா? என்றார். முடியாது என்றான் சீடன். உன் உடலில் உள்ள பகுதிகளையே உன்னால் பார்க்க முடியாதபோது அம்பாளின் செயல்பாடுகளை உன்னால் எப்படி பார்க்க முடியும் என்றார். எப்படி முகம் பார்க்க கண்ணாடி வேண்டுமோ அப்படி அவள் செயல்பாடுகளை பார்க்க அவளது திருவருள் வேண்டும் என்றார். இதிலிருந்து நாம் புரிந்து கொள்வது அம்பாளின் செயல்பாடுகளையும் அவளைப் பற்றி அறிந்துகொள்ளவும் முதலில் நமக்கு அவளின் திருவருள் வேண்டும். அதனை தேடியும், நாடியும் தான் நாம் செல்லவேண்டும். அப்படி தன்னை அறிந்துகொள்ள, தன் குணத்தையும், செயல்களையும் புரிந்துகொள்ள நமக்காக காத்திருக்கும் அந்த தாயை என்னவென்று அழைப்பது. லலிதா என்று மட்டுமே நம்மால் அழைக்க முடியும்.

ஏத்தும் அடியவர் ஈரேழு உலகையும்
படைத்தும் காத்தும் அழித்தும் திரிபவராம்
கமழ் பூங்கடம்பு சாத்தும் குழல் அணங்கே,

KNOW YOUR MYTHOLOGY:

NARAYANA STRA



On the 15th day of Mahabharat, after Drona's death, the Kaurava army became clueless, and fled with fear and panic.

Ashwatthama who did not know about Drona's death yet, advanced with his forces and was surprised to see the army on the run. He asked Duryodhana, "Why are they fleeing? Why don't you stop them?"

Duryodhana could not bear to tell the news to Ashwatthama, and he told Kripacharya to speak to Ashwatthama. Kripacharya explained the news to Ashwatthama with a heavy heart. Enraged, Ashwatthama said, "My Father's death was not an honour out of fair means in a war. It is through deceit and lies. I will kill them today, I swear."

Ashwatthama said, "I possess the divine Narayanastra. No one knows of its greatness. Not even Vasudev Krishna, Bheema or Yudhishtira. I will destroy all my enemies and Dhrishtadyumna."

On the Pandava side of the battlefield, Yudhishtira asked Arjuna, "After Dronacharya's death, Kauravas have fled, but now they are back, Who could lead them?" Arjuna responded, "I clearly hear Ashwatthama's war cry. Who is going to save Dhrishtadyumna from his wrath? You are also guilty, King. You deceived Drona with your one lie. Our greed for the kingdom has resulted in this killing, which is a sin in many ways. It was the killing of a Brahmana, an elder, and our Guru."

A very uncomfortable silence followed until it was broken by Bheema, who proceeded to say, "Ah! my righteous brother. You spoke like a Brahmana giving a discourse. But, these are inappropriate words for a true Kshatriya. Was our kingdom seized by fair means? Was it justice that stated that we hide in a forest for 13 very long years? By the way, it was you who said that we must wage a war with Kauravas. To top it all off, why is a warrior of your stature praising that Ashwatthama? I don't care, he will meet my mace and that will be the end of it."

Dhrishtadyumna added, "Arjuna, you are praising Drona and saying he is a Brahmana. When was he? Was it fair to use divine weapons on helpless normal soldiers? I believe it is rather unfair that I am condemned for killing him when that was the very purpose of my birth."

Satyaki spoke with anger, "How dare you criticize our Guru? One more word from you, and I will crush your head," to which Dhrishtadyumna responded with laughter, "How did you kill Bhoorishrava? In what way are you qualified to talk about right and wrong? Go and fight with Kauravas. It's not wise to invite death by arguing."

Satyaki pounced to kill Dhrishtadyumna. On Krishna's signal, Bheema held Satyaki, claspng him within his bare hands. The wise Sahadeva said, "What has happened was destined. Now, forgive each other." Krishna advised Yudhishtira to focus his eyes on the oncoming battle.

Ashwatthama took an arrow and started chanting mantras for invoking Narayanastra. A shower of arrows, several weapons and discs, then clouded the sky, and were appearing at random. The Astra grew stronger than each opposing Pandava force, and started to kill them. The more powerful someone was who was opposing it, the weapon became even more powerful than them and fought.

Yudhishtira lost hope and so did most of the Pandava army. When everything looked gloomy and bleak, Krishna signalled the Pandava forces, "Warriors, just drop your weapons and stand on the ground unarmed. Then the celestial weapon will do no harm." Krishna repeated, "The more you oppose it, the more powerful it will become. Just bow in front of it, do not challenge it."

While most of the Pandava warriors renounced their weapons, Bheema resisted, "I will oppose whatever it is. Even if nobody has done it before. I will do it." Bheema set forth towards Ashwatthama and the Astra's fury. Krishna signalled Arjuna, and they both got down from the Chariot and ran towards Bheema. They forcefully removed weapons from him and pulled him down. Bheema didn't budge. He let out a roar, and the Astra started increasing its intensity. Krishna told him, "Listen Bheema. Don't fight." It took the full strength of Vasudev Krishna and Arjuna to hold Bheema down, till the weapon considered no threat and left the place.

Duryodhana was very impressed and told Ashwatthama, "Come on send that weapon again," to which a very dejected Ashwathamma said, "That weapon can neither return nor be invoked again. If I try to call it, it will destroy us instead. If Krishna did not interfere, we could have won the war today."

Somehow, Ashwatthama thought nobody would know about the weapon. What he did not realize was, he was fighting with the real owner of the Astra himself.

SCIENCE SNIPPETS :

A SALUTE TO OUR SCIENTIFIC CREATOR



Raja Bala Alankaram during Bala's
Birthday celebrations in 2018

When we picture science and scientific things, our minds conjure up a variety of electronic gadgets, chemistry and chemical sciences, medicine, satellites and other state-of-art-technology. In reality, science and scientific thinking is and always has been about living in harmony with nature. Whether we bring in science from the Vedas, or Newtonian science, it boils down to understanding, respecting, and abiding by the laws of nature. God, our most scientific creator, could not have planned it better! He was definitely thinking right when He made the oceans salty, lest they completely freeze in colder regions. He made water expand anomalously so that it becomes less dense as ice and floats, letting marine life go about their business. He scattered flint stones to make our first fire, nourishing the fire and our lungs with the right amount of atmospheric oxygen. In doing so He paved the way for alchemy. Every seed, cell and atom was His pioneering work; we merely (or barely!) try to keep it going. He engineered our genes so flawlessly, that its inbuilt autocorrect feature helps DNA replicate perfectly. That is why you don't see people and animals with more than one head or one too many limbs. Viruses lack that mechanism and that's why they mutate! He wired electricity into our brains to let the excited neurons send their messages. But alas! He also planted curiosity into the human brain that questions, challenges, judges, explores and destroys. If we only learn to live with nature, abide by its fair tenets, reduce exploitation, and instead reuse and recycle its limited resources, nature will be preserved in her youth for a long time yet to come. So let us all salute our Creator and His creation!

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