



BALAVIN KURAL

A Balambika Divya Sangam Publication



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Dear BDS Members,

Namaskaram.

The festival of Navaratri was celebrated in a grandiose manner at our Malur Balambika temple. Hope you all enjoyed the diverse daily alankarams for Ambal, homams and poojas, Bala Kalai Vaibhavam and the various competitions that were organized.

We would like to thank all the sponsors, participants and BDS members who were instrumental in the success of this event.

In this month's newsletter, in the Devotee Shares section, one of our BDS members, Smt. Shantha Radhakrishnan has shared her thoughts and feedback on the Navratri celebrations at the temple. If anyone would like to share their views and observations on this event, please do email us at editorial.bds@gmail.com.

Moving on, the Q&A section on "Punniyam" emphasizes the importance of choosing the path of Dharma, and making the correct decisions that leads to spiritual upliftment and permanent happiness. Continuing with the Bala Sahasranamam commentary, the President explains the context behind the word "Manognya".

The "Know your Mythology" section presents an anecdote after the Mahabharata war, where Yudhishtira answers the questions that baffle Bhima, on the signs of the impending Kali Yuga.

All of us are amazed by the scientific innovations that have been made in the last few decades. However, we often forget that mankind has continued to make similar breakthroughs from centuries ago. The science snippets section reflects on these technological advancements that were evident even during the times of the Ramayana and Mahabharata.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of the newsletter, and would like to wish you all a very Happy Deepavali, and pray that the festival of lights brings joy and comfort to all your lives.

Sarvejana Sukhinobhavanthu.



Raja Bala as Mangala Gowri roopam
during Navratri 2019

அதன் பொருள் பக்தர்கள் மனம் அறிந்து அனைத்தையும் கொடுப்பவள்.

அழகு சொட்டும் இந்த அழகிய சுந்தரி லலிதா ஸஹஸ்ரநாமத்தில் சொல்வது போல காமதாயினியாக விளங்குகின்றாள். இவளுடைய லீலைகளை மேலே பார்ப்போம். ஒரு முறை ஒரு பக்தன் முன் தோன்றிய பாலா “உனக்கு பொன் வேண்டுமா, பொருள் வேண்டுமா, பட்டம் வேண்டுமா, பதவி வேண்டுமா என்று கேட்க அப்பக்தன் வேதமும் நீ, வேதியலும் நீ, ஜோதியும் நீ, ஜ்வாலாமுகியும் நீ. அப்படியிருக்க எப்போதும் உன்னை காணும் வரம் மட்டுமே வேண்டும் என்று கேட்க பாலாவும் அவ்வரமளித்தாள். இந்த அழகிய குமரி எப்போதும் பக்தர்கள் கேட்பதை வழங்குவாள் என்றால்,

அன்புடனே நின்று அமுதமும் ஏற்றியே பொன்செய் விளக்கும் புகைதீபம் திசைதோறும் துன்பம் அகற்றி தொழுவோர் நினைபுங்காள் இன்புடனே வந்து எய்திடும் முக்தியே என்று இருக்கும்போது அவள் பக்தனுக்கு ஆசீர்வாதம் செய்வாள் அதன் பொருள் ஆசையாக அன்புடன் விளக்கை ஏற்றி, சந்தனம் ஊதுபத்தி ஏற்றி வைத்து, எல்லா பக்கமும் சூடம் காட்டி, கவலைகளையெல்லாம் மறந்து, அவளை மனதில் தியானம் செய்யும் போது நமக்கு மனதில் கிடைக்கும் முக்தி. அப்படி கிடைக்கும் முக்தி நம் மனதில் உள்ள ஆசைகள் அனைத்திற்கும் முக்தி கிடைக்க செய்யுமல்லவா?

எய்தி வழிபடில் எய்தாதன இல்லை
எய்தி வழிப்படில் இந்திரன் செல்வமுன்
எய்தி வழிப்படில் எண்சித்தி உண்டாகும்
எய்தி வழிப்படில் எய்திடும் முக்தியே
இப்படி வழிப்பட்டால் இவ்வுலகில் அடையமுடியாதது எதுவிமில்லை

இப்படி வழிப்பட்டால் இந்திரன் போல் ஆகிவிடுவாய்
இப்படி வழிப்பட்டால் எல்லாவகையான சித்திகளையும் அடைவாய்

இப்படி வழிப்பட்டால் முக்தியை அடைவாய்
என்கிறார் திருமூலர் சித்தர், அவர் சொல்படி நடந்து அம்பாளின் ஆசியை பெறுவோம் வாரீர்.

Q & A WITH SMT. ASHA MANOHARAN



Raja Shyamala—The Minister, Ganapathy - The remover of Obstacle & Varahi - The Army chief guarding the temple.

PUNNIYAM:

Today, we are going to talk about a topic which everyone knows and has questions about. Before we jump into this topic, let's first talk about what we all ask for in life. All of us pursue happiness and pray that we are always contented. However, each one of us has different likes and dislikes at various stages of our lives, and only if we get these wants and needs appropriate to that age, will we be happy. If we are able to get what we desire and enjoy the benefits, that means that we are blessed with “punniyam” or good karma. This applies to all materialistic things. To acquire this punniyam, we need to follow the path of Dharma, make sure we don't do something that hurts another person, and take the correct decision at the correct time. Just like bad karma or pavam, we continue to stack up on punniyam, just like money inherited in righteous ways.

Just like we can either choose to spend the money or save it for the future, punniyam can be used for our personal happiness and pleasures which is called “Preyas”, or utilized for the goodness of mankind, which is called “Shreyas”. Most of us follow the Preyas path, as it is the easy way. However, it only leads to temporary peripheral happiness. In contrast, the Shreyas path, which is more difficult, leads to everlasting happiness, and is good for the Atman. The Kathopanishad (verse 1.2.2) clearly states that given the paths of shreyas and preyas, the wise one always chooses shreyas.

Therefore, as we walk through life, if we pay careful attention to our everyday actions and decisions, and fine tune it to benefit others, we will automatically follow the path leading to eternal happiness, and break the cycle of birth and death, attaining Moksha.

Kutti Bala in Her chariot during
Mandala Poojai Celebrations 2019



வாசகரின் கேள்வியும் திருமதி ஆஷா மனோகரன் பதிலும்

புண்ணியம்

பாவம் புண்ணியம் என்பதைப் பற்றி நம் எல்லோருக்கும் நிறைய சந்தேகங்கள் உண்டு. வாழ்க்கைக்கு மிக அவசியமான மகிழ்ச்சியை நாம் தேடுகின்றோம். சந்தோஷம் என்றால் என்ன, நமக்கு கிடைத்ததை எண்ணி மகிழ்கிறோமா, கேட்டதெல்லாம் கிடைத்தால் சந்தோஷம் தானே போன்ற கேள்விகளை எழுப்பும் மனம் பதிலைத் தேடுகிறது. சந்தோஷம் என்பது ஒரு முரண்பாடான விஷயம். சில நேரங்களில் பிடிக்கும் விஷயம் பல நேரங்களில் பிடிப்பதில்லை. உதாரணத்திற்கு, சிறு வயதில் பிடித்த பொம்மை வாகனம் 20 வயதில் பிடிப்பதில்லை. உணவு, பணம், ஆடம்பரமான வாழ்க்கை போன்றவை இன்பம் கொடுப்பவை. ஆனால் எல்லாமே ஒவ்வொரு காலகட்டத்திற்கு ஏற்ப மாறக்கூடியவை. இன்பத்திற்குக் காரணமான பொருளை ஒருவரிடம் சேர்ப்பது கண்ணுக்கு புலப்படாத புண்ணியம் என்கிறது வேதம். அப்படியென்றால் கையில் பொருள் இருந்து அதனால் இன்பம் கிடைத்தால் புண்ணியம். பொருள் இருந்தும் இன்பம் கிடைக்காவிட்டால் பாவம். இந்த புண்ணியத்தை சேர்க்கும் சில உபாயங்களைப் பார்ப்போம்

1. தர்மத்தை கடைப்பிடிப்பது
2. மற்றவருக்கு துயரம் கொடுக்காமல் நாம் மேற்கொள்ளும் நற்செயல்கள்
3. நேர்மை, பொறாமையின்மை போன்ற நற்பண்புகளை வளர்த்துக்கொள்வது
4. சரி தவறு என்பதை பிரித்துப் பார்த்து தவறை விலக்குதல்

நாம் சேர்க்கும் பணமும் பொருளும் போல புண்ணியமும் நம் செயல்களுக்கேற்ப சேர்கிறது. அவற்றை செலவு செய்வது போல் கிருஹஸ்தர்களான நாம் புண்ணியத்தையும் இரண்டு விதங்களில் செலவு செய்கிறோம். ஒன்று இன்பம் கருதி செய்யும் பிரேயஸ் எனப்படுவது. இரண்டு நல்லவற்றிற்காக செய்யும் ஷ்ரேயஸ் எனப்படுவது. ஒவ்வொரு செயலாலும் விளைவது இன்பமா? நன்மையா? என்று பிரித்துப் பார்த்து, உணர்ந்து செய்வது செம்மையான வாழ்விற்கு வழிவகுக்கும்.

அசுரர்கள் தவம் செய்து பெற்ற வரங்களை மனிதர்களை துன்புறுத்தி தற்காலிக இன்பம் பெற்று பின் அழிந்தார்கள். இதுவே பிரேயஸாகும். தேவர்களோ தாங்கள் பெற்ற வரங்களை மனித குல நலனிற்காக பயன்படுத்தினார்கள். இதுவே ஷ்ரேயஸாகும். நாமும் நற்செயல்கள் புரிந்து, நன்மையை நாடி மோகத்ததை அடைய வேண்டும்.

இன்பம் இடையறா தீண்டும் அவாவென்னும் துன்பத்துள் துன்பங் கெடின்
இச்செய்யுளின் பொருள், பேராசை எனப்படும் பெர்ம் துன்பத்தினை ஒழித்தால் இன்பம் விடாமல் தொடரும்.

KNOW YOUR MYTHOLOGY: *THE SIGNS OF KALI YUGA*

After the Mahabharat war, Yudhisthira was ruling Bharathavarsham. People were finally experiencing peace and stability. The Pandavas managed to create both love and respect all around. Trade and business was improving. Bheema was engaged in talking to the people and addressing their concerns and grievances. But, he still continued to have a few fights here and there.

A farmer met Bheema, seeking his advice on something strange that he had observed. The farmer described to Bheema that a fence in his field had moved further into his neighbor's field. Bheema asked, "Did you see any Asura or Rakshasa?" The farmer replied that he did not see anyone or witness any disturbances. Since these are not the kind of issues that Bheema deals with, he sent the farmer to Yudhisthira.

After a few nazhikas (an hour or so), another educated pandit came to meet Bheema. Strangely, he was carrying a big pot full of water and several small empty pots. Bheema knew this person, and wondered what was going on. The pandit said that he has a question, and got started on a kind of demo for Bheema. The pandit poured water from the big pot into those small pots, until the big pot became empty. He then started pouring the water back from the small pots back into the big one. After the pandit poured water from all the small pots, the big pot only had half of the water it had earlier. Bheema asked, "What does this mean? Are you showing me some magic?" The pandit asked, "That was my question, I am trying to understand what this means." Puzzled, Bheema directed him to Yudhisthira.

In some time, Bheema saw another person approaching him. It was a slight relief for Bheema that this person did not carry pots or anything. This person told Bheema that he saw something strange. Bheema thought, "Here we go again." The person started explaining, "I saw a huge elephant pass through the eye of a needle." Bheema asked, "Did the elephant get out?". The person said, "No, its tail was stuck." Bheema gently told him to go to Yudhisthira.

Bheema thought about going to the forest. Seems like these city dwellers are pondering about too many things. Now, a fourth person approached Bheema. The person started explaining, "I saw huge rocks in the street." Bheema smiled and said, "No worries, I will come and remove them for good." The person continued, "Those rocks got removed." Bheema almost lost interest. The citizen continued, "Many wrestlers could not remove them. However, a small Sadhu waved his hand and said something, and the rocks moved." Bheema accompanied him to meet Yudhisthira. Yudhisthira said that all these four questions are related and symptoms of the ending of "Dwapara Yuga" and beginning of "Kali Yuga". He started explaining, "the fence moving into the neighbour's field is an indication that people will be interested to know about others and would want to take what is in other's possession by any means."

"The transfer of water from the big pot to the small ones and then back again from the small ones to the big pot, resulting in only 50% of water, is an indication that people will get only half of what they give to others. This includes love and affection."

"A big-elephant going through a needle, and only getting stuck at the tail, means people will spend a lot of their earnings for sensual pleasures, but will hesitate or would not spare much for good deeds like Temples and helping the needy."

"Big rocks that cannot be moved by great wrestlers, indicate the problems and the resulting Karma. A Sadhu being able to effortlessly move the same, indicates the solution. In other words, only the holy names of God and devotional practices will protect people from the impacts of Kali Yuga".

SCIENCE SNIPPETS : *TECHNOLOGY IN THE DAYS OF YORE*



Raja Bala Alankaram during Bala's Birthday celebrations in 2018

The present generation takes great pride in standing on the cusp of technology – the latest and greatest in size, speed and efficiency – in literally every aspect of scientific advancement! Just look at the cellular technology itself – that little phone in our hands connects us with every possible facet of everyday life – GPS, social media, entertainment, health....the list is endless. On the other hand, in the field of aviation, warfare, genetics and medicine, the scale is exponential, and endless. Truly, we should feel proud to be here today, to witness such marvels of science!!!! But wait a minute – are we ignoring the fact that there was “*technology*”, back then, when there was “pushpaka vimanas” soaring through the skies similar to private aircrafts? That brahma-astram, naaga-astram and agni-astram were preludes to our present day heat-seeking missiles and nuclear weapons of mass destruction? That there was remote control powering of palace doors through voice and speech recognition? Vedic incantations have unbelievable energy in them to invoke the elements. In fact, when the Pandavas had the Maya Sabha built for them in Indraprastha, it was a piece of scientific work – right down to the shimmering floor (or was it the pool?), based on the principles of refraction of light. If today's skyscrapers stand lofty and tall, so did the rajagopurams and vimanams, which still are marvels of civil engineering! Today, we can put a satellite in orbit around the earth, but so did the great sage Vishwamitra, who created a special heaven for Trishanku with his ascetic powers, which still exists today as a constellation in our Milky Way galaxy. There is however, a difference in these technological parallels – back then, it was the privilege and honor of a select few scholars, who mastered the sciences and became adept at using them within the limits of Dharma. But today, most of us common people can experience these scientific advancements for the most part. Today, our choices are at our disposal, only limited by how much we can control ourselves. Yes, technology at its finest has always existed. It is in our hands to use this double-edged sword for the benefit of mankind.



Navaratri Celebration at Malur Sri Balambika temple 2020 by Shantha Radhakrishnan...

All good things must come to an end, and All's well that ends well, are famous quotes. This came true for the breathtaking Navaratri Celebrations organized by Balambika Divya Sangam (BDS) at the Malur Balambika Temple. How we wished the celebrations lasted forever...

We virtually witnessed a grand splendid Navaratri celebration this year. Not even the CoVID pandemic could stop the illustrious youngsters from planning, arranging and executing the whole programme in such a grand manner, which will be remembered for a long time.

The planning started much before the actual Navaratri event began. The vision and guidance was provided under the able leadership of the BDS President, Mrs. Asha Manoharan, and was carefully executed by the dedicated BDS members and executive committee.

The festival started on 16th October 2020 and lasted until 25th October 2020. The lights illuminating the temple, gave the impression of a fairy tale. The Golu set up this time had clusters of dolls in various sizes, which broke the traditional style shackles and gave a new and unique look at Bala's premises.

Everyday, the event started with morning Homams, Bhajans, and Pooja. The beauty and grace of Bala seemed to grow day by day in Her different Avatarams and bejewelled alankarams. The evening was welcomed with diverse musical programmes, songs, dances and bhajans, which were shared as videos on the BDS WhatsApp group by enthusiastic devotees of various ages, and were a feast to the eyes.

Apart from this, there were competition categories like Best Decorated Golu Pooja Room, Most Inspiring Woman in the Family, Most Inspiring Elderly couple, Best dressed Bala and Balan. This created a lot of excitement among the devotees who sent their nominations for the same. Winners were also named at the end of the event.

Last but not the least, Chandi Homam was performed along with Kanya Pooja, and Sumangali Pooja which enhanced the divine atmosphere all around.

Anything we perform with complete and undivided devotion, will always turn out well. We could see it happen here at Malur, during the nine day celebration. The efficient leadership of the President and the enthusiasm of the executive team call for an applause, for organizing this festival involving many members, maintaining social distancing norms and ensuring that Bala does not miss out on the Navaratri celebrations, which would be remembered for days to come.

Kudos to the entire team in putting together this grand event.

SPONSOR'S LIST : OCTOBER 2020

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Smt. Sowmya	Smt. Saranya Vinay
Sri. Anthil	Smt. Gowri Shekhar
Smt. Roopa V	Smt. Swarnalatha J
Sri. Nagaraj	Smt. Malar Sampath
Smt. Chitra N	Sri. Uday Srinivas
Sri. Balaji S	Smt. Swetha Sandeep
Smt. Usha B S	Smt. Indira Sampath
Sri. Shashank	Smt. Kousalya Raman
Smt. Rajashree	Smt. Radha Ramasami
Sri. Manoharan	Smt. Rajarajeshwari
Sri. Arjun Ram	Smt. Srividya Mahesh
Smt. Radha Kumar	Smt. Janani Saranath
Smt. Mala Sarathy	Smt. Swathi Mahalakshmi
Sri.N Chidambaram	Smt. Sumathi Ranganathan
Smt. Myila Kannan	Smt. Gargi & Sri. Sarathy
Smt. Latha Ramesh	Smt. Rajeshwari Muthuswamy

SPECIAL ARCHANA SPONSORS

Sri. Arjun Ram	Sri. Kasturirangan
Smt. Kadambari	Smt. Sasikala Venkatesan
Smt. Usha Mohan	Sri. Prathik Chakravarthy

Sponsor's List : Continued...

SPECIAL ABHISHEKAM

Smt. Aruna	Smt. Srividya Magesh
Smt. Sowmya	Sri. Balaji Santhanam
Smt. Sowmya	Smt. Roopa Vardharajan
Smt. Gayathri	Smt. Kanchana Raghuram
Sri. Navin Manash	Smt. Preethi Raghunath
Smt. Gargi Sarathy	Smt. Sasikala Venkatesan
Sri. Sampath Kumar	Smt. Sumathi Ranganathan
Sri. Sampath Kumar	Smt. Chitra Deenadayalan
Smt. Gowri Shekhar	Smt. Bhanumathi Chandrashekharan
Smt. Gargi Sarathy	

NITYA SPONSORS

Smt. Devi	Sri. Sethuraman
Smt. Bhuvana	Smt. Asha Manoharan
Sri. Hemanth	Smt. Srividya Magesh
Sri. Vekateshan	Smt. Sumathi Ranganathan

OTHER SPONSORS

Sri. Satyanarayana	Smt. Aruna Sai
Smt. Vinodhamma	Malur Devotees

MAHABHISHEKAM SPONSORS

Sri. Vasu Chakravarthy	

Sponsor's List : Continued...

NAVARATRI ABHISHEKAM

Smt. Aruna	Sri. Venkatesh
Smt. Manas	Sri. Srinivas
Sou. Vasavi	Sri. Rajendran
Smt. Anitha	Smt. Deepthi P
Smt. Shobha	Smt.Bhanumathy
Sri. Anthil	Sri. Dinakaran
Smt. Aparna	Sri. Vinay Raj
Smt. Menaka	Sri. Manogaran
Sow.Mridula	Sri. Narayanan
Smt. Shobha	Sri. P S Vijay
Smt. Havya	Sri. Raghu ram
Smt. Vidya	Sri. Sadagopan
Smt. Kantha	Smt. Sangeetha
Smt. Chitra	Smt. Sangeetha
Smt. Thangam	Sri. Krishnan
Smt. Mallika	Sri. Sureshwar
Smt. Neelima	Sri. Venkatesh
Smt. Savitha	Sou. Keerthana
Sri. Jayaram	Sri. Narasimhan
Smt. Sumathy	Smt. Gayathri K
Smt. Vatsala	Sri. Sundarajan
Smt. Mamatha	Smt. Usha Mohan
Smt. Bhuvana	Smt. Visalakshi
Smt. Gayathri	Smt. Kathyayani
Smt. Lalitha	Sri. Aswin Kumar
Smt. Sripriya	Smt. Chitra Ravi
Smt. Rukmini	Sri. Janakiraman
Smt. Shantha	Smt. Radha Kumar
Smt. Thilagam	Smt. Malar selvi

Sponsor's List : Continued...

NAVARATRI ABHISHEKAM

Sri. Ramabhadran	Smt. Latha Narasimhan
Smt. Vivek Raman	Smt. Geetha Srinivasan
Sri. Balakrishnan	Sri. Sampath Manimaran
Sri. Navin Manash	Smt. Vani Muralidharan
Sri. Ramdas Iyer	Smt. Preethi Raghunath
Sri. Srihari S P	Sri. Sampath Kumar S J
Smt. Rajini Mudra	Sri Krishnan Ganapathy
Smt. Vijaya Latha	Smt. Indu Venkataraman
Smt. Swetha Vivek	Sri. G C Krishnamurthy
Sri. Chandrashekar	Sri. Ganapatin Subramya
Smt. Padma priya	Sri. Sampath Srinivasan
Smt. Roopa Nagaraj	Sri. Swathi Mahalakshmi
Sri. Srinidhi S P	Smt. Chitra Deenadayalan
Sri. Senthil Kumar	Smt. Gargi Parthasarathy
Smt. Prema Muniraju	Sri. Murali Chakravarthy
Smt. Indira Sampath	Smt. Neelambika & Family
Smt. Malathi Suresh	Smt. Sumathi Ranganathan
Smt. Asha Manoharan	Smt. Sumathi Ranganathan
Smt. Kousalya Raman	Sri. Abhijit Kesavankutty
Smt. Venkalakshmamma	Smt. Anusuya Balasundaram
Sri. Mohan Basavaraj	Smt. Kamala Krishnanswamy
Smt. Radha Hariharan	Smt. Meera Vijayaraghavan
Smt. Revathy Balaaji	Smt. Sashikala Venkatesan
Smt. Srividya Sanjay	Smt. Mamatha Chennarayappa
Smt. Srividya Magesh	Smt. Saraswathi Veeraswamy
Sri. T G Padmanabhan	Smt. Satyabhama Srinivasan
Smt. Girija Gangadhar	Sri. Lakshminarayana Shetty
Smt. Malini Sukumaran	Smt. Rajalakshmi Srinivasan
Smt. Indumathi Sundar	Sri. Srinivasan Chakravarthy
Smt. Jayanthi Jayanth	Smt. Annapoorna Narayamoorthy
Sri. Nataraja Shankar	Sri. Jeyandran Chandrasekaran
Smt. Sharanya Vignesh	Smt. Bhanumathi Chandrashekaran
Sri. Parvathy Shankar	Smt. Vijayalakshmi Vishwanathan
Smt. Lakshmi Sudheer	Sri. Muthulingam