

Balavin Kural

Balambika Divya Sangam

From the Editor's desk...

Namaskarams to one and all.

The topic that I have chosen today may not be liked by everyone, nevertheless it needs to be addressed here, because I feel this is the right place to express my take on things.

For a long time I have and truly believed when everyone said "Hinduism is a way of life". I started contemplating on it and studied the phrase more deeply and it struck me as odd. Hang on!!!

In the late 1800s, Germans translated the word mata as religion, when they translated the Sanskrit literature. They applied it for various religion like for christian religions, such for christian religion, they said christian mata, while buddhism they named it as buddha mata but when they came to

Hindu mata there were different matas inside. Look at it closely. The word mata was derived from the word mati meaning buddhi, or intellect. "That which is crystallized in the intellect is mata" and it just means opinion. So in Hinduism we had Shankara's opinion, we had Ramanuja's opinion, Madhava's opinion and so on. Various acharyas had given various viewpoints of life, and the opinion and thoughts on the Upanishads—they are all called mata. Now the Germans were confused, so they came to a conclusion that "Hinduism is not a religion but a way of life". Hindus who are probing on this statement are not basically practicing Hinduism,



they have made up their mind that following one's dharma, to live virtuously is the Hindu way of life. That is sufficient, but that alone is not enough. One should also lead a spiritual way of life which includes worship, selfless love and service, scriptural study and meditation. We see that this defines a religion, so Hinduism is a religion in every sense, but why are we not accepting it?

While Sanatana Dharma is, as the Germans observed, a family of faiths, it stands strong and proud as a religion in its own right. These faiths all share certain

Upcoming Events:

Bala Sahasranamam Parayanam:
Mythili Sundararajan's residence, Bangalore, India
Contact: myyasundar@gmail.com
Chakravarthy's residence, Ohio, USA.
Contact: 95chikki@gmail.com
Anuradha Srinivasan's residence, Chicago, USA
Contact: asriniv65@gmail.com

Dolai Utsavam:
Dolai Utsavam will be performed for Sanchara Bala, in the privacy of one's home, amidst a social gathering. Devotees who are interested, please contact
Smt. Asha Manoharan
asha.raji@gmail.com

Annadanam and Milk scheme:
Annadanam and serving of milk to nursery children, is performed at Modern English School, Malur. Those who are interested in contributing towards this cause, please contact
Smt. Asha Manoharan
asha.raji@gmail.com

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common elements of culture, liturgy, scripture and basic philosophy as reflected in the core beliefs: karma, dharma, reincarnation, all-pervasive Divinity and more. Hinduism gloriously fulfills all the qualities of a religion in every sense of the word.

Remember, the Germans were no friends of Hinduism. Their redefinition of our faith as a non-religion was a powerful criticism, one that unfortunately Hindus themselves adopted. It is intellectual suicide and a global public relations disaster to deny that our faith is not a religion. Hinduism stands proudly with the great faiths of the world, and it does this not because it is a way of life. Vegetarianism is a way of life. Nonviolence is a way of life, neither vegetarianism nor nonviolence is a religion, neither will be invited to a parliament of the world's reli-

gions, as Swami Vivekananda was back in 1893. He was invited and he spoke to the world from that Chicago podium precisely because he was a Hindu.

To know and practice Hinduism in the fullest sense is to engage oneself in dharma, worship, selfless love and service, philosophical study and meditation. These five make a complete physical, mental, emotional and spiritual regime to follow throughout life.

"Devotional practice without philosophy can easily turn into superstition. Philosophy without devotion and selfless service can devolve to mere intellectual argumentation and speculation. Taking Hinduism as only a way of life, one misses out on the inner benefits of devotion and philosophy. And without meditation, one has no way

to experience the oneness of atman and Brahman, of jiva and Shiva, which leads to illumination and liberation."

Editorial Team

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Mr. Ramesh Chakravarthy

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Construction Updates





It is through fasting, the soul of man is liberated from the shackles of his wishes and desires and takes the lofty step towards God.

Bala Speaks...

Temptation is the first evil that one should eradicate from one self. The best way to do is through fasting.

Fasting has a spiritual as well as a social meaning. It is through fasting, the soul of man is liberated from the shackles of his wishes and desires and takes the lofty step towards God. Fasting shuts the doors upon temptations. Fasting leads man to become God-fearing. For this reason, every adult must practice it when deemed necessary. Besides, it is also to be considered from the social dimension. Through fasting, a person is able to have a better understanding of the gifts received from God and thus be able to open himself to others, in greater compassion and offer charity towards those who are less fortunate and marginalized.

Baġa's Corner: Riddles

1. I have two arms, but fingers none. I have two feet, but cannot run. I carry well, but I have found I carry best with my feet off the ground.

What am I?

2. A man was pushed out of an airplane, without a parachute. How was he able to survive?

3. What do you throw out when you want to use it, but take in when you don't want to use it?

4. You hear it speak, for it has a hard tongue. But it cannot breathe, for it has not a lung.

What is it?

5. Six glasses are in a row. The first three are filled with milk and the last three are empty. By moving only one glass, can you arrange them so that the full and the empty glasses alternate?

Answers:

1. A wheelbarrow.

2. The airplane was on the runway.

3. An anchor.

4. A bell.

5. Pick up the second glass and pour the milk into the fifth glass and then put it back in the second position.



Bala Prastha

God Exists

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair and his beard cut as always. He started to have a good conversation with the barber who attended him. They talked about so many things on various subjects. Suddenly, they touched the subject of God.

The barber said: "Look man, I don't believe that God exists as you say."

"Why do you say that?" Asked the client.

"Well, it's so easy; you just have to go out in the street to realize that God does not exist. Oh, tell me, if God existed, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. "I can't think of a God who permits all of these things."

The client stopped for a moment thinking but he didn't want to respond so as to prevent an argument. The barber finished his job and the client went out of the shop. Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with a long hair and beard (it seems that it had been a long time since he had his cut and he looked so untidy).

Then the client again entered the barber shop and he said to the barber: "Know what? Barbers do not exist."

"How come they don't exist?" asked the barber. "Well I am here and I am a barber."

"No!" - the client exclaimed. "They don't exist because if they did there would be no people with long hair and beard like that man who walks in the street."

"Ah, barbers do exist, what happens is that people do not come to us." "Exactly!" - Affirmed the client. "That's the point. God does exist, what happens is people don't go to Him and do not look for Him that's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world."



Siddhar Tharesanam: Kalangi Nathar

Kalangi Nathar is a great siddhar who belongs to both Nath tradition of Northern India and also the Siddha tradition of Southern India. He was from Benaras but was greatly associated with Kaanja Malai in South India and later migrated to China to spread the knowledge of yoga and Varma-Kalai (acupuncture) to the Chinese people. In China he was called Confucius.

Many people believe that Sri Kalangi Nathar is Siddhar Kamalamuni. In the 63rd song of "Kamalamuni Suthiram 76", a line says that "Kamalamuni alias Kalangi". Hence it can be true that Sri Kalangi Nathar is Siddhar Kamalamuni himself about whom I had written earlier.

He is often referred to as Kanjamalai Siddhar. The word "kanjam" stands for the following meaning - gold, copper and iron, and malai means hill. It is said that Paranthaka Chozha who built Sri Nataraja temple with golden roof, took the gold from this hill. Also the water falls seen in this hill is called "ponni nadhi".

When Kalangi Nathar decided to go into Samadhi for a very long time (for about 5000-years), he called Bogar to come to China to continue his mission, as Bogar was his favourite disciple.

Bogar used to call him as his father in all his poetic scriptures. Kalangi Nathar and Bogar were considered to possess an ideal master and student relationship. It is said that they mutually cared for each other and in each others spiritual progresses. Kalangi Nathar, especially took more care and strain towards the spiritual advancement of his disciple Bogar and was behind Bogar's every development and innovation.

Siddhas normally strive very hard for many years to get an indestructible body by taking herbs and special potions. Whereas Kalangi Nathar, proved, that with the 'JYOTI VRUKSHA' one can attain such a body in one single day. He could control wild animals with mantras. He was a very calm person who never exposed himself unnecessarily. His talks had the Vasikara Sakti (Power of enslaving). With his blessing one can become a great orator.

The shrine of Kalangi Nathar is found in a small village in Salem, Tamil Nadu. This village is 12 km away from Salem city. This place is in via route to Ilampillai. He is supposed to have been attained jeeva samadhi in this place several hundred years ago.



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Milk Scheme





Balambika Yuva Sena: Season-3 Week-1





Balambika Yuva Sena: Season-3 Week-1





Balambika Yuva Sena: Season-3 Week-1





Balambika Yuva Sena: Season-3 Week-1



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Pooja Items—Bala's House

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