

Balavin Kural

Balambika Divya Sangam

February 2013 Vol 2 Issue 10



**Vigraha *poojai* at
Sthapathi's worksite**
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Bala Prastha:
Don't judge a book by its cover
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Bala Sahasranamam Parayanam:

Mythili Sundararajan's residence,
Bangalore, India

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Ohio, USA.

Contact: 95chikki@gmail.com

Anuradha Srinivasan's residence,
Chicago, USA

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Dolai Utsava Murthy Abhishekam:

Abhishekam will be performed for the Dolai Utsava Murthy on Tuesdays/Fridays. Devotees who are interested please contact Sashikala Venkatesh (9886895627).



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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CONTACT

If you would like to participate, contribute or require more details, please contact us via email. Contributions can be made in cash/cheque/DD/online transfer etc. Please give us your feedback and do share your ideas and experiences with us so that we can continue to give you the best.

Email: balambikathirupanitrust@gmail.com

MALUR SRI BALAMBIKA TEMPLE CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

- ◆ Construction of the *Adhishtanam* is close to completion. Once finished, construction of the *Sthamba Var-gam* will commence.
- ◆ The temple would be built in the traditional Chola style architecture.
- ◆ Estimates are awaited from the contractor for building a compound wall.
- ◆ A teak door for the temple would be ordered.



Preparations for Sri Balambika's *vigraha poojai* at Sri Muthiah Sthapathi's work site

VIGRAHA POOJAI



Vinayaka poojai, followed by sankalpam and poojai for the vigraham

VIGRAHA POOJAI



Honoring the families of the *shilpis*



Honoring Padmasri Muthiah Sthapathi with the first chisel work on the *vigraham*



Shilpis take their first cut on this auspicious event



Each person in this world is unique and different.

So in the eyes of God each one is special.

You have to accept that first before anyone accepts that.

**There are million people who agree with you and who are willing to accept you as you are,
no matter who you are or what you are,**

but you always look at the one who does not accept you and think that the whole world does not accept you.

This delusion is the one thing that deters you from achieving what you want to achieve in life.

Temples of India - A journey through the heritage of time

- By Smt. Asha Manoharan

Thirukolakka

This issue is about the temple Thirukolakka, which is a very old temple. As we moved closer to the temple, it did not have the pomp and show that other temples normally have. As we walked around, we could feel a lot of vibrations in the temple. Before we go to the temple details, here is how you can reach the temple.

Sirkazhi is the closest town to this temple. Head towards old NH west on the unknown road and pass Sirkazhi post office on the left. After about 550m, turn right to go about 140m. Take the first left and right in front of you, and you will find the Thaalamudaiyar temple.

Here the *moolavar* is called Sapthapureswarar and the *Amman* is called Osai Kodutha Nayaki. The *sthala virutcham* is Kondrai. As we enter the temple, we were

able to see the Ananda Theertham tank opposite the temple, and Vrushbaruda Darshan of the Lord is to the west of the front entrance near a spring. Vahan mandaps are seen while entering the temple, and the shrines of four Saivite saints and Adhikara Nandi greet the devotees. The shrines of Lord Vinayaka, Somaskanda, Subramanian, Lakshmi, Sani Bhagavan, Lord Bhairava and Sun shrines are in the prakara. Procession deities are safely kept in the *mandap*, right of the *prakara*. Goddess Ambika is in a separate shrine. Noteworthy among the procession deities is the Saint Gnana Sambandar who is seen holding the golden plate. Lord Vinayaka, Dakshinamurthi, Lingodhbava, Brahma and Goddess Durga are on the goshta walls. This temple was built 1000-2000 years ago.



Thalapureswarar Sannadhi

The famous legend about this temple is that Thirugana Sambandar once visited this temple and was singing praises of the Lord and was also clapping his hands in ecstasy. Seeing the little boy clapping his hands, Lord Shiva gave him two golden plates to relieve him

of the pain in his hands. However, they did not produce any sound, so Ambal infused sound energy into them. Hence, the Lord is called Thalapureswarar and the Mother is called Osai Kodutha Nayaki.



Temple Praharam

Those unable to speak and facing stammering problems bathe in the Ananda Theertha and pray to Ambika to bless them with the gift of speech just like She added the sound to a metal plate. (Osai in Tamil means sound, Kodutha means given and Nayaki means Mother Goddess. Hence, the name Osai Kodutha Nayaki. Lord gave the plate to the saint, but it was Mother who gave life to it with sound). Devotees place honey at the feet of Mother, perform *archanas* and then con-

sume it. As this is also the place where Mother Mahalakshmi performed penance towards Lord Vishnu seeking His hand in marriage, women pray in the shrine on Mondays and Fridays for 6 weeks continuously with turmeric *archanas* to realize their wedding wish.



Saina Poojai

Those aspiring for excellence in music, pray in this temple. It is noteworthy that the Lord who gave the Thalamplate to Gnanasambandar and Mother who gave the sound, bless the devotees right at the entrance of the temple, unlike other temples where you have to walk a distance to reach the *moolavar*. Indira and Sun are said to have gained powers after praying to the Lord in this temple. Mother Mahalakshmi is all powerful and merciful here and grants boons to the devotees. As the wedding of Mahalakshmi with Lord Vishnu took place here, the place is named Thirukolakka. Presently, it is also known as Thiru Thalam Udayar Koil.



Thevaram about Thirukolakka

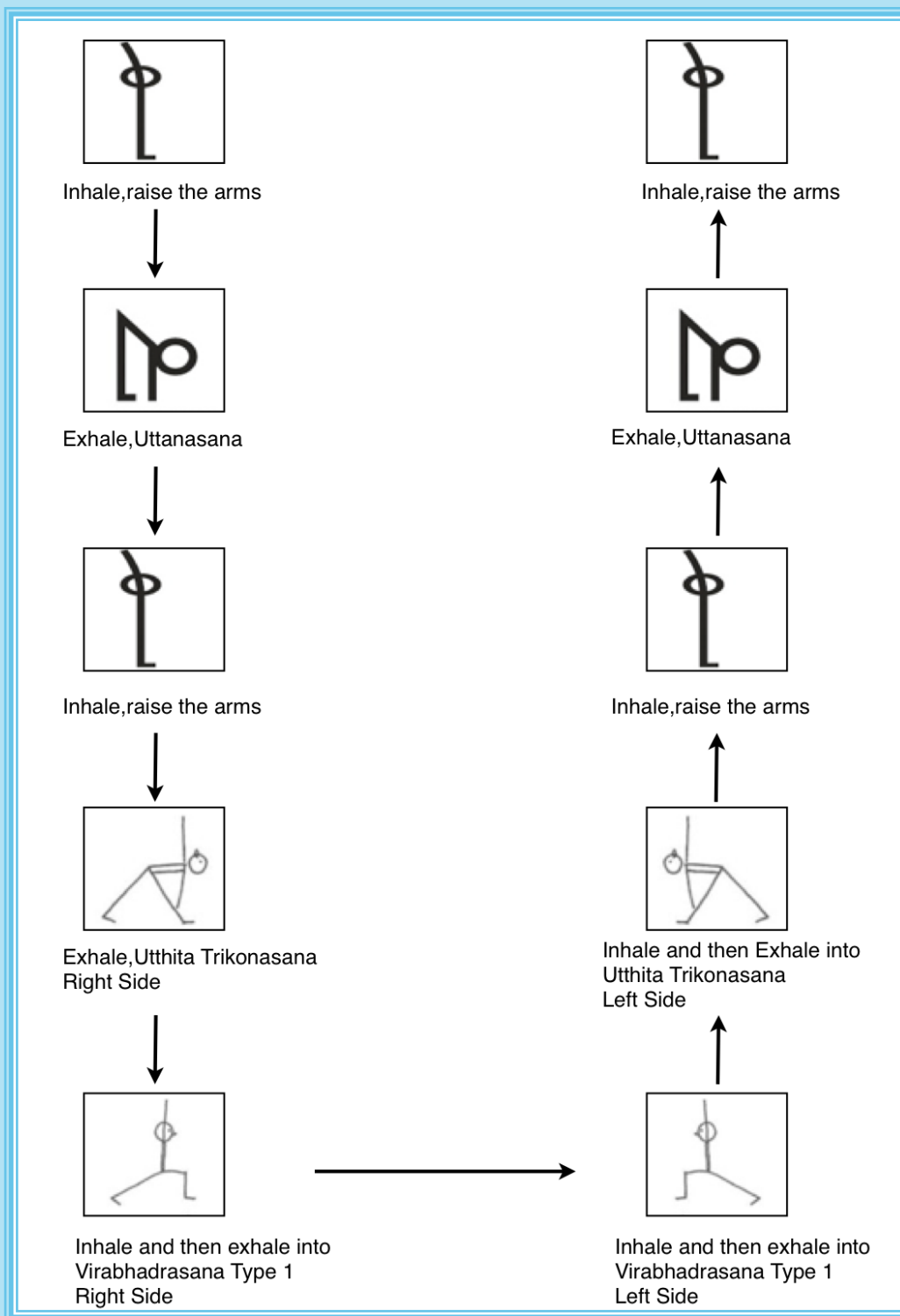
Chithirai Tiruvadhirai festival is celebrated in April-May on side with Sirkali Sattainathar temple milk utsav, saint Gnanasambandar comes to this temple, wherein Lord Shiva gives the golden plate to the saint.

The saint returns to the first temple in a flower decorated palanquin. Theerthavari is celebrated on all Karthikai Sundays in November-December.

You, Me and our cup of Yoga

A remedy for the bored practitioner - By Gargi Parthasarathy

Everyone reaches a plateau with their Yoga practise at some point. We all look for ways to turn it up a notch. One of the simplest ways to reinvigorate a Yoga practise session is by just changing the style. For example, if your Yoga session typically consists of taking a couple of asanas and practicing them individually, you could try linking them together and create a simple Vinyasa sequence. Below I have listed how we can create a vinyasa sequence using the asanas we have learnt so far (Uttanasana, Trikonasana and Virabhadrasana type 1). In a typical Vinyasa sequence, you end with the asana you start the sequence with. You can similarly pick up a few other sitting asanas and create your own sequence. **Get creative with Yoga!**



Karadayan Nombu

Karadayan Nombu, or Savitri Nombu is a vratam observed in Tamil Nadu on the last day of Maasi masam in the Tamil calendar. This festival also marks the **Meena Sankramanam** or the transition of Sun into Meena Rasi (Pisces) from Kumbha Rasi (Aquarius). Married women worship Goddess Gauri or Parvati or Shakti for marital bliss and good health of their husband and children. Unmarried girls perform the *vratam* to get an ideal person as their husband.

Karadayan Nombu is similar to that of Sowbhagya Gouri *vratam* or Gauri Tritiya *vratam* of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, Gangaur *vrat* of Rajasthan, Jyeshtha gauri *vrat* of Maharashtra, Jitiya Puja of Bihar, Karva Chauth of all other North Indian states festivals, and Savitri *vrat* in Bengal, Orissa and some other places in India. An ideal husband is one who can understand his wife's moments of happiness, sadness, worry, fear and other emotions. He will stand by her at all times. The word *kannavan* meaning husband in Tamil, is derived from the word *kann*, which means eye.

Story behind Nombu

Savitri was the daughter of the King Asrapathi. When her father asked her whom she wished to marry, she pointed to Satyavan who lived in the forest. Despite being warned by Narada that he would die within a year of marriage, she married Satyavan. Impressed by Satyavan's devotion towards his blind parents, Savitri decides to marry him. On enquiry, the King found out from Sage Narada that Satyavan was the son of a deposed king and that he was destined to die in a year. The King first refused to the marriage, but Savitri was adamant. Finally, the King relented and the marriage was conducted and the couple left for the forest.

They led a happy life. Soon a year passed by. Savitri realized that Satyavan would die any moment. So she kept fast and always followed him. Her offerings were durva grass and peepal leaves. She performed *navedyam* with wild rice and Toor dal, which is *kaara arisi* and *Thuvaram paruppu*, that is why this *vratam* is known as Karadayan Nombu.

One day as usual she followed Satyavan to the forest. While cutting woods, he fell down and fainted. Soon, Savitri realized that Satyavan was dying. Suddenly, she felt the presence of Yama, the God of death. She saw him carrying the soul of Satyavan and followed Yama. Yama first ignored Savitri, thinking that she will soon return back to her husband's body. But she persisted and kept on following him. Yama tried a few tricks to persuade her, but nothing worked. Then, Yama said that it is impossible for him to give back the dead, as it is against the nature's law. Instead, he will give her three boons. Savitri agreed. With the first boon, she asked for a son for her father. With the second boon, she asked that her in-laws be reinstated in their kingdom with full glory. Finally, for the third boon, she asked, "I would like to have children."

Yama immediately said "granted." But soon, Yama realized that he had been tricked by Savitri. Yama remained silent for a minute and then smiled and said, "I appreciate your persistence. But what I liked more was your readiness to marry a man whom you loved, even though you knew that he would only live for a year". So, this Karadayan Nombu protected her husband.

On the day of Karadayan Nombu, women prepare a sweet *prasadam* known as Karadayan *Adai*. Karadayan Nombu *Adai* is specially prepared for the Karadayan pooja with rice flour, jaggery and a red coloured dry beans known as *Kaaramani*. After the Karadayan

A dai preparation, it is time to start the Karadayan puja. All female members in the family will get ready to start the puja. *Kolams* (rangoli) will be drawn by all ladies in front of the pooja place and a banana leaf will be placed on each *kolam*. The women in the family perform the *naivedyam*, after placing one sweet Karadai, one *Kozhukattai*, a blob of fresh butter, two bananas, *arali* flowers, betel leaves and nuts, and the most important Nombu Charadu. Nombu Charadu or Manjal Charadu is a sacred yellow cotton thread dipped in turmeric paste and tied in the middle with some flower. The puja starts and the *naivedyam* is offered to Goddess Gowri (Kamakshi) or Goddess Shakti. While offering, the women chant this mantra:

**Throram Krishhnami subhake saharitham
Dharami aham bharthu
Ayushya Sidhartham supreethabhava sarvadha**

The following is the Tamil chant:

**Urukaddha Venneyum oradhayam naan nootren
Orukkalum en kanavar ennai vittu priiyadhirukka
vendum**

which means, I offer butter and rice made out of *kaara arisi*. Bless me that I will live happily with my husband. *Naivedyam* consists of vithali, paaku, flowers adai and butter. On this occasion, let me wish all the ladies a “Happy Karadayan Nombu.”

Date : 14.03.2013

Karadayan Nombu Shubh Muhurtham

Karadayan Nombu Vratam = 06:20:26 to 17:00:04

Fast Duration = 10 Hours 39 Mins

Manjal Charadu Muhurtham = 17:00:04

Ullam ennum...

Composition: Smt. Asha Manoharan

Sung by: Smt. Ambika Arvindd

Ragam: Hamsanandi

Talam: Adi

Pallavi

Ullam ennum kovilile
Deivam enna nee irukka
Paadal ennum nei vilakkai
Yetrinen kanmaniye

Anupallavi

Kuraivilla niraive endrum
Koduthida nee varuvaai
Sollin porul nee unartha
Punnakai arumbiduvaai

Charanam

Yen yennangalil nee irukka
Megathin megamaga naan irukka
Ullathil perumai konu
Potrinen kanmaniye

Munnar unnai naan ariyen
Pinnar unnai purinthukonden
Munnar neeyum vanthidave
Pinnar ethuvum arinthilen



Sangam Annadanam Initiative at Modern English School, Malur



“Balambika Divya Sangam would like to thank all the Annadanam sponsors for their support.

May Bala shower Her blessings on you and your family”

Kindly donate generously for this noble cause. It is only Rs.5000/ for individual sponsorship and any amount for group sponsorship.

-President
Smt. Asha Manoharan

Sangam Milk Scheme Initiative at Modern English School, Malur



Kindly donate generously for the milk scheme. We feed 30 kids in the age group of 3 - 7 years and it costs only Rs.300 per day.

Balambika Yuvasena Initiative at Modern Education Society, Malur



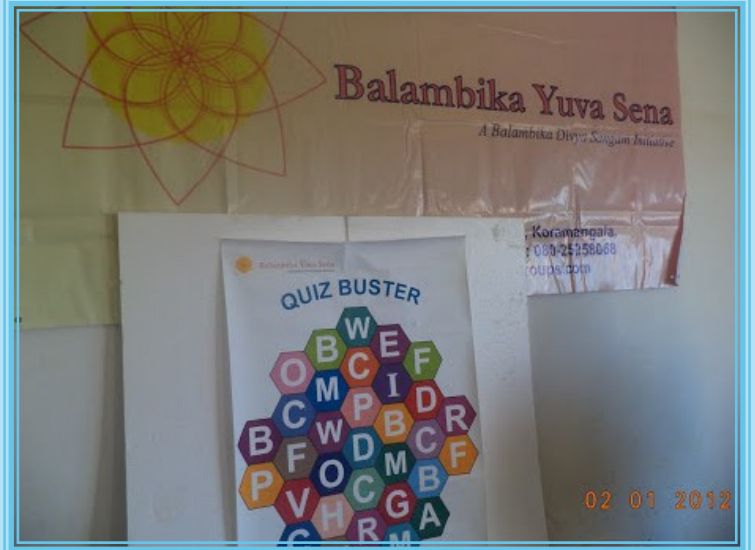
Balambika Yuvasena team — fostering young minds, and empowering them for the future



Interactive classroom activities relating to dental hygiene



A classroom full of enthusiastic participants



Simple experiments and demonstrations to stress the importance of hygiene

STAR OF THE MONTH

JANUARY 2013



Modern Higher Primary School (Malur) student Ms. M. Divyashri in Class VII, received the 'STAR OF THE MONTH' award.

The selection criteria for this award are based on reading/writing skills, obedience, helping nature of the child, coordination of the child with other children, good habits, in time to school, neat uniform and good behavior.

**CONGRATULATIONS DIVYASHRI!
WE ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU!!!!**

Don't judge a book by its cover

A lady in a faded gingham dress and her husband, dressed in a homespun threadbare suit, stepped off the train in Boston and walk timidly without an appointment into the Harvard University President's outer office. The secretary could tell in a moment that such backwoods, country hicks had no business at Harvard and probably didn't even deserve to be in Cambridge. "We want to see the president," the man said softly. "He'll be busy all day," the secretary snapped. "We'll wait," the lady replied.

For hours the secretary ignored them, hoping that the couple would finally become discouraged and go away. They didn't and the secretary grew frustrated and finally decided to disturb the president, even though it was a chore she always regretted. "Maybe if you see them for a few minutes, they'll leave," she said to him. He sighed in exasperation and nodded. Someone of his importance obviously didn't have the time to spend with them, but he detested gingham dresses and homespun suits cluttering up his outer office.

The president, stern faced and with dignity, strutted toward the couple. The lady told him, "We had a son who attended Harvard for one year. He loved Harvard. He was happy here. But about a year ago, he was accidentally killed. My husband and I would like to erect a memorial to him, somewhere on campus." The president wasn't touched... He was shocked. "Madam," he said, gruffly, "We can't put up a statue for every person who attended Harvard and died. If we did, this place would look like a cemetery." "Oh,

no," the lady explained quickly. "We don't want to erect a statue. We thought we would like to give a building to Harvard."

The president rolled his eyes. He glanced at the gingham dress and homespun suit, and then exclaimed, "A building! Do you have any earthly idea how much a building costs? We have over seven and a half million dollars in the physical buildings here at Harvard." For a moment the lady was silent. The president was pleased. Maybe he could get rid of them now. The lady turned to her husband and said quietly, "Is that all it costs to start a university? Why don't we just start our own?" Her husband nodded. The president's face wilted in confusion and bewilderment.

Mr. and Mrs. Leland Stanford got up and walked away, traveling to Palo Alto, California where they established the University that bears their name, Stanford University, a memorial to a son that Harvard no longer cared about.

You can easily judge the character of others, by how they treat those who they think can do nothing.



**Our heartfelt thanks to our sponsors and patrons
for supporting the services of Balambika Divya Sangam**

Archana Contribution

**Bala & Rajiv
P. Narayanan & Saroja
Latha & Ramesh Chakravarthy
Shruthi Muralidharan
Dev
Lakshmi S.
P. Narayanan
Krishna
Rishi Vaidyanath**

Pooja items for Bala's House

**Jayalakshmi Ananthakrishnan
Sowmya Ganesh
Gowri Shekar
Radhika Venkat
Shashikala Venkatesan
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