



# VENUGAANAM

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# In This Edition



Article	Page Number
<u>From Team Venugaanam</u>	3
<u>Swami's Discourse</u>	4
<u>Atmajyothi</u>	6
<u>SKM Updates</u>	8
<u>Patriotism in Action</u>	11
<u>Chinna Katha</u>	13

## From Team Venugaanam

We are delighted to bring you the 67th edition of Venugaanam this July.

In this edition, we bring excerpts from Swami's Divine Discourses compiled in Prema Vahini where Swami talks about the importance of Good Character.

In Atmajyothi, We continue our discussion on the concept of secondary devotion and the category of devotees.

In the SKM updates we have latest news regarding school admissions in the new academic year. We also welcomed Ganesh Prasad , the newest entrant to the children's home. We were happy to have Subramanya B from frost & Sullivan visit the school and home. This and more in the updates.

Later in the issue, Prakash talks about the importance of behaving in society in accordance with our feelings of patriotism.

We conclude with a Chinna Katha that focuses on the divine message embedded in the function of Deepavali.

We are happy to have your feedback on how to make 'Venugaanam' a better communication tool. You may kindly mail us at [contactus@saikrushnamandir.org](mailto:contactus@saikrushnamandir.org) . Do feel free to share with us your experiences in following Swami's teachings or on any other theme of your choice.

We pray to Swami to bless all the children and inmates so that they may all come up to His expectations.

May Swami turn our lives into a celebration of His message of love, sharing and caring.

With All our Prema,

**Team Venugaanam**

## A Good Character is the Jewel of Human Life

Source: Prema Vahini

One must realise in this body itself, before death takes its toll, the Eternal Truth and the Relationship between Man and that Truth. The Kathopanishad exhorts: "Uththishtatha! Jagratha! Praapyavaraanni-bodhatha!" Arise, Awake, Get initiated from the great. Those who are agitated by doubts about what to accept and what to reject, those who are blinded by illusion, and those who cannot distinguish between darkness and light, death and immortality, all such should approach great persons who can show the path to understand the eternal Truth, the Self-illuminated Basis of all Creation. Then, this world and heaven both will be merged in the same effulgence! For the sake of this realisation, man should have deep yearning and hard disciplined practice. This human birth itself is the consequence of countless good deeds and it should not be cast aside, the chance must be fully exploited. As the Kenopanishad says, "Nachedihavedin Mahathovinashtih," the jewel in the

hand should not be dropped aside. When there are many chances of saving oneself, is it not a big loss if no thought is spent on ways of escape? For all those who are really animals in human form, slaves of pride and animal traits, this awareness in time is most important; delay is fruitless. It will be as silly as starting to dig a well when the house catches fire. Therefore, the discriminating individual will endeavour by all means at his disposal to understand the underlying Principles, to master the teachings of the great men who practised the spiritual path, and to bring all this, as much as possible, into the ken of one's own experience. Without this effort, if one discards the Path and wastes his life, it is an insult to the very name of the species! Instead of getting enslaved to the evanescent and the false and wasting precious time in their pursuit, dedicate every minute to the discovery of Truth, the contemplation of the Everlasting, Ever-true Lord. Such dedication is the real function of the soul. The

spending of time in illusory appetites on the other hand is the drag of the world. One should not fall a victim to the poisonous attractions of worldly luxuries, or the wiles of seductive beauty. One day, all these fascinating scenes will vanish as a story unfolded in dream!

Whatever happens to man, education and the rest, to make him grow and become big, these are of no use for his spiritual progress. They bring about only his spiritual downfall. That is why this is Maya-prapancha. Truth, in whatever Maya it is immersed, will only

shine more effulgently. For such is the nature of Truth. How can we say that the objective world, undergoing modifications every minute, waning and wasting, with the waywardness of appearing and disappearing is Eternal Truth? So, the characteristic of a Saadhaka is the attainment of Truth, not the search of the Unreal in this evanescent world. In this false world, there can be no Sathyachara, true living. There can only be Mithyachara, unreal living. True living consists in the realisation of the Lord. This must be borne in mind by every man, every moment of his life.

## Atmajyothi

-by Shri Lakshminarayan Aithal

*The discussion in the last issue introduced the three types of devotees within the context of secondary devotion. This issue continues the discussion.*

उत्तरस्मादुत्तरस्मात् पूर्वपूर्वा श्रेयाय भवति ॥ 57 ॥

57. Amongst these the previous one is the cause for the good fortune than the succeeding one.

110. Amongst the devotions of good, passion and ignorance – the passion one is nearer to the Supreme Devotion than the ignorant one; and, the good one is nearer than the passionate one. The devotion of investigator is superior than that of the one who desires wealth; the devotion of the distressed is superior than that of the investigator; for, the distressed one is ready to give up anything in order to have the Love in God, and, he desires to rejoice only in the Love in God; a child in arms rejoices by seeing the face of its mother; and, it doesn't have a desire to know her form. This is the secret of : तदर्पिताखिलाचारता तद्विस्मरणे परमव्याकुलता च (सू.19)

when नारद has mentioned the main mark of the Chief Devotion. Here, knowledge means as that of external objects, it is to decide God's Own Form through a certain notion (प्रत्यय). Intellectuals desire to decide the form of an object only through deliberation. But, those who are chief in love (प्रेमप्रधान) – are attracted towards the beauty of an object and they rejoice in its contemplation. Similarly, the distressed one doesn't desire to earn the intellectual cleverness in order to decide the Principle of God. He listens to the Glory of God from the Scripture and the Teacher. Then, he prays the Lord, thus :-

तव तत्त्वं न जानामि यादृशोऽसि जनार्दन । यादृशोऽसि महादेव तादृशाय नमो नमः ॥

'O God, I don't know Your Principle; what is Your Form, my salutation to that Form! Bless me by bestowing Your Love!' Therefore, the devotion of the distressed is chiefly based in the heart; and, it is very near to the Chief Devotion. Therefore, amongst the secondary

devotions, the devotion of the distressed one is the best one.

There is an exaltation in the distressed devotion in which devotion is conducted for the sake of devotion than the devotion is conducted for the sake of knowledge. The devotee investigator considers that the devotion is an expedient to have knowledge and he doesn't give any more value to that devotion. His eye gazes at the knowledge alone. Hence, his is not unique devotion (अनन्यभक्ति).

या निर्वृत्तिस्तनुभृतां तव पादपद्म-  
ध्यानाद् भवभञ्जनकथाश्रवणेन वा  
स्यात् ।

सा ब्रह्मणि स्वमहिमन्यपि नाथ मा  
भूत् किं त्वन्तकासि लुलितात् पततां  
विमानात् ॥

भाग. 4-9-10.

According to this, the distressed devotee considers that the happiness obtained by either meditating on the Lotus Feet of God or listening

to the stories of devotees – can't be had by either enjoying short lived happiness in heaven, etc. or by obtaining the Brahman's Own Form which rests in its Own Glory. The devotee investigator, as if a young of monkey that doesn't embrace its mother falls down, similarly, continues to acquire knowledge, otherwise, he would be ruined; but, the distressed devotee, as a kitten cries, its mother - cat rushes to take care of it, so believes that God never forsakes His devotees; then, the latter is engaged only in devotion. Hence, he has love towards God that is the unique devotion itself.

111. Here, ends the deliberation of explaining the secondary devotion. All the expedient for developing devotion are included only in the secondary devotion.

## Updates from SKM

June marked the start of a new academic year at school. We have had a sizeable increase in admissions with free English medium education being a major requirement in villages in the vicinity.

As of 10<sup>th</sup> June, there were 190 students in classes 1-7.

We have also recruited new teachers to support the English medium training at school.

At Sai Krushna Mandir, we happily welcomed Ganesh Prasad, who is also the brother of Devi Prasad ( another resident child). Ganesh joined in Sharavathi school in class 2. His parents are from a very poor background and his mother is undergoing treatment for a very serious illness.

The boundary work for Phase 2 of Sai Krushna Mandir work has been nearly completed.

Wood work has also been initiated to enable better organization of the kitchen and other areas in the children's home.

We were very happy to welcome Mr Subramanya Bettadapura, Director, Frost & Sullivan , Malaysia office. He along with his mother visited the children's home and were happy to see the developments.

Over the next few months, the Trust will be looking to operationalize the health care center and also to construct additional classrooms. The Trust and its volunteers are also coming up with a plan to enable sustainability in financial operations of the Trust.

More of this through pictures in this section.





Welcoming Ganesh Prasad, the newest entrant into the Sai Krushna Mandir family



Visit by Mr Subramanya Bettadapura and his mother to the children's home and school



Boundary wall construction nearing completion with gates also fixed on one side.



Wood work in the children's home for better organization

# Patriotism in Action

-by Prakash

Whenever we talk of a feeling or emotion, the proof of the pudding is finally in the action. Whatever we we may say but if we do not match the words with action it is of no use. Patriotism is a very scared term and it has a very deep meaning and emotion associated with it. It can bind a nation together and if we do not feel patriotic about our country then living in one becomes like a mundane existence. According to me, patriotism is not about the big things like giving your life for a citizen (it's very true and a great sacrifice for a soldier) but for the common man in the country what is their best way to show their patriotism? It is not just about cheering for India in cricket matches but it is much much more than that. Let me list a few examples which indicates our patriotism in subtle yet powerful ways, these are more applicable for our country:

- Obeying the traffic rules all the time; people profess patriotism and violate all the laws
- Keeping the surroundings clean and consciously avoiding littering at all times, are we contributing in our own small way to Swacch Bharat?
- Condemning corruption and opposing it, because corruption is like a cancer which destroys a nation and causes immense mental harm to the public especially the poor and downtrodden
- Respecting public property and ensuring it's in the same state as we had seen it; public property is our country's property, will we do it in our own homes?
- Conserving our heritage and being proud of it which includes monuments, the culture etc.

This list will go on but it's time we started living our patriotism. If every citizen would first identify themselves with the country (rather than focussing on our diversities and differences), then we can bring India back to its glorious days.

Of course, it's even more important that the people in power governing us set the right example by dedicating themselves selflessly for public service rather than looking at their gains or their parties' gains.



# Deepavali and its Divine Message

The festival of Naraka Chaturdasi, otherwise known as Deepavali, teaches man to remember how character decides destiny, designs achievements and demarcates one as either divine or demonic.

Naraka, after whom this day is named, was a nara, human being. But since he grew into a demon, he earned the meaningful title, "Narakaasura." Through his asura (demonic) qualities, he proceeded towards Naraka or Hell. He was a king, who shaped his subjects through his counsel and commands into images of himself in wickedness. The people in his kingdom were intoxicated with vice and violence.

The Lord decided to eliminate Narakaasura and redeem the people from the total ruin that faced them and guide them into the holy sattvic (pious) path of humility and goodness. Here, you must pay attention to a strange strategy that the Lord employed. The Lord invaded Narakaasura's kingdom, not once but again and again! Of course, He could have accomplished the asura's destruction during the very first campaign. But He did not do so. He forced him to explode into furious anger again and again, and each attack by the Lord made him repeatedly weaker. His resistance became feebler and feebler.

# Chinna Katha

Anger drastically reduces one's stamina. So, the Lord made Narakaasura flare up in anger, time and again, and even when he was rendered faint and flickering, the Lord decided that he did not deserve death at His Hands. He took His consort, Sathyabhaama, with Him and directed her to kill the ruffian. She could do it easily, for three-quarters of his might had been subtracted by the Lord's strategy.

*This day (the festival of Deepavali) is set apart to commemorate the destruction of such a demonic person. The significance of this celebration is that on this day the Lord killed the darkness of Ajnaana (ignorance) and the lack of awareness of the Aathma (spirit) disappeared from the people. Where the light of Aathmic awareness shines, evil thoughts, wicked speech and vicious deeds flee in fear. Therefore, one should cultivate the wisdom which can cognise one's Reality. - Baba*

