



Sri Amrutha Sai Narayana Sarveswaralayam

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The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna – Mallika Vadlamani

Only One Reality

Sri Ramakrishna explains that Kali (the Primordial Power or Shakti) and Brahman are one and the same. When the power is engaged in action, it is called Shakti, and when it is in its inactive state, it is Brahman. The Reality itself is one and the same; the difference is only in its name and form.

For example, water is called by different names in different languages. The Hindus might call it “jal”, the Mussalmans “pani”, and the English call it “water”. The difference here is only in the name, while the substance is one. Similarly, some address the Reality as Brahman, some as Allah and others as God. But Reality itself is one.

Scholarship

Mere scholarship is of no use if one's mind is not on God. By constantly thinking of worldly things, a man becomes calculating and deceitful. A scholar who might have studied numerous books and scriptures, or even written books, cannot be a real pundit if his mind does not dwell on God. Vultures soar high in the sky, but their gaze is always fixed downwards, in search of carrion. In spite of his high learning, a scholar who always thinks of worldly pleasures, is like such vultures.

On the other hand, a man who constantly thinks of God, who has seen God, will become guileless and pure in mind.

Source: The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna (Trans. By Swami Nikhilananda). Indian edition Sri Ramakrishna Math, Madras.

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ 9/1/2020
Pournami
- ◆ 9/6/2020
Sankatahara Chaturthi
- ◆ 9/8/2020
Shashti
- ◆ 9/10/2020
Ashtami
- ◆ 9/13/2020
Ekadasi
- ◆ 9/15/2020
Pradosham
- ◆ 9/17/2020
Mahalaya Amavasya
- ◆ 9/20/2020
Chaturthi
- ◆ 9/22/2020
Shashti
- ◆ 9/24/2020
Ashtami
- ◆ 9/27/2020
Ekadasi
- ◆ 9/29/2020
Pradosham
- ◆ 9/2/20—9/16/20
Mahalaya Paksham

Sai Amrutha Jyothi

VRIKSHA BHAIRAVA & VRIKSHA BHAVANI....

THIS IS ONE OF THE RAREST FORM..... IN CHAAYA ATHARVA VEDA THERE ARE 264 MAJOR FORMS OF BHAIKAVAS.... AMONG THIS 264 FORMS, AROUND 16 FORMS ARE RARE AND OUT OF WHICH 8 FORMS ARE CONSIDERED RAREST OF THE RARE....

THE 8 FORMS WITH CONSORTS ARE....

1. AKAASA BHAIKAVA—TARA
2. MAARTHAANDA BHAIKAVA—RAJA MATHANGI
3. MRUTYUNJAYA BHAIKAVA—KAPAALINI
4. VRIKSHA BHAIKAVA—BHAVANI
5. UNMATTHA BHAIKAVA—JWALINI
6. ASITHAANGA BHAIKAVA—HAMSINI
7. UJJEEVANA BHAIKAVA—UJJEEVINI
8. VIJAYA BHAIKAVA—JAYA

WITH LORD'S GRACE LET ME ATTEMPT TO HIGHLIGHT CERTAIN POINTS ABOUT VRIKSHA BHAIKAVA AND BHAVANI....

THEY ARE THE FOURTH OF THE RAREST OF THE RARE FORM....

THEY ARE MOSTLY FOUND ONLY IN THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT LIKE THE FORESTS AND THE JUNGLES....

IT IS BELIEVED THAT THEY ARE AGE OLD AND KEEP LIVING BELOW THE EARTH FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS..... WHEN THE TIME IS RIPE THEY COME OUT OF THE EARTH AS PLANTS/TREES TO ANNOUNCE TO THE WORLD THAT THEY HAVE FINALLY ARRIVED TO BE SEEN, ADORED AND WORSHIPPED....

SINCE THEY LIVE DEEP BELOW THE EARTH, MAY BE MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF MILES, THEY HAVE ABSOLUTE CONTROL THE SEVEN PATALA LOKAS...ATALA, VITALA, SUTALA, TALATALA, MAHATALA, RASATALA & PATALA.....

THE FOREFATHERS OF HUMANS ARE UNDER THEIR CONTROL AND THE PITRU LOKAS WILL FALL UNDER THESE PATALAS DEPENDING ON THE COLLECTIVE KAARMIC EFFECT OF THE INDIVIDUAL FAMILIES AND SOULS....

ON WORSHIP AND PROPITIATION OF VRIKSHA BHAIKAVA WITH HIS CONSORT BHAVANI, WILL HEAL THE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON HUMAN BEINGS DUE TO NON PERFORMANCE OF RIGHTS AND RIGHTEOUS DUTIES FOR DEPARTED SOULS IN THE FAMILY BY THE KARTAS.....IF WITH FAITH, ANY ONE APPROACHES VRIKSHA BHAIKAVA/BHAVANI AND PRAYS DEDICATEDLY PROBLEMS IN THE FAMILIES CONCERNING FOREFATHERS WILL BE SOLVED/MITIGATED....

IN CASE IF SOME ONE HAS MISSED PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES (PITRU KAARYAM) TO THEIR FOREFATHERS CAN PRAY TO VRIKSHA BHAIKAVA/BHAVANI, AND SUCH PRAYERS WILL RESULT IN THE BLESSINGS OF THE LORD AND THE FOREFATHERS.....

SINCE THE LORD IN THIS FORM IS THE ABSOLUTE OWNER OF THE SEVEN PATALA LOKAS, HE REMEDIES PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM BLACK MAGIC AND WITCHCRAFT (ILL EFFECTS OF VAAMACHAARA PRAYOGAS OF THE EAST AND THE VODOO, SORCERY AND NEGATIVE OCCULT PRACTICES OF THE WEST)

IN THIS MUNDANE WORLD, RIGHT FROM GETTING A JOB OR FOR A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE OR FOR BEGETTING A PROGENY OR FOR LIVING A HEALTHY PEACEFUL LIFE, THE BLESSINGS OF THE ANCESTORS/FOREFATHERS IS A MUST... BY PRAYING TO VRIKSHA BHAIKAVA/BHAVANI, ALL THESE THINGS ARE FULFILLED...OFCOURSE FAITH, REVERENCE AND DEDICATION IS THE KEY.....

WITH THE BLESSINGS OF THE LORD, WE FOUND THAT LORD VRIKSHA BHAIKAVA/BHAVANI HAVE MANIFESTED AS TWO BEAUTIFUL TREES IN THE SRI SAI AMRITA NARAYANA TEMPLE COMPLEX AT MANAKIN SABOT, VIRGINIA 23103....

Priya Iyer poems

Tough Survival; Terrific Spirituality

With gratitude brimming from dawn to dusk,
We journey through the day from sadhana to survival husk.

Parents in distant lands, living through lockdowns,
Kids under our roof, submerged in uncertain frown.

Income and expense, an imbalanced dance,
Shrink my wants and I am in trance!

Giggles and tears, all packed in one day,
Yet, everything feels a little far away.

Away from where, I ask myself.
What can I say, says the disappearing self!

Satya Sai Story—Shalini Gaur

Once in a forest, a hunter, on being chased by a tiger, felt tired and climbed up a tree. There was a bear sitting on the top of the tree. The tiger was waiting under the tree as it could not climb up. It was very hungry, so it wanted to gobble up the hunter. It requested the bear to push the hunter down, so that it could kill him and appease its hunger. The bear refused to do so, saying that the hunter was its guest and it was its moral duty to extend hospitality to guests. But, the tiger continued to wait under the tree. After some time, the bear started to doze. Noticing this, the tiger addressed the hunter, "O man, I am very hungry. It does not matter whether I eat you or the bear. I will go back once my hunger is satiated. The bear is dozing. So, push it down without delay. I will eat it and spare you." The man did not have the morality of even the bear. He thought he could escape from the clutches of the tiger by offering the bear as bait. So, he committed the ungrateful act of pushing the bear down. As luck would have it, the bear, as it was falling, caught hold of a branch, climbed up and saved itself from the tiger. Then the tiger said, "O bear, you should never believe the human beings. This hunter tried to harm you, though you were kind enough to give him shelter and protect him. So, without further delay, push the ungrateful wretch down, I shall devour him". But the bear said, "I have done my duty. Each one has to face the consequences of his own actions. I will not harm him just because he tried to harm me."

Guruji's Quote:

Bhagavata prays to Bhagawan.

Bhagawan prays to Bhagavata.

Devotee prays to God.

God in turn shows His gratitude by worshiping and adoring His devotee.

Towards the Divine—Kavinaya

Humility

Sri Ramakrishna has always said that one must be humble to receive the Divine grace. He said, to become great, one must be humble. The tree which has the most fruits bends low. In a balance, the scale which is heavy goes down, but the lighter one rises up. The water runs towards low ground and stays there. It does not stay on the high grounds. Likewise, Divine grace stays with the ones who are humble.

In the Sanatana Dharma, a Sathu or a Sanyasin, wears a simple attire and begs for alms. The very act of begging instils humility. Even the greatest of Sages did the same. Sri Adi Sankara, who is the incarnation of Lord Shiva Himself, came onto this earth, and he begged for alms once he renounced everything.

There is an interesting story, which goes like this. Lord Vishnu is very fond of His Conch, and never leaves it behind. One fine day, when he wanted to blow the Conch, he could not find it! He was really surprised and worried, as he really missed His Conch. He looked for it everywhere He could think of, but He could not find it. He went around and asked everyone if they happened to see His beloved Conch. But no one had any idea about it.

He was stumped and did not know what to do. At that moment, He heard the sound of His own Conch! He was thrilled and angered at the same time. He went looking for where the sound was coming from. The sound was actually coming from Kailash! He hurried to Kailash and saw that Lord Ganesha was having fun with His Conch and blowing and playing with it! Lord Vishnu came to Lord Ganesha's father, asking Him to get the Conch for Him. But Lord Shiva told Him that, only way to get anything from Ganesha is to please Him!

So, Lord Vishnu sincerely and wholeheartedly did Puja for Lord Ganesha, offering Him everything He likes. Lord Ganesha was so pleased with Lord Vishnu's Puja, He was happy to return the Conch back to His Uncle!

Even though Lord Vishnu is great Himself, He did not hesitate for a second to do Puja for Lord Ganesha. That is humility. Not to think about the greatness of ourselves, but think about the greatness of others, the greatness of the World, the greatness of the Universe, and above all, the greatness of the Maker. Humility is to realize that we are nothing in front of the Divine.

Happy Ganesh Chaturthi to all!

God Bless.

Gajendra Mokshanam – Sai Varanasi

One fine day, the herd of elephants with their leader, Gajendra, and their baby elephants, were looking for some water, to quench their thirst.

They came to this place owned by Varuna, named Ritumat.

They plunged into the waters, drank to their hearts content and then started playing around, slurping the water into their long, thick trunks and splashing the water over each other, letting it out like a jet!

They pranced and trampled and destroyed all the beautiful flowers, vines, twigs, branches creating chaos with their “over indulgence”!

There was an alligator resting in that same lake!

This chaos annoyed the alligator.

It swiftly and silently crept onto the noisy herd and dug deep into the leg of Gajendra, fastening its hold by the minute!

Gajendra made multiple attempts to shake the alligator off, but failed!

Meanwhile, the rest of the crew started moving on to the land and were wailing in vain!

The male elephants tried to pull him out of the waters with all their strength! But the alligator's hold got the better of them!

The alligator being an amphibian had more power under water than the elephant whose primary habitat is the land!

This struggle went on for thousands of years!!

Let us try to decipher this situation!

The “lake” that the elephants went in for the purpose of quenching their thirst is symbolic of this “life” (samsaaram) where all living beings are born!

Partaking what's required and moving on, is what is needed, but we all have a tendency to go helter skelter and dig deeper in search of “pleasures” and “desires”.

The waters are this illusion of life that is very attractive and entices us towards it!

The crocodile represents the “attractions” that bind down human life thus preventing one from attaining higher planes of spirituality and acknowledging the real from the unreal!

This struggle is ongoing for many births and rebirths!

The lack of appreciation of “self” and ignorance leads to the vicious cycle of birth and rebirth!

Mind you, everyone welcomes each other into this kind of life but when reality strikes, they all move away, leaving just you, to fight your cause!

Implying, all humans are “lonely” beings!

We have to care for our inner soul and understand our existence!

It's an individual effort! Not a group activity!

The sooner one realizes that and settles for a peaceful and contented life, spending time in serving God and analyzing “self”, the earlier he or she gets out of the cycle of birth and rebirth!

The narrative also mentions that the Gajendra went to the lake accompanied with thousands of “wives”!

The symbolism here being, we as human beings are accompanied by our five senses that drive us to do “thousands of things”, whether it is required or not!

Most of the time these are carried out to please others or just for fun.

The sage is cautioning the human race of such unbridled behavior!

To be continued...

Source: excerpts from the discourses of Brahmasri Saamavedam Shanmukha Sarma garu

Krishna and his Leelas—Anushaa Nukala

KRISHNA FOR TODAY



A few years back, Ustad Bismillah Khan was traveling by train from Jamshedpur to Varanasi. It was a coal run passenger train, and Ustad was traveling in the 3rd class compartment.

From an intermediate rural railway station, a cowherd boy boarded the bogey wherein the Ustad was sitting. He was a dark & lean boy and was holding a flute in his hands.

Slowly, the boy started playing his flute. The supreme quality of his music surprised the maestro Ustad who couldn't make out the 'Raga' the boy was playing.

Ustad Bismillah Khan immediately recognised that the boy was none other than Shri Krishna, the Supreme God Himself!

The nectarine Nada Brahman (Brahman in the form of music) flowing out of Krishna's flute filled Ustad's heart with ecstasy, tears of joy started pouring out of his eyes.

After the stunning performance, Ustad called the boy & presented him with a coin requesting him to play the song again.

Krishna obliged. This was repeated again & again until Bismillah Khan's wallet became empty.

Young Krishna got down at the next railway station & disappeared.

In fact, Ustad was enroute to participate in a music concert related to Kumbh Mela, the Hindu religious gathering of millions of devotees.

In that concert, Ustad presented the new 'Raaga' which he learnt that day from Krishna. This melodious 'Raaga' was greatly appreciated by the audience who begged Ustad to recite it many times.

The music scholars around couldn't make out name of the 'Raaga', and they asked about it to Bismillah Khan. The Ustad replied that name of the Raaga was 'Kanhairira'.

Next day's newspapers carried headlines about the melodious new 'Raaga' invented by Ustad Bismillah Khan.

Having read it, Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasya, the legendary Musician/Flutist, asked about 'Kanhairira' raaga's details to Bismillah Khan.

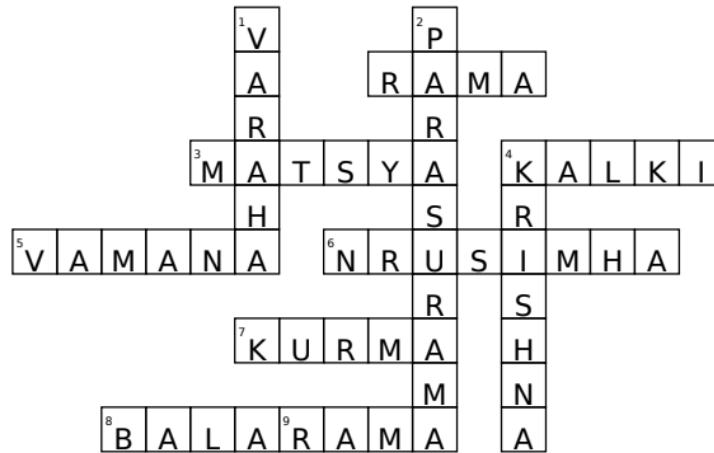
Ustad revealed the truth and sang Kanhairira..... Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasya, the topmost flutist in the world, burst into tears of joy !!

'Kanhairira' is a divine gem in Indian music, as it originated from the lotus lips of Shri Krishna, the God of Gods.

Source: Excerpts from Bhargava Swamy's discourse. Picture copyrights @krishnafortoday.com & Keshav

Just for Fun—Tejaswi Dasari

Crossword puzzle solution: Incarnations of Lord Vishnu



Down:

1. The boar
2. The warrior with the axe
4. The eighth son of Devaki and Vasudeva

Across:

3. The Fish
4. The one to appear at the end of Kali yuga
5. The Dwarf
6. Half-man/Half-lion
7. The gaint Tortoise
8. An avathara of Adhi sesha
9. The prince and king of Ayodhya

Muggulu/Kolams for Beginners—Sangeetha Madan

Do you want to know how to make this beautiful kolam in the picture?

You can watch the process of making this kolam on our youtube page Sai Amrutha Jyothi or you can use this following link:

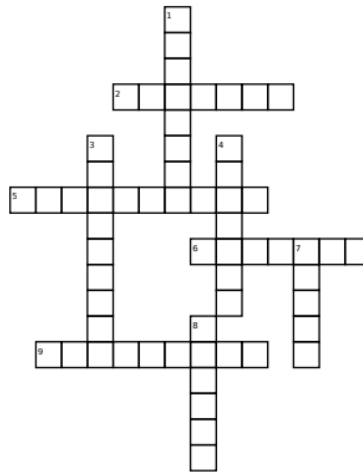
https://youtu.be/_8xWQGj66Gk

Please like, share and subscribe to our youtube channel.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvcLCGOv_5IAUYxA2vA4eqQ/



Crossword puzzle: Places in Shiridi



Down:

1. A presiding diety of Shiridi town
3. Place where Baba first appeared
4. Place where Baba used to sleep every other night
7. Place where the divine Fire is still alive
8. Devotees used to take Baba from Dwarakamai to Chavadi along with this procession

Across:

2. The monkey-faced lord
5. Place where Baba spent most part of his life including his last moments
6. Place where Baba still gives dharshan and talks to all his devotees
9. A garden created by Baba

The solution to this puzzle will be posted in the next month's edition. So stay tuned..

Spot the differences



2020 Virtual Sangeetha Natya Mahotsavam On Saturdays in July & August

Celebrate the Summer with
a Virtual Festival of
Indian Classical Music and Dance



- Streaming of Performances by Professional Artists

- ♦ Kuchipudi
- ♦ Carnatic Vocal
- ♦ Bharatanatyam
- ♦ Hindustani Vocal
- ♦ Carnatic Instrumental

- Premiered on ICAPS YouTube Channel on Saturdays @ 10am

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Watch from the comfort of your home!
Viewing period depending on the Artists' Directives,
...so catch it on the day of the premiere!





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Please like, share and subscribe our YouTube channel using the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2LmUmRUHPL96ollGNzcXdw>

Mahalaya Paksham

Mahalaya Paksham is the time of the year when we pray for all the departed souls. We seek blessings from our forefathers to continue their journey safely and bless our children with success and joy. In 2020, it is even more important that we all pray together at the Vriksha Bhairava Kshetram for all humanity. A lot of people around the globe who died of COVID-19 couldn't get the last rites done as per their scriptures. Let us all join hands to pray for all and to our Pitrus in particular for blessing us all with solace...

**Pitru Paksham from September 3rd through 17th...
Daily Saligrama Aradhana with Vriksha Bhairava Abhishekam at
the Vriksha Bhairava Kshetram....**

**Call Mama at 804-708-3007 or Sarada at 804-868-5751 to
schedule the Puja**

Gaushala Development

Let us build our Gaushala together!!

**It is believed that feeding cows is
equivalent to worshipping Krishna.**

Help us in building a new cow shed and cow feeding area.

Total estimate of Gaushala development : \$62,000

**Reaching out to 60 devotees to donate \$1,116 to
build this**

No Donation is big or small.



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