Issue 68

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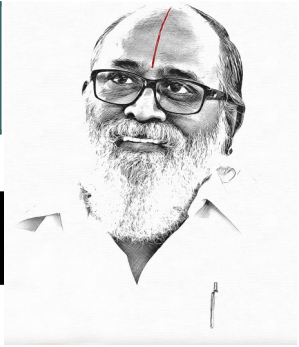

Sai Amrutha Jyothi

MASTER'S DIVINE WORDS

EXPECTATIONS LEAD TO DISAPPOINTMENT.. DISAPPOINTMENT WILL BE THE WORST ENEMY WHO WILL DESTROY ONESELF INTERNALLY.. SO SAY "NO" TO EXPECTATIONS..

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LIFE IS UNPREDICTABLE AND FUNNY…. WHEN YOU THINK THERE IS PATTERN WHICH LINKS YOUR PAST TO THE PRESENT, THE MOTHER NATURE PROVES OTHERWISE… SIMILARLY WHEN YOU THINK THE PRESENT IS NOT LINKED TO THE PAST, MOTHER NATURE PROVES THAT THERE IS A CONNECTION…

THAT'S WHY LIFE IS CHOICELESS

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SOME MIGHT HAVE BEEN HARD AT YOU… SOME MIGHT HAVE BEEN HARSH TO YOU…

IN ONE WAY, THEY MUST BE A SOURCE OF IN-SPIRATION TO YOU…

YOU KNOW WELL THAT YOU CANNOT BE THAT ANIMALISTIC WITH ANYONE… INSTEAD OF BROODING ABOUT THEM AND WASTING THE PRESENT, LEARN TO BE SOFT TO OTHERS… LEARN TO BE KIND EVEN TO YOUR OPPONENTS

~~~~His Holiness Sri V.V. Sridhar Guruji

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Upcoming Events

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- 10/28/2021 & 10/28/2021 Ashtami
- 10/02/2021 & 10/16/2021 Ekadasi
- 10/04/2021 & 10/17/2021 Pradosham
- 10/06/2021 Amavasya
- 10/11/2021 Shasti
- 10/24/2021 Sankashtahara Chaturthi
- 10/20/2021 Pournami
- 10/23/2021 Karthigai
- 10/04/2021 Masa Sivarathri

October Festivals

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- 10/01/2021—10/06/2021 Pitru paksham
- 01/07/2021—10/15/2021 Navaratri
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IF YOU ARE USEFUL TO YOURSELF, THEN THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT YOU MAY BE USEFUL TO YOUR FAMILY….

IF YOU ARE USEFUL TO YOUR FAMILY, THEN THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT YOU MAY BE USEFUL TO YOUR COMMUNITY….

IF YOU ARE USEFUL TO YOUR COMMUNITY, THEN THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT YOU MAY BE USEFUL TO THE SOCIETY….

IF YOU ARE USEFUL TO THE SOCIETY, THEN THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT YOU MIGHT BE USEFUL TO THE NATION…

IF YOU ARE USEFUL TO THE NATION, THEN THERE IS A CHANCE THAT YOU WILL ACT WITH BENEVOLENCE TOWARDS THE ENTIRE WORLD…

EVERYTHING BEGINS WITH YOU… YOU HAVE TO BE ENERGETIC IN MIND… AGE NEVER MATTERS…. THERE ARE YOUNGSTERS WHO BEHAVE AS THOUGH OLD AND THERE ARE ELDERS WHO THROB WITH YOUTHFULNESS… **SO AGE DOESN'T MATTER BUT MIND DOES MATTER**….

DO NOT BE LAZY OR LACKADAISICAL… DO WORK INSTEAD OF COMPLAINING, BLAMING & FUMING OTHERS FOR YOUR FAILURES IN LIFE… EARN SOME MONEY TO HAVE A STANDING IN LIFE… EARN MORE… SPEND MORE..

TAKE CARE OF THE NEEDY… BHAGWAN HAS BLESSED YOU MORE THAN MANY IN THIS WORLD WHO ARE NOT THAT FORTUNATE LIKE YOU…REALISE THAT YOU ARE A BLESSED SOUL WITH EVERYTHING INTACT IN PHYSICAL STRUCTURE WITHOUT ANY MAJOR DISEASE OR AILMENTS..

GO OUT & WORK… DO ANY WORK… DON'T SEE DIGNITY IN LABOUR… WORK IS ALWAYS GOOD… TREAT WORK AS SERVICE… BE AMICABLE WITH EVERYONE.. BE CALM & SPREAD POSITIVE VIBES IN YOUR ENVIRONMENT… THIS POSITIVITY IN TURN WILL GIVE YOU EVER LASTING PEACE & JOY..

~~~~His Holiness Sri V.V. Sridhar Guruji
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SAI BABA'S SANCTION FOR WRITING SAT CHARITA

When Hemadpant desired to write the life history of Baba, Sai Baba gave His complete assent to the writing of the Sat-Charita and said, "I fully agree with you regarding the writing of Sat Charita. You do your duty, don't be afraid in the least, steady your mind and have faith in My words. If my Leelas are written, the Avidya (nescience) will vanish and if they are attentively, and devoutly listened to, the consciousness of the worldly existence will abate, and strong waves of devotion, and love will rise up and if one dives deep into My Leelas, he would get precious jewels of knowledge."

Hearing this, Hemadpant was much pleased, and he at once became fearless and confident, and thought that work was bound to be a success.

BABA'S PROMISE:

After giving assent to Hamadpant, Baba turned to Shama (Madhavrao Deshpande) and said: "If a man utters My name with love, I shall fulfill all his wishes, increase his devotion. And if he sings earnestly My life and My deeds, him I shall beset in front and back and on all sides. Those devotees, who are attached to Me, heart and soul, will naturally feel happiness, when they hear these stories. Believe Me that if anybody sings My Leelas, I will give him infinite joy and everlasting contentment. It is My special characteristic to free any person, who surrenders completely to Me, and who does worship Me faithfully, and who remembers Me, and meditates on Me constantly. How can they be conscious of worldly objects and sensations, who utter My name, who worship Me, who think of My stories and My life and who thus always remember Me? I shall draw out My devotees from the jaws of Death. If My stories are listened to, all the diseases will be got rid of. So, hear My stories with respect; and think and meditate on them, assimilate them. This is the way of happiness and contentment. The pride and egoism of My devotees will vanish, the mind of the hearers will be set at rest; and if it has wholehearted and complete faith, it will be one with Supreme Consciousness. The simple remembrance of My name as 'Sai, Sai' will do away with sins of speech and hearing".

DIFFERENT WORK ASSIGNED TO DEVOTEES:

The Lord entrusts different works to different devotees. Some are given the work of building temples and maths, or ghats (flight of steps) on rivers; some are made to sing the glories of God; some are sent on pilgrimages; but Hemadpant was allotted the work of writing the Sat Charita. though he was quite unqualified for this job. Who can describe the true life of Sai Baba? Sai Baba's grace alone can enable one to accomplish this difficult work. So, when Hemadpant took up the pen in his hand, Sai Baba took away Hemadpant’s ego and wrote Himself His stories. The grace of the Lord makes a dumb man talk, enables a lame man to cross a mountain. He alone knows the knack of getting things done as He likes. Neither the flute, nor the harmonium knows how the sounds are produced. This is the concern of the Player. The oozing of Chandrakant jewel and the surging of the sea are not due to the jewel and the sea but to the rise of the moon.

Reference: Based on excerpts from Shri Sai Satcharita

Some Distance....

Our identities are one too many.
With family and friends emotions uncanny.
Materials and status built with every penny.
Hold these close and become a classic loony!

Expectations and disappointments, they say is a package!
And, 'that's life for you' is the famous adage.
But, it's not true for seers and sage.
For who there is 'some distance' between the I and the worldly stage.

Every moment let there be some distance,
Between you and yours in this existence.
Involvement and Freedom it is in every instance.
Some distance, some distance, some distance!!

Patanjali Yoga Sutra – "Samadhi Pada"

10 (continuation from September issue)

We talked about the Samprajnata Samadhi, and saw that it is a process of involution. From Prakriti, the world came into being because of natural evolution, but here in Yogic meditation, we are going inward, and experience the involution. We saw then that the next stage is Asamprajnata Samadhi, where one is completely free from the World, and is fully liberated, and such person is called Jivanmukta. King Janaka was such a Jivanmukta.

Now Sage Patanjali touches upon various ways in which one could attain the state of Asamprajnata Samadhi, i.e. through faith, vigor, memory, contemplation, and/or by discernment. Depending on one's keenness and intent, and how the practice is, (mild, medium, or intense), the Samadhi comes slowly or quickly accordingly.

Sage Patajali says that there is one more way to get success. That is by Isvara Pranidhana, or self-surrender to God.

Isvara or Purusa is the Supreme soul. Isvara is beyond desire and action. Isvara is all-knowing and the knowledge itself. Once we say that our knowledge is limited, then we naturally accept that there is limitless knowledge as well, and that is Isvara.

Everyone needs a Guru to show the path. Even though the knowledge is within us, we need Guru's help to understand it and attain it. The Guru gets his knowledge from his Guru, and he from his, and so on. When the chain goes on, we know that there must be a Source from which the first set of Gurus learned the truth. That Source, is the Guru of Gurus, or Isvara.

Isvara Pranidhana, or devotion to the all-knowing Isvara, is the emotional path of attaining Samadhi. Basically, Surrender is another method of transcending one's ego. Once we leave everything up to the Supreme Soul and surrender, we can achieve eternal peace.

After explaining the existence of Isvara, Sage Patanjali goes on to give a name for Isvara. Since a name such as "Isvara" is limited, Sage Patanjali wants to give a name that can give an unlimited idea, and vibration, which can include all vibrations, all sounds, and all syllables possible, because Isvara or God is infinite. And so he gives the name "OM".

(To be continued…)

Reference: "The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali" by Swami Sachidananda.

DO YOU KNOW OUR TEMPLE LAYOUT?

Our temple complex is huge, with several buildings/ shrines, and here's an attempt to give you a layout of the different buildings/shrines we have. Under normal conditions (pre-covid19), one would enter the temple through Main Entrance, where you reach reception and other facilities. Our multi-purpose hall is also located here, where cultural activities are performed.

Main Temple:

From the reception area, you will enter main temple proper, walking through glass pavilion and Raja Gopuram. You will pay your obeisance at Dwajastambham/Bali Peetam and enter the prayer halls. This is our Main Temple, where Sri Sai Amrutha Narayana and several other deities are located. You will see Sri Lakshmi Nrusimha/Garuda/Hanuman & Amrutha Narayana/Bhudevi/Sridevi (you can see in mirror), Padmavathy, Venka-tachalapathy, Bhu Varaha, Lakshmi Hayagreeva, Prathyangira Devi/ Maha Meru, NavaGrahas, Ayyappa Swamy, Subramanyeswara/Valli/Devasena, Yoga Nrusimha, Kurmanayaki & KurmaNarayana (you can see in the mir-ror), Maha Ganapathi, Maha Lingeswara, Mrutyumjaya Bhairava, Prayoga Nrusimha, and Utsava Moorthy of all Bhagawans.

From the main temple, you exist through North door to visit Dwarkamayi, Gurustan, Kalyana Sarpam, Yagna kundams, Eeshana Yagna Raksha Ganapati, and Vriksha Bhairava kshetram.

Dwarakamayi:

As you exit north door, you will see Dwarakamayi mandir to the left side, about 50 ft away. Inside, you will find our Gracious and kind Sri Sai Baba moorthy, along with Lord Dattatreya, and Sri Maharshi Rajar. This is also our Dhuni mandir.

Dwarakamayi mandir is also our Deepashala, where you can light a lamp in front of Baba and seek His blessings.

DO YOU KNOW OUR TEMPLE LAYOUT?

Gurustan:

Coming out of Dwarkamayi, you will find our Gurustan in front/left. This is where you offer your prayers to Guru, who in this place is also representing your forefathers. Going around Gurustan, in the back you will find the small shrine of Kalyana Sarpam with Bala Mukunda.

Vriksha Bhairava kshetram:

From the Yagna kundam, you continue on the walkpath to the left to the end of the asphalt road, you will see the brick path, leading to Vriksha Bhairava kshetram. Along the way, you see our pushkarini, and then Vriksha Bhairava Kshetram. This a complete glass house, and normally people are not admitted inside, unless we are performing some prayers, for you. Here you will see Lord Vriksha Bhairava/Vriskha Bhavani (in the form of tree), Sri Yantram, Balipeetams and Astrams. This is a Pitru Kshetram, and we perform all pitru karyams in this place.

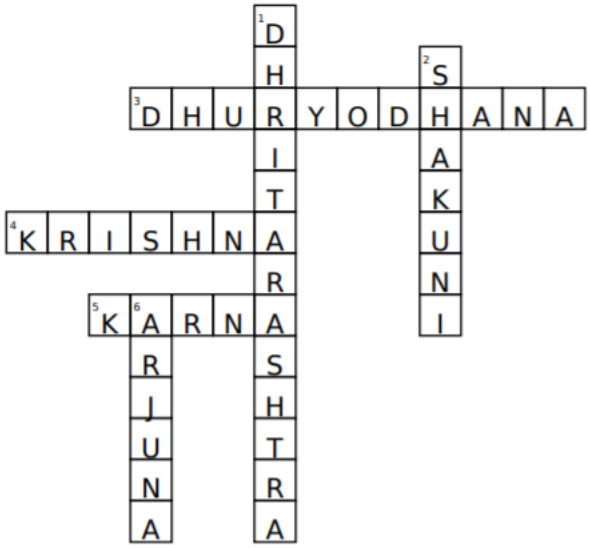
Eeshana Yagna Raksha Ganapathi:

Coming up from Vriksha Bhairava kshetram, once you come to the pradhana yagna kundam, on the right side you will see the small shrine of Eeshana Yagna Raksha Ganapathi, who protects all of us.

Ideally, when you come to temple, you will start with Main temple and then continue to visit other shrines, as outlined in the above sequence. Please do contact the temple if you need further information.

Just for Fun—Anushaa Nukala

Crossword Puzzle Solution



Down:
1. The blind king
2. Kaurava's uncle
6. Also known as Partha

Across:
3. Kaurava's eldest
4. The charioteer
5. King of Anga

Kolam—Sangeetha Sridhar

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

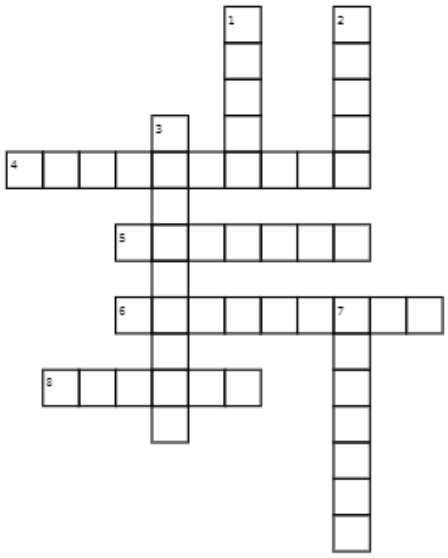
You can watch the process of making this Kolam on our Youtube page Sai Amrutha Jyothi or you can use this following link:

https://youtu.be/6dfAvSz8DAY

Please like, share and subscribe to our Youtube channel.

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

Deities & Vaahanas



Down:
1. Lion
2. Bull/Ox
3. Mouse
7. Tiger

Across:
4. Peacock
5. Owl
6. Swan
8. Eagle

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

Spot 6 differences between the 2 pictures

Source: Pinterest

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 the present times, 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 21st through October 6th...

Aradhana at Vriksha Bhairava Kshetram is an extraordinary way of paying respects and showing our gratitude to all our JIVA PITRUS...

All can perform these prayers in this Kshetram..

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

Navarathri Celebrations

Vijaya Dasami 10/ 15/2021

6.00 am Dwarakamayi Baba Abhishekam

5.30 pm Dhoop Aarathi

6.00 pm Rudraabhishekam— Sri Sai Amrutha Narayana

9.00 pm Shej Aarathi

Please call J. Sarada @804 868 5751 or B. Rajagopalan @ 804 708 3007 for sponsor ship details

Sri Sai Amrutha Narayana Sarveshwara Alayam

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Navarathri Celebrations

After a long break during the pandemic, ICAPS is happy to announce that its opening its doors again for the Virtual Navarathri festival.

7th October 2021	6:30—7:15 pm	Ashwini Manjunath
8th October 2021	6:30—7:15 pm	Uma Chetty
9th October 2021	5:00—6:00 pm 6:30—7:15 pm	Bhagwad Gita chanting Aaradhana, Sripranav & Sripallavi Vedam Sastry Vedam (Veena) Janani Hari
10th October 2021	5:00—6:00 pm 6:30—7:15 pm	Devotional Bhajans Madhu, Sidharth Sivakumar & Prem Prabhakaran Chitra—Ravi Ravindran Vijaya Raghunathan
11th October 2021	6:30—7:15 pm	Vedhashruthi Rajesh Taran Shivkumar—Shivkumar C
12th October 2021	6:30—7:15 pm	Anwitha Sanivarapu Sahaj Sagiraju
13th October 2021	6:30—7:15 pm	Amogha Anand Balaji & Ilakkiya Senthilkumar
14th October 2021	6:30—7:15 pm	Ameya King Anvitha Karthik—Vidhushi Amrutha Venkatesh

We look forward to a festive Navarathri season with many music and dance performances.

Sri Sai Amrutha Narayana Organization

340 Three Chopt Road, Manakin Sabot, Va. 23103

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http://sriamruthasai.org/