

Niramaala

enhancing relationship. bonding the community

A Newsletter of Variar Samajam, Mumbai

October-December 2008

Variar Samajam, Mumbai
Silver Jubilee Year
1984-2009

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Wishing you all a peaceful 2009

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NIRAMALA

October-December 2008

*enhancing relationships. bonding the community***Manoj Warriar**
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OR to:L3/302, Poonam Pragati, Poonam Nagar
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Andheri (E), Mumbai - 400 093.**Inside ...**President's Message, Page **4**Samajam News....., Page **5**Lokam....., Page **8**A Vacation....., Page **9**It can happen, Page **11**Varnashrama....., Page **12**Poem Corner, Page **13**Narayaneeyam, Page **14***NOTE: All views expressed in the columns of Niramala are of the respective writer's and Niramala will be in no way responsible for any claims or remarks expressed by the author of the article/review.***hello**

We all just went through one of the most horrendous, shameless, unforgiving, unpardonable terror strikes. It was war. And this battle between sophisticated machine guns, lathis, rifles, and irrational political minds went on for over three days, taking on its way lives of innocent people, the policemen, the NSG commandos and our morale. This tragedy has shaken almost every person out of the slumber. It has given our 'chalta hai' attitude the much-deserved jolt. People have woken up. People have become more concerned, more aware. And hope the same happens with the political mindset too. I hope so.

We all at Variar Samajam condole the sacrifices of the innocent people, the policemen and officers, the NSG Commandos and pray for their souls to rest in divine peace and shower extra strength to the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss. We also thank the brave officers who fought the assailants with a mediocre rifle, the announcer at CST and the countless others who used their presence of mind and guided people to safety.

This issue is the last one for the year. And is filled with some interesting articles. Next Year, Variar Samajam, Mumbai celebrates its Silver Jubilee. A host of celebrations are being planned. Niramala too is going in for a new look and will get spicier.

So, let's hope that the year 2009 is more peaceful, less strenuous and prosperous for all.

In the meantime, don't forget to send us your feedback and suggestions to improve this newsletter.

Happy reading and Happy New Year.

- Manoj Warriar

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SAMAJAM NEWS

From the Desk of the President

Dear Members,

Mumbai just went through a bad face of terror and we all at Variar Samjam condemn such cowardly acts. We pray to almighty to grant eternal peace to all those who lost their lives in the terror attacks. Let us take a stand to be more vigilant when we walk, hear, see, laugh and to be more cooperative, more responsible, respect the law of the land and its officers.

We have just crossed one more year of our Samajam's existence. On October 2, 2008 we conducted our 24th Annual General Body Meeting followed by certain cultural programmes presented by the families & children of Samajam members. It was indeed gratifying that many of our members & their families, do participate & involve in the Samajam activities and encourage us to plan and do better things in future.

A very special aspect of our AGM function was the participation of representatives of Variar Samajam's from other centers in India, thus evolving a forum and opportunity for members of various Variar Samajam's to interact with each other, and to evolve a new relation among members of our community at various parts of the country. We started this movement last year, when the Gen. Secretary of Variar Samajam Kerala participated, on our invitation, in our AGM of 2007. This year, we had the privilege of having representatives from Kerala, Coimbatore, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Baroda, to participate in our AGM, as special guests. Along with our AGM, our Samajam also hosted a meeting of the World Confederation of Warrior Organizations (WCWO), which is now emerging as a vibrant organization of Variar community members of India & rest of the world. The Mumbai Samajam is closely associating itself with this new movement, for which the last AGM was kind enough to give its approval. You will hear more about this in due course.

With the conclusion of the last AGM, we enter into a new year that is very significant for our Samajam. We have entered into our 25th i.e. Silver Jubilee year. We are now expected to be well matured and undertake significant activities for the Samajam. There is adequate opportunity to indulge in major & consistent activities; but the most important need of the Samajam is participation in the Samajam's activities by a larger number of members. There has to be a CHANGE in the members present level of involvement in the Samajam's activities.

In the current year, we are planning much more & new activities than we had carried out in the past. Our earlier major activities like free eye check-up camps for school children, eye donation awareness campaigns, etc., will be pursued more vigorously. Also proposed are cultural programmes in different areas, blood donation drives, group travels to religious centers and/or picnic spots, competitive programmes for children, ladies etc. We invite suggestions from members for new activities to be taken up by the Samajam. We are also planning to improve our magazine 'Niramala' both in content & number of issues. We invite members & their families, including children, to contribute articles & other matters for Niramala.

Let us together take up & engage in better activities & programmes in our Samajam & make our silver jubilee year, and later, the silver jubilee functions a grand success & a memorable one.

Thanks & best regards to all

sd/-

T.V. Ramachandran
President

SAMAJAM NEWS

Annual General Body Meeting- *compiled by T. V. Sekharan Kutty*

Variar Samajam, Mumbai, held its 24th Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 2nd October 2008, at Nappoo Hall, Matunga. The Meeting started at 10.30 a.m. with Bhadradeepam lighted by our senior most members and guests. A nice Pookkalam added beauty to the arena. Smt. Padmavathy Varassiar enlivened the beginning of the AGM, with her beautiful rendition of a prarthana.

Mr. T. Muraleedharan, Jt. Secretary, read out the condolence message in respect of the departed members and a two minute silence was observed as a mark of respect to the departed souls.

Vice President Mr. M. V. Madhava Warriar welcomed the members as well as our special guests. Mr. T. V. Ramachandran made the Presidential speech. Among other things, **he reminded the members that we are entering the Silver Jubilee Year.** He appreciated the efforts of our past office bearers and others for their efforts in bringing up our Samajam to its present position.

The routine AGM agenda items followed and then the area representatives briefed about the activities in their respective places. Our special guests from Kerala, Coimbatore, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Baroda took their turns to address the audience.

The Onasadya was enjoyed by all and it was time to sit down for the cultural treat. The programs included Songs, Dance items, Skit, Bhajan and an impromptu saree-clad Kaikottikali.

At the end of the session, the Devaki Memmorial and Variar samajam scholarships were presented to members' children who topped the SSC and HSC exams held in March-April 2008. This was followed by the prize distribution to all participants.

But that was not the end, the evening session unfolded with the WCWO Conference which was represented by the members of Variar Samajam units in Kerala, Coimbatore, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Baroda. A video conference session (courtesy Mr. Suresh Warriar, CMD- Warriars.org and Mr. Manoj Warriar, Editor Niramala) ensued with members from worldwide units based in Sharjah, Dubai coming together to discuss the potentialities of WCWO and how to strengthen its functioning. There was a strong debate on the propoganda of WCWO and it was concluded that a Memorandum be tabled and the list of its agenda be laid out before taking cumulative measures in enforcing the WCWO. Mr. A. S. Madhavan, Dr. Sashikutty, Mr. K.V.Narayanan Kutty, Mr. Ramchandran K.V., Mr. P.Venugopal along with few other members were the other distinguished guest on the panel.

Western Suburb Variars get together-2009

The much-awaited get-together of western suburbs variars has arrived.

It will be held on **25th January 2009** between **9.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. (with lunch)** at:

Jeevan Shanti Community Hall, LIC Colony, Santacruz (W), Mumbai.

More details on the event is being sent to concerned members by the organisers.

SAMAJAM NEWS

DOMBIVILI VARIARS GET TOGETHER, compiled by K. V. Prakasan

"What a memorable day it was". The Dombivili Variar family members get -together was held on 9/11/08 with a variety of cultural programmes, games etc. It was really a great day, thanks to the wholehearted cooperation from all members/ families and the effort everyone put to make it a successful event. Lord Krishna was there on the stage.

The programme began at 9.50 am after a lovely break fast, with the lighting of Badradeepam and a prayer recital to lord Ganesha. A one minute silent prayer was observed to pay respect to the departed soul of our beloved senior members Shri Achuthan Kutty (known as Achuvettan to all of us and a guardian to many of us) and Shri Appukutta Variar who was a senior artist in carnatic classical music at AIR Kerala.

The cultural programmes began with a *malakettal* competition, which is supposed to be our *kulathozil*. We had lot of participants, which also showed that many of us have not forgotten that art. This year we had a mixed bag of programmes with lot of different cultural items like *kaikottikali*, *ottamthullal*, *bharathnatyam*, classical music, poetry recitals, besides cinematic dance and film songs. *Kaikottikali* was presented in a dramatic sequence with the *tharavttu karnavar* remembering, with other old family members, the golden days when Onam was celebrated with *sadya* and the children presenting the *kaikottikali*.

The second half saw a brief presentation by the Mumbai Samajam members that touched upon encouraging the little talent and appreciating the effort put by each participants and other members to make a good show. They also presented the coming events and suggested better participation from all members, so that we can do lot of thing for our Variar community in the future. This was followed by a Quiz programme that tested the intelligent level of the children.

At the end, the games added to the fun. The best thing about the event was that almost all families were present and there was, at least, one participation per family for the cultural programme. The Variar Samajam Member's Directory was also distributed to all the members present.

MATRIMONIALS

ALLIANCE invited from parents of suitable Warriar boys for a Mumbai based Warriar girl, graduate in Computer Science, employed in a reputed Software Firm. She is nearing 23, star Pooram, height 5'2" & wheatish in complexion. For horoscope and further details, please contact: **Vinod – 9869572159** or **Sekharankutty –9820006800**

ALLIANCE invited from parents of suitable Warriar girls, preferably settled in Mumbai, for a Mumbai based Warriar boy, age 29, star Uthratathi, height 6' and working as CA with a reputed firm. For further details, please contact on: **9769558125**

OBITUARY

Shri Raghava Warriar (Peringode Variyam, Palakkad) expired at his Malad residence on 30th October, 2008. He was 83 years old. He is survived by wife: Smt. Parvathi Warasiar, Mundur Wariam, Palghat, Children: Hirankumar, Manoj (Sons), Girija, Jayanthi (Daughters)

Variar Samajam condoles his demise and pray that the departed soul rest in peace.

SAMAJAM NEWS

Members' Directory- ANNOUNCEMENT

Members' Directory – 2008 of Variar Samajam, Mumbai, was formally released during our AGM on 2nd October 2008.

The copies are now being distributed to all our members and is being done through area get-togethers, meetings etc. The distribution has already commenced at the Dombivili and Kalyan get-togethers. The next distribution session will be at the Western Region Get-together to be held on 25th January 2009.

Moreover, members can approach the nearest Committee Member and obtain their copy. We have taken all measures, within our control, for the accuracy of the information provided in the directory, however, it is possible that some errors or some information might be missed out. In such cases, the members are requested to inform the Committee Member.

The Managing Committee hereby expresses gratitude to all those members who contributed, in different ways, for updating / revising the Members' Directory. Our appreciation and special thanks are also due to the Advertisers: M/s. Saptagiri Packaging Pvt. Ltd., FLYJAC Logistics Pvt. Ltd., Aladdin Multimedia Pvt. Ltd., Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala, Indochem Industries, T. V. Vijayan & Associates, Orbond Chemicals Pvt. Ltd., Warriar & Warriar Engineering Company, AVN Arogya Ayurvedic Centre and T V R Associates.

Silver Jubilee Year 1984-2009

NIRAMALA / MARCH 2009



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In Focus

Niramala has opened up our community. We all at Niramala and Variar Samajam are overwhelmed with the response to this concept. For quite some time what has boggled my mind (perhaps most of you too) has been the origin of the name variar (warrior to some). Literature did help me, but it was Dr. Sudhir Warriar who enlightened me in a simple yet rather dramatic way the birth of our tribe of variars, on the warriors website. Long before the ocean was churned by the gods and the asuras to convert into nectar, Lord Shiva was once accosted by some rakshasas, he pulled out a few ribs and created an army to assist him. These were the WARI-JANS. We are the descendents of the Warijans (the name obviously got corrupted with the passage of time). Thus we are Shaivites. The Warijans followed the Lord into his abode and continued to serve him. Thus we are Ambalavasis.

Now that we have got a platform to express our views and ideas, we need to really

LOOKING BACK

“I happened to visit our archives and would like to take you back to the year 2001, when we started ‘Niramala’. The following extract of Manoj’s editorial is interesting to read and it will refresh your memories. Let us try to remember our past during this Silver Jubilee Year. Contributions are welcome.”

T.V. Sekharankutty

Gen. Secretary, Variar Samajam, Mumbai.

“Niramala has opened up our community. We all at Niramala and Variar Samajam are overwhelmed with the response to this concept. For quite some time what has boggled my mind (perhaps most of you too) has been the origin of the name variar (warrior to some). Literature did help me, but it was Dr. Sudhir Warriar who enlightened me in a simple yet rather dramatic way the birth of our tribe of variars, on the warriors website. Long before the ocean was churned by the Gods and the asuras to convert into nectar, Lord Shiva was once accosted by some rakshasas, He pulled out a few ribs and created an army to assist him. These were the WARI-JANS. We are the descendents of the Warijans (the name obviously got corrupted with the passage of time). Thus we are Shaivites. The Warijans followed the Lord into his abode and continued to serve Him. Thus we are Ambalavasis”

So, send your views and suggestions on how to make the Silver Jubilee Celebrations a grand event.

!!ലോകം മുത്തശ്ശിയുടെ !!

ശംഭോ മഹാദേവം *by* M. V. Madhava Warriar

മുത്തശ്ശി കാലും നീട്ടി പുറത്തേക്ക് കണ്ണുനട്ട് ഇരിക്കുന്ന ചിത്രം -വെളുത്തുനീണ്ട മുടി, അവരുടെ മനസ്സുപോലെ പരിശുദ്ധം, അഴുകാർന്ന തേജസ്സേറിയ മുഖം.

ഓലക്കെട്ടുകളിൽ നോക്കി എപ്പോഴും കവിതകൾ ചെല്ലുമായിരുന്നു. എന്താ മുത്തശ്ശി, മുത്തശ്ശിയുടെ പുസ്തകത്തിന് കടലാസില്ലേ... കൂട്ടാ, എല്ലാം നമുക്ക് തരുന്നത് പ്രകൃതി ആണ്. പ്രകൃതിയെ സ്നേഹിക്കുക, പ്രപഞ്ചമാണ് ഈശ്വരൻ. ഈ ഓലയും പ്രകൃതി തന്നതുതന്നെ.

ഒരു പ്രത്യേകത, മുത്തശ്ശി വായിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഒരിക്കലും ഓലയിൽ നോക്കാറില്ല. എല്ലാം അറിയുന്ന ഒരു പ്രതിഭാസമായിരുന്നു എന്റെ മുത്തശ്ശി.

ഹൃദ്യമായ ചെറിയ കഥകൾ, ഹൃത്യക്കൾ മാറി വരുമ്പോൾ മുത്തശ്ശിയുടെ കഥകൾക്കും മാറ്റം വരും. വിക്രമാദിത്യ കഥകൾ ഒരു പ്രത്യേക സ്വരത്തിൽ അവർ പറയുമായിരുന്നു. അവയിലെ കഥാപുരുഷൻന്മാരുടെ കൂടെ ഞങ്ങളും സഞ്ചരിക്കും. മഹാഭാരതം, രാമായണം, മദന കാമരാജൻ കഥകൾ അങ്ങിനെ എത്രയെത്ര കഥകൾ സുന്ദരമായ താളത്തിൽ പറയുമായിരുന്നു.

കഥയിലെ രാജകുമാരൻ പറന്നുവന്ന് രാജകുമാരിയുടെ അടുക്കൽ ചെല്ലാറുണ്ട്. എങ്ങിനെയാണ് രാജകുമാരൻ പറക്കുന്നത് മുത്തശ്ശി? പറക്കും മന്ത്രം ചൊല്ലി രാജകുമാരൻ പറക്കും.

ഓർമ്മകളിൽ ഇന്നും ചിരിക്കു വക നൽകുന്ന ഒരു സംഭവം.. പറക്കും മന്ത്രം എനിക്ക് അറിയാം. എന്റെ ജേഷ്ഠനെ അത് ഞാൻ പഠിപ്പിച്ചു. പറക്കട്ടേ...പറക്കട്ടേ.. എന്ന് മൂന്നു വട്ടം പറഞ്ഞ് വക്കോതുറുവിന്റെ മുകളിൽനിന്നും കിഴ്പ്പോട്ട് ചാടുക. പുളളിക്കാരൻ അതുപോലെ തന്നെ ചെയ്തു. ശേഷം... നെല്ലിന്റെ കുമ്പാരത്തിൽനിന്നും കൃഷ്ണം കൂടാതെ പുറത്തേക്ക് വന്നതിൽ മുത്തശ്ശിക്ക് ഒരു കഥക്ക് കൂടിയുള്ള അവസരം കിട്ടി.

തിരുവാതിര കുളിക്കാൻ പോകുമ്പോൾ മുത്തശ്ശിയുടെ കൂടെ ഞങ്ങളും പോകും. വല്ലപ്പോഴും വീണുകിട്ടുന്ന ഒരു അനുഭൂതി ആണ് കുളത്തിലെ കുളി. മുത്തശ്ശി എടുത്ത് മുക്കി കുളിപ്പിക്കും. ഒരു മാനസ സരസ്സിലും കിട്ടാത്ത സംതൃപ്തി. സാക്ഷാൽ ഗംഗയുടെ അവതാരമായിരുന്നോ എന്റെ മുത്തശ്ശി?

മാവേലി മന്നന്റെ കഥകൾ ഒട്ടേറെ പൊടിപ്പും തൊണ്ടലുംവെച്ച് മുത്തശ്ശി പറയുമ്പോൾ വാമനനെ കുറിച്ച് നീരസം തോന്നിയിരുന്നു. ഓണക്കഥകളിലൂടെ എന്തെല്ലാം സംസ്കാരമാണ് ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് പകർന്നു തന്നത്. വട്ടിത്തള്ള (പൂ പഠിക്കാനുള്ള ചെറിയ തൊട്ടിയാണ് വട്ടി) ഓണക്കാഴ്ച കൊണ്ടു വരുന്നു. കൃഷിക്കാരൻ, ഓണവില്ല് കൊട്ടി വരുന്ന പാണന്മാർ ഇവരെയെല്ലാം വളരെ ബഹുമാനത്തോടെയാണ് സ്വീകരിച്ചിരുന്നത്. ഇന്ന് മാഞ്ഞുപോയ സുന്ദര കാഴ്ചകൾ.

കളിമണ്ണുകൊണ്ട് വിവിധ കാലസൃഷ്ടികൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കാൻ അതീവപാടവം അവർക്ക് ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു.

അവയിൽ ചിലത് മുത്തിയമ്മ, കുട്ടിപ്പട്ടർ, ഉരൽ, അമ്മി, വിവിധ വീട്ടുപകരണങ്ങൾ അങ്ങിനെ പോകുന്നു. ചെങ്കല്ലുകൊണ്ടും കരികൊണ്ടും, ചുണ്ണാമ്പുകൊണ്ടും ചായക്കുട്ടുകൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കും, മോടിയോടെ അലങ്കരിക്കും. തൃക്കാക്കരപ്പൻ ഒരു ലോകാന്ത്യം പോലെ തോന്നും.

സംഗീതത്തിന്റെ ബാലപാഠങ്ങൾ മുത്തശ്ശിയിൽനിന്നുമാണ് ഹൃദ്യമായത്. നല്ല രീതിയിൽ കൊയ്തപാട്ടു പാടുമായിരുന്നു.

ഇന്ന് ഈ ലോകത്ത് കാണുന്ന പുരോഗതി(?) മുത്തശ്ശിയുടെ കഥകളിൽ നിർലോഭം തെളിഞ്ഞു കണ്ടിരുന്നു. മാന്ത്രിക കണ്ണാടിയിൽ നോക്കി എഴാംകടിലനക്കരെ ഇരിക്കുന്ന മരതക ദ്വീപിലെ പവിഴമല്ലിയെ രാജകുമാരൻ കാണുമായിരുന്നു. സന്ദേശ വാഹകരായ അരയന്നങ്ങളും മാട പിറാവും ഒരു പുതുമയല്ല; നിമിഷനേരംകൊണ്ട് സ്വർഗ്ഗത്തിലും പാതാളത്തിലും ചെല്ലുന്ന അതികായന്മാർ, എന്തിനേറെ സ്മരണമാത്രയിൽ തന്നെ ഏതു ഭയങ്കരമായ ആയുധങ്ങളും കയ്യിൽ വരുന്ന വിദ്യ, ഇന്നും നമുക്ക് ഒരു സ്വപ്നം മാത്രം. മലകളും വൃക്ഷങ്ങളും പിഴുതെടുത്ത് യുദ്ധം ചെയ്യുന്നു. വീരാളികൾ വാ...വാ... നമുക്ക് യുദ്ധം ചെയ്യാം.

കഥകളും പുരാണങ്ങളും കേട്ട് ഞങ്ങൾ ഉറങ്ങും. ആകാശത്തേരിലേറി, ഹംസങ്ങൾ തുഴയുന്ന തോണിയേറി, മരതക ദ്വീപിൽ ചെന്ന് ഇറങ്ങിയിരുന്നു.

ഒരു ദിവസം മുത്തശ്ശി വർണ്ണ ചിറകുകൾ വീശി, ദേവദൂതന്മാരുടെ അകമ്പടിയോടെ യാത്രയായി.

വെൺമേഘങ്ങൾ കാണുമ്പോൾ അത് മുത്തശ്ശിയുടെ രൂപത്തെ ഇന്നും ഓർമ്മിപ്പിക്കുന്നു.

ഓർമ്മകൾ മറക്കാറില്ല. മോഹങ്ങൾ അടങ്ങാറില്ല. തിരകൾ ശമിക്കാറില്ല. ഈ പ്രപഞ്ചത്തിനും നാശമില്ല. മരീചികപോലെ, തേടിത്തേടി നടക്കുവാൻ മുത്തശ്ശി പ്രചോദനം നൽകുന്നു.

A **Vacation** in the country *called* ‘**Ground Zero**’

by **Shweta P. Warriar**

Hello Friends. This is Shweta again. I spent my last vacation (March 08) on a short trip to United States of America. Let me share my excitement with you all.

My examination finished on 11th of March. I along with my parents was to leave to U.S.A. on the same night. I was fully excited and all my thoughts were of the trip and trip only.

From Abu Dhabi, we flew to London. At London we had a wait of about two hours before we could board our flight to New York. We reached New York on 12th and checked in at Hotel “Sheraton”. After resting for an hour or two we went out to explore the city.

I have often wondered why New York is called “Big Apple”. Now I know that New York is really a big city with many locations of interest worth roaming around and sight seeing. We went and saw the “Empire State Building” from where you can see the whole of “New York City”. Next was “Times Square” which is the locality having a number of Broadway Theatres. Each and every theatre attracts a lot of crowd. We further jumped into a “Hop in and Hop off” bus. Here you can purchase a single ticket for the whole day and visit different points of interest, breaking journey at each hop. Our next visit was to see “Statue of Liberty”. We took a ferry to reach the island where the statue is located. The “Statue of Liberty” is considered as “Statue of Enlightenment” with a torch in one hand and a book in the other. We also went round a museum showing the History of the statue. Ellis Island is known as the Gateway to America. We spent some time here also. On our round we also saw “Twin Towers, United Nations Building, buildings of some International Companies like NBC, BBC etc. Along with modern designs there stood some buildings of old and traditional designs also.

When I stood at “Ground Zero” where once stood the “World Trade Centre” I felt very sad remembering that black day of 11th September. Thousands of lives are being destroyed in the name of religion, nationality, language etc. Let us hope a day will come when we will be free from all such thoughts. A new structure is already under construction at the site to replace the destroyed World Trade Centre.

Our destination next day was Niagara. We caught a flight to Niagara and on arrival checked in at Hotel “Days Inn”. Niagara is famous for its waterfalls and is also known as “Maid of the Mist”. Whole of Niagara was covered with snow. We were told that four to five days earlier there was a heavy snow fall. The water fall itself was covered with mist and the sight was very beautiful. Before returning to the hotel we spent some time playing with snow.

Next day we flew to “Washington”. The “Science Museum” at Washington is a very informative centre. A complete history and development of ‘Aeroplane’, as we see today, is exhibited with models and dates. Washington is a city of memorials for great people. We visited memorials of ‘Jefferson’, ‘Franklin. D. Roosevelt’ & ‘Lincoln’. We also saw ‘World War 2’ memorial, ‘Korean’ memorial and the ‘Vietnam’ memorial. We also had a view of ‘White House’ the residence of the President of U. S. A.

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From Washington we went to 'Orlando [Florida]'. Attraction of Orlando is the 'Sea World'. A number of shows involving sea animals were there. We saw a few like the 'Sea Lions' show, 'Killer Whale' show. We stayed back at Orlando that day and subsequent three days at "Mariot Hotel Courtyard". Next day, we caught a bus and went to see "Disney's Magic Kingdom". There are many rides at this place, each giving very fascinating views and experiences like one at "The Stitch's Great Escape", 'The Haunted Mansion' etc. Each ride was very enjoyable and also funny. The third day we visited the famous "Animal Kingdom". Here again there are number of rides like 'The Expedition Everest', 'Legend of the Forbidden Mountain', 'Dinosaur' etc. There were a lot of shows like the 'Flights of Wonder', 'It is tough to be a bug' etc. I enjoyed these rides very much. On the fourth day of our stay at Orlando we went to 'Epcot Centre'. Here we saw some innovative shows like 'Honey, I shrunk the Audience', 'Tomorrow World' etc and all of them are very entertaining. Further we went to 'Universal Studios' where also there were a number of rides and shows like the 'Fear Factor', 'Shrek 3', 'Horror make up show', 'terminator 2' etc.

Next day, we boarded a flight to Houston. At Houston we stayed with the family of Amar Uncle/Kulsum Auntie, an old friend of Daddy. They along with their two children accompanied us to "Austin" for a boat ride and to see the beautiful sight of sun setting behind the mountains. 'River Bank' is located at "San Antonio". 'River Bank' is a city made above water. We visited and went round the city for some time. From San Antonio we went back to Houston and further flew to "Las Vegas".

At "Las Vegas" we stayed at Hotel 'Hilton'. We went round the city by 'Metro'. We also had a round of the city on a conducted tour. We saw 'Masquerade Ball Show' and a display of 'Venetian Arts' at 'Venetian Hotel'. Venetian Hotel is the biggest hotel in the world having 20,000 rooms. We also saw "Madame Tussauds (original is in London)" in which real life like statues of important people like Mohammad Ali, Brain Lara etc are exhibited. At 'Belligionio Hotel' there was a display of flowers from all over the world kept beautifully decorated. It was a breathtaking beauty. We also visited Las Vegas downtown and a show there.

From Las Vegas we moved to Los Angeles. Here we roamed around visiting 'Universal Studio (where most of the Hollywood movies are shot)' showing a variety of shows like 'Backdraft', 'Horror Make-up show' etc. We also saw 'Hollywood Sign', 'Hollywood Street', 'Farmer's Market', 'Jewellery District', 'Chinese Theatre' and 'Kodak Theatre'.

We had now come to the last lap of our tour as we reached "San Francisco". In our round at San Francisco we saw 'Twin Peaks', 'Vista Point', 'Golden Gate Bridge', Victorian Houses', Civic Centre', 'Fisherman Wharf' etc. We roamed around Fisherman Wharf for some time and further also had the experience of travelling in a 'Cable Car'. We enjoyed a trip in the Metro also. Here we wound up our trip and flew to "London" via "Chicago". We arrived London on 1st of April 2008 after a 20 days exciting tour in the country of "Ground Zero". We also spent 3 days at London and that experience I shall share with you another time.

(The writer, Ms. Shweta Warriar, is a student of standard eight and grand daughter of Mr. DAG Kutty)

<p>WOW!</p>	<p>We found it. We had received few handwritten as well as printed articles, poems etc., a very long time back. Somehow it couldn't be traced. However, it has been traced and some of it will see print soon. <i>-Editor</i></p>
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IT Can HAPPEN (*From Memory*)

By P. Venugopalan

It was a cloudy morning when Janakiamma set out as usual for her morning routine of distribution of milk to her regular customers. It is almost certain that many families will miss the morning tea with milk if she delays her trip. She is well aware of this and therefore seldom misses the usual morning round.

There is a huge Banyan tree on her way along the road. This tree is so huge that it gives enough shelter and ozone to the passersby and in particular to the surrounding inhabitants. Janakiamma had read somewhere about the ozone emission qualities of Banyan trees and therefore used to remain under the tree for a while so that she could enjoy the healthy breeze.

That day as usual while she was beneath the giant tree, it came to her mind to specially thank the Banyan tree for its great service to the mankind. Suddenly she looked up with folded hands in prayer and had a look around the entire upper portion of the tree... Her eyes spotted unusually something hanging far away from one of the branches of the tree Yes, something unusual she said to herself. Her curiosity increased. She started moving around the tree looking up to have maximum clarity of the object. Definitely something special, but how she can alone come to a conclusion. That way she is in a hurry too to distribute milk.

Let me share my doubts with Pankajam who is staying nearby and is her customer too. Hay, Pankajam! Just listen; I was under the banyan tree just out side your gate. When I looked up the tree I found some object sitting on one of the branches of the tree. I doubt it to be even some peculiar creature, not seen earlier! Why don't you have a look by yourself for my satisfaction? Together they went around the Banyan tree again and almost got the feel of some creature there. Look at the possible legs, there you see some resemblance to the hands, find some thing worn on hands/legs, that dark are should be hay, what is shining could be ornaments, it looks as if of some God. Let me recollect, you mean Balagopal! Janakiamma asked. Pankajam said, yes yes, I was about to mention Balagopalan. It appeared to me like Unnikrishnan, said Janakiamma. Yes, indeed we are right, it could be Unnikrishnan! both wondered!!

This assumption was spread like wild fire. People from far and near started crowding there to have direct glimpse of living Unnikrishnan. Soon a team of volunteers was formed, police made traffic arrangements to regulate the crowd etc. People had to remain in queue for hours to have darshan.

A committee of seven individuals was formed to manage the site and for further planning. A portrait of Lord Krishna in a small temple was placed at the foot of the tree. Money started pouring in. Daily pooja, darshan, bhajans were arranged. A Trust was also formed to manage the affairs of the temple.

Some six months had passed in the meantime; a group of officials from far away place visited the site as special guests and offered prayers at the temple premises. One of the trustees explained to the guests about the origin of the temple and how Lord Unnikrishnan was sited at one of the branches of the Banyan tree. All of them were thrilled on hearing the story and their Bhakti to lord multiplied while also looking at the tree.

The respected guests looked at one another and directed their vision up the try to locate the Unnikrishnan! They could not find any body there at the top, but found a long root from the tree growing downwards. May be the guests are very late to visit the site!!!

വർണാശ്രമ ധർമ്മങ്ങൾ

ജയ ഹരിദാസ്, കല്യാൺ

പുല്ലായി, പുഴുവായി, പറവയായി, മൃഗമായി അനേകം ജന്മങ്ങൾക്കുശേഷം ജീവന്റെ കർമ്മശ്രേഷ്ഠത്വത്തിൽനിന്നും രൂപപ്പെട്ടു വന്നതാണ് മർത്യജന്മം. അപൂർവമായി ലഭ്യമായ നരജന്മത്തെ സഫലമാക്കണമെങ്കിൽ സാംസ്കാരികമായി അടുക്കും ചിട്ടയും അത്യന്താപേക്ഷിതമാണ്. സത്യഗുണം തൊട്ട് കലിയുഗത്തിന്റെ ആരംഭകാലം വരെ വർണാശ്രമധർമ്മം ഹൈന്ദവർ പാലിച്ചതായി കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. ബ്രഹ്മചര്യം, ഗൃഹസ്ഥാശ്രമം, വാനപ്രസ്ഥം, സന്യാസം എന്നിങ്ങനെ മനുഷ്യജീവിതത്തെ നാലു ഘട്ടങ്ങളായി തരം തിരിക്കുന്ന ധർമ്മ വ്യവസ്ഥകൾ ഋഷിമാരുടെ ജ്ഞാനകാണ്ഡത്തിൽനിന്നുമാണ് ആവിർഭവിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നത്. ഹിന്ദു സാംസ്കാരിക നാഗരികതയിൽ ശിശു ഭൂജാതനായി ഏഴു സംവത്സരങ്ങൾ പിന്നിട്ടു കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ സത്യവേദപഠനത്തിനായുള്ള ശാസ്ത്ര പഠനത്തിന്റെ ആരംഭത്തെ ദ്യോതിപ്പിക്കലാണ് ഉപനയനംകൊണ്ട് താൽപര്യപ്പെടുന്നത്. ഷോഡശ സംസ്കാരത്തിൽ അധിഷ്ഠിതമായ ഈ ചടങ്ങ് ബ്രഹ്മണകുല ജാതന്മാരിൽ മാത്രം അവശേഷിക്കുന്നതായിട്ടാണ് ഇന്നു കണ്ടുവരുന്നത്. ഹൈന്ദവർ സർവ്വരും അനുഷ്ഠിക്കേണ്ട കർമ്മത്തിന് ലോപം സംഭവിച്ചു എന്നാണ് ഇതിൽനിന്നും മനസ്സിലാക്കേണ്ടത്.

ഉപനയനാദി കർമ്മശേഷം ഗുരുകുലത്തിൽ ഏത്തപ്പെടുന്ന ബാലികാബാലന്മാർ ആദ്ധ്യാത്മികതയിൽ അധിഷ്ഠിതമായ വിജ്ഞാനശാഖകൾ ഹൃദിസ്ഥമാക്കി ഗൃഹസ്ഥാശ്രമ ധർമ്മം അനുഷ്ഠിക്കുവാൻ പ്രാപ്തരാകുന്നു. യോഗസാധനയും ബ്രഹ്മചര്യ നിഷ്ഠയും പാലിച്ചു മുന്നോട്ടു പോകുന്ന ഗുരുകുല സമ്പ്രദായത്തിൽ കന്നുകാലി മേയ്ക്കൽ, കൃഷിയിറക്കൽ, യജ്ഞഹോമാദികൾക്ക് വിറകു ശേഖരണം എന്നിങ്ങനെ ഗുരുസേവ ചെയ്ത്, വിദ്യ അഭ്യസിച്ചു ആത്മാഭിമാനികളും തന്റേടശാലികളുമായ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളായി രൂപപ്പെട്ടു വരുന്നു. ഗുരുവിനെ രക്ഷിക്കുക ഗുരുവിനാൽ രക്ഷനേടുക എന്നതാണ് വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ മേഖലയിൽ നമ്മുടെ ആദർശം.

ബ്രഹ്മചര്യ കാലം ഉത്സാഹപൂർവ്വം പൂർത്തീകരിക്കുന്നതോടെ പിന്നീട് പുത്രേഷണ, വിത്തേഷണ, ലോകേഷണ എന്നീ ഏഷണത്രയത്തെ പാലിക്കുന്നതിനായി ഗ്രഹസ്ഥാശ്രമധർമ്മത്തിലേക്ക് പ്രവേശിക്കുകയാണ്. ഉത്തരവാദിത്വവും പ്രതിബദ്ധതയും നിറവേറ്റലാണ് കൂടുംബജീവിതത്തിൽ നമുക്കുള്ള കടപ്പാട്. സന്താനത്തെ ജനിപ്പിച്ചു പരിപാലിച്ചു വളർത്തി കാര്യപ്രാപ്തിയിൽ എത്തിക്കുന്നത് പിതൃക്കളോടുള്ള കടമ നിറവേറ്റലാണ്. പ്രകൃതിയെ പോഷിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനായി യജ്ഞഹോമാദികൾ ചെയ്തും കൂടുംബ സംരക്ഷണാർത്ഥം അർത്ഥ സമ്പാദന കർമ്മത്തിലും ഏർപ്പെടുന്ന കർത്തവ്യ കർമ്മമാണ് ഇവിടെ അനുഷ്ഠിക്കുന്നത്. ഫലപ്രാപ്തിക്ക് പ്രസക്തിയില്ല. മുകളിൽ സൂചിപ്പിച്ച കാര്യങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യുന്നതോടൊപ്പം ലോകകാര്യത്തിലും വ്യാപൃതരാവുമ്പോൾ മാത്രമേ കർമ്മ പുണ്യം ലഭ്യമാകുന്നുള്ളൂ. പുത്രേഷണം, വിത്തേഷണം എന്നിവ ഇഹ ജന്മത്തിലെ കർത്തവ്യ കർമ്മത്തിൽപ്പെടുമ്പോൾ ലോകേഷണം പരലോക പ്രാപ്തിയുടെ ശ്രേഷ്ഠതക്കു വേണ്ടിയാണ് ചെയ്യേണ്ടത്.

ഗുരുകുലം

സന്താനങ്ങൾ കാര്യപ്രാപ്തിയിലെത്തി അവർ വിവാഹിതരായി പൗത്രന്മാരുടെ ജനനവും കണ്ടു കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ പിന്നീട് വാനപ്രസ്ഥാശ്രമകാലമായി. ലൗകികത്തിൽനിന്നും വൈരാഗ്യേണ ആദ്ധ്യാത്മിക പാതയിലേക്കുള്ള വഴിത്തിരിവാണ് വാനപ്രസ്ഥാശ്രമം. ആത്മീയ ഗുരുവിന്റെ സാന്നിദ്ധ്യത്തിൽ ജീവിച്ചു ഗുരുസേവ ചെയ്ത് ജ്ഞാനത്തെ ഉൾക്കൊണ്ടും മന്ത്രജപത്താലും സാധനയാലും ആശ്രമജീവിതം നയിച്ചു ശിഷ്യന്റെ കർമ്മകുശലതയിൽ സംതൃപ്തനായ ഗുരു, സന്യാസഭീക്ഷ നൽകുന്നു. സത്യത്തെ തേടിയുള്ള യാത്രയാണ് സന്യാസം എന്നതു കൊണ്ട് അർത്ഥമാക്കുന്നത്. ബ്രഹ്മ: സത്യം ജഗത് മിഥ്യ. ജഗത്തിൽ രമിക്കുന്ന മർത്യൻ സത്യത്തെ അന്വേഷിക്കേണ്ടത് അവനവനിൽ തന്നെയാണ്. ശരീരത്തിൽ അനശ്വരമായ ശക്തി ചൈതന്യം അന്തർലീനമായിരിക്കുന്നത് സാധാരണക്കാർ അറിയുന്നില്ല. ജനനവും മരണവുമെല്ലാം കേവലം ശരീരത്തിനു മാത്രം സംഭവിക്കുന്ന പ്രക്രിയയാണ്. സന്യാസധർമ്മ പ്രക്രിയയിലൂടെ സത്യത്തെ സാക്ഷാത്കരിക്കുന്നതോടെ മോക്ഷപ്രാപ്തിയും സംഭവിക്കുന്നു. വർണാശ്രമധർമ്മ പ്രക്രിയ എന്നത് ഹിന്ദു സംസ്കാരത്തിൽ മാത്രം നിലനിന്നു വരുന്ന ജീവിതപ്രക്രിയകളാണ്.

മനുഷ്യജീവിതത്തെ സുഗമമാക്കുവാനും നേരായ പാതയിലൂടെ ലക്ഷ്യപ്രാപ്തിയിലെത്തുവാനും വർണാശ്രമധർമ്മ വ്യവസ്ഥയെ കൊണ്ട് സാധ്യമാകുന്നു.

Food *for* thought

Height of Building, R. T. Warriar, Vashi

When you are constructing a building, the Height of the same depends on the “Pancha Bhoothas” (Five Atoms). The Pancha Bhoothas are: Bhoomi (Earth), Jalam (Water), Agni (Fire), Vayu (Air) and Aakasam (Sky). The Height for Bhoomi is 90 cms, for Water 72 cms, for Fire 54 cms, for Vayu 36 cms and for Sky 18 cms (cms: centimeters). The total height thus for all the Pancha Bhoothas is 270 cms. To increase the Height, you can now start the sky, air, fire, water and earth. Then again, earth to sky and sky to earth. However, the top of the building should not rest in the region of Agni (Fire) and if it rests in the region of Agni, the building will catch fire. There was a news that the World Trade Centre which was attacked and burnt down was having its top on the Fire area. Also in multi storeyed buildings, it is preferable to have the height of the upper floors slightly less than the ground floor. As for the length and breadth of the building or rooms depends on our requirements. I am giving this detail so that in future atleast when a building is constructed our members can decide about the height.

POEM *Corner*

To be born as an eagle
and then refuse to fly.
To be born as a winner
and then refuse to try.

To be born as a genius
and then refuse to think.
To be born as a musician
and then refuse to sing.

To be born as an philosopher
and refuse to contemplate.
To be born as an artist
and then refuse to create.

To be born as a kite
and refuse to rise above.
To be born as a human
and then refuse to love.

The Greatest Sin

by

Siddharth Ram Warriar,
Nallasopara (E)

To be born as a rich man
and then refuse to give.
The greatest sin is to be born at all
and then refuse to live.

NARAYANEEYAM *by Shri K. V. Narayanan Kutty*

DASAKA 4 STANZA 7

*Tatsamaaswadanaropineem sthithim twatsamaadhimayi viswanaayaka
Aashrithaah punarathah parichyuthavarabhemahi cha dhaaranaadikam.*

SPLITTING OF THE WORDS

Tatsamaaswadanaropineem sthithim twatsamaadhim ayi viswanaayaka aashrithaah punah athah
parichyuthou aarabhemahi cha dhaaranaadikam

PROSE CONSTRUCTION

Ayi viswanaayaka tatsamaaswadanaropineem twatsamaadhim sthithim aashrithaah [vayam] athah
parichyuthou punah dhaaranaadikam arabhemahi.

WORD MEANING

Ayi viswanaayaka: Oh! Lord of the universe *aashrithaah* having attained *twatsammadhim sthithim* the
state of *samaadhi* in thee *tatsamaaswadanaropineem* which is in the form of experiencing that (*Brahma*)
vayam we *athah parichyuthou* when fallen from there *punah aarabhemahi* again shall start
dhaaranaadikam the steps such as *dhaarana*.

TRANSLATION

Oh! Lord of the universe! Having attained the *samaadhi* in thee, which is in the form of enjoyment of
Supreme Being we shall, when fallen from that state of *samaadhi*, again start the yogic steps such as
Dhaarana etc.

EXPLANATIONS

Here the poet describes the attainment of the eighth position *ashtaangayoga* viz. *samaadhi* that is the
abstract concentration on the object of *dhyaana* that is the abstract concentration upon the form of the
Lord. This is *nirvikalpasamaadhi*. However, this position is such that easily the mind can wander away
due to various reasons. In such cases, it is necessary for the yogi to go all over the steps such as *dhaarana*
and come back to *nirvikalpasamaadhi*.

DASAKA 4 STANZA 8

*Ithhamabhyasananirbharollasat twatparaatmasukhakalpithotsavaah
Mukthabhakthakulamoulithaam gathaah sancharema sukanaaradaadivat*

SPLITTING OF THE WORDS

Ithham Abhyasananirbharollasattwatpraatmasukhakalpithotsavaah, Mukthabhakthakulamoulithaam, Gathaah, Sancharema, and Sukanaaradaadivat.

PROSE CONSTRUCTION

Vayam Ithham abhyasananirbharollasattwatparaatmasukhakalpithotsavaah sukanaaradaadivat mukthabhakthakulamoulithaam gathah sancharema

WORD MEANING

We *abhyasananirbharollasattwatparaatmasukhakalpithotsavaah* {*abhyasanena nirbharam ullasat yat twatparaatmasukham tena kalpithah utsavah yesham te*}. *te* they *yesham* to whom *utsavah* there is the extreme happiness *kalpithah* brought about *tena* by that *twatparaatmasukham* Brahma namely the extreme happiness that is you *ullasat* that shines *nirbharam* extremely *abhyasanam* constant practice *itham* in this manner *gathaah* having attained *mukthabhakthakulamoulithaam* the position of being in the top of the horde of devotees who have attained salvation *sancharema* shall move about *sukanaaradaadivat* like Suka, Naarada etc.

TRANSLATION

Thus enjoined with overflowing delight brought about by the supreme happiness which is *parabrahma* itself namely Thee, manifesting entirely before us, by the constant practice (of *ashtangayoga*) in this manner and having attained the position of being the topmost among the emancipated devotees, we wish to travel every where like *Suka Naarada* etc (singing thy praises)

EXPLANATIONS

Having thus described the process of *Ashtaangayoga*, the poet now goes on to describe the benefit of practicing the *Ashtaangayoga*. By practicing the *Ashtaangayoga* *i.e. yama niyama etc.*, the devotee will be able to experience the *Parabrahma* within oneself and be able to experience the supreme delight. They thus will become the foremost among the devotees who have attained the status of those devoid of any desires and the worldly pleasures. The poet further says that having attained this position he would be happy wandering in the world like Sri *Suka* and *Narada* constantly singing the praise of the Lord. *Mukthabhakthaah* Those who have realized the Supreme Being in this manner will be realizing that this entire world is the manifestation of the *Maya* of The Lord and unreal. Thus they are the true emancipated souls whose only desire is to sing about the greatness of the Lord.

To be continued

Homage

To all the innocent people, policemen & officers, the NSG Commandos who scarified their lives and to those who got injured in the Mumbai terror attack.

WE OWE YOU OUR LIVES

You all laid your life to make us see today. You let go all fear and inhibitions and faced the bullets. This has seen revolutionary changes happening. In the Government. In the policies and its implementation. In the people, who have strongly condemned the terror act. People are asking questions to make the Government understand that safety of the common citizen is topmost and not theirs. So, let's pledge ourselves to be more cautious, more aware, more stronger, more helpfu and more enlightened.

Issued in public interest by

VARIAR SAMAJAM, Mumbai.

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