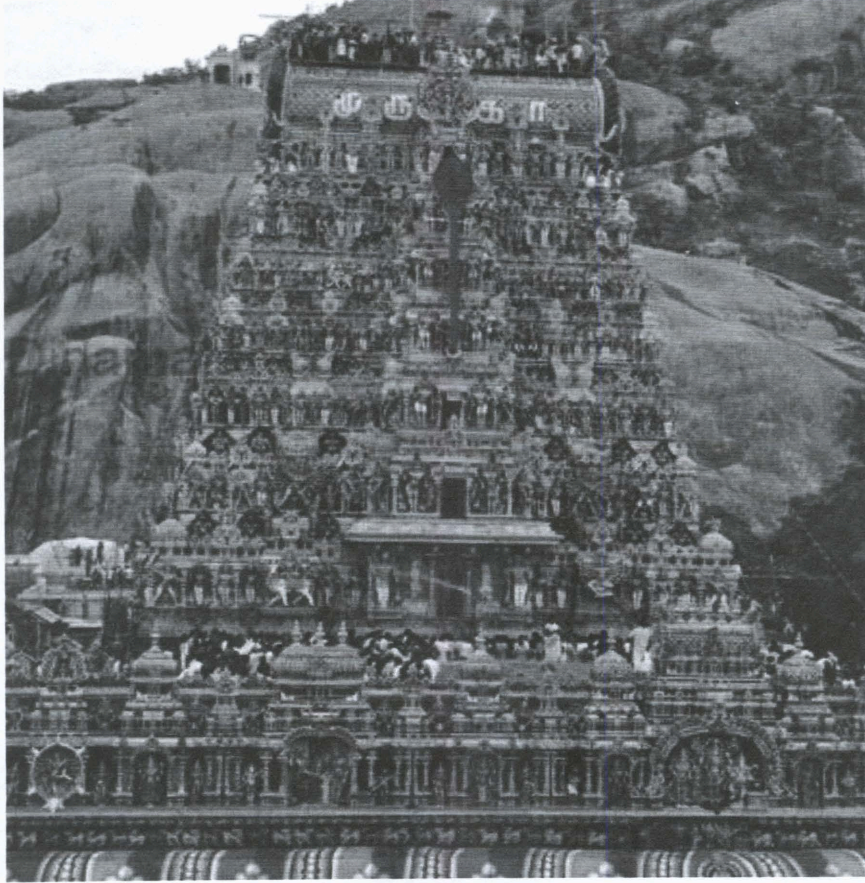


Path to Dharma

தர்ம நெறி (Dharma Neri)



48



Thiruparankunram temple,

Sri Sankar Publications

Kshethra Vinayaka Temple, Sri Munneswaram, Chilaw, Sri Lanka.

↓ க்ஷேத்திர (வயல்) விநாயக ஆலயம், ↓
ஸ்ரீ முன்னேஸ்வரம், சிலாபம், ஸ்ரீ லங்கா.

✪ Author - B.S.Sarma ✪

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December

2011

திசெம்பர் (கார்திகை/மார்கழி)





Editorial.

'Path to Dharma', the monthly publication by Kshethra Vinayaka Temple, Sri Munneswaram, Chilaw, Sri Lanka, is presenting the 48th issue this month. The main theme of this monthly magazine is to communicate the ideas linked to Hinduism and its ceremonial customs and dharma related, to the anxious readers.

The clarifications and scrutiny from the readers are appreciated.

B.S.Sarma,
Kshethra Vinayaka Temple,
Sri Munneswaram, Chilaw, Sri Lanka. December, 2011



Suggestions from the readers



Dear Mr.B.Sivaramakrishna.Sarma,
Author, 'Path to Dharma' magazine.

We are verymuch pleased with the perceptions of the subject matter conversed, in "Path to Dharma' monthly magazine that we receive regularly. It is to be appreciated that manner in which the subject areas are dealt with, mainly for of the simple way of expression of the difficult themes of Hindu religious concepts.

Thanks for giving a short explanations of the Vedic deities and the idols and forms which we worship in the present day at temples it is very useful to all of us. May God bless you.

K.S.Vijay, S.V.Guruprasad & B.K.Mahesh, Canada.

16th Nov, 2011



Mr.B.S.Sarma, 'Path to Dharma'

I and my friends are really happy in going through the "Path to Dharma' monthly magazine that we receive every month.We understand easily subject matters regarding Hinduism and other allied problems and the themes discussed in the magazine.

I and my friends have referred to you some questions for which we expect the appropriate answers.

With kind regardsC.V.Dharmendra, Indonesia

17th November 2011

मन्त्रो हीनः स्वरतो वर्णतो वा मिथ्याप्रयुक्तो न तमर्थमाह ।
स वाग्वज्रो यजमानं हिनस्ति यथेन्द्रशत्रुः स्वरतोऽपराधात् ।

अनक्षरं हतायुष्यं विस्वरं व्याधिपीडितम् ।

अक्षता शस्त्ररूपेण वज्रं पतति मस्तके ॥

Quatations

“O God, grant us of boons the best-a mind to think and a smiling love, increase of Wealth,a healthy body,speech that is winsome and days that are fair”
-Rig Veda,2.21.6

“Diffusing glory with your rays,you have scaled the shining realm of heaven,By you are supported all things that are, O God,All-Creator, essence all-divine”
-Rig Veda,10.170.4

“United your resolve,united your hearts,may your spirits be at one,that you may long together dwell in unity and concord”
-Rig Veda,10.191.4

“Only when men shall roll up space as if it were a simple skin,only then will there be an end of sorrow without acknowledging God”
-Yajur Veda,Shvetasvathara Upanishad 6.20

“That is Fullness,this is Fullness;from fullness comes Fullness.When Fullness is taken from Fullness,Fullness remains”
-Yajur Veda,Brihadaranyaka Upanishad 5.1

“Through the ripening of the fruits of his actions he does not attain any rest,like a worm caught within a whirlpool.The desire for liberation arises in human beings at the end of many births,through the ripening of their past virtuous conduct”
-Yajur Veda,Paingala Upanishad 2.22

“According to one’s deeds,according to one’s behavior,so one becomes.The one who does not good becomes good,the one who does evil becomes evil.One becomes virtuous by virtuous action and evil by evil action.That to which the heart is attached, towards this, the subtle body moves together with its action, which still adheres.Attaining the goal of whatever actions he performed here on earth,he goes once more from that world to this world of action”
-Yajur Veda,Brihadaranyaka Upanishad 4.5-6

“The Primal man is, simply, All.What is and what shall be,He is the Lord ofimmortality”
-Atharva Veda,19.6.4

“Desireless,wise,immortal,self-existent,full of bliss,lacking in nothing,is the one who knows the wise,un-aging,youthful atman;he fears not death!”
-Atharva Veda,10.8.44



1. If we are not 'our body' then who are we?

Ancient rishis pronounce from the Vedas that ' we are not our body, mind or emotions' but we are holy or divine souls on a amazing journey.They further announce that, ' we came from god, live in God and are evolving into oneness with God'.Therefor it is very clear that we are immortal souls living and growing in the great school of earthly experience in which we have lived many lives The Vedas say that "God is the life of our life"

2. What happens to the life or soul after the death of a person?

The soul leaves the physical body at the time of death.The soul only leaves the physical body but does not die. The soul lives on in a subtle body called the 'astral' body.This astral body survives in the nonphysical dimension known as the astral plane, which is similar to the world that we experince in during our deams at our sleep. The soul (we) continues to have experience until it (we are) reborn conineously,over and over again in another physical body as a baby. Every single reincarnating soul chooses a home and a family which can best realise its next step of learning and progress. Subsequent of countless lifecycles of following dharma, finally the soul achive full maturity in love,wisdom and knowledge of God.Then there is need for futher development of evolution for physical birth, for entire lessons have been lrarned, fulfilling all karmas, then that soul is liberated,freed from the cycle of birth,death and rebirth,evolution then continues in the more refined spirital worlds.

3. Enlighten me about the nature of soul as given in the Vedas?

Soul is a minute matter which is not visible by naked eye or any optical instrument.Atharvaveda stanza of 10/8/25 confirms that soul is immortal, alive matter that is even infinitesimal than the tip of hair.This fact is shown in Shwetashwtaropnishad chapter 5, hymn 9 . Atharvaveda chant 10/8/26 states that soul is changeless and, immortal and resides in the human bodyThis same hymn again elucidates that body of human being is destructible.Further Atharvaveda hymn 10/8/27 conveys that soul while residing in body of human being appears like man, lady, young lad or lass but soul as it is not man, woman, girl, boy etc. Thus, soul at timesappears to look like father, sometimes looks like mother.Actually soul has no gender, essentially soul exist in the body but soul is not the body.This fact relates to all living beings.The soul gets into a new body of living-beings based on the activities of its previous lives. When soul enters the body then body starts to function and at the instant the soul leaves the body of a person immediately the bodyor an organism becomes dead. So body becomes dead and not soul. Soul takes another body when the previous body dies away.The soul faces the consequences of the result of its actions previous births in the present life in the body of current living being.

4. What are Puranas in Hinduism?

The Purans are the stories based on facts given in Veds.Most of the puranic stories are based on the actual events that happened or based on imagination to explain some concepts of specific phylosophies to the normal public.

5. Who was the father of Ravana the king of Lanka?

Vishrava Rishi was the father of king Ravana

6. How do we accumulate karma in this life?

It is the free will of the soul to accumulate good or bad karma, the body where the soul exists is nourished by the intention of the soul, using facilities granted by God. God has provided these abilities without any condition attached, good or bad all use it.

That is to say, God has provided us with mind to use and think that what is true and what is false, what is pious and what is sin etc.,

7. What is the relation of karmas and soul?

There are three types of karmas - Prarabhdha, Sanchit and Kriyaman. Yajurveda mantra 7.48 confirms that soul with the help of body in which it resides and its perceptual organs is free to do good or bad deeds

8. What is third eye that is often referred in Hinduism?

Third eye is the knowledge and awareness of soul, God and prakriti. One who meditates and study Vedas achieves knowledge and realizes almighty God. Such a person is acknowledged as a yogi and is in possession of third eye or absolute knowledge.

9. Why is the pronunciation of mantra important in Hindu rituals?

The Pronunciation of *mantra* and its importance is due to the following facts.

A *mantra* chanted in Hindu rituals is not just a union of few or many letters or their combination but a representation of inner energy. The potential energy within a conveyer or chanter becomes motivated due to a *mantra* and the chanter secures remarkable power. The intention of performing spiritual practice of *mantras* is to disclose the incomprehensible energy.

The absolute vigor of a *mantra* is based in its appropriate pronunciation of the said mantra. That sum total energy is displayed from frequencies of the sound wave created in the air by the energy of vibrations of the sound that are created through its chanting.

The supremacy of a *mantra* is the influence of the mind created by the power of thoughts of a person. Thoughts which are devoid of words are very elusive. When feelings are expressed in words, they become unrefined. The energy produced in chanting a *mantra* in the form of thought or meaning is always greater than the pronunciation of a *mantra* in the form of words.

When a person focuses on pronouncing a *mantra* appropriately, then his mind does not wander and thereby it helps for the concentration of his mind. One should be able to recite the *mantra* with the correct rhythm (*chanda*), syllabic foot (*vrutta*) and measure of verse (*matra*) to achieve the real benefit.

Essentially mantras should be chanted according to the science of *matras*. A *matra* is that with which one realises the magnitude of the sound of words. The accurate pronunciation of the *mantras* as regards their notes such as *aroha*, *avaroha*, *udatta*, *anudatta*, *svarit*, *prachay*, etc. is of distinct significance. If there is an inaccuracy in that way of recital mantra, then the harmful effects are caused.

10. Can you get the population of the main religion distributed in the world and the population in each places or lands of demarcation?

The book titled 'what is hinduism, modern adventures into a profound global faith, from the editor of Hinduism Today Magazine 1st edition copyright 2007, Published by ,Himalayan Academy has the following details;

World population in the year - 2002

Hindus	1 billion
Catholics	1.4 b
Muslims	1.3 b
Nonbelievers	900 million
Protestants	600m
Confucian	400 m
Buddhists	360 m
Tribals	100 m
Taoists	50 m
Shintoists	30 m
Jews	18 m
Sikhs	16 m
Jains	6 m
Zoroastriana	125,000
Other faiths	77 m
Total	6.25b

Population of Hindus in various countries

Afganistan	130,000	Hawaii	700	Reunion	290,000
Argentina	4,000	India	895,000,000	Russia	15,000
Australia	75,000	Indonesia	5,900,000	S.Yemen	7,000
Austria	6,100	Italy	25,000	Sebi & Montenegro	8,000
Bahrain	24,000	Jamaica	25,000	Singapore	171,000
Bangladesh	12,100,000	Japan	6,000	Somalia	6,000
Belgium	6,000	Kauai Adheenum	30	South Africa	1,430,000
Bhutan	3000,000	Kenya	75,000	Spain	12,500
Botswana	7,000	Madagascar	1,100	Srilanka	2,200,000
Brazil	25,000	Malawi	3,000	Suriname	200,000
Canada	470,000	Malaysia	1,290,000	Swedeen	8,000
China	93,000	Martinique & Guadaloup	50,000	Switzerland	60,000
Denmark	15,000	Mauritius	700,000	Tanzania	70,000
Egypt	6,000	Myanmar	294,000	Thailand	7,000
England	1,300,000	Nepal	21,000,000	Trnidad	320,000
Ethiopia	3,000	Netherland	180,000	Uganda	20,000
Fiji	600,000	NewZealand	47,000	United states	2,000,000
France	150,000	Nigeria	30,000	Vietnam	5,500
French guayana	5,000	Norway	11,000	Zambia	25,000
Germany	100,000	Pakistan	1,200,000	Zimbabwe	6,000
Gulf states	310,000	Philippines	1,100		
Guyana	450,000	Portugal	8,000		

Hindu population in small number

Algeria	600	Guinea	50	Poland	100
Barbados	100	Hungary	50	Qatar	500
Brunei	500	Iceland	7	Senegal	100
C.African rep	20	Ireland	20	Seychelles	600
Cameroon	60	Israel	200	Sierra leone	500
Chad	20	Ivory coast	1,000	South Korea	60
Chile	20	Jordan	1,000	Sudan	500
Colombia	60	Laos	600	Syria	100
Congo	100	Lebanon	100	Tunisia	100
Cuba	100	Liberia	500	Turkey	100
CzechRepublic&Slovakia	150	Libya	500	Upper Volta	100
Ecuador	600	Mexico	50	Yemen North	100
Finland	100	Morocco	60	Zaire	500
Gabon	100	Mozambique	600		
Ghana	600	Panama	600		

11. At some of the marriage ceremonies a specific song is sung when the bride and groom swing for the first time on a decorated swing with a title "Aadeer oonjal...." and at a later occasion another song with the title "Gowri Kalyaname vaibhogamae.." is sung. Can you get me the songs in English transliterations and the translation of them?

The marriages of certain parts comprise of numerous ceremonies and rituals which are not seen in the Vedas. These types of rituals are not, supplemented by Vedic manthras or hymns. These are the rituals like Kasi yathrai, Oonjal, Nalangu etc. Some of these fascinating rituals are complemented by melodies of songs sung by a group of invitees gathered to attend the marriage.

Aadeer Oonjal

(These Songs are sung when the bride and groom swing for the first time on a decorated swing.)

Pallavi
Aadeer Oonjal

Charanam

1. Vindai nirai chem. Pavazha kaalgal natti,
Vilangum uyar marakathathaal kodungai pooti,
Andamulla nava rathna oonjal meedhe,
Abhimanyuvudan vathsalayum aadir oonjal

2. Indiranum, sasiyum one vadam thottu aatta,
Chandra shekaranum Umayum Oru vadam thottu aatta,

Thumburu naradarum veenaigal meeta,
Sri Ranga nadtharudan aadeer oonjal

Translation;

Pallavi

Please swing in the swing,

Charanam

1. After erecting the magical pillars of red coral,
After hanging the hooks made of emerald,
On the very pretty swing made of nine gems,
Abhimanyu and Vathsala, please swing.
2. One side swung by Indra and his wife Sasi,
And another side swung by Lord Shiva and Parvathi,
With the accompaniment of Veena played by Dumburu and Narada,
Please swing along with Sri Ranga Natha.

Gowri Kalyana Vaibhogame

(This song is sung after the Oonjal ceremony during the marriage.)

Raga Shankarabharanam
Thala

Pallavi

Gowri Kalyaname Vaibhogame
Lakshmi Kalyaname Vaibhogame

Charanam

1. Ksemangal kori, vinayaganai thudithu,
Shankaranayum gowriyayum Varnithu,
Sri Ramanayum janakiyayum varnithu
2. Vasudeva thava Bala, Asura kula kala,
Sasi Vadana roopini, Sathya bhama lola,
3. Kothode vazhai maram kondu vandu niruthi,
Koopudaya pandalukku mel kattu katti

Translation

Pallavi

The great celebration of the marriage of Gowri,
The great celebration of the marriage of Lakshmi

Charanam

1. Praying Lord Ganesa, asking for good events,
Describing Lord Siva and Goddess Gowri,
Describing Lord Rama and Goddess Sita,

2. The son of Vasudeva got out of penance,
The lord who destroyed entire clan of Asuras,
The goddess who has the face like the moon,
The God who is infatuated with Sathya Bhama

3. After erecting a Banana plant along with the bunch,
And after tying the roof for the strong Pandal (stage).

"Where women are honoured, there the gods are pleased; where women are not honoured, there all worship of gods is futile." - Manusmriti, 3.56

"Where there is mutual affection and regard between husband and wife, there alone will there be happiness and welfare". - Manusmriti, 3. 60

Extract From;

Daily News Sri Lanka's National news paper since 1918

Saturday 06th February 2010

Under the title,section;

Hinduism - Aspects of Hinduism interpreted by a scholar

By, K.S. Sivakumaran

The Hindu Temple worship

Most Hindus adept on Ishta Deivam. That is from among the pantheon of Hindu Gods, the devotee chooses one, according to the family background or due to the closeness to one form of such divine magnificence.



Krishna

For example certain families hold God Ganesha as their Kuladeivam - family God, yet another may have Anman - Mother-Goddess - Aadi Paia Sakthi as their family Deity for generations. Whether it is a stone, or metal image, or a sacred form, it marks the place that the chosen God or Goddess will manifest in, to put in scientific language the metal or stone image or symbol works like an antenna - which receives the divine rays and if the devotee's heart is tuned to it, then there is communication established. This, one could know only through experience. When the brahmin priest performs a Puja he enhances this communication. This becomes changed or magnetized through one's devotional thoughts and feelings.

Man takes one body, and then another in his cycles of birth, death and rebirth.

Puja and rituals provide temporal and spiritual uplift and relief. Hindu Temples are the places of worship. God is everywhere. Why go to the temple? has been the question of many. There is an answer. The Sun's rays fall on all objects but no objects catch fire. Focus the rays on to an object through a lens - it catches fire.

So does a devotee feel the force of God when he worships at the Santum Sanatorium. Most idols are made of radioactive material which radiates tremendous force. How much of it is received by the devotee depends on the intensity of his devotion to respond to the vibration. Have you noticed the tapering triangular formation over the sanctum sanatorium? That pressures these special forces and enhances the tremendous positive change generated within the sanctum sanatorium for a long period even for centuries. This scientific process has been known from ancient times, and has been used for the welfare of humanity. According to Hindu concept, the entire era from the time of creation till the time of destruction, is divided into four different periods or Yugas. The Knetha Yuga. An era during which men and beasts and birds could understand each other and there was righteousness.

The Thretha Yuga - when Ramayanam took place. People were good but deceitfulness sprang up - people lacked the power to understand the animal language.

The Devapaia Yuga - the era when Mahabharatha took place, people became worse and worse.

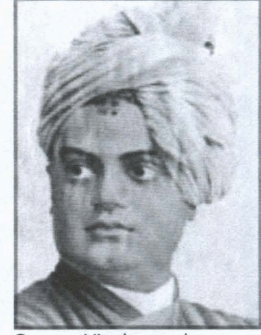
And last, by the Kali Yuga where man is simply vile, saints and sages and prophets and god men are born to lead the people to the righteous path of living. Are they fighting a losing battle? One is bound to ask as there is so much of atrocity in the world as mentioned in the Vedas.

The Vedas have talked of the destruction of the world at the end of Kaliyuga. But Lord Vishnu in the Gita has said if there is even one person who adheres to the principles of Dharma - righteousness, the world will be saved. When men invoked the Gods in rites and rituals. The Gods would descend to earth and perhaps save the earth. Righteousness in Kaliyuga is only one tenth of it found in the Kreta Yuga. All vices are like the Pandoras box opened floating about in Kaliyuga - anger, lust, passion, pride, discord and jealousy.

It is in Kali Yuga that temples appeared. Icons were installed. If the icons are properly enshrined, and the temples correctly built and the rites and rituals properly carried out then God could be felt. It is the experience of a person. Saints and sages have felt the presence of Rama-Krishna Parama Hamsar, his spouse Saiada Devi, Sage Swamy Vivekanandan.

They could communicate with God - their hearts were not of all impurities like ego and they were in a state of Nirvana. Hence they enjoyed the total bliss of being in communion with God.

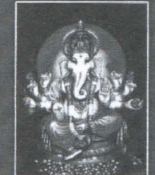
Source: An Introduction to Hinduism
By B.S. Sarma.



Swamy Vivekanandan




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Sri Munneshwaram
Kshethra Vinayaka Temple

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இனா இனவழிப்பாடு
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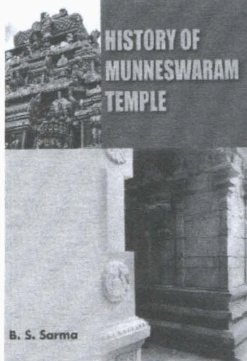


**தோத்திர
பாடல்கள்**



**ஸ்ரீ முன்னேஸ்வர
வரலாறு**

**HISTORY OF
MUNNESWARAM
TEMPLE**



B. S. Sarma

**ஸ்ரீ கணபதி
உபநிஷத்
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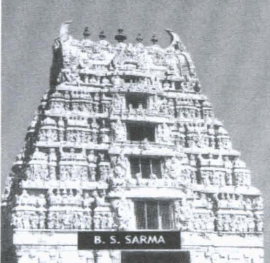
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An Introduction to
HINDUISM



B. S. SARMA

Astothra Namavali
(அஷ்டோத்தர நாமாவளி)
English Translation



Sri Venkateswara Namavali - The 108 Names of God Venkateswara
Sri Lakshmi Namavali - The 108 Names of Lord Sri Lakshmi (with explanation)
Sri Subramanya Namavali - The 108 Names of Lord Subramanya
Sri Nityananda Namavali - The 108 Names of Lord Nityananda
Sri Lakshmi Namavali - The 108 Names of Goddess Sri Lakshmi
Sri Venkateswara Namavali - The 108 Names of Lord Venkateswara
Sri Subramanya Namavali - The 108 Names of Lord Subramanya
Sri Nityananda Namavali - The 108 Names of Lord Nityananda
Sri Lakshmi Namavali - The 108 Names of Goddess Sri Lakshmi

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