



AARSHA VANI

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"Jaya Jaya Gange Jaya Hara Gange"



'Ganga has a special place among all the rivers of this world. Lord Krishna said in Sri Bhagavad Gita that He is Ganga among all the flowing streams ('Srotasam Asmi Jahnvi'). **'Even drinking just palm full of Ganga water gets rid of all sins'** extolled Sri Adi Sankara in 'Bhaja Govindam' mentioning Ganga's efficaciousness. Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa said that each and every drop of Ganga is 'Govinda'. Sri Ramayana eulogized the greatness of Ganga. Sage Valmiki described in detail the manner in which Mother Sita worshipped Ganga and gave offerings. One of the central characters of Mahabharata, Bhishma is the son of Ganga. Puranas describe in Gangavatarana, that Ganga came to Vishnu's Feet from Brahma's Kamandalu, marched onto Siva's matted hair locks and then descended to earth. Few aspects about Ganga's significance –

1. Ganga contains the energy of Brahma, Vishnu and Siva. 2. In yogic parlance, the 'Kundalini' energy that flows from Sahasrara to Muladhara and vice versa crossing Brahma Granthi, Vishnu Granthi and Rudra Granthi is Ganga. She is the nectar traversing the Sushumna. 3. For worship, sages described Ganga's form as sitting on an alligator holding the pot of nectar. 4. Devi Bhagavata mentions Vishnu melted hearing Siva's music and assumed the form of Ganga. 5. Forever, Ganga remains as an epitome of Bhagiratha's respect and devotion towards his ancestors for whose liberation he did severe penance and brought Ganga to earth. 6. Ganga water is absolutely pure and has excellent medicinal powers. A widely prevalent practice is to administer Ganga water as medicine. **'Aushadham Jahnvi Toyam'**.

Countless devotees are still experiencing the divinity and magnificence of Ganga in multiple ways, as envisioned by our sages.

- Samavedam Shanmukha Sarma

(Courtesy: 'Nadi' magazine June 2011)

Sadhu Vachanam

"Gita and Ganga constitute the essence of Hinduism; one its theory and the other its practice."
- Swami Vivekananda

Bharateeyam

"In 1896, I tested the water of Ganga and published a paper in the French journal Annales de l'Institut Pasteur. The bacterium Vibrio Cholerae which causes the deadly Cholera disease, when put into the waters of Ganga died within three hours! The same bacteria continued to thrive in distilled water even after 48 hours!"
- E. Hanbury Hankin, British physician.

Spiritual Quest

(Answers by Sri Samavedam Shanmukha Sarma)

✦ Can 'Sri Satyanarayana Vratam', 'Rudrabhishekam' be performed using cassettes/CDs? Can we do ourselves? Or, should we have priests?

If properly trained or learnt from trained Gurus, we can perform ourselves. Else, we should have priests. Doing them with cassettes/CDs is not proper, unless there is strictly no other alternative. One can record a sound, but can never record the 'life energy' (Prana Shakti) that comes with the chanting of sacred mantras. This life energy is the one that sanctifies the surroundings and brings aura to the puja. There can't be any replacement in this aspect. Cassettes/CDs can't substitute this life energy.

Upcoming Pravachanam

Date: June 1-7, 2015
Venue: Houston, TX

Date: June 8-16, 2015
Venue: Chicago, IL

Date: June 19-21, 2015
Venue: Toronto, Canada

Date: June 23-28, 2015
Venue: Dallas, TX

Date: June 29- July 7, 2015
Venue: VA

(For US Tour details visit <http://rushipeetham.org/> Event Calendar - USA Tour)

Major Festivals

Maha Jyeshthi : June 2nd 2015

- 'Tila dana' (sesame seeds) on this day confers the punya of performing Aswamedha yaga. – Aditya Purana.
- Offering umbrella and footwear grants prosperity here and better status here after. – Vishnu Purana.
- Giving Udakumbha (pitcher with water) and a fan in charity bestows Vamana's blessings.– Vamana Purana.

Traditions-Fulfilments

✦ This sloka lists all fourteen that emerged from the churning of Milky Ocean. Recitation of this sloka every day grants prosperity and peace.

lakṣmī: kaustubha pārijāta
surā dhanvantari: candrama:
gāva: kāmāduhā surēśvara gajā
rambhādi dēvāṅganā:
āśva: sptamukhō viṣaṁ
haridhanu: śaṅkhaṁ amṛtaṁ ca
ambudhō ratnāniha caturdaśā
pratidinaṁ kuryāt sadā maṅgaḷaṁ



What one can do at an individual level...?

(‘Okkadiganaina Emi Cheyagalanante...?’)

Most of the youth I interact with, have tremendous patriotism and are desperate to contribute towards India’s development. But, when asked about their contribution, the most commonly heard answer is, ‘What I alone can do at an individual level?’ In this context, Swami Vivekananda gave excellent guidelines.

For youth, Swamiji’s fundamental tenets are ‘**Sound mind in a sound body**’ and ‘**Strength is Life – Weakness is Death**’. He asked every individual to make Hanuman as their ideal and role model. His clairvoyant call based on our Upanishad teachings is that one should develop confidence in oneself that one can achieve anything, because everyone is repository to the infinite divine cosmic energy. Swamiji’s life and his accomplishments are monumental testimony to his utterances.

He encouraged everyone to show accountability and responsibility towards the country. He asked them to cultivate love and sacrifice towards fellow human beings, especially the down trodden and work towards their upliftment and prosperity.

Summarizing some of the action items Swamiji prescribed for all us to follow judiciously –

1. Bharat’s magnanimity lies in It’s ancient Dharmic culture and traditions. It is the duty of everyone to preserve this culture. And, this can be done only by following this rich culture, customs, traditions and make others follow it.
2. Our education system needs refinement that it combines the profound knowledge gifted by our ancient sages with modern technological advances. Education should enable an individual to build strong personality and perfect character. This benefits individual as well as society.
3. Central theme of our culture is to worship women and respect them always. At no cost, this can be ignored.
4. Different religions existing in the world are nothing but different paths to reach God. Every religion should faithfully follow their principles while respecting other religions and showing tolerance for them.
5. Youth should bubble with self-confidence, enthusiasm and virtuous conduct.
6. Life’s ultimate motto is to help others. Those who live only for themselves with self-centric motives are not really living.
7. First, everyone should have respect and pride that they are born in ‘Bharat’ and are the descendants of such an illustrious culture based on Vedas and Upanishads. There may be some shortcomings that occurred during the course of time. Everyone should take constructive and collective approach to overcome and rectify those shortcomings, rather than denounce and dabble in unnecessary criticisms.

I strongly urge all my fellow countrymen to follow the above guidelines prescribed by Swami Vivekananda and pave the golden path for resilient, prosperous and supreme Bharat.

– Samavedam Shanmukha Sarma

(Courtesy: ‘AndhraPradesh’ magazine, February 2013)


Announcements

✦ Brahmasri Samavedam Shanmukha Sarma garu 2015 USA tour - May 20th 2015 to August 16th 2015.

For details contact Coordinator Sri Dr.Ravi Jandhyala - (949) 307-6457; ravijandhyala@gmail.com

May 20-31: NJ,PA,DE	June 1-7: Houston, TX	June 8-17: Chicago, IL	June 17-21: Toronto, CA
June 22-28: Dallas, TX	June 29-July 7: VA	July 8-10: Tampa, FL	July 11-12: Atlanta, GA
July 13-16: Denver, CO	July 17-19: Portland, OR	July 20-27: Irvine, CA	July 28: Cleveland, OH
July 29-Aug 2: Detroit, MI	August 3-9: Seattle, WA	August 10-16: North California	

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