



आराधना

Aradhana

A Publication of the Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati
Devdham of North America™

Kartik/Margshirsh
Vikram Samvat, 2065
November 2008

Happy New Year

Website: www.cincinnati temple.com
Email: hindusociety@fuse.net
Phone: 513-528-3714



"Lord Krishna, the Govardhandhari"
Lifting of Mount Govardhan by Lord Krishna.

GOVARDHAN POOJA and ANNAKUT

" OM GOVARDHAN DHARAY VIDMAHE
BALKRISHNAY DHIMAHİ

TANNO SHRINATHAH PRACHODAYAT"

The monsoon which commenced in Ashadh will have grown new crops by the end of Aso. Therefore the new harvest brought home is first used to cook exquisite foods for the Lord. In Gokul it was a tradition to offer these as thanksgiving to Lord Indra - deity of rain. Observing these preparations, the child Krishna questioned his father Nandbaba, of the purpose. Nandbaba replied that, 'It has been a tradition to thank Lord Indra, who graces rain which grows crops. That is why we live happily'.

Hearing this Shri Krishna pointed out that the cause of man's happiness and misery are his karmas. And the supreme God bestows the fruits of these karmas. He added, 'Since we are forest dwellers, puja of this Mount Govardhan, the cows and Brahmins, is greater than Indra's puja.' He then commanded everyone, 'From now onwards, fodder shall be offered to cows and food to Govardhan' (Shrimad Bhagvatam 10/25). Everyone accepted his 'aagna'. Through Govardhan, the Lord then availed all the food offered. When Indra discovered that his puja had been stopped, and instead, puja offered to Govardhan in Gokul, he unleashed his wrath by deluging Gokul with rain to destroy it. However to demonstrate the Lord's power, Shri Krishna raised Mt. Govardhan merely with his little finger, thus sheltering the residents and cattle of Gokul underneath. The underlying sentiment of this episode is that mundane factors such as house, wealth, mountain, trees or earth, in themselves do not have the power to protect us.

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Note: If you or someone you know, is not receiving ARADHANA, or if you need a change in address, please contact Mr. Mohan Chopra at 859-331-2416 or Meena Mehta at 513-574-6763.

Deadline for submission of articles and advertisements for the next issue is November 10, 2008

TEMPLE INFORMATION

<div>EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2008</div> <div>President:</div> <div>Raj Bodalia583-0184</div> <div>V. President:</div> <div>Rameshwar Dayal474-4051</div> <div>Secretary:</div> <div>Siva Shivaganeshan563-2901</div> <div>Treasurer:</div> <div>Amar Sharma777-5771</div> <div>COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</div> <div>Pooja Committee:</div> <div>Bobba Choudhary984-6074</div> <div>Communications/Editor:</div> <div>Meena Mehta574-6763</div> <div>email: minaash@hotmail.com</div> <div>Member:</div> <div>Aashish Shah942-8264</div> <div>email: aashish.shah@yahoo.com</div> <div>Membership & Fundraising:</div> <div>Hari Maddali985-9255</div> <div>Property Management & Maintenance:</div> <div>Shiv Sharma459-9520</div> <div>Cultural Activities:</div> <div>Jyoti Desai745-0876</div> <div>Religious Education & Youth Activities:</div> <div>Manju Gupta232-3331</div> <div>Long Range Planning:</div> <div>Jitu Patel459-8900</div> <div>Youth Member:</div> <div>Surbhi Sharma807-5081</div>	<div>RELIGIOUS DISCOURSE</div> <div>Sundays 12:15 - 12:45 PM</div> <div>First Sunday :Upanishads</div> <div>Second Sunday :ChildrenProgram</div> <div>Third Sunday :Sunder Kand Path</div> <div>Fourth Sunday :Shri Ganesh</div> <div>Fifth Sunday :Atharvshirsha Path</div> <div>Open (Please Suggest)</div> <div>Members of the community are invited to speak on topics related to Hindu religion, Philosophy, culture, reformation, Gurus, self-preservation, etc. If you would like to talk or like to suggest someone who may be interested, , please call Bobba Chaudhary at 513-984-6074</div> <div>SPONSORS FOR SUNDAY Pooja</div> <div>Devotees are requested to sit-in Sunday Pooja as well as bring Prasad and Lunch. You may wish to use this occasion to celebrate important events such as wedding anniversaries, birthdays, ishta devata pooja, graduation, and other memorable days. Events can be hosted by individuals, families, groups of families or organizations. Please reserve your Sunday of choice ASAP by putting your name and phone-no in the calendar at the temple and calling Bobba Chaudhary at (513) 984-6074</div> <div>TEMPLE SCHEDULE</div> <div>Monday - Friday :9:00AM-12:00 Noon</div> <div>5:00 PM - 8:00 PM</div> <div>Saturday, Sunday & US Holidays9:00 AM - 8:00 PM</div> <div>SPECIAL PROGRAM ON WEEKENDS</div> <div>9:15 - 9:30 A.M.Suprabhatam</div> <div>9:30 - 11:00 A.M.Daily pooja of Temple Deities</div> <div>11:00 - 11:30 A.M.Sponsored Pooja</div> <div>11:30 - 12:15 A.M.Bhajan</div> <div>12:15 -12:45 P.M.Religious discourse</div> <div>12:45-1:00 P.M.Birthday and Anniversary pooja and announcement</div> <div>1:00 P.M.Aarti</div> <div>Please Donate Generously for your Temple</div> <div>Your Temple needs</div> <div>1. Sponsors for flower \$50/week</div> <div>2. Sponsors for Sunday pooja</div> <div>3. Your temple needs your support</div>	<div>2008 POOJA COMMITTEE & RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES MEMBERS</div> <div>Bobba Choudhary:984-6074</div> <div>Acharya Kailash Sharma770-0705</div> <div>Acharya Chakreshwar Sharma528-0901</div> <div>Pandit Srinath Bhattar528-3714</div> <div>Hindu Temple528-3714</div> <div>Madhu Sharma232-9991</div> <div>Kiran Dayal474-4051</div> <div>Suchitra Mishra573-9775</div> <div>Rani Dhameja984-5777</div> <div>Sameer Rao793-5821</div> <div>Meena Karamchandani683-9454</div> <div>Kalpana Srivastava233-9184</div> <div>Uma Sanguai793-9384</div> <div>Muralee573-0550</div> <div>Minati Bhattacharya272-0361</div> <div>Vasundhra Dasari777-3353</div> <div>Anee Deka336-9554</div> <div>Sangita Patel791-0855</div> <div>Temple Manager's Committees</div> <div>Laxmi S. Srivastava- Temple Manager474-0533</div> <div>1. Office Manager</div> <div>Mohan Chopra</div> <div>2. I/C Swami Lectures</div> <div>Laxmi S. Srivastava</div> <div>Vinay Kumar</div> <div>Devdas Mukerjee</div> <div>Meena Mehta</div> <div>Bobba Choudhary</div> <div>3. Temple Data Base</div> <div>Nandkumar Khemchandani</div> <div>Mohan Chopra</div> <div>Laxmi S. Srivastava</div> <div>4. Anniversary & Birth-day Data</div> <div>Raj Agarwa</div> <div>Shakuntala Agarwall</div> <div>5 E-mail .Data</div> <div>Pradeep Goyal</div> <div>Nandkumar Khemchandani</div> <div>6. Membership & Gift Shop</div> <div>Madhu Sharma</div> <div>Meena Sondhi</div> <div>7. Computer Tech Support</div> <div>Sreedhar Suvarana</div> <div>Aashish Shah</div> <div>8. Financial Data</div> <div>Amar Sharma</div> <div>Raj Bodalia</div> <div>Laxmi S. Srivastava</div> <div>9. I/C Temple Web site</div> <div>Bharat Vala</div> <div>Debasis Dey</div> <div>Jayesh Thakkar</div> <div>Krutarth Jain</div> <div>Pritesh Dhope</div> <div>Laxmi S. Srivastava</div> <div>10. I/C Temple Calendar</div> <div>Meena Mehta</div> <div>Ashvin Mehta</div> <div>Acharya Kailash Sharma</div> <div>11. Volunter Services</div> <div>Rajan Odayar</div> <div>Kedarnath Nambori</div> <div>Dilip Patel</div> <div>Vijay Kumar Sharma</div> <div>Laxmi S. Srivastava</div> <div>12. Temple Photographer</div> <div>Krutarth Jain</div> <div>Naba Mishra</div> <div>Hetal Patel</div>
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Aradhana is Published Monthly . Circulation: Approx. 1600 Families. **Advertising Rate:** Full Page \$250; Half Page \$125; Quarter Page \$80. and one eighth page \$40. A 10% discount is given for 12 consecutive repetitions of the same advertisement. **Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati** is a non-profit organization that caters to the needs of a large community. The views expressed by individual authors in Aradhana are their own and may not reflect the policies of **HSGC**.

Pooja Information

RATES FOR POOJA & PRIEST SERVICES |

SERVICE	IN TEMPLE	OUTSIDE TEMPLE
Abhishekam (All Deities)	\$101.00	—
Aksharabhyas	\$101.00	\$151.00
Anna-Prashanam	\$101.00	\$151.00
Ashtottharam (108) Archana	\$21.00	—
AyushyaHomam/B'day Celebra.	\$101.00	\$151.00
Ground Breaking Ceremony	—	\$151.00
Griha Pravesh	—	\$151.00
Kalayana Uthsava (Lord Ram/ Sita)	\$121.00	—
Kesh Khandan (Churakaran)	\$101.00	\$151.00
Naam-Karan	\$101.00	\$151.00
Navagraha Pooja	\$101.00	\$151.00
Nischitartham (Engagement)	\$151.00	\$251.00
Baby Shower Pooja		\$151.00
Nitya (1 Day) Kainkaryam (Seva)	\$101.00	---
Poolangi Seva (With Flowers)- (Only During Off Winter Season)	\$101.00	---
Regular Archana	\$11.00	—
Sahasranama (1008) Archana	\$51.00	---
Sathyanarayana Pooja	\$101.00	\$151.00
Seemantham	\$101.00	\$151.00
Devi Jagaran	\$75.00	\$101.00
Akhand Ramayan Paath	—	\$151.00
Shashti Poorthi (60th B'day Celeb.)	\$101.00	\$151.00
Anniversary celebration	\$101.00	\$151.00
Suprabhat Seva	\$21.00	---
Unjal (Swing) Seva	\$31.00	---
Upakarma (Thread changing)	\$51.00	---
Upanayam/Brahmopadesham/ Thread Ceremony	\$151.00	\$251.00
Vahan Pooja	\$51.00	---
Yearly Shradham (Barkhi)	\$101.00	\$151.00
Wedding	\$301.00	\$501.00

SPECIAL POOJA RATE

Rates for Mata Ki Chauki performed at another temple will be 15% of the money collected at the temple or a minimum of \$ 501.00.

1. Poojas performed by priests outside the temple will be rated according to the number of poojas performed.
2. 40 Cents/Miles for Travel expanse to the Priest to perform pooja at your home.

Rates are subject to change without notice. Rates of Poojas out of Greater Cincinnati will be \$100.00 more than the rates of outside pooja within greater Cincinnati area.

Temple Rental: Lower Floor Only

	Fullday	Halfday
Monday -Thursday (except holidays)	\$301	\$151
Friday, Saturday & Holidays	\$501	\$351
<u>Sunday after 3PM only</u>	—	\$351

Note: For half day select one of the two:

8:00 AM to 2:00 PM **OR** 4:00PM to 11:00 PM

Temple rental applies to all private reservations for those events/poojas that are performed by private parties and not announced in the temple.

Security/ Cleaning deposit: \$151 required. This deposit will be forfeited if the basement hall bathrooms and kitchen area are not cleaned by the party renting the place.

NOTE: To schedule a Pooja or to rent a temple hall (lower level) please contact pooja Committee chairperson only.

Pooja Committee Announcement:

To schedule a Pooja or to rent a temple hall (lower level)
please contact Babba Chaudhury at 984-6074

If you have any question or suggestion about temple activities contact Babba Chaudhury at 984-6074, any EC Members or Temple at 528-3714.

1. **Archana** performed during temple hours by sponsorship. No Archana on Sundays between 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
2. **Outside poojas** and other religious services will be conducted by appointment only.
3. To **schedule any poojas** please contact Pooja Committee chairperson at least one week in advance.
4. If you would like to bring **food and prasad** in the temple, Please contact Pooja Committee chairperson .
5. **Cancellations** of pooja should be done 3 days in advance or else the full fee for the pooja will be charged.

HSGC General Body Meeting

and

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ELECTION 2009

**The last General Body Meeting for 2008 will be held
on second Sunday December 14, 2008 at 11.00 am
followed by**

**General election for Executive Council 2009
at 12:00 noon.**

Following are the Election Committee Commissioners

Mohan Chopra: 859-331-2416

Raneshwar Gupta: 513-232-3331

Ambikaipakan Balasubramaniam: 513-204-0213

Regular Weekly & Monthly Events at the Temple

Monthly Navgrah Pooja

Every first Saturday of the Month
November 1st, Saturday 3 pm to 5:30 pm
Sponsors needed for Pooja \$51.00
For Details please call
Bobba Choudhary: 984-6074; Temple priests: 528-3714

Monthly Murugan Abhishekham /Pooja

Every second Saturday of the Month
November 8th, Saturday 4.00pm
Sponsored by Murugan Group.
Bobba Choudhary: 984-6074; Temple priests: 528-3714

Monthly Satya Narayan Pooja

On Every Purnima of the Month
November 12th, Wednesday 6:30 pm
Sponsorship \$ 51.00
To sponsor pooja please call Bobba Choudhary: 984-6074
Temple priests: 528-3714

Monthly SundarKand Path

November 9th., Sunday 10:30 am
Bobba Choudhary: 984-6074 Acharya Kailash: 770-0705
Temple Priests: 528-3714

Monthly Shri Ganesh Pooja & Shri Ganesh Atharvshirsha Path

Every 4th Sunday of the month: November 23rd, Sunday
This pooja is dedicated to each month's
Sankashti Chaturthi to Lord Ganesh.
For more information & Sponsor the pooja please call

Anuradha Kulkarni: 271-2749 Uma Sangvai: 793-9384
Kiran Dayal: 474-4051 Temple Priests: 528-3714

Monthly ABHISHEKAM/KALYANOTSAVAM FOR LORD SRI VENKATESWARA

On 4th Saturday of each month from 10:30 AM-12:30PM.
To sponsor and details please call any of the following:
Anand Konda: 481-4119 Vasundhara Dasari: 777-3353
Suseela Paturi: 867-8591 Vicheta Pemmaraju: 398-9833
Sailaja Gannamraj: 697-1412 Usha Indrakanti: 583-5995

Weekly Shiv Mahiman Stotram

Every Monday at 6:30pm

Weekly Hanuman Chalisa Path

Every Tuesday at 6:30pm
To sponsor pooja please call Bobba Choudhary: 984-6074
Temple priests: 528-3714

Weekly Vishnu Sahasranaam Parayana

Vishnu Sahasranaama Parayana (chanting) will now take
place Every Thursday at 7:00 pm in the temple.
Please join us for the chanting.
For more information, please contact Temple priest s: 528-3714

Weekly Venkateswar Pooja

Every Friday at 6:30pm
To sponsor pooja please call Bobba Choudhary: 984-6074
Temple priests: 528-3714

Bhagavad - Geeta Class

For children and parents
(Presented by CHESS Balvihar)

- ⇒ Bhagavad-Gita is the manifest quintessence of all the teachings of the Vedic scriptures. - Adi Sankara
- ⇒ The Bhagavad-Gita is the most systematic statement of spiritual evolution of endowing value to mankind. *It is one of the most clear and comprehensive summaries of perennial philosophy ever revealed; Its enduring value is subject not only to India but to all of humanity.*
-Aldous Huxley
Join us in understanding and appreciating the timeless wisdom of the Bhagavad-Geeta.

When: Fourth Sunday of the month, 11am to 12:45pm

Where: The Hindu Temple

Taught by: Sri Koti Sreekrishna,

Notes with transliteration guide (Sanskrit to English) provided.

Contact

Manju Gupta: 232 - 3331 Vasanta Vemuri: 232- 5767

DIWALI CELEBRATION



Ankur and HSGC celebrate

Diwali on Saturday November 1st 2008.

Diwali dinner and local talent shows are the main events.



Happy New Year 2065 v.s.

Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati

Membership Information

If you are not already a member of HSGC please join in today and participate in all temple activities and enjoy all the festivities.

The membership donations are as follows:

Receive 'Aradhana' Annually: \$21.00

(Suggested donation)

Annual Individual Membership: \$51.00

Annual Family Membership: \$101.00

Life Membership: \$1001.00

Patron: \$10,000.00

Membership Forms are available at the Gift Shop in the Temple.

Please also use the form to update your address.

If you know someone who has moved out of town let us know. We would appreciate it.

For more information please call temple at (513) 528-3714 or Any Executive Council.

Upcoming Events at the Temple

December 2008 Events

8th, Monday: **Geeta Jayanti**, Mokshada Ekadashi
 10th, Wed: Kritthikai, Katthikai Deepam
 12th, Friday: Dattatraya Jayanti
 Satya Narayan Pooja
 Venkateswara Pooja
 14th, Sunday: **Geeta Jayanti Celebration**
 21st, Sunday: Sunderkand path
 22nd, Monday: Safalaa Ekadhashi
 28th Sunday: Ganesh Pooja



Geeta Jayanti at The Temple

Geeta Jayanti Celebration

on Dec.14, Sunday 10:30 to 1 Pm
 Geeta Path 10:30 Am
 Sponsors needed for this event.
 for details please call
 Temple.513- 528-3714.

Bobba Choudary 984 - 6074,
 Acharya Kailashji 652- 5382.

Koti Shrikrishana email:- tatachar@aol.com,

November 2008 Events

1st, Saturday **HSGC/ANKUR Deepawali Celebration.**
 2nd, Sunday Chitragupta Pooja Celebration See P-5
 9th, Sunday Tulsi Vivah: Prabodhini Ekadashi.
 SunderKand Path 10:30 to 1:00pm
 Sponsored by Pradeep & Poonam Dhamija
 11th, Tuesday Vaikunth Chaturdashi
 15th, Saturday Mataki Chowki 4 to 8:00pm
 Sponsored by Srivatava Family
 16th, Sunday ShriNathaji Govardhan Pooja &
 Annakut Mahotsav Celebration
 (Please see page - 7)
 23rd, Sunday Uttapatti Ekadashi

Shri Chitragupta Pooja



On Sunday Nov. 2nd 11am to 1 pm
Sponsored by:
Tri State Chitragupta Pariwaar.
Please call Kiran Dayal 474.4051.
Temple 513- 528-3714

Mata Ki Chouki



November 15th Saturday
4:00 to 8:00 pm
Followed by Prasad/Dinner 8:30pm
Sponsored by Srivatava Family
For details call
Bobba Choudary 984-6074.
Temple Priests: 528-3714

Geeta Jayanti Celebration



At Ankur Gujarat samaj
 on Dec.13, Saturday
Complete Geeta recital
 from 4:00 to 7:00 Pm
 Followed by Dinner/Prasad
 For details please call
 Jyoti Mehta @ 793-7349



Woh Jab Yaad Aaye

Int. Promoter:
Kamlesh Bhupani (CHAKU)
Classic Production USA, Inc.
www.classicproduction.com

NOVEMBER 14'th, FRIDAY, 8 PM

**NORTHMONT HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
4916 WEST NATIONAL RD, CLAYTON, OHIO 45315**

Tickets: \$35 available at local Indian Grocery Store

Visit www.bollywoodrythm.com for more information

Contact - Kirti Patel: 765 977 2500, Dipak Patel: 937 671 8444,
Hemant Garg: 937 219 6826, Bhavna Patel: 937 361 9069, Raju: 937 554 6050

www.kreativevibe.com

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Only the Lord Purushottam has the power to deliver us. Relative to His powers, that of the lesser deities pale into insignificance. Therefore it is better to accept 'sharnagati' (refuge) of the Lord Supreme and offer Him puja. This gave shri Krishna the epithet GovardhanDhari.

Over the ages, these sentiments have been consolidated by worshipping Mount Goverdhan called GOVARDHAN POOJA and offering at least hundred and eight types of foods to Shri Govardhanhari (Lord Krishna) prepared by town devotees. The offering of food, arranged in a shape of mountain is called ANNAKUT. 'Anna' means food and 'kut' means mountain also means plenty of.

Govardhan Pooja and Annakut is celebrated on the first day of the full moon in Kartik month, after Diwali which is the New Year's day of Vikram Samvat (Era).

It is celebrated in temples across the world with the highest due care, affection, glory and splendour. Annakut symbolises an offering of food to God and the love and devotion that has gone into preparing it.

On Kartik sud 1, Lord Vaman asked king Bali for 3 strides of land (ref. Devpodhi Ekadashi for details). King Bali pleased the Lord by offering everything. In remembrance of his devotion, Vamanji gave a boon that this auspicious day will be famed as 'Balipratipadaa' or 'Bali Padyami' (Skand Puran 24/10). People therefore offer Bali puja on this day.

This day also marks the coronation of King Vikramaditya and the beginning of Vikram Samvat and a NEW YEAR.

Govardhan Pooja and Annakut Celebration Program

ANNAKUT MAHOTSAV



Govardhan Pooja & Annakut Mahotsav Celebration
On Sunday November 16, 2008 10:00am to 1:00pm
Sponsored by: ShriNathji Group

Program:

10:00 AM to 11:30 AM : Govardhan Pooja and Abhishek
11:00 AM : Annakut Darshan Opens
11:30 AM to 12:00 PM: Annakut/ Annapurna Stotramn
12:00 Noon: Yamunaji Aarti
12:10 PM to 1:00 PM: Bhajans, Kirtans
1:00 PM to 1:30 PM: Aarti, Parikrama.
FOLLOWED BY MAHA PRASHAD

For More details Contact:

Meena Mehta: 574-6763	Jyoti Desai: 745-0876
Pushpa Shah: 755-1789	Vasu Shah: 942-8264
Meena Shah: 733-9357	Nayana Parikh: 923-9173
Minal Patel: 234-0569	Kokila Parikh: 942-8288

ESSENCE OF RAMKATHA by PUJYA MORARIBAPU

As you know, in July, there was the special 9 days long RAM KATHA festival in our town by Pujya Moraribapu narrated in Hindi. Starting from Day-2, each day of the RAM KATHA began with the deliverance of the full and complete summary and essence of the previous day's katha in English by retired Prof. Nagin Sanghvi of Mumbai, popularly called Naginbapu, for the young audience. This essence in English was greatly appreciated by parents and grandparents. I witnessed them requesting Naginbapu for a copy of it for all nine days. That was not possible because Naginbapu had only one, his own, handwritten copy for his deliverance. Ms. Yogini Dave was one of the interested parents and my intention was to publish it in Aradhana for the community.

Naginbapu, myself, Meena Mehta and Yogini talked and planned. Naginbapu handed over all his notes to Yogini. Our sincere thanks, from the bottom of our hearts, to Naginbapu for his unselfish graceful act. Yogini sincerely volunteered to transcribe all English summaries and essences in "Words" and forwarded to me to be published in ARADHANA for you all. Thanks a million Yogini for your sincerity and sharing spirit. Now, it will be published in more than one issue of ARADHANA depending on the availability of space. Read part one in this November issue of ARADHANA. Any questions ? Call me @ 574-6763.

Sorry! folks for this delay but we have kept our promise to you. Thanks for your patience!

Summery Of Bapu's Katha:

Day : 2 (Sunday July 6th 2008)

On the second day of Katha, Bapu analyzed the personality of Mithilesh Janak and he listed several aspects of Janak. Janak can be viewed from several angels as our shruti says " Aho sat vipra bahudha vadanti"

Janak is a Karmayogi, Gnanyogi, premyogi, dharmayogi, rajyogi, brahmayogi, and virahyogi. Bapu quoted several references from Ramacharit Manas to explain and articulate these various aspects. But Bapu wanted his listeners not to blindly accept and swallow whatever he is going to present. Everybody should think on his or her own. Tulsidas mentions Janak the rays of whose knowledge impresses even yogis. He is softened as a loving father when Sita goes to her in laws. Janaka's devotion to dharma made all his subjects oriented to pious life. Janak can discuss intricate problems of BRAHMA VIDYA with ASHTAVADRA and his love manifests itself both in SANYOG (union) and in VIRAH (separation). Bapu concentrated on Janak as a Karmayogi and in course of discussion mentioned many other important points.

Janak was a Karmayogi, as a ruler, as a family man, he attended to his duties and also to his religious rituals and ceremonials. Bapu raised the question as to how long and how far should we undertake such rituals. Bapu insisted that religious rituals, religiosity is not spiritualism and very often the path of spiritual progress is full of difficulties and sufferings. There are two types of experiences we have – one is ANUBHAV and the other is ANUBHUTI (the inner feelings). Anubhav can be described and explained by language, but words can never express anubhuti. Bapu quoted Lao Tzn who said that Truth when expressed loses some of its intensity. Three saints in modern India – Arvindo, Raman Maharshi and Ram Krishna Paramhansa have worked a lot on the "Antahkaran" (inner soul) but each one of them chose different aspects. Since "anubhuti" can not be expressed and so "anubhuti-person" either keeps silence, or he either laughs away or just weeps and people take him to be a "mooddh" (crazy) or an idiot. Language is a very powerful medium but it pales – weakens into insignificance for explaining or describing "anubhuti".

So, the question is how long should a Karmayogi perform religious ceremonies and rituals? Bapu pointed to a golden rule that all rituals should continue till we yearn to get the benefits (Karma fal – its fruits) out of them. But we should go beyond rituals. Such transcendentalism is possible only by satsang, which Chanakya has described as Heavenly because Satsang is pure heavenly joy.

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Bapu laid down five tests to distinguish between real satsang and a fake copy of satsang.

1. During satsang and out of such satsang nobody – neither the speaker, nor the listener should get any material benefit in terms of money or materials.
2. Satsang is for internal peace and happiness. It is not for showing off, not an exhibition of one's achievements. Bapu rejected all miracles that arise out of blind faith and pollute satsang.
3. Satsang, said Bapu, is holy, pure, divine, and should never be used for sectarian propaganda. He has no ill feelings against anyone but many persons have misused satsang for spreading their sects and sampradaya.
4. Satsang should never dissuade – deviate us from our social duties or family responsibilities and from hard realities of life. If satsang does not make us forget to serve our elders or our professional activities / obligations / duties, then satsang makes our life more meaningful and more effective. Satsang that makes people be sanyaasee, makes them escape from family is not a real satsang. This world is not "mithya". It is the manifestation of "Brahma". One can take sanyaas after mature detachment – "Vairaagya". Till then it is best to enjoy life without too much indulgence or too much austerity. Satsang never creates illusions (Bhram) or worship of a person or illusions of divinity.

Janak was a Karmayogi, and worked till all Karma (all Kartavya) – Kritya became Nritya (dance). A joyful dance. That is why Aatmaa (soul) is called Nartaka – a dancer. Our actions must be full of joy and bliss. Religion should never make us somber or morose. Joyful experiences are possible if we happen to meet a personality like Janak or a teacher like "Nanak" or visit a "Thanak" – a place hollowed by spiritual experiences and vibrations. Such a contact will give us peace. Peace within, peace in society and peace in entire universe. Such joyful peace is experienced when we meet our guru our "Ishta". There never is a competition here. Bapu remembers Pandit Ramkinkerdaasji who had high regards for Bapu.

So how does one choose his guru, his guide, his "Ishta"? Tulsidas has given a list of such tests. When we meet a person and instantly feel love and respect for him, when we immediately feel that he is trust worthy – a confidant whom we often remember and whom we like to serve when service becomes the ultimate goal (saadhya). Bapu said that very often people use service (seva), that is sheer hypocrisy and lastly Guru is one to whom we like to surrender ourselves. (Sharanagati)

Janak was a best Karmayogi who having no desires, continued to perform all karmas as his duties. That is why Ram said that when there were calamities and upheavals (Utpaat) in Ayodhya, it was the wisdom of Vashishtha and Janak that saved the situations. In Ram Charit Manas, Vashishtha says that all such calamities and upheavals were created by fate, by vidhata by destiny. But Bapu believes that it is mere escapism to blame destiny. After all destiny refers to our own actions and behaviors - our style of functioning. All calamities were due to evil actions of Kaikeyee.

Bapu quoted Chanakya to say that all the three worlds – entire universe is embodied in a woman. Indian thinkers have viewed women as a mere body – (Kaya) or as a mere shadow – (chaya) or as an illusion – (maya). But Bapu would not distinguish between males and females in this respect. Both can harm the other in terms of life (Aayushya), happiness, health peace and bliss.

Bapu mentioned the great qualities and sacrifices involved in motherhood. Mother is the concrete manifestation of divine.

Turning to the story part of katha, Bapu proceeded further from where he had left. After salutations, Tulsidas offers his Vandana to different characters and introduced them and he puts Sita ahead of Ram. He disagreed with Valmiki about Lakshmana not looking at the face of Sita. Lakshmana is like a son to her and a child always looks at mother. Bapu said to see a child and mother together is to witness the divine. Bapu mentioned world famous sculpture of "Pieta" by Michelangelo that depicts Mother Mary and Jesus together. Bapu ended by emphasizing the importance of Naam Smarana but he clarified that every name is name of god and taking any name with love is naam smarana. He would do Ram Smarana, but he does not insist on Ram because divine is known by innumerable names.*

Summery of Bapu's Katha: Day : 3 (Monday July 7, 2008)

To translate yesterday is a formidable challenge. How can I translate the music and the joy and the universal combination of Bapu and his Katha. How can I translate the tears in his eyes of when he talked of wasted childhoods and exploited women. I am thrilled by his crusading zeal but I can hardly convert that thrill into words.

Bapu yesterday has thrown down a gauntlet as in a medieval tournament and I am going to pick it up and fight back. I may fail, but I will not fail without fighting back. Yesterday Bapu remembered over a wide, vast, wild field over the entire gamut of life and up and down the memory lanes of his own life revealing thereby many unknown aspects of his life as colorful as rainbow. Anybody writing a biography of Morari Bapu, will have necessarily to study 6th July discourse at Cincinnati. I will try to chase him through all his ramblings and present the various pieces streams across them as a collectivity.

Americans have a thanksgiving day in November. Bapu celebrated thanksgiving yesterday and thanked us all who feel more obliged and blessed by him than the other way around. I speak for all of us who are thankful to him for a wonderful visit to Cincinnati.

Bapu emphasizes that a good work, a charity, an act of love and generosity are far more acceptable to the divine, to Allah than all the so called religious duties and pilgrimages as Haj. He told us about a person from Junagadh, a cobbler from Chudaranpoor, a Popat mochi from Talgajerda and a cobbler at Damascus who performed the best Haj without visiting Makka.

Bapu reminded us of three great teachers – two of contemporary life and one from Upanishad. Gangadhar Shastri teaching on the day his son died because sorrow is personal while duty is a commitment. He talked of Dolarbhai Mankad who preferred to be cheated rather than loose faith in his students. Bapu told us that it is far, far better to be cheated than we cheating others. A teacher of Taitriya Upnishad advised his students to go and find better teachers. Teachers of India teach more by examples than by words and books. Bapu assured us that such saintly personalities are existing all around us even today. Bapu mentioned that time is playing with us and would one day cheat us into death. But we should live a full life, life of joy and service, a life in which we share with others giving them our best, our service our money, our comforts, and keeping all the sufferings and burdens of life with ourselves. Death is an inescapable activity and none of us is indispensable. We occupy a space, but when we go the space will get filled up. Water parts when a finger is inserted, but when the finger is withdrawn, the water fills up that vacancy. Bapu regretted that we have become perverts and so much trivialized our view of reality. We feel more sorrow when a game is lost, but give no consideration to those who die in defending our country.

Bapu is a crusader against evils and customs that are perpetrated in the name of religion and orthodoxy. He was moved to tears by the cruelty of giving “diksha” to children and thereby killing the joys and happiness of childhood. The practice of Sati, was denounced by Bapu as a demonic deed and he was upset by the sufferings and humiliations imposed on Hindu widows. He strongly advocated remarriages for young widows and a front rank for all widows in social and religious festivities and ceremonies. He called upon the audience and urged them to burn and bury all such horrible customs that are dead as dido and he told us how he shares the sufferings of harijans in temples he visits.

All such and many other evils can be eliminated by satsang which is a bridge between person and person between various communities and between the warring nations. Bapu regretted that God created a beautiful earth and we disfigured it by drawing borders and dividing humanity into so many sections. For Bapu the world is his home. Katha for him is a medium to build such bridges across all differences and he advised us never to criticize a person without coming closer and without understanding him better. Katha can unite because it awakens and involves the unity of conscience and no efforts and no expenditure is enough for such purpose. Katha is search for truth and some of truth never sets, true is no need to say. – Satyam-ev-jayate or Dharma no jay ho- because truth always triumphs and religion is ever victorious. But we ought to love and preserve nature, not to conquer nature. He narrated the story of swami Ramtirth and his mountaineering feet in San Francisco.

Turning to Janak, Bapu said that to understand Janak properly we will have to go back to our roots, to retreat, to regress. To go ahead we need power and competition; to go back we need faith. Such faith needs no proof, no evidence. He mentioned the practice of Namaz in which one position is a fetal position, position of a child in the womb of mother. He said Janak is not a personal name. It is a family name. His personal name is Shirdwaj. – one whose symbol as head – a symbol of thinking, of vision, of drashti of darshan. In India names were given by gurus and were always meaningful and appropriate. A ruler Nimi, decided to perform a yagna of swaha of self sacrifice on a long term basis and invited vashishtha to be the presiding priest. Vashishtha declined but got angry when Nimi chase some one else and cursed him with bodilissness – (Videh).

Bapu is painfully surprised at sacrificing animals and human beings at yagna in an Ahinsak Culture and mentioned Tulsi-das who has prescribed a much better yagna that is so modern that we can adopt it even in 21st century. The best yagna said Tulsi-das is one when loving tears become “Ganga Jal”. Love is “Ghee” where our doubts and misgivings are wood to be burnt in the fire of forgiveness and where sacrificial object is our blind attachment.

Sucha a Yagna will teach us to give to sacrifice ourselves, rather than seek revenge. Bapu wanted us to be givers rather than takers and he prescribed a difficult test. Somebody might have harmed us but if we feel good when we hear about his mortal sickness like cancer, then we are no good. We have to go a long way. Even for those who have wronged us. We should feel sympathy in his sufferings.

Cont'd on page 16



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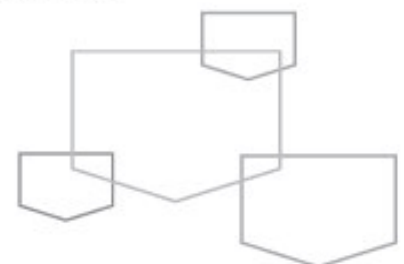
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Continued from page 10

Bapu said enmity, hatred is hell. Bapu refers the notion of Hell but if there were any Hell he would be eager to go there with "Pothe" – (his scripture) and do a "Katha" in Hell converting thereby the Hell into a very heaven. He quoted Tulsidas who considers Heaven and Hell as one and same.

He moved on to Nimi whose body was churned (manthan). Mithi and from such a churning arose Mithila, Maithili. Janak is mentioned in Gita – Janakaday: as a Karmayogi, who by incessant efforts – Sadhana secured Sita – an embodiment of peace.

Somebody had asked a question as to how "KARMA" should be done and Bapu answered by saying that all our Karma, all activities are controlled and guided by mind and mind is many. Our mind is situational and many fangled (Shat roopa) while mind of Janak is concentrated unity devoted to Ram.

Bapu prescribed four remedies to convert our Kritya into Nritya.

Whatever we do, we do with full concentration with total expertise (kushalta)

We do nothing with Kripanta – no cheating, no neglect, no evasion of work or duty. We must adopt work ethics.

We give up our ego and become mere instruments of divine. We should never worry for success or failures. In fact we should be prepared for failures. Considering every failure as a step to final success. Failure is a part of life. All the association of Ram-Lakshman, Hanuman, have faced occasional failures because failures are a necessary stage to perfection. From failures to fullness. (Parajays se Poornata). Success is a gift of God, failure an invitation to perfection. There will always be difficulties and failures and sufferings in life. It depends upon you whether your response is positive or negative. Miseries will be there, it depends upon you how miserable you become. If this world is fleeting (kshan bhangoorta) our sufferings are also fleeting.

Do nothing with disgust. Mind controls actions and Bapu explained various types of mind. Some people have cruel sadistic mind (nishthoor), some have indifferent mind (nirlep), a nirlep mind is not detached (saadhutva) mind. They feel no sympathy for misery of others. Some minds are (samvedan sheel) sensitive minds that share and experience the sufferings of others. A religious mind is devoted to one's own view point, one's own truth. "Mumsatya" while spiritual mind is clear and reflective like a mirror.

Well, friends, all this does not include some of the aphorisms (vichar ratna) which were given to us by Bapu yesterday. I can not mention all but give only one religious affiliations (kanthita) have become the binding chains (sankal) and how long should we submit and surrender like flock of sheep. We can hardly experience "gopibhav" because we are not even true copies of Gopies. While success is a gift of god, failure is an invitation to perfection.*



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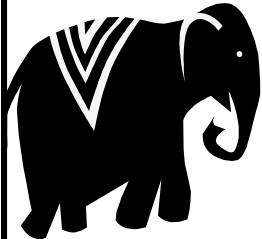
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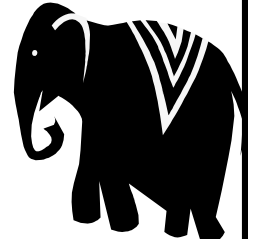
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Directions to Hindu Temple From I-275 take Exit 63A (32West)

- drive approximately 1/4 mile - turn right onto OLD 74 - turn left at the first Traffic light onto Summerside Road. After approximately one mile turn right onto Klatte Road. Temple is at the end of Klatte Road. From UC: Take E McMillan to Columbia Pkwy to Beechmont Ave to Route 32 East (to Batavia). Turn left on Old SR -74. Follow instructions above from Summerside to Klatte Rd. (Phone No. for the Temple - 528-3714)

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