



आराधना

Aradhana

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

Margshirsh/Paush
Vikram Samvat, 2065
December 2008

Happy Geeta Jayanti

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

Message from the President

Dear Devotees,

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for another successful year. There are many ways one can determine success. It can be measured in terms of religious and cultural activities, donations (monetary and/or time), or participation by the community members. In all categories such as, number of pujas, involvement of the community in cultural activities, donations, and general attendance to the temple, we have done better than previous years. Many thanks to EC members for leading these programs, our priests for guiding us through the year, and all volunteers, who spent countless hours to make these events successful.

This year, we were able to add four major events as per requests from our devotees. These were Gayatri Yagna, Nand Mahotsav, Shraddha Puja, and Jagannath Rath Yatra. These were additions to our already busy schedule during the year. Our devotees were glad that respected Karuna Mai visited and blessed our Temple. One of the highlights of this year was hosting Ram Katha by Shri Morari Bapu. This was perhaps once in a life time event for Cincinnati. This Katha was attended by more than 1800 people daily for 10 days. It was a huge undertaking for our committee. Volunteers from many sister organizations came forward to make the event successful. Ankur Gujarati Samaj was sincerely noted and appreciated for their above and beyond contribution that aided in the success of the Katha.

We are making a good progress in the Garbha Graha project. We have received a sample of craftsmanship from one vendor and are exploring for a similar model from another vendor. We have finished the tile work on the porch of the front entrance of the Temple. We completed digitizing all architectural drawings related to Temple properties. We have obtained a Zoning permit for putting the canopy on the outside stairs that go to the lower floor of the Temple. Expansion of the kitchen area was approved in principle. Detail scope of the kitchen project is being solicited. Two major projects, cultural center and retirement community, are pending until the zoning approval. A prominent Law Firm (Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP) has been hired to help us in getting the zoning permit for all projects. We are committed to move these projects forward and sincerely appreciate your patience.

This year, we have promoted Acharya Kailash Sharma to a Senior Priest position. He has been with us since the inauguration of the Temple in 1997. He has contributed tremendously towards the growth of the Temple and his promotion is well deserved.

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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 December 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>Atharvshirsha Path</div> <div>Fifth Sunday :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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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/Brahmopadeshnam/ 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
December 6th, 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
December 13th, 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
December 12th, Wednesday 6:30 pm
Sponsorship \$ 51.00

To sponsor pooja please call Bobba Choudhary: 984-6074
Temple priests: 528-3714

Monthly SundarKand Path

December 21st, 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: December 28th, 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

Geeta Jayanti Celebration

At Ankur Gujarati samaj
on

Dec.13, Saturday

Complete Geeta recital
from 4:00 to 7:00 Pm

Followed by Dinner/ Prasad



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

Mata Ki Chouki



January 3rd, Saturday

4:00 to 8:00 pm

Followed by Prasad/Dinner 8:30pm

Sponsored by Dr. Prem Shankar & Kiran Verna & Family

**For details call Bobba Choudary 984-6074.
 Temple Priests: 528-3714**

Annakut Mahostav & Govardhan Pooja Celebration at the Temple



January 2009 Events

1st, Thursday: **New Year's Celebration**
Maha Ganpati Pooja & Homa.11am
 Shri Vishnu Sahasranaama
 Paaraayanam 6:30pm
 3 rd, Saturday: Mata Ki Chowki, 4:00 to 8:00pm
 7th, Wed: Shri Venkateshwar, Vaikunth Ekadashi
 6:00pm
 14th, Wed: Makarsankranti/Pongal
 18th, Sunday: **Makarsankranti Celebration**
 21st, Wed: Shattila Ekadashi
 31st, Sat: Vasant Panchami
 Feb. 1st, Sunday: **Vasant Panchami Celebration**

NEW YEAR 2009 CELEBRATION

Maha Ganpati Puja & Homa

January 1st Thursday 2009

11am to 12:30

**Sponsorship \$ 21:00 ,
 Archana \$11.00**

**For details call Bobba Choudary 984-6074.
 Temple Priests: 528-3714
 Please come and start
 new year with blessings
 of Lord Ganesh**



Shri Vishnu Sahasranaama Paaraayanam

January 1st Thursday 2009

6:30pm

Temple will be open 9am 8pm



Cont'd from page 1

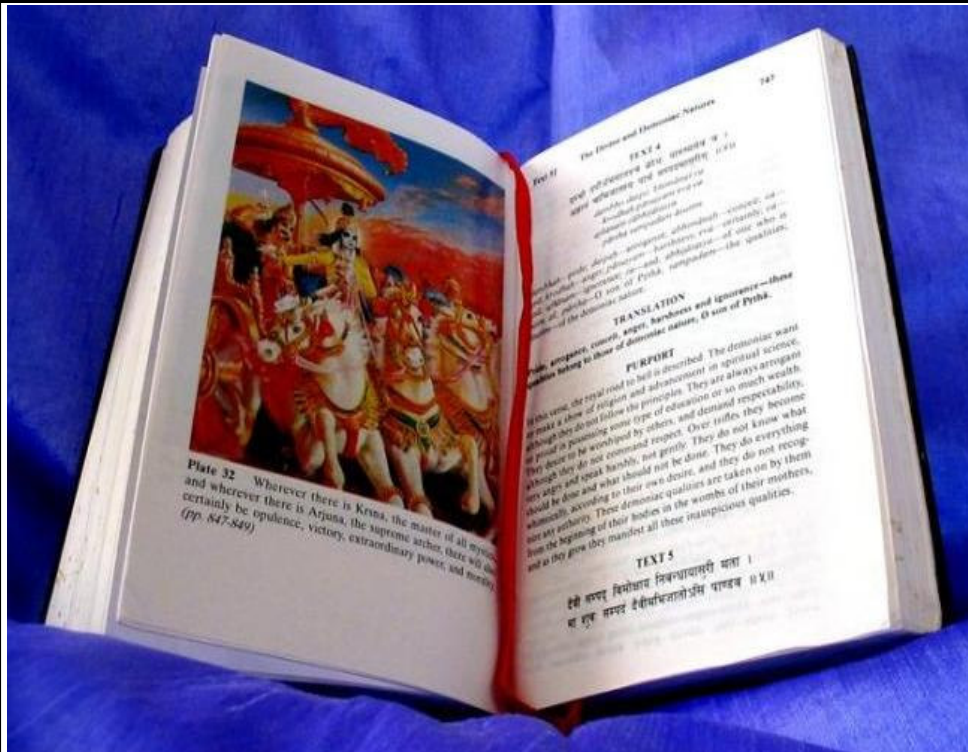
I along with other prominent members of our society have emphasized the need of the BOT (Board of Trustees) for the future expansion of our Temple. We have received the approval from an attorney that we can amend the constitution to bring the needed changes. It is possible; it is just a matter of doing it. It was one of my goals to create the BOT structure during this year, yet it was not accomplished. I take full responsibility for not getting it done.

We are all aware of how difficult this year has become and the economy is continuing to face pressures on many different fronts. However, like any non-profit organizations, your temple operates on your donations. You have been very generous throughout the year. However, we need your continuous financial support for the growth of the Temple. I hope you will sincerely consider tax deductible donations and we promise you to use it judiciously.

My term as the president is concluding at the end of this year. I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve you for the past three years and I wish the best of luck to the executive committee of 2009.

Sincerely,

Raj Bodalia, President



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.

Shrimad Bhagavadgeetaa is an epitome of the essentials of the whole Vedic teaching. A knowledge of its teaching leads to the realization of all human aspirations.

“Taught by the blessed Naaraayana Himself to Arjuna, compiled by Vyaasa, the ancient seer, in the middle of the Mahaabhaarata, I meditate on Thee, O mother, O Bhagavadgita, the blessed, of eighteen chapters, the bestower of the nectar of non-dualistic wisdom, the destroyer of rebirth.”

“ I find a solace in the *Bhagavadgita* that I miss even in the Sermon on the Mount. When disappointment stares me in the face and all alone I see not one ray of light, I go back to the *Bhagavadgita*. I find a verse here and a verse there and I immediately begin to smile in the midst of overwhelming tragedies...and if they have left no visible, no indelible scar on me, I owe it all to the teachings of the *Bhagavadgita*.”

M.K. Gandhi, *Young India* 1925.

Day : 4 (Tuesday July 8, 2008)

Bapu lightened up the earlier discussions by repeating four proper specifications of KARMA and moved further in analyzing the philosophy involved in life and charitra of Janak. He advised that all our actions ought to be done with softness (MRUDUTA) with love and proper decorum and never with anger or aggressiveness or violence. Even minor actions as tearing up papers or walking or talking or eating should be done with softness (mruduta). We consider food as Brahman. (Anna Vaibhrahma vijanta). Out of such mruduta emerges a mind set described as mudita by Patanjali in his yogasutra. In yoga there are several mudras. He mentioned his teaching postures – Gnan Mudra of Buddha. There are innumerable such mudras – hand gestures like Gnanmudra, Sanketmudra dhanmudra or smaranmalamudra. But in bhakti there is only Mudrika. Janak had all the three – mudra for Gnan, Mudrika for Bhakti, and Mruduta for Karma. Because of such a combination of all the three, Janaka could get sita gently out of the earth. One should never be harsh if one wants to practice sadhu dharma, which requires softness, but a ruler – a controller has to be harsh (kathor karmi) in punishing crimes.

For spiritual growth it is necessary that we practice introspection (Aatmadarshan) and find out our faults and limitations (Dosh) to improve ourselves. Usually, people looks at the faults of others (paradosh darshan). A sadhak sees his own faults (Swadosh darshan) and a siddha reaches out beyond both dosha and guna. One who wants to serve others (sevak) needs humility to see and to confess all his limitations.

Bapu agreed with Vinoba Bhave that we should be aware of our limitations as also our abilities and our achievements irrespective of whether others praise or denounce us, but after attaining maturity we should go by assessment of ourselves. Whether others understand or not, it is enough if I understand myself. Whenever we fail to teach or convince others it is our limitations. Bapu gave very important tips as to how we should raise our children. Never threaten or frighten a child. Child usually imitates the elders and therefore his misbehavior may be because of our limitations. Bapu quoted Khalil Gibran that children enter the world through us but we are not the owners of children. He then turned to Mira who sang that she enjoyed her ill fame (Badnami) which was sweet to her. Mira was aware that her behavior was not normal (anoothi chaal) but she met her “sudguru” in a narrow lane and refused to turn her back on him. (Kyun dar firu apoothi). Her contacts with guru were the reason why worldly people denounced her. Bapu said sadguru always meets you in narrow lanes of troubles and difficulties and anguish but once we have taken to Bhakti, return or retreat is impossible. Bapu warned against treating the world as a mere illusion. We have not reached the level of Shankracharya and we are still controlled by our ordinary experiences, and for us this world is very real and very important. Each one of us has his or her individuality and we love our homes, our home towns more than heaven and Bapu supported cultivating individuality of such affections.

A Bhakta has no ill feelings against the critics; a Bhakta like Mira wants to calm down the fire from which the world is suffering.

Ram Charit Manas is a Dharma Granth for many and Abdul Rahim Khan has equated it with Veda for Hindus and Kuran for Muslims. Tulsidas describes Manas as “sadgranth” because religious books are restricted but a s-a-d granth is open and available for all. Bapu goes a step further. For him, Manas is a “Prem Panth” - a lovely, lovable and loving path. Bapu belongs to caste of Saadhu - Bava – who are often called Maargi Sadhus. Sadhus who keep on walking on the road. Bapu considers caste system as a disease (Vikaar) but he is a maargi. Walking on the path, he has not direction, no where to go to, but just keep walking on the path of love. He referred Upanishadic principle of “Charaiveli”.

Bapu often breaks into music and freely indulges into film songs. He is often criticized but he is not affected or moved by such critics. He is happy that he has popularized some of the best songs and good music amongst masses. Songs and music can be and has been misused but it depends upon what you want to do with them. Stones can be used to break heads but they can also be used for a foundation. Bapu advised that our emotions should neither be suppressed, nor should they be indulged in. What is needed is self discipline a self imposed “maryaadaa”. Mira danced but never beyond the limits (maryaadaa).

Such self awareness and self control comes to Bhakta by the blessings (Krupa) of god and they are never upset by criticism of others.

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Softness, humility, love and devotion lead to “Mudita” of Yog Sutras, which is eternal and continuous bliss (Prasannata). Shankaracharya has assured us that such bliss (prasannata) lead to realization of divinity (Parmaatma Darshan). For Bhakta every moment is a moment of joy, a moment to welcome the beloved divine. Bapu quoted a poet who said “when I die, I want the hand of god on my eyes.”

Returning to analysis of Janak Charitra, Bapu mentioned a meeting between Vishwamitra and Janak when Vishwamitra came to Mithila with Ram and Lakshman. Vishwamitra knows that Janak is a king but he is also a yogi, a Dharma Yogi, a Videhi. In such meetings, words emerge out of silence (maun) and meaning (Artha) is the product of understanding. Vishwamitra asked 13 questions to Janak – 8 of them dealing with his duties and abilities as a ruler. But next five questions are concerned with spiritual and religious aspects of life.

1. Is your mind balanced and poised (Swastha)?

2. Is your body healthy and strong? The question about physical health is very relevant because body is the most important instrument for spiritual progress. A healthy mind needs a healthy body and Tulsidas has praised the human body.

3. Is your intellect pure and proper (sumati)?

4. Do you experience bliss (prasannata) in your chitta (conscience) and the last question was:

Are your eyes, your vision, your darshan properly focused? Do you see properly at objects?

In order to explain the importance of the last question about proper vision, Bapu mentioned that story of Ravan's visit to Dasharatha in Ayodhya. He was a guest and he demanded war as a gift. Dasharatha was hesitant and he laid down a test that if Ravan is able to open the doors of Vijay Dwar held by Dashratha, his demands would be accepted. He could not do so. Dashratha explained that in Ayodhya doors are strong because they close their eyes to temptations of lust. So, in spiritual Sadhana proper eye sight, proper Drashti, balanced Darshan holds a very important place. Ravan was humiliated again at Dhanush bhang and Angad foot efficacy.

A question was asked about prolonged fasting and Bapu answered that too much fasting that weakens the body is not a spiritual path. He quoted Gita that torturing our body is to torture the god within and our scriptures have always talked about proper eating. If vratas spoil our temperament (swabhav) that vrata is futile. What is true of fasting is true of silence (maun). Silence is needed but it should not be overdone.

Bapu agreed that languages of Tulsidas is Gooddh (complicated). There is nothing gupta (secret). Gupta (Secret is something which we have to hide. Gooddh (complicated message) is something which is difficult to understand and analyse. He quoted sufi poets to give examples of such Gooddh (complicated matter)

Bapu referred to a vedic story when prajapati called gods (devas), demons (asooras), and humans (manavas) and gave them all the same mantra “DA”. For Gods who were very indulgent, it meant “daman”, for Asooras, who were very cruel – Da – means “dayaa”, for Manavas – DA – means “daan” to benefit others is the synonyms for dharma and daan is the best way to help others. The meaning of daan changes with time and in modern times spreading knowledge and education is the best charity. Many saadhus get themselves weighed against gold but they should get weighed against good and useful books so that vidhya can be spread. But if we can not give anything let us give the gift of humor because detachment (tyag) is very very often the end result of hasya (humor – laughter). Unfortunately, religious home made people morose, converted them into humorless zombies by equating seriousness with sobriety and knowledge. In this age non-violence is the synonym of Dharma, and donation is the best way to help others out. But there are certain negatives of Daan. Donations should not be given to boost up our ego, expecting appreciation and respect from the recipients. One should never give donations under pressure or persuasion. Very often people give money under peer pressure. Such donations are “ana-ichhaa” daan. Very often people give away surplus things cluttering their homes. Actually, this is no donation, but a disposal of useless junk from your homes. Never give donations to secure prominence and prestige in society or in your group.

But real donations are for the benefit of others. As trees give fruits, rivers give water, sun gives energy – in the same way give because you want to give. Give because you enjoy giving. Give because Daan is a duty for entire humanity.*

Minutes of EC Meeting on Sept. 7, 2008

Members Present:

Raj Bodalia, Bobba Choudary, Rameshwar Dayal, Jittu Patel, Jyoti Desai, Hari Maddali, Amar Sharma, Shiv Sharma, and Siva Sivaganesan

Mela & Navaratri: Plans for Mela and Navaratri were discussed. EC decided to sponsor pooja on one week-day during the Navaratri, Sept 22-Oct. 9.

Funds for Zoning Permit: A proposal for raising seed money of up to \$50,000 for use by project managers of Community Center and Retirement Homes projects for securing zoning permits, and to use money from the EC's general funds up to the same amount, as necessary, was discussed at length. Everyone present expressing their views. All except Hari Maddali spoke in favor of the proposal. Hari objected to the use of the general funds for this purpose, and recommended instead to first establish a trustee and then raise the funds as part of a plan developed by the trustee.

Promotion of Priest Kailash Sharma: Bobba Choudary proposed that Priest Kailash Sharma be promoted with 10% salary increase. This proposal also was discussed at length, all speaking in favor. Siva suggested promotion with the new title of senior priest would be appropriate. Raj Bodalia clarified that this would not mean Kailash Sharma would be supervising the other priests, and suggested listing the responsibilities associated with the new position. Hari Maddali suggested formulating a policy document which includes periodic appraisal of the priests. Jitu Patel suggested a need to evaluate salaries and benefits of the priests. The EC unanimously approved that Priest Kailash Sharma be promoted to the position of Senior Priest with 10% salary increase effective October 1, 2008, and that an official letter to this effect including a list of responsibilities associated with the new position be given to Priest Kailash Sharma.

Shrddha Puja: Bobba Choudry announced that Shrddha Puja will be held in the temple on September 8, from 11-12 in the morning. This is a new pooja, to be held for the first time in the temple.

Maintenance: Shiv Sharma indicated the need to replace the sign board at the front of the temple, and agreed to take care of it. Renovation of the kitchen was discussed. Jitu Patel informed the committee that the blueprint for the renovation is almost ready, and that the funds for the renovation will be raised before the project begins. Jitu Patel and Shiv Sharma also agreed to take care of the damaged pipe in the kitchen plumbing.

Minutes of EC Meeting on Nov. 2, 2008

Members Present:

Raj Bodalia, Bobba Choudary, Rameshwar Dayal, Jittu Patel, Jyoti Desai, Hari Maddali, Manju Gupta, Meena Mehta, Amar Sharma, and Siva Sivaganesan

Book Donation: Professor Rama Rao Pappu of the Miami University has expressed his willingness to donate hundreds of books on Hinduism to the temple. EC unanimously approved with much gratitude to accept the books, and to house them in a library room and make arrangements for them to be accessible to devotees

Srinivas Bhattar: EC approved to seek the services of Srinivas Bhattar when he visits the temple, to fill-in for Senior Priest Kailash Sharma during his absence next month.

Kitchen Renovation Project and Library: Jitu Patel showed the blue-print for the kitchen renovation project, which is also put in display at the temple, and explained to the committee about the planned renovation. EC unanimously approved to give permission to apply for the county permit for the renovation, to solicit bidding from contractors, and approved a budget of no more than \$100,000.00 for the project. EC also approved that an application to apply for county permit to renovate the room in the lower floor of the south wing, so that part of it can be used as a library.

Suggestions and Complaints from Devotees: EC requests all devotees to lodge complaints or suggestions about any temple operations or services to the secretary of the EC in writing. It is only with written complaint, EC can take action to rectify matters of discontent. An announcement to this effect will be placed in Aradhana.

Meijer Community Rewards: Hari Maddali explained the arrangements in place for devotees to sign-up for the community rewards at Myers, which will result in a contribution to the temple every time devotees shop at Myers. An announcement to this effect will be placed in Aradhana.

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AN APPEAL FOR “SEED MONEY”

Dear Devotees,

It is a time to sit back and reflect upon the activities of the Temple for the year 2008. In our opinion it was a better year than the last, in terms of activities and the community participation. We hope coming year will be even better. Our prosperity is the reflection of your devotion, commitment and financial support. Please continue it all.

In terms of new construction we have finished the tile work on the porch of the front entrance of the temple which will protect the building from further deterioration from snow and rain and at the same time it will beautify the entrance of the temple. The second good news is that finally we are able to get Zoning permit for putting the canopy on the outside stairs going down to the lower floor of the temple. During rain or snow it is very inconvenient to use the stairs. This project is being funded by an old well wisher from Washington, D.C.

Projects being actively worked are Community Center and the Retirement Community. A prominent Law Firm (Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP) has been hired to help us in getting the zoning for all the projects. We badly need **“SEED MONEY”** to proceed further. A goal of **\$150,000 for 2008** is a realistic one. **ONLY YOU CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN.** Any contribution, small or big from you all will be greatly appreciated. It will make our task easier and will enable us to continue the constructive work. Please fill out the following form and mail with your contribution for this cause.

Any suggestion or comments will help us to improve the temple. Thanks for your continuous support and may “GOD” bless all of us.

Sincerely,

Raj Bodalia, President, Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati

EC Members, Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati.

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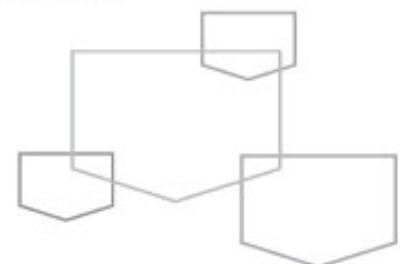
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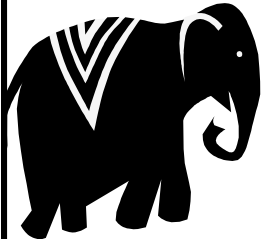
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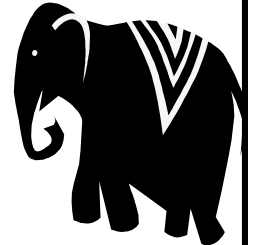
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