



आराधना

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

Chaitra/Vaishakha
Vikram Samvat, 2066
April 2009

HAPPY RAMNAVAMI

Happy Baisakhi, Tamil New Year, Hanuman Jayanti

Website: www.cincinnatiemple.com

Email: hindusociety@fuse.net

Phone: (513)528-3714



Hanuman Jayanti (Birth of Lord Hanuman)

In 2009, Hanuman Jayanti falls on Thursday, April 9th

Hanuman Jayanti is celebrated to commemorate the birth of Hanuman, the monkey god widely venerated throughout India. It is celebrated during the month of Chaitra. Hanuman was an ardent devotee of Lord Rama, and is worshipped for his unflinching devotion to the god. From the early morning, devotees flock Hanuman temples to worship Hanuman.

It is an important festival of Hindus. Hanuman is the symbol of strength and energy. Hanuman is said to be able to assume any form at will, wield rocks, move mountains, dart through the air, seize the clouds and rival Garuda in swiftness of flight. He is worshipped in folk tradition as a deity with magical powers and the ability to conquer evil spirits

Devotees apply tilak of sindhoor to their foreheads from Hanuman's body as this is considered to be good luck. According to the legend Sita was applying sindhoor to her head, Hanuman Ji questioned why and replied that this would ensure a long life for her husband. Hanuman then smeared his entire body with sindhoor, in an effort to ensure Rama's immortality.

Vaisakhi Celebrations all over India

Vaisakhi is celebrated throughout the state of Punjab in northern India and marks the start of the solar year when the sun enters Aries, the first sign of the Zodiac. It is traditionally the time of the year when the harvest is gathered and the festival is a reward for all the hard work and toil in the fields. The festival is a joyous occasion that is characterised by melas, singing, bhangra and gidda dances and feasting in celebration of a good harvest.

Vaisakhi day is observed as the Naba Barsha (New Year) in Bengal. On April 14, the people take a ritual bath in the River Ganga or any other river or a nearby tank and decorate their houses with rangoli (floral patterns) drawn at the entrance of their homes with a paste made of rice powder.

Contd on Pg 6.....

Thought of the Day

For yourself, think with your head.

For others, think with your heart!!!!!!

Thought of the Day

HSGC Temple Information

Page: 2

Regular Weekly & Monthly Events

Page: 4

Current Events & Pooja Information

Page: 3

Upcoming Events

Page: 5

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 Geeta Mehan at (513)754-0400. email mehan101@gmail.com
Deadline for submission of articles and advertisements for the next issue is April 10, 2009

TEMPLE INFORMATION

<div>EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2008</div> <div>President:</div> <div>Meena Mehta (513) 574-6763</div> <div>Vice President:</div> <div>Krutarth Jain (513) 884 1259</div> <div>Secretary:</div> <div>Siva Sivaganeshan (513) 563-2901</div> <div>Treasurer:</div> <div>Amar Sharma (513) 777-5771</div> <div>COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</div> <div>Pooja Committee:</div> <div>Amita Gupta (Chair):(513) 336-8782</div> <div>Kiran Dayal (Cochair):(513)474-4051</div> <div>Communications/Editor:</div> <div>Geeta Mehan (513) 754-0400</div> <div>email: mehan101@gmail.com</div> <div>Membership & Fundraising:</div> <div>Raneshwar Gupta (513)232-3331</div> <div>Property Management & Maintenance:</div> <div>Shiv Sharma (513) 459-9520</div> <div>Cultural Activities:</div> <div>Jyoti Desai (513) 745-0876</div> <div>Religious Education & Youth Activities:</div> <div>Anisha Singh (513) 469-7432</div> <div>Long Range Planning:</div> <div>Laxmi S. Srivastava (513) 474-0533</div> <div>Fund Raising : Hari Maddali</div> <div>Priests:</div> <div>Senior Priest:</div> <div>Acharya Kailash Sharma 770-0705</div> <div>Acharya Chakreshwar Sharma</div> <div>528-0901</div> <div>Pandit Srinath Bhattar</div> <div>528-3714</div> <div>Attorney:</div> <div>Aronoff, Rosen & Hunt 241-0400</div> <div>Temple Manager:</div> <div>Laxmi Srivastava 474-0533</div> <div>Accountant: Open</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>Jagannath Puja</div> <div>Fifth Sunday :</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 Amita Gupta at 513- 336-8782</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 Amita Gupta at (513) 336-8782</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 Holidays 9:00 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>2009 POOJA COMMITTEE & RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES MEMBERS</div> <div>Amita Gupta (Chairperson): 336 -8782</div> <div>Kiran Dayal (Cochairperson): 474-4051</div> <div>Acharya Kailash Sharma 770-0705</div> <div>Acharya Chakreshwar Sharma 528-0901</div> <div>Pandit Srinath Bhattar 528-3714</div> <div>Swarna Chaudhary 232-2343</div> <div>Madhu Sharma 232-9991</div> <div>Meena Karamchandani 683-9454</div> <div>Meena Sondhi 831-9788</div> <div>Sameer Rao 793-5821</div> <div>Kalpana Srivastava 233-9184</div> <div>Uma Sanguai 793-9384</div> <div>Muralee 573-0550</div> <div>Vasundhra Dasari 777-3353</div> <div>Sangita Patel 791-0855</div> <div>Minati Bhattacharya 272-0361</div> <div>Manju Gupta 232-3331</div> <div>Anju Saha 474-3922</div> <div>Purbi Dey 688-1721</div> <div>Sulbha Midha 573-7012</div> <div>Suchitra Mishra 573-9775</div> <div>Temple Manager's Committees</div> <div>Laxmi S. Srivastava- Temple Manager 474-0533</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 & Birthday Data</div> <div>Raj Agarwal</div> <div>Shakuntala Agarwall</div> <div>5 E-mail .Data</div> <div>Pradeep Goyal</div> <div>Nandkumar Khemchandani</div> <div>6. Gift Shop</div> <div>Dilip Patel</div> <div>Meena Sondhi</div> <div>Madhu Sharma</div> <div>7.Computer Tech Support</div> <div>Sreedhar Suvarana</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 Laxmi</div> <div>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 Photographers</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/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 Amita Gupta at 336-8782

If you have any question or suggestion about temple activities contact Amita Gupta at 336-8782, 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.

General Body Meeting

**HSGC General Body Meeting is scheduled for
June 7th, Sunday at 11:30 AM
The meeting Agenda**

1. President's report
2. Treasure's report
3. Secretary's report
4. Long Range Planning Committee Chair's Report.
5. Other Business

Regular Weekly & Monthly Events at the Temple

Monthly Navgrah Pooja

Every first Saturday of the Month

April 4, Saturday 3 pm to 5:30 pm

Sponsors needed for Pooja \$51.00

For Details please call

Amita Gupta: 336-8782; Temple priests: 528-3714

Monthly Murugan Abhishekham /Pooja

Every second Saturday of the Month

April 11th, Saturday 4.00pm

Sponsored by Murugan Group.

Amita Gupta: 336-8782; Temple priests: 528-3714

NEW PROGRAM: Monthly 1008 Gayatri Jaapa

Every second Saturday of the Month

April 11th, Saturday 9:30-1:0pm

Amita Gupta: 336-8782; Ganesh 857-719 -1500

Temple Priest: 528-3714



Monthly Satya Narayan Pooja

On Every Purnima of the Month

April 9, Thurs at 6:30 pm

Sponsorship \$ 51.00

To sponsor pooja call Amita Gupta: 336-8782

Temple priests: 528-3714

Monthly Shri Ganesh Pooja & Shri Ganesh Atharvshirsha Path

Every 4th Sunday of the month: April 26, Sunday 10:30AM

This pooja is dedicated to each month's

Sankashti Chaturthi to Lord Ganesh.

For more information & Sponsor the pooja please call

Jyoti Divekar : 204-8037

Mangal Nemade : 234-8373

Amita Gupta: 336-8782

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: 481-8591; Surendra Hanumanthanna: 661-8733

Pandit Sri Srinadh Bhattar: 528-3714

Weekly Shiv Mahiman Stotram

Every Monday at 6:30pm

Weekly Hanuman Chalisa Path

Every Tuesday at 6:30pm

To sponsor pooja please call Amita Gupta: 336-8782

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 priests: 528-3714

Weekly Venkateswar Pooja

Every Friday at 6:30pm

To sponsor pooja please call Amita Gupta: 336-8782

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.

Anisha Singh: 469 - 7432; Vasanta Vemuri: 232- 5767



NEW PROGRAM

1008 Gayatri Jaapa

11th April, Saturday 9:30am-1pm

Followed by Aarti, Prasad and Lunch

For details call Temple 528-3714

Amita Gupta 336-8782; Ganesh 857-

719-1500; Acharya Kailash Sharma

652-5382

This prog will be held every 2nd Saturday

Meaning of Gayatri Mantra

**Om Bhur Bhuva Suvah; Tat Savithur Varenyam
Bhargo Devasya Dheemahi; Dhiyo Yonah
Prachodayat**

Oh Mother, who subsists in all the three Kaalas (Time: Past, Present and Future), in all the three lokas (Lokas: Heaven, Earth and Lower Regions) and in all the three gunas (Gunas - Attributes: Sathwa, Rajas and Thamas), I pray to Thee, to illumine my intellect and dispel my ignorance just as the splendorous sunlight dispels all darkness. I pray to Thee to make my intellect serene and bright and enlightened.

Meaning :

We meditate on that adorable light of the divine Supreme who should rouse our intellects.

Meaning

The earth (bhur), the planets (bhuvah), and the galaxies (swah) are moving at a very great velocity, the sound produced is Om, (the name of formless God.) That God (tat), who manifests Himself in the form of light of suns (savitur) is worthy of bowing/ respect (varenyam). We all, therefore, should meditate (dheemahi) upon the light (bhargo) of that deity (devasya) and also do chanting of Om. May He (yo) guide in right direction.

**Mahavir Jayanti celebration date is Changed form
May 3rd to May 31st. please make correction**

Upcoming Events at the Temple



Durga Ashtami Havan

April 2nd 6pm
Sponsorship \$51.00.
Call Temple for details 528-3714

Shri Ram Navami Puja

Shri Ram – Abhishek April 3rd 11:30am
Sponsorship \$101.00 Call Temple
For details 528-3714



Shri Sita Rama Kalyanam (Wedding)

April 4th 10am to 1pm Sponsorship
\$116.00 Kalyanam, \$21.00 Archana, \$1016.00
Pramukh Yajman (Main Sponsor) Event is
sponsored by TARANGINI Telgu association of
Cincinnati.



Sri Satya Narayan Puja

On Full moon, Purnima
April 9 6:30pm
Sponsorship \$51.00
Call Temple for details 528-3714



Shri Hanuman Jayanti Puja & Celebration

April 9th Thursday 2009 5pm to 8pm Sun-
derkand path 6:45pm Aarti & Prasad
(dinner) 8:00pm Sponsorship \$ 101.00
Please note. There will be no Sunderkand path on
Sunday April 12th



Tamil New Year Celebration

April 19th Sunday

10:15 am Sri Murugan Abhishekham

1:00 pm Aarti, Prasad, Lunch

Sponsorship : Abhishekham \$101; Archana \$21

For details call Temple 528-3714;

Murlee 573-0550

April 2009 Events

April 2, 6pm Ashtmi Havan

April 3,, Shri Ram Abhishek 11:30am

April 4th, Sat: Ram Navami Celebration

Sita-Ram Kalyanam festival 10am – 1pm

April 9, 5pm-8pm Hanuman Jayanti/ Sundarkand

April 9, 6:30pm Sri Satya Narayan Puja

April 11, !008 Gayatri Japa 9:30am-1pm

April 18, Thyagaraja Purandaradasa Festival

9:30am-12:30 Group and Individual singing/lunch

April 19, Sunday 10:15am – 1pm Tamil New Year

April 25, Saturday 9am-1pm April 25, Sri
Venkateshwara Chara Bimba Saptama Vaarshika
Mahotsavam

April 26, Sunday 10am-1pm Sri Vallabh Acharya
Jayanti Celebration

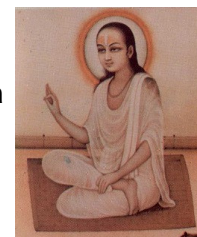
Shri Vallabhacharya Jayanti Celebration

On Sunday April 26th 10 am to 1pm
Program: 10:30am Shri Nathaji Pooja
11:00am Krishna Bhajan
12:00 to 12:45 Discourse on
Shrimad Bagvatam by

Shri Pankaj Vashisth from Louisville, KY

1:00pm Aarti

Followed by Mahaprasad and Lunch



BHU NEELA SAMETA SRI LAKSHMI VENKATESWARA CHARA BIMBA SAPTAMA VAARSHIKA MAHOTSAVAM

SATURDAY April 25, 2009

9:00 AM: SUPRABHATAM 9:30 AM: KALASA STHAPANAM

10:00 AM: KALYANOTSAVAM

11:15 AM: SRI SUDARSHANA HOMAM

1230 MAHANAIVEDYAM

1:00 PM: ARATI ; MAHAPRASADA VINIYOGAM (LUNCH)

SPONSORSHIP: \$51.00 SPONSORS PLEASE CALL

Anand Konda (513)481-4119

SURENDRA HANUMANTHANNA: (513)661-8733

VASUNDHARA DASARI (513)777-3353; Suseela Paturi 513-481-8591

PUNDIT SRI SRINADH BHATTAR: (513)528-3714

VOLUNTEERS CALL ANY OF THE ABOVE FOR PREPARING
NAIVEDYAM AND/OR PRASADAM

Vaisakhi Contd from Pg1

In Assam, this is the day for the Rongali Bihu, which is a chance for the young people of the state to dress up in their traditional finery and dance the night away. There too, this is the harvest festival, which allows the farmers to relax and enjoy before they take up the task of harvesting their crop.

In the South, Vaisakhi is celebrated to mark the Tamil and Telugu New Year. In a ceremonial march, people take out wooden chariots in a procession. The temples in Kerala celebrate Pooram festivals usually in honor of Vishnu at this time. Among them, the Pooram observed in the Vaddakunathan Swamy (Shiva) temple of Trichur is famous.

The Bihar State celebrates festivals like - the Vaishakha (April) and Kartika (November) in honor of the Sun God and Surya God, at a place called Surajpur-Baragaon. This is essentially a village where, according to an ancient practice, people bathe in the temple tank and pay obeisance to the Sun God while offering flowers and water from the sacred river Ganga. Happy Vaisakhi to all !!!!!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

JOIN KROGER AND MEIJER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

The Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati is now, a partner with Kroger and Meijer in their Community Rewards Program to get the advantage of their good will of community support. They will donate from about 2% to 4% of the total amount we spend as a community to the HSGC. We all as an individual or family, have to join the program.

Here is how you join

To join with Kroger:

We have prepaid Kroger cards. You simply, buy the card from us and use it every time, to shop in Kroger for your groceries and you automatically, donate some percent of your grocery bill to your Temple without any additional cost to you. The card you get can be directly, recharged in the store thus it will be a permanent card for you. Help your Temple to help yourself.

To buy a card please contact: **Raneshwar Gupta** at **513:232:3331**.

To join with Meijer: This is done two ways

(1) If you do not have any type of Meijer card follow this:

With Meijer one has to fill out the Application Form on their Website.

Here are the general instructions to do so.

Go to the website: www.Meijer.Com/Rewards

Join for Meijer community Rewards or Meijer Credit Card

Fill out the Application Form

Enter the **HSGC Code No. 964616**

Complete the form

Meijer will send you a Special Card of Community Rewards Program.

(2) If you have any type of Meijer Card or Account follow this:

Go to the website and update your Membership

Follow further Instructions

Enter HSGC Code No. 964616 on Item 2, Option A

Submit.

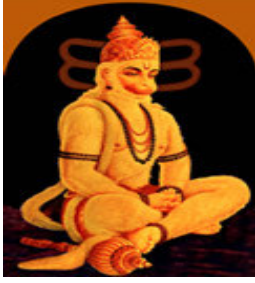
These both ways Meijer will directly reward the HSGC.

Please go ahead and enroll in this program and donate your Temple without any cost to you at all. So let us take advantage of this program.

For more information please contact:

Raneshwar Gupta at **513:232:3331** and **Meena Mehta** at **513:574:6763**.

Synopsis of Morari Bapu's Katha (Cincinnati, 2008)... DAY 6



Bapu started by reminding the listeners of various aspects of Janak and even Rama agreed that it was vashistha and Janak who saved the situation during the crisis in Ayodhya. Janak is Mithilesh the most profound thinker and Bapu said that during a crisis we are saved either by silence or by proper thought arising out of deep thinking. Dharma requires such deep thinking because the essence (tatva) of religion lies hidden in deep caves. In Hindu thoughts cave is always used to denote obscure and esoteric. But when we are able to secure the highest true summum-bonum spiritualism it always shows in our life and behavior. One who has realized sun in his life would be able to shed some light around. One who has passed through a thick bush of flowers will have its scent on his body and clothes. Bapu quoted Upnishad to say that neither a crowd of followers nor scholarship (vidya), nor wealth, nor activities can take you to immortal divine (amrut). It is only by renunciation that we can attain divinity. Our Upnishadic predecessors, lived in forests and never bothered about the crowd of followers or pupils. Crowd is no criterion of spiritual attainment. Even a lunatic, a snake charmer can collect crowds. Today in certain sects a number of listeners or pupils have become the measure of spirituality. A real teacher – a guru is both the master and servant of his pupil. In modern schools also students are free while teacher is a paid servant of the institution. Bapu informed us that in his caste of Margi Saadhus, all the names contain names of god and the word “daas”. His name was Morari”daas”. Krishna is both a master of Arjuna and his charioteer. Such a duality – capacity to be the controller and servant is the test of a guru. Crowds, Bapu repeated, is no criterion. In fact a real guru is never alone when he is alone. He feels lonely and isolated in a crowd and is crowded by thoughts and experiences (Anubhuti) when he is alone.

Scholarship is not mere collection of information. Knowledge. Wisdom (Gnaan) is that which stays with you when all information is forgotten. Such Gnaan is “anubhuti” as explained by Shankaracharya in his “aparoxanubhuti” – Anubhuti which is direct and not by proxy or by here say. Shankaracharya explains that Brhama is a co-ordination or reconciliation of all contradictions like saguna and nirguna or sakaam & nishkaam. All contradictions are finally resolved into one unity – advaita and all doubts disappear when we surrender to divinity. Krishna advised Arjun to discard all Dharmas and surrender. All mathematics starts with one. Bapu feels at home in his Katha. Katha is his home and he is Aniket, (homeless). Wealth is important in life but money has a negative value. Absence of money would create inconvenience and difficulties, but presence of money would not necessarily give you happiness. Janak had enormous treasure. But important point is Janak does not depend upon his wealth but on his (vidya).

Even Karma – actions – would not lead to realization of divine. In fact Geeta has advised not to begin nay activity on our own. One should not run behind actions and people.

Contd on next page.....

Bapu returned to consider the qualities of Janak in thinking and in silence. Bapu himself has great love for silence and vast experience of “maun”. He advised that our silence should be flexible. All vratas ought to be flexible and stubborn insistence on vrata is mere religiosity. He gave the example of Farid who broke his Raza to accommodate the wish of an old poor woman. Flexibility, readiness to discard our vow on proper occasion is spiritualism. But such flexibility should not be used for clever accommodations of convenience.

Bapu painted out that problems and crisis can be handed and solved sometimes by silence, sometimes by speaking and religion also can create confusion. Bapu was pained about the petty quarrels for property and land rights between Dharmas and such quarrels lead these sects to approach law and courts. Bapu feels that religion is concerned not with courts and laws but with hearts and generosity. Such disputes and quarrels indicate that there is Adharma on both the sides – parties, otherwise such disputes can be settled very easily by one simple principle give what is due to others and give up what belongs to yourself. This is true renunciation (tyag) and shruti says, not by crowd of followers, not by actions can you attain immortal divine. It is only by renunciation alone. Only by tyag can we realize the supreme.

Bapu then presented famous bhajan of Nirupanand that laid down the pre requisites of tyag. Tyag is possible only by true vairagya and very often we are hypocrites showing off of vairagya while we are dominated and tortured by desires, wishes and cravings. Bapu explained the various shades of meaning. Desires are arising and passing in our minds every day. Wishes are when we strive to satisfy our desires and wait for the results and cravings are the intense yearnings.

Bapu gave the example of Kanjibhagat who was totally unattached to his expanding Aashram and felt it as a burden. Such a Tyagi is always in bliss, enjoys life and refuses to consider death. A well known bhajan of Kabir was presented when Kabir declares that he will die if only God will die. For such persons death is dead and holds no fear for them. Such person was Krishna who could invite Arjun to come to him. The word Vraj in Sanskrit means to go. It also means knowledge attainment and salvation. Bapu is happy with life, enjoys doing Kathas and would never take to Sanyaas. In fact he quoted Gita to explain that one who never envys or nor yearns is an eternal Sanyaasi. Katha for Bapu is first and always the first priority.

Revisiting to Janak, Bapu said that Janak is Gnaan yogi but has is also Prem Yogi. He is detached as a gnaan yogi but deeply and intensely involved as a prem-yogi. Janak holds his Gnaan as a pearl in the oyster shell. It is a base with bottom and upper lid of Prem preserving Gnaan between two layers of Prem. Tulsidaas puts it gnaan without prem is a radar less ship drifting nowhere. Bapu narrated two incidents of Maanas to bring out Janak as a Prem yogi. When Vishwamitra arrived at Mithila Janak went to greet him. He was accompanying by his ministers which implies vairagya. Gnaan as a ruler has vairagya as his minister. Vishwamitra had so arranged that he was alone when Janak arrived and they talked for a while. Vishwamitra wanted to test reaction of Janak when

Contd on next page....

he sees Ram for the first time. When both brothers arrived, Janak greeted them by getting up. This shows his humbleness, his humility for a real gnaani is always humble and polite. Gnaan implies absence of arrogance.

As soon as Janak viewed Ram, he adored Ram with intense devotion and felt attracted by these handsome youths. He inquired from Vishwamitra as to who are these kids who impress me as “paalak” – sustainer-protector. Vishwamitra smiled back and told Janak a kid can never be a protector who requires strength and maturity.

Bapu narrated an incident when Surdas and Tulsidas met each other. This was a great occasion like meeting between Buddha and Mahavir, between Kabir and Farid, between Krishnamurti and Swami Sharananand. The meeting was disturbed by an elephant in rut and all including Surdaas ran here and there, only Tulsidas held his place. Surdaas explained that his Isth Dev is Baal Krishna who can not protect him while Tulsidas was protected by Ram fully armed with bow and arrows. Bapu had similar experience when a woman devoted to Balkrishna requested Bapu to bless her Bal Krishna.

Janak a brahmavaadi turned into a prem yogi the moment he saw Rama and confessed that he who is a detached person – vairagi- feels attracted – anooragi. Vishwamitra gave Pre-Diksha to Janak because knowledge needs the touch of love to perfect itself. Gnaan has been declared in Gita to be pure and holly but devoid of love, it may become harsh and dry.

But this was the initiation of Diksha for Janak whose attachment was best seen when Sita and three other daughters of the family went to their in laws in Ayodhya. Janak prevailed upon Dasharath to stay as long as possible in Janakpur, but the day of departure was a critical test for Janak. Every father in India breads down when daughters leave their homes and Tulsidas says that Janak who was a videhi became all the more distracted. Janak who was a totally detached broke down and shed tears. Bapu said that tears of love is an ornament for eyes and he mentioned Gopies who wept when Krishna disappeared from their midst, but wept in rhythm – Krishna is music. Bapu explained the meaning of a belief that we all need a guru for gnaan, in an original way. He said that guru is always there but without gnaan we are not able to find him or recognize him. In such an absence of recognition – Pragatikaran – We start worshipping and adoring individuals (Vyakti pooja). He referred to Hanumaan’s first meeting with Ram when he did not bowed down to Rama who was not known to him. But as soon as he knew about the real nature of Ram as “para-brahma”, he touched his feet. So we should not touch the best of anybody without fully understanding his character. We should use our intelligence to know the personality of guru because buddhi has been described as faith, strength and peace. Bapu calls Buddhi as Bhavani. Bapu ended the day by saying that he loves to study, recite and analyze every line of maanas for his own personal study and discuss because discussions help us in understanding the essence.



AUM

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12th Anniversary Kumbha-Abhishek Celebration

Shri Maha Laxmi Yagna

Shri Sukta Homa

May -15th, 16th & 17th 2009



9am Anugya, Swastivachan, Shri Ganesh Puja, Punayahvachan, Ritvik
Varan, Raksha-Bandhan,

10am Kalash Sthapana, Mandal, Aaradhana,

11am Vastu Puja & Havan, 11:45 Aarti & Prasad.

Friday 15th 5:00 to 8:30pm

5:00 Shri Ganpati Aaradhana, Ankurarpanam,

6pm Sri Yantra Puja ,

7pm Suvasini Puja 8pm Aarti & Prasad (Dinner)

Sat. 16th 8:30 to 12:30pm

8:30am All Utsava Murti Abhisheka,

9:30am Yagshala Pravesha, & Puja, Shri Sukta Parayana,,

SHRI MAHA LAXMI YAGNA ,Purnahuti Aarti & Prasad.

Sat. 16th 2:30 to 4pm CULTURAL PROGRAM

Sat 16th 4:00 to 8:00 pm MATA KI CHOWKI

4:00 pm Shri Durga Puja , 5pm Mata Bhajans ,

8:00 pm Aarti & Prasad 8pm (Dinner)

Sunday 17th 9:00 to 1:00 pm

9:00am Nitya (Daily) Puja ,

10:00am **Sarvadev Gayari & Beejakshara Homa /Havan**

1100am Kalash Yatra (Procession)

11:30am **Kumbha- Abhishek, Dhwaja Puja & Arohan,**

12:15pm Special Archana , Appreciation of volunteers & Priests ,

1:00 pm Aarti & Prasad. (Lunch)

Sponsorship:

1. \$2001.00 Kumbha-Abhishek, All Three days puja, except Dhwaja puja,
2. \$1001.00 Dhwaja Puja & Arohan on the Temple, Also includes 8,9,&10
3. \$501.00, Special Archana , Sarvadev Gayatri Havan , Kalash Yatra , Suvasini Puja
4. \$251.00 Laxmi Havans , Suvasini Puja , Sri Yantra Puja , Kalash Yatra
5. \$101.00 Laxmi Havan & Sri Yantra Puja
6. \$101.00 Utsava Murti Abhishek, 7. \$51.00 Suvasini Puja & Sri Yantra Puja
8. \$51.00 Havan any one 9. \$31.00 Suvasini Puja
10. \$21.00 Kalash Yatra

For more details please contact Temple 513-528-3714, Amita Gupta 336-8782, Kiran Dayal 474-4051, Acharya Kaiash Sharma 513-652-5382.

For Cultural Program Please call Jyoti Desai 745-0876

Shri Maha Laxmi Yagna is organized to help entire world to bring prosperity, peace, health and to improve economy. Please come and take active part. All sponsors will get blessed Shree yantra after Yagna .

Significance of Shree Yantra

Shree Yantra is the symbolic form of Goddesses Maha Laxmi. The Vedas explain Shree Yantra as a scientific, cosmic and planetary energy zone. It has many circles, triangles, points, lines and angles. In the center of the inner most circle is a point around which are nine triangles, of which 5 triangles point downwards and four triangles point upwards. 8-Petalled lotus inside and 16-petalled lotus outside. Together they constitute the Shree Yantra. The upward triangle indicates five elements, circles indicate Air, points indicate Sky, base indicates earth and downward triangles indicate water. The entire Shree Yantra shows the complete cycle of the Universe. Shree Yantra is the source of supreme energy and energy is nothing but the original power of the five basic elements in the shape of waves and rays. Shree Yantra is highly sensitive and has magnificent magnetic powers. They are said to be a divine store-house of energy which pick up particular cosmic ray wave emitted by the planets and other universal objects and transform them into constructive vibrations. These are then transmitted to the surroundings where the Shree Yantra is placed, thus destroying all destructive forces within the vicinity. The Shree yantra brings with it Wealth and Wisdom, Peace and Prosperity, Grandeur and Glory, Virtue and Valor and shields against danger and disease, despair and disaster. It neutralizes the evil effects of planets on human beings. Luck favors the person who possesses this yantra. Abundance of all existing pleasures and fortune in all its flourishing forms comes to one who worships the Shree Yantra daily.

PUJA SAMAGRI SPONSORS NEEDED FOR 12 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Devotees are requested to sponsor one or more items listed below, for various pujas. All items we need by May 10th Sunday. To sponsor puja samagri please call:

Temple 513-528-3714, Amita Gupta 336-8782, Kiran Dayal 474-4051,

Acharya Kaiash Sharma 513-652-5382.

ITEMS	
Coconuts 108	Lavang (cloves)
Sree Yantra	Ilaichi (Cardamom)
Havan Samgri 100 pack	Saffron 2 Box
Gee 100lb	Mango leaves
Dri Coconuts Whole 25	Paan leaves 100
Dri fruits 100lb.	blouse pieaces
Almons , Cashew, Raisins	Sarres for each deity
Camphor 250gram	Dhotis 10
Rice 10bags	beetal nuts (Supari) Whole 100
Milk 16	Fruit colors or edible colors
Yogurt 16 Smallest pack	black, yellow, red, green,
Honey 16 pack	Sandalwood Powder 250gr.
Sugar 10lb	Kumkum 500gram
Fruits 5 Varieties	Sesame Seed oil
Navdhanayas 5 set	Prasad Cooked one in each puja
Flowers	Jewelry for each deity
Bed sheets White king	Garlands for each Deity
	White Kitchen Towels 25

For more details please contact Temple 513-528-3714, Amita Gupta 336-8782, Kiran Dayal 474-4051, Acharya Kaiash Sharma 513-652-5382.

These Mantra will be chanted in Maha Laxmi Yagna On May 16th.

SHRI SUKATA

Hiraṇya varnām hariṇīm suvarṇa-rajata-srajām
Chandrām hiraṇmayīm lakṣmīm jātavedo ma avaha | (1)

Tām ma āvaha jātavedo lakṣmīm anapa gāminīm
Yasyām hiraṇyam vindeyam gām āsvam puruṣhān aham | (2)

(1-2) Invoke for you O Agni, the Goddess Lakshmi, who shines like gold, yellow in hue, wearing gold and silver garlands, blooming like the moon, the embodiment of wealth. O Agni! Invoke for me that unfailing Lakshmi, blessed by whom, I shall win wealth, cattle, horses and men.

Aśhwa-pūrvām ratha-madhyām hasti nāda prabōdhinīm
Śhriyam devīm upahvaye śhrīr ma devīr jushatām | (3)
Kām sōsmitām hiraṇya prākārām ārdhrām jvalantīm triptām tarpayantīm
Padme sthitām padma-varnām tāmiḥōpahvaye śhriyam | (4)

I invoke Shri (Lakshmi, who has a line of horses in her front, a series of chariots in the middle, who is being awakened by the trumpeting of elephants, who is divinely resplendent. May that divine Lakshmi grace me. I hereby invoke that Shri (Lakshmi) who is the embodiment of absolute bliss; who is of pleasant smile on her face; whose lustre is that of burnished gold; who is wet as it were, (just from the milky ocean) who is blazing with splendour, and is the embodiment of the fulfillment of all wishes; who satisfies the desire of her votaries; who is seated on the lotus and is beautiful like the lotus.

Chandrām prabhāsām yaśhasā jvalantīm śhriyam lōke deva justām udārām
Tām padminīm-īm saranam aham prapadye' alakṣmīr me naśyatām tvām vrne | (5)
Āditya varṇe tapasō dhijātō vanaspatis tava vrikshō' tha bilvah
Tasya phalaṇi tapsā nudantu mayāntarāyās cha bāhya alakṣmīḥ | (6)

I resort to that Lakshmi for shelter in this world, who is beautiful like the moon, who shines bright, who is blazing with renown, which is adored (even) by the gods, which is highly magnanimous, and grand like the lotus. May my misfortunes perish. I surrender myself to You, O resplendent like the Sun! By your power and glory, plants like the bael tree have grown up. may the fruits thereof destroy through the grace of all inauspiciousness rising from the inner organs and ignorance as well from the outer senses.

Upaitu mām deva-sakah kīrtis cha maninā saha
Prādūr bhūtō' smi rashtre' smin kīrtim riddhim dadātu me | (7)
Kshut pipāsā-amalām jyesthām alakṣmīm nāshayāmy aham
Abhūtim asamriddhim cha sarvān nirmuda me grihat | (8)

O Lakshmi! I am born in this country with the heritage of wealth. May the friends of Lord Siva (Kubera, Lord of wealth and Fame), come to me. May these (having take their abode with me), bestow on me fame and prosperity. I shall destroy the elder sister to Lakshmi, the embodiment of inauspiciousness and such evil as hunger, thirst and the like. O Lakshmi! Drive out from my abode all misfortunes and poverty.

Gandha dvārām durā dharṣhām nitya-pushtām karīṣhinīm
lśhvarīgṃ sarva bhūtānām tām iḥō pahvaye śhriyam | (9)
Manasaḥ kāmam ākūtim vācāḥ satyam aśhīmahi
Paśhūnāgṃ rūpam annasya mayi śrīḥ shrayatām yaśhah | (10)

I hereby invoke Lakshmi (Shri), whose (main) avenue of perception is the odoriferous sense (i.e., one who abides mainly in cows); who is incapable of defeat or threat from anyone; who is ever healthy (with such virtuous qualities as truth); whose grace is seen abundantly in the refuse of cows (the cows being sacred); and who is supreme over all created beings. O Lakshmi! May we obtain and enjoy the fulfillment of our desires and our volitions, the veracity of our speech, the wealth of cattle, the abundance of varieties of food to eat! May prosperity and fame reside in me.

Kardamenā praja-bhūtā mayi sambhava kardama
Śrīyam vāsaya me kule mātaram padma-mālinīm | (11)
Āpah srijantu snigdhanī chiklīta vasa me grihe
Nicha devīm mātaram śhriyam vāsaya me kule | (12)

(11-12) Lakshmi! You have progeny in Kardama. (Hence) O Kardama, may you reside in me. Make Mother Shri with garlands of lotuses to have Her abode in my (ancestral) line. may the (holy) waters create friendship (they being of adhesive nature). O Chiklita (progeny of Shri). Reside at my home; and arrange to make Divine Mother Shri stay in my lineage!

Ardām pushkarinīm pushtim pingalām padma mālinīm
Chandrām hiraṇ-mayīm lakṣmīm jātavedō ma āvaha | (13)
Ārdhām yah karinīm yashtim suvarṇām hema-mālinīm
Sūryām hiraṇ-mayīm lakṣmīm jātavedō ma āvaha | (14)

Invoke for me, O Agni, Lakshmi who shines like gold, is brilliant like the sun, who is powerfully fragrant, who wields the rod of suzerainty, who is the form of supreme rulership, who is radiant with ornaments and is the goddess of wealth. Invoke for me O Agni, the Goddess Lakshmi who shines like gold, blooms like the moon, who is fresh with anointment (of fragrant scent), who is adorned with the lotuses (lifted up by celestial elephants in the act of worship), who is the presiding deity of nourishment, who is yellow in colour, and who wears garlands of lotuses. We commune ourselves with the Great Goddess, and meditate on the consort of Vishnu; may that Lakshmi direct us (to the Great Goal).

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the Month of May

Happy Anniversary

Govind Gupta
Haresh Hemani
Sanjay Jain
Amarender Karra
Vimal Patel
Narayan Sriastava

Happy Birthday

Jalaja Anantharaman	Arnav Divekar	Priya Parikh
Rajgopal Arudi	Deepak Dixit	Ramesh Patel
Sneha Arudi	Rashmi Ghobar	Kodhai Rajkumar
Ruchika Bajaj	Anjali Verma Gupta	Preethi Ramanivasan
Arjun Bansal	Sumit Gupta	Aruna Reddy
Puja Bhandari	Priya Jindal	Aditya Sahay
Sanjay Bhandari	Steve Jindal	Vijaya Samadi
Chirag Bhola	Nikhil Jung	Rahul Sandella
Choudary Bobba	Jyoti Karnik	Neeti Shankar
Priyanka Bodalia	Prasad Kudalkar	Aleyamma Sharma
Vaishnan Brahmandam	Mina K. Karamchandani	Vijay Sharma
Indrakanti Chakravarthi	Indira Kukreti	Aarti Vala
Prabir Roy Chaudhury	Pavalamani Kumar	Bavisha Vala
Shelley Chopra	Vikram Meyer	Alok Verma
Charles Colony	Sangeeta Nayak	Saroja Viswamitra
Subir Das	Navnit Parikh	Jagjit Yadav

*(Celebrated on the first Sunday of each month in the temple.)

** (Celebrated on the second Sunday of each month in the temple.)

If you would like to include your name in the above lists, please call Raj or Shakuntala at 513-733-1537.

Temple Calling All Volunteers

Children Youth Seniors

Students can earn Credit for Volunteer Service

Here are some areas in which your Temple can use your help

GARDENING

HELP WITH SUNDAY CLASSES

HELPING PANDIT JI WITH PUJAS

HELP WITH GIFT SHOP

BLOOD DRIVE

MENTORING

COMPUTER WORK

OFFER ANY TALENTS THAT YOU HAVE

Vacuuming

FOR VOLUNTEERING PLEASE CONTACT : Vijay Sharma 232-9991; Laxmi Srivastava 474-0533; Meena Mehta 574-6763 ; Shiv Sharma 459-9520

Minutes of EC Meeting, Feb. 1, 2009

PRESENT: Meena Mehta, Krutarth Jain, Siva Sivaganesan, Amar Sharma, Kiran Dayal, Geeta Mehan, Jyoti Desai, Raneshwar Gupta, Laxmi Srivastava, Shiv Sharma, Anisha Singh.

Chair of Membership/Fund Raising:

Raneshwar Gupta was nominated as the Chair of Membership/Fund Raising Committee, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved his appointment for the position. EC welcomed him to the committee and noted with appreciation his long time service to the temple, and in particular, his service at the same position several years ago.

Holi Celebration. March 14, 2009:

Jyoti Desai reported that twenty events are planned for the cultural program, between 4:30-6:30. Pizza will be available for dinner. Sponsors will be sought. And president

Indian Heritage Classes:

The committee voted in favor of a proposal to ask a donation of \$10.00/year for each student to attend the Sunday classes. Anisha Singh announced that the registration forms would soon be made available in Aradhana and via email.

Long Range Planning:

Laxmi Srivastava explained the need to create two separate entities. A non-profit entity to manage the functioning of the temple, and another for-profit entity to undertake the cultural and retirement community centers project. He and Meena Mehta will meet with the Attorney regarding this matter.

Maintenance:

Shiv Sharma reported on the need to install security cameras at the temple premises. He and the Temple Manager Laxmi Srivastava and Meena Mehta agreed to look into the cost issues.

2008 Donation Receipts:

Amar Sharma proposed that the Receipts for 2008 Donation to be sent to devotees be signed by Raj Bodalia. The committee unanimously approved the proposal.

Outreach to Other Organizations

Krutarth Jain proposed to approach our sister organizations in the Greater Cincinnati to discuss collaborating with them on issues of common interest. EC agreed with the concept and asked Krutarth to work with the Chairs of the Long Range Planning and Fund Raising committees to develop a plan of action.

Twenty Fourth Annual Thyagaraja/Purandaradasa Festival

Great men appear from time to time as if sent by God for the purpose of elevating humanity, Saint Thyagaraja was one such extraordinary personality born to teach humanity the path of salvation through Music and Ramabakthi. His contribution to the cultural growth of India is unique. He was a practical philosopher and dedicated his entire life to the practice of NADOPASA. He had composed several Kritis in various ragas. His songs are filled with an intimate devotion to Rama, revealing his deep understanding of the tenets of the Vedas and Upanishads.

Purandara Dasa is famous among the Haridasas of Karnataka; foremost among the talented carnatic composers. He earned a lot of wealth, but eventually gave away all his wealth to become a devotee of Sri Hari. He practiced the principle contained in the popular saying "we must swim across suffering and win victory over it". He earned the well-deserved praise- 'Among the devotees of Hari, Purandara Dasa is the greatest'(from his preceptor Sri Vyaasa Teertha).

A day-long celebration of these great composers of carnatic music will be held at

The Hindu Temple, Cincinnati

On April 18, 2009 (Saturday)

Group Pancharatna Singing 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Individual Singing 11:00 – 12:30 PM

12:30 PM Lunch – Individual Singing Continues Until 4:30pm

All are Welcome; Lunch will be served

For further details contact:

Usha Raghavan (513-489-9655) - Sundari Magge (513-831-3500) - Koti Sreekrishna (513-459-0314)

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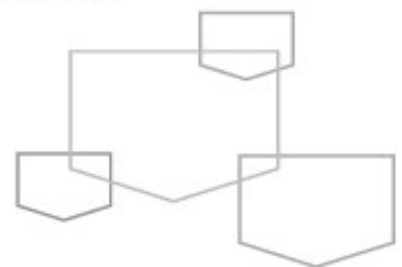
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