



NEWSLETTER

January-February, 2015
Pausa / Magha



www.augustahts.com

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The Infinite Glories of the Ultimate Truth

श्रीभगवानुवाच

भूय एव महाबाहो शृणु मे परमं वचः ।
यत्तेऽहं प्रीयमाणाय वक्ष्यामि हितकाम्यया ॥ १ ॥



Transliteration

śrī bhagavān uvāca

*bhūya eva mahā-bāho śṛṇu me paramam vacaḥ
yat te 'ham prīyamāṇāya vaksyāmi hita-kāmyayā*

Translation

Lord Kṛṣṇa said: O Arjuna, just hear once again My paramount instructions which for your best welfare I will speak unto you, who take delight in them. 10:1

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY, 2015

January 1, Thursday - 10 am New Year Havan
January 5, Monday - 10 am Satyanarayana Puja
January 17&18 - Sat & Sunday- Venkateshwara Kalyanam
January 25 - Sunday - 10 am. Saraswati Puja

FEBRUARY, 2015

February 5, Thursday - 7 pm Satyanarayana Puja
February 7, Saturday - 9 am Thaipoosam
February 17, Tuesday - 7 pm Mahashivarathi
February 21, Saturday - 10 am Ugadi- Gudi Padwa
March 01, Sunday - Ramakrishna Paramahansa Birthday
Celebrations

HINDU OBSERVANCES

JANUARY, 2015

04 Sunday	Paush Purnima
08 Thursday	Sakat Chauth
14 Wednesday	Pongal, Makar Sankranti
16 Friday	Shattila Ekadashi
20 Tuesday	Mauni Amavas
24 Saturday	Vasant Panchami
26 Monday	Raptha Ashtami
27 Tuesday	Bhishma Ashtami
30 Friday	Jaya Ekadashi

FEBRUARY, 2015

03 Tuesday	Magha Purnima
12 Thursday	Kumbha Sankranti
14 Saturday	Vijaya Ekadashi
17 Tuesday	Maha Shivrathri
28 Saturday	Amalakai Ekadashi

Ganesh Puja / New Year Havan

Thursday - January 1, 2015 - 10.00 am

10.00 am Ganesh Puja
10.30 am Havan and Bhajans
12.30 pm Mahaprasad

Please Contact Adarsh or Nidhi Gulati at
706 650 2905 for more details.



Sri Venkateshwara Abhishekam and Kalyanotsavam

January 17th & 18th (Saturday & Sunday)



General sponsorship for pooja: \$25 for each day

Maha Kalyanotsava - Special sponsorship \$250.00 per couple (limited to a maximum of 8 couples)

A saree and Angavastram blessed by Lord Balaji will be given to these sponsors

Please attend this auspicious annual function and receive the blessings of Lord Venkateswara.

Saturday Jan 17, 2015

7.00 a.m. Suprabhatam
7.30 a.m. Havan
9.00 a.m. Sankalpam
9.15 a.m. Abhishekam
12.30 p.m. Aarthi/Mahaprasad
5.30 p.m. - 7.00 p.m. Sayanotsavam

Sunday Jan 18, 2015

8.00 a.m. Suprabhatam
9.00 a.m. Sankalpam
9.15 a.m. Kalyanotsavam
11.00 a.m. Procession
12 noon Aarthi/Mahaprasad

For further details contact: M.R./Vidya Sridharan 706-860-7160;
Dharma Thiruvaiyaru 706-650-3176, Krishna Prasad 706-651-1928

Sri Saraswati Puja Celebrations

Sunday, January 25, 2015

Bengali community of Augusta will be celebrating Saraswati Puja at the HTS, and the details are as follows:

10:00 am - Puja
11:00 am - Pushpanjali and Bhajans
11:30 am - Children's Program
12:00 Noon - Aarthi & Mahaprasad

Puja will be conducted by Satyajit, Temple Priest
Students may bring a book or a musical instrument to be placed at the feet of Devi Saraswati.

Contacts: Arunava Saha 706-955-9249
Arun Dutta 706-868-5373



Thai Poosam Festival Celebrations

Saturday - February 7, 2015



Kavadi Procession 9:00 am
Abhishekam & Bhajans 10:00 am
Aarthi & Mahaprasad 12:30 pm

Abhishekam and Kavadi sponsorship is \$25.00

Mahashivaratri

Tuesday - February 17, 2015

Please participate in the Mahashivaratri celebrations to be organised by the HTS on Tuesday the 17th of February, 2015.

6.45 pm -7.45 pm Offering of Milk by devotees
7.45 -10 pm Panchamrita Abhishekam, Namasmarana Puja, Pushpanjali
and Aarthi.

Milk will be provided by the temple. However, devotees may bring flowers and fruits.



CONDOLENCES

Our heartfelt condolences to Krishnakant Dave for the loss of his wife Usha Dave.

Why this Temple?

Excerpts from the talk by
Srimat Swami Ranganathanandaji Maharajⁱⁱⁱ

When we speak of a temple, we often have a very narrow conception of it. We have hundreds of temples. We go there sometimes, talking all the time, pay four annas to the priest to do some puja, and then come away. Our temple-going has become a simple, and often meaningless act. It doesn't produce any change in the individual. Today, you need a new type of temple, which will make for a change for the better in your own character. That is what Sri Ramakrishna is going to give. He never started a new religion. He never preached any creed or dogma. He only blessed every human being: 'Let your spiritual consciousness be awakened!'

Whether you go to a temple, a church or a mosque, what is needed is spiritual awakening, and the character that comes out of that awakening. This we missed all these centuries. But in the modern age, this will be the central theme of religion and temple-worship. Temple-worship has been recognized as an important part of spiritual life.

A teacher like Bhagavan Ramanujacharya spoke of the image in the temple as an incarnation of God archavatara, like Krishna or Rama or Ramakrishna. And in your own heart, there is the antaryamin the inner Self, the avatara in the heart of every human being. The archa or image is also an avatara. That is the concept in our spiritual tradition.

With Sri Ramakrishna's advent, temples will become more dynamic, making for high character-development and, above all, the spirit of service of human beings and even animals. Behind any Sri Ramakrishna temple you will find various types of service schools, colleges, hostels, tribal work, relief and rehabilitation work during natural calamities, etc. This seva-dharma is a part of Ramakrishna-temple worship.

Such temple worship has a great role to play in the future India, where service becomes the central theme service of God in the temple, and service of God in human beings, outside the temple. This teaching is there in our Upanishads, in the Gita, and in the Srimad Bhagavatam! All these centuries we had this teaching, but we hardly practiced it.

In Swami Vivekananda's teachings, you find this central Vedantic Truth the divinity in every human being. Look upon a human being, not in terms of his or her caste, creed, colour, race or anything else but see him or her as a spark of divinity. We have this great teaching in the Gita, (18.61) where Sri Krishna himself says "ishvarah sarva bhutanam hrddese arjuna tishthat"i 'O Arjuna, I am in the heart of all beings as their antaryami'. So, respect every human being. That is what we did not do. Our practice was that of untouchability, suppression of the common people, even suppression of women. That is how we conducted our society during the last thousand years.

A peaceful social revolution to correct this situation will come from a temple like this because, behind it, is a profound philosophy our ancient Vedanta philosophy, which is the philosophy of Sanatana Dharma, and that philosophy insists that you must see God not only in a temple, but also in every human being. So worship him, serve him. That is the language used in the Srimad Bhagavat am. I often used to wonder, that though we have had hundreds and thousands of Bhagavata saptahas for many years, yet we have never caught the spirit of this beautiful teaching. You get it in the third skandha (chap. 29.21-26) of the Srimad Bhagavatam, where God's incarnation as Kapila is giving spiritual advice to his mother Devahuti, at her request. There Kapila says: 'I am always present in the heart of all beings, O Mother! People neglect me there, insult me there, and offer me showy worship in the temple! What kind of worship is it?' 'Mother, I do not accept the worship of that person, though he or she may spend crores of rupees on elaborate rituals, but if, behind it, there is disrespect to me present in all living beings.'

In the same note, Srimad Bhagavatam says, (3.29.27):

Atha mam sarvesu bhutesu bhutatmanam krtalayam;
Arhayet danamanabhyam maitrya abhinnena Chakshusa

What a profound utterance! After having said all this, now Kapila is saying: 'Therefore, mam arhayet, 'worship me'. Where? sarva bhuteshu, 'in all beings'. Why? bhutatmanam, 'I am the Self of all beings'; krtalayam, 'I have a big temple already built in that particular body'; arhayet, 'worship me there'.

But, how to worship God in man? Worshipping an image is easy. You can give plenty of food, and you can take the food back home too. But when you worship God in man, a different method is needed. That is beautifully expressed by two great words in the sloka: dana-manaabhyam, 'through daana, gift, and maana, respect. Remove their wants. If they are uneducated, give them education; if they are suffering, give them consolation; if they are helpless, help them. In this way practise daana. And while doing so, show maana, respect to them. Don't throw a coin before a person with disrespect. So, daana must be combined with maana. Arhayet danamanaabhyam. arhayet, worship (me there); not merely serve. And when you do so what should be your attitude? Maitreya, with the attitude of 'I am a friend of yours'. I have come to worship God through you.

But that is not enough; another value is also necessary; that brings the last word, a most profound Vedantic utterance, abhinnena Chakshusa, 'with an attitude of non-separateness' the attitude that we are all essentially one. You may be poor and I may be rich, but we are one. You may be a Hindu, a Muslim or a Christian, I may be somebody else, but we are essentially one. This is a wonderful word abhinna chakshu! Vedanta condemns all bhinna chakshu, that 'we are separate,' 'we are high,' 'we are low,' and all such attitudes. And yet our society is even today full of bhinna chakshu based on casteism and communalism and feudalism! We have to cultivate this Vedantic abhinna chakshu.

So this profound sloka will make our temples dynamic, make our temples centers of both spiritual development and human welfare. The two must go together. I want to mention here one more idea before I close. In the Mahabharatha there is a beautiful sloka: How much energies are there in every human being? That sloka gives you three energies, three sources of strength. First is bahu balam, muscular strength. We have it, and we are increasing it and spoiling our politics also by bahu balam. Second is buddhi balam, strength from intellect graduates, PhDs., all that is good but it also can be harmful. Most of the evils in our nation now are coming from educated people; so we can see that in our country there is bahu balam and buddhi balam.

But the third one is what is most valuable and effective. This is called atma balam, strength coming from the atman. If a man brings me a million rupees to corrupt me, what is the strength in me which makes me say 'No' to it? Not the bahu balam, not the buddhi balam. In fact, the buddhi balam is easily purchased.

It is very easy to purchase somebody's buddhi. But when atma balam is there, you can say 'No' immediately. 'I don't care. I've got better things to do.' That atma balam is missing in India today. That atma balam has to come. Sri Ramakrishna will give that atma balam to everyone, so that our nation will

have not only economic development, but also character development. That is missing very badly today. We want to develop it fully. That is the importance of Sri Ramakrishna, Swami Vivekananda, and the Holy Mother Sarada Devi to the world today.

Therefore, we are fortunate that, in Madras, there is this beautiful new project. Madras has done so much for Swami Vivekananda. Swamiji had great love for Madras. 'I expect great things from Madras,' he has said in his lectures, and I hope his desire will be fulfilled, and that all our people will get the benefit of the blessing of the real Sanatana Dharma as expressed through Sri Ramakrishna, Swami Vivekananda, and the Holy Mother.

[1] 13th President of Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission, then Vice President of Ramakrishna Math & Mission, on the Foundation Laying Ceremony on 1st December 1994 of Universal Temple of Sri Ramakrishna at Chennai_

Credits: Srimat Swami Ranganathanandaji Maharaj of the Ramakrishna Math.

JANUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10 am New year Havan	2 6.15 pm Krishna Chanting 7 pm Devi Puja	3 9 am Kartikeya Puja 11 am Priest Busy
4	5 10 am Satyanarayana Puja 7 pm Shiva Puja	6 6.45 pm Hanuman Chalisa	7 Priest Day Off 6.45 pm Krishna Archana	8 7 pm Ganesha Puja	9 6.15 pm Krishna Chanting	10
11 2 pm Jain Puja	12 7 pm Shiva Puja	13 6.45 pm Hanuman Chalisa	14 6.45 pm Krishna Archana	15 11 am Priest Day off	16 6.15 pm Krishna Chanting	17 7 am Venkateshwara Kalyanam 11 am Priest Busy
18 8 am Venkateshwara Kalyanam 11 am Priest Busy	19 7 pm Shiva Puja	20 6.45 pm Hanuman Chalisa	21 6.45 pm Krishna Archana	22 11 am Priest Day off	23 6.15 pm Krishna Chanting	24
25 10 am Saraswati Puja 11 am Priest Busy 2 pm Jain Puja	26 7 pm Shiv Puja	27 6.45 pm Hanuman Chalisa	28 6.45 pm Krishna Archana	29 11 am Priest Day off	30 6.15 pm Krishna Chanting	31

FEBRUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 7 pm Shiva Puja	3 6.30 pm Hanuman Chalisa	4 Priest Day off 6.45 pm Krishna Archana	5 7 pm Satyanarayana Puja	6 6.15 pm Krishna Chanting 7 pm Devi Puja	7 9 am Thaiposam 11 am Priest Busy
8 2 pm Jain Puja	9 7 pm Shiva Puja 7 pm Ganesha Puja	10 6.45 pm Hanuman Chalisa	11 6.45 pm Krishna Archana	12 Priest Day off	13 6.15 Krishna Chanting	14 9 am Venkateswara Puja 11 am Priest Busy
15 10 am Third Sun Puja 11 am Priest Busy	16 7 pm Shiva Puja	17 6.30 pm Hanuman Chalisa 7 pm Mahashivaratri	18 6.45 pm Krishna Archana	19 Priest Day off	20 6.15 Krishna Chanting	21 10 am Ugadi - Gudi Padwa
22 Priest Day off 11 am Priest Busy 2 pm Jain Puja	23 7 pm Shiva Puja	24 6.45 pm Hanuman Chalisa	25 6.45 pm Krishna Archana	26 Priest Day Off	27 6.15 pm Krishna Chanting	28

The Hindu Temple Society
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20th of February, 2015.

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**PLEASE
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
AND
ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS TO BECOME
MEMBERS**

SCHEDULE

Mondays	7 pm	Shiv Puja
Tuesdays	6.45 pm	Hanuman Chalisa
Wednesdays	6.45 pm	Krishna Archana
Fridays	6.15 pm	Krishna Chanting
First Friday	7 pm	Devi Puja
Saturdays	8 am	Suprabhatham
1 st Saturday	9am	Karthikeya Puja
2 nd Saturday	9am	Venkateshwara Puja
3 rd Sunday	10am	Monthly Puja
2 nd & 4 th Sunday	2 pm	Jain Puja

Temple Hours: **8 - 10 AM** and **6 - 8 PM**

Temple is open every day at these hours except on **Thursdays**.

Temple is **CLOSED** on **Thursdays** and **last Sunday** of the month.