

Vedanshi

The part of the sacred knowledge

He who perceives Me everywhere and beholds everything in Me never loses sight of Me, nor do I ever lose sight of him.

Chapter 6, Verse 30; Bhagavad Gita

A Monthly Newsletter

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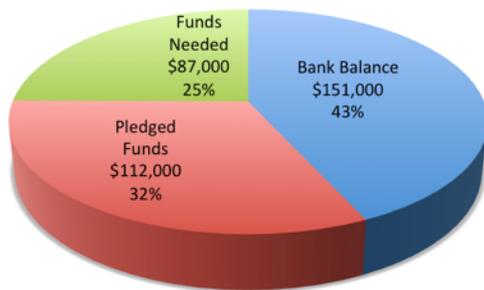
Sanatan Hindu Sanskar Kendra

PO Box 80362, Lafayette, Louisiana - 70598
 110, Hapsburg Lane, Lafayette, Louisiana - 70506
 Email: shskendra@gmail.com, Website: sanatanlft.org

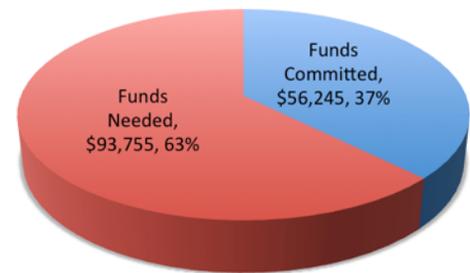


Temple - Phase I Fundraising Campaign

Phase - 1 Estimated Construction Cost : \$350,000



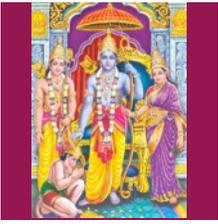
Phase - 1 Estimated Operating Cost :\$150,000



Sponsor Category	Sponsorship	Sponsors Needed	Committed
Deity Sponsor (Ganesha, Krishna, Durga)	\$15,000	9	3
Utsav Moorties	\$5000	24	0
Annadanam Sponsor	\$5000	1	0
Pranapratishtha (Non-life Member)	\$2500	33	0
Pranapratishtha (Life Member)	\$1116		0
Decorations (Ornaments, Garlands, Diyas, etc.,)	\$1000	9	0

Yearly Contribution	Sponsors Needed	Committed
\$10,000	6	3
\$5000	8	2
\$2000	8	0
\$1000	12	4
\$500	15	0
Dollar-a-day	20	13
\$100	75	75

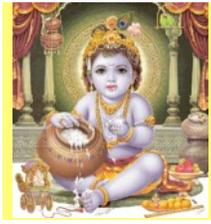
Sita Ram



Ganesh



Krishna



Durga



Shiva



Karma Yoga - Part II

by Swami Sivananda

What is Karma Yoga?

Karma Yoga is consecration of all actions and their fruits unto the Lord. Karma Yoga is performance of actions dwelling in union with the Divine, removing attachment and remaining balanced ever in success and failure.

Karma Yoga is selfless service unto humanity. Karma Yoga is the Yoga of action which purifies the heart and prepares the Antahkarana (the heart and the mind) for the reception of Divine Light or attainment of Knowledge of the Self. The important point is that you will have to serve humanity without any attachment or egoism.

Action of some kind or the other is unavoidable. You cannot keep quiet without doing anything. What binds you to phenomenal existence or Samsara is not the action but the idea of doership and enjoyership. Karma binds when it is done with a selfish motive, with the expectation of fruits. But when action is done without the expectation of fruits, it is liberating. If you act as an instrument in the hands of the Lord, as a participant in the cosmic activity of Nature, without expectation of fruits, that Karma will not bind you. Karma, then becomes Karma Yoga. Work unselfishly. Feel that you are only an instrument and that the Lord is working through you. Surrender the actions and their fruits to the Lord. You will be freed from the bonds of Karma and enjoy peace.

The practice of Karma Yoga prepares the aspirant for the reception of knowledge of the Self. It makes him a proper Adhikari (aspirant) for the study of Vedanta. Ignorant people jump at once to Jnana Yoga, without first having a preliminary training in Karma Yoga. That is the reason why they fail miserably to realize the Truth. Various impurities lurk in the fourfold mind (Antahkarana). The mind is filled with likes and dislikes, jealousy, etc. They only talk of Brahman. They indulge in all sorts of useless controversies, vain debates and dry, endless discussions. Their philosophy is only on their lips. In other words, they are lip-Vedantins. What is really wanted is practical Vedanta through ceaseless, selfless service. Selfless service is the only way to remove the impurities lurking in the mind.

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Sept & Oct 2015 Dates

Based on Lafayette, Louisiana, US Time

16 Wednesday	Ganesh Chaturthi
21 Monday	Radha Ashtami
24 Thursday	Parsva Ekadashi
26 Saturday	Anant Chaturdashi, Ganesh Visarjan
27 Sunday	Bhadrapada Purnima, Lunar Eclipse
08 Thursday	Indira Ekadashi
13 Tuesday	Navratri Begins
20 Tuesday	Durga Ashtami
22 Thursday	Dussehra, Vijayadashami

For more details please refer DrikPanchang.com



Ganesh Chaturthi Wednesday, September 16th, 2015

Puja Time = 11:49 to 14:16

Duration = 2 Hours 26 Mins

Time to avoid Moon sighting

On 16th, 9:41 to 21:16

On 17th, 10:33 to 21:54

Symbolism of Ganesh Visarjan

Why is Ganesh idol immersed in water after Ganesh Chaturthi festival?

Vinayaka Chaturthi or Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations end with the immersion or Visarjan of clay Ganapati idol in water. Hindus worship Brahman or the Supreme Soul present in all animate and inanimate. But for majority of the people it is not possible to worship this formlessness. They need a form to pray to, to seek help, to cry and to take blessings. Ganesha is 'OM' the primordial sound or the first 'Vaak.' Nirguna Para Brahman takes the form of Ganesha.

Clay and water is mixed to give form to the formlessness. Each person brings Ganesha in clay idol form into the home. This is the Supreme Being arriving at home. After the celebrations, it is time to accept the eternal cosmic law that which took form has to become formless again. It is a never ending cycle (Chakra).

The formlessness giving way to form and then moving again towards formlessness. Each year Ganesha arrives to teach us that forms change but the Supreme Truth remains the same. Body perishes but Brahman residing in it remains constant. This body becomes energy for another but the source of energy is the same. Bliss is achieved when we realize this.

The act also symbolizes the concept of Moksha, or liberation, in Hinduism. Thus we create Ganesha out of clay, worship it and later it is submerged (Visarjan).

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Lunar Eclipse

Sunday, September 27th, 2015

Lunar Eclipse Starts = 20:08

Lunar Eclipse Ends = 23:27

Duration = 3 Hours 18 Mins



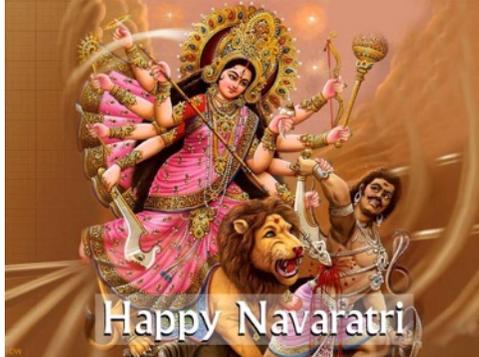
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The Spiritual Significance of Vijayadashami (Dassehra)

Navaratri is a nine-day festival culminating into the tenth day, Vijayadashami (also known as Dassehra). Dassehra honors the victory of devas over asuras—the forces of righteousness over the forces of evil. They were able to win because Paraashakti (the dynamic aspect of divinity) the power that has elaborated God into all this variety and beauty—came to succor them and fight on their behalf. India also had to meet invasion by unrighteous forces and the same Paraashakti saved it from loss and



dishonor. Therefore, this festival is celebrated with added significance. Again, it was on Vijayadashami (Dassehra) that Lord Rama vanquished the demon Ravana in battle. It is for these reasons that this day is considered a day when one can easily conquer the evil forces within us with the help of our own indwelling divinity.

Navaratri is celebrated in memory of the nine days when Mother Durga, the motherly aspect of God, defeated and destroyed the evil forces; she is propitiated and easily pleased during these nine days. The whole creation has emerged from truth and merges back into it. In reality, truth is the real mother for the entire creation. The Goddess Devi is called Sathya Swaroopini, the embodiment of truth. During Navaratri, devotees read sacred texts, such as Devi Bhagvatha, Ramayana, and Mahabharata. Durga, Lakshmi, and Saraswati, the three incarnations of Devi, are also worshipped during these nine days. This trinity is also present in the principle of truth. Worshipping truth thus amounts to the worship of the divine mother.

Goddess Gayatri symbolizes three forces; these are Gayatri, Savitri, and Sarasvati. Gayatri is the presiding deity over the senses; Savitri, the life principle; and Sarasvati, the presiding deity of speech. All these three are present within the principle of truth. The Gayatri mantra begins with “Om Bhur Bhuvah Suvah”. ‘Bhu’ means materialization (body); ‘Bhuvah’ means vibration (life principle); ‘Suvah’ means radiation (atma). Truth, righteousness, peace, forgiveness are all expressions of the principles of Shakti. The Navaratri worship has been started in order to foster sacred qualities in us. Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati symbolize the three attributes, Satwa,

Rajas and Thamas. Satwic qualities emerge out of ‘Hridaya’ (heart), ‘Rajasic’ out of throat, and ‘Thamasic’ out of the tongue. ‘Hridaya’ is the center of Love and Peace.

Sthree symbolises the three gunas in women. The world is a manifestation of the three gunas, (Satwa, Rajas and Tamas). The Divine is worshipped as “Devi”. The term Sthree is used to denote a woman. There are three syllables in this term: Sa, Tha, and Ra. “Sa” symbolises the Satwic aspect of a person. The Satwic quality is the very first quality that manifests in man. The feeling of love develops from the mother. The mother converts her own blood into love and gives it as milk to feed the child. Therefore, the first quality represented by “Sa”, is the Satwic quality.

The second syllable is “Tha”. This does not represent thathva or thaamasa. In the term Sthree, the syllable “tha” represents bashfulness, modesty, self-esteem, and such traits which are characteristics of women. Shyness is a predominant trait in women. They attach great value to their honor and reputation. It is because of these sacred qualities that their Tamasic aspect is significant. The common view regarding the Tamasic quality does not apply to them. The third quality, symbolized by the syllable “Ra”, is Rajas. Such qualities as sacrifice and high-mindedness in women reflect the Rajasic aspect of their nature. When necessary, women will be prepared even to sacrifice their lives to safeguard their honor. Without regard to the difficulties and troubles they may encounter, women are ready to make any sacrifice to protect their honor and self-respect. When the Tamasic elements attempt to subvert the Satwic qualities, they are ready to combat and vanquish them.

Inner meaning of Dassehra festival. The term “Devi” thus represents the Divine power which has taken the Rajasic form to suppress the forces of evil and protect the Satwic qualities. When the forces of injustice, immorality and untruth have grown to monstrous proportions and are indulge in a death-dance, when selfishness and self-interest are rampant, when men have lost all sense of kindness and compassion, the Atmic principle, assuming the form of Shakti, taking on the Rajasic quality, seeks to destroy all the evil elements. This is the inner meaning of the Dassehra festival.

When the Divine Goddess is in dreadful rage to destroy the wicked elements, She assumes a fearful form. To pacify the dreaded Goddess, Her feminine children offer worship to Her with red kumkum



(sacred red powder). The Goddess, seeing the blood-red kumkum at her feet, feels assured that the wicked have been vanquished and assumes Her benign form. The inner meaning of the worship of Devi with red kumkum is that thereby the Goddess is appeased.

During the ten days of Dassehra, the rakshasas (demons) in the form of wicked qualities have been routed. Rakshasas do not mean demonic beings. The bad qualities in men are the demons. Arrogance is a demon. Bad thoughts are demons. Ravana is depicted as the king of Rakshasas. He is said to have ten heads. Who is this Ravana and what are his ten heads? Kama (lust), Krodha (anger), Moha (delusion), Lobha (Greed), Mada (pride), Maatsarya (Envy), Manas (the mind), Buddhi (intellect), Chitta (Will) and Ahamkara (the Ego)—these ten constitute the ten heads. Ravana is the one who has these ten qualities.

Rajasic and Satwic qualities of Rama. Rama is the destroyer of bad qualities. When engaged in this act of destruction of bad qualities, He manifests His



Rajo-guna. But His Rajasic quality is associated with His Satwic quality. Even in cutting off Ravana's ten heads, Rama showed His love. This was the only way Ravana could be redeemed. When the Lord metes out a punishment, it may appear harsh. But what appears externally as Rajasic is in reality Satwic. In a hailstorm, along with rain there will be hailstones. But both the rain and hailstones contain water. Likewise, there is Satwic quality even in the Lord's Rajasic actions. Similarly there may be Satwic quality even in Tamasic actions. These depend on the time, place and the circumstances in which the Lord acts. Butter can be split with a finger. But a powerful hammer is needed to break a piece of iron. The Lord deals with Satwic persons in a Satwic way. He applies the Rajasic weapon against Rajasic persons.

All the festivals of Bharatiyas have been designed to promote divine love among the people. It is to confer such love on people that the Lord incarnates on earth. He Himself demonstrates how love should be expressed. He showers His love and teaches everyone how to love. Hence, experience this love and joy in your life and live in peace. Wish you all a Very Happy Dassehra!

www.omsaimandir.org



Janmashtami Celebrations organized by SHSK and Lafayette Gujarat Samaj on September 4th, 2015

Karma Yoga - Part II

... Continued from page 2

Two things are indispensably requisite in the practice of Karma Yoga. The Karma Yogi should have non-attachment to the fruits of actions. He will have to dedicate his actions at the altar of God with the feeling of Ishvararpana. Non-attachment brings freedom from sorrow and fear. Non-attachment makes a man absolutely bold and fearless. When he dedicates his actions at the Lotus Feet of the Lord, he develops devotion to God and approaches Him nearer and nearer. He gradually feels that God works directly through his Indriyas or instruments. He feels no strain or burden in discharge of his works now. He is quite at ease. The heavy load which he felt previously on account of false notion has vanished out of sight now.

Practice of Karma Yoga?

The practice of Karma Yoga does not demand that you should possess enormous wealth. You can serve with your mind and body. If you find a poor sick man lying on the road side, give him some water or milk to drink. Cheer him up with sweet, encouraging words. Put him in a carriage and take him to the nearest hospital. If you have no money to pay for the carriage, carry the patient on your back and see that he is admitted into the hospital. If you do service like this, your heart will be purified. God is more pleased with such sort of service for the poor helpless people than with the service done by rich people with pomp and vanity.



If any one is suffering from acute pain in any part of the body, at once shampoo the affected part very quickly. Feel, when you massage, that you are shampooing the body of the Lord (Virat). Repeat your Ishta Mantra or any name of the Lord while shampooing. Pray also from the bottom of your heart: "O Lord! Remove the pain of this man. Let him rest in peace. Let him possess good health." Feel, when you massage, that the energy from the cosmic source, Hiranyagarbha, is flowing continuously through your hands. Some neophytes are afraid their energy will be depleted by massaging another person. This is a serious mistake. The more you give, the more you will get.

You will be in tune with the cosmic energy or the Infinite. This is the divine law.

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Upcoming Events

Ganesh Chaturthi Bhajans & Satsang

Friday, September 18th, 2015

5 pm to 9pm

Heymann Park Center

1500 S Orange St, Lafayette, LA 70501

Make Ganesha with Clay and perform pooja

Clay and pooja items will be provided

Lafayette Navratri

Saturday, October 17th, 2015

5 pm to 11pm

Heymann Park Center

1500 S Orange St, Lafayette, LA 70501

Lalitha Sahasranamam Kumkum Archana

Mahaprasad

Garba and Aarti followed by Dandiya

Thank you for your support and blessings.

Srinivasan Ambatipati, Editor