

Vedanshi

The part of the sacred knowledge

Though engaged in all kinds of activities, My pure devotee, under My protection, reaches the eternal and imperishable abode by My grace.

Chapter 18, Verse 56; Bhagavad Gita

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue No 23: October 2015

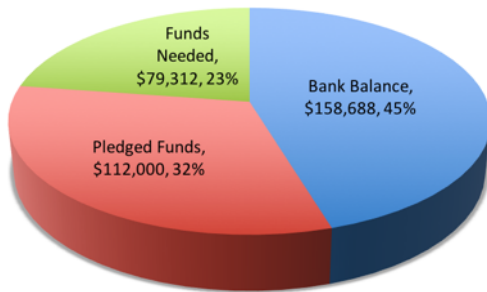
Sanatan Hindu Sanskar Kendra

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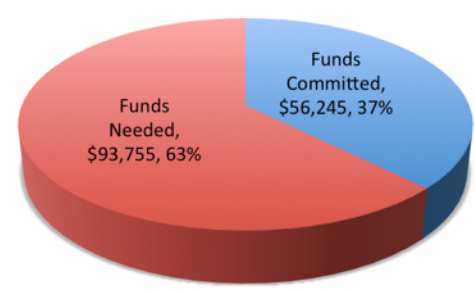


Temple - Phase I Fundraising Campaign

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

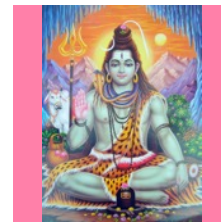
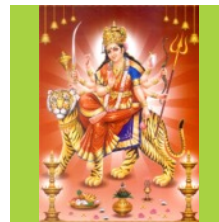
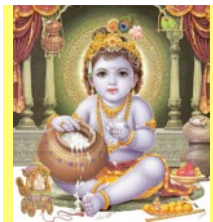
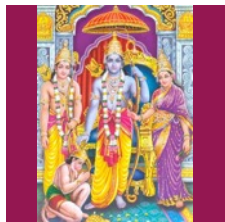
Yearly Contribution	Sponsors Needed	Committed
\$10,000	6	3
\$5000	8	2
\$2000	8	0
\$1000	12	4
\$500	15	0
Dollar-a-day	20	13
\$100	75	75

Ganesh

Krishna

Durga

Shiva



Karma Yoga - Part III

by Swami Sivananda

Qualifications of a Karma Yogi

A Karma Yogi should be absolutely free from lust, greed, anger and egoism. Even if there are traces of these Doshas, he should try to remove them. He should not expect any kind of fruits for his actions herein and hereafter. He should not have any desire for name and fame, approbation, thirst for applause, admiration and gratitude. He must have a spotless character. He should try to possess this gradually. He should be humble and free from hatred, jealousy, harshness, etc. He should always speak sweet words. How can a proud and jealous man, who expects respect and honor from others, serve others? He should be absolutely fearless. A timid man is absolutely unfit for Karma Yoga. He is fit to assist his wife in cleaning utensils in the kitchen in the morning and in washing her clothes in the evening.

A Karma Yogi should have large heart. He should be free from crookedness, meanness, miserliness and selfishness. He should be absolutely free from greed, anger and egoism.

A Karma Yogi should have an amiable, loving social nature. He should be able to move and mix with everybody without distinction of caste, creed or color. He should have perfect adaptability, tolerance, sympathy, cosmic love and mercy. He should be able to adjust with the habits and ways of others. He should have an all-embracing and an all-inclusive heart. He should always have a cool and balanced mind. He should have presence of mind also. He should have equal vision. He should rejoice in the welfare of others. A man who is easily irritable and who can easily be offended for trifling things is absolutely unfit for the path of Karma Yoga. He should have all the organs under perfect control. He should lead a very simple life. He should bear insult, disrespect, dishonor, censure, infamy, disgrace, harsh words, heat, cold and the pain of diseases. He should have absolute faith in himself, in God, in scriptures and in the words of his Guru. If he leads a life of luxury, if he wants everything for himself, how can he share his possessions with others? He should burn his selfishness to the very root. Let me remind you the words of the Gita: "Restraining and subduing the senses, regarding everything equally, rejoicing in the welfare of all, these alone come to Me." Such a man becomes a good Karma Yogi and reaches the goal quickly.

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Oct & Nov 2015 Dates

Based on Lafayette, Louisiana, US Time

20 Tuesday	Durga Ashtami
21 Wednesday	Maha Navami
22 Thursday	Dussehra, Vijayadashami
23 Friday	Papankusha Ekadashi
26 Monday	Sharad Purnima
30 Friday	Karwa Chauth
<hr/>	
08 Sunday	Dhan Teras
10 Tuesday	Diwali
14 Saturday	AIA Diwali Gala
25 Wednesday	Kartika Poornima

For more details please refer DrikPanchang.com



Diwali Lakshmi Puja

Tuesday, October 10th, 2015

Puja Time = 17:30 to 19:25

Duration = 1 Hours 54 Mins

Year-end Donation Appeal

Dear Friends,

Our organization, SHSK made a considerable progress in 2015 with the help of our community members. The trustees and many volunteers are making plans to build a temple structure in 2016.

Now, year-end is nearing. We are bombarded by requests for donations. Many answer those solicitations, happily giving to their favorite charities. This year-end generosity also might pay off at tax time, as long as you know and follow the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) rules on tax deductions for donations.

Many of our members may also in the process of year-end tax planning. Please consider year-end donation to SHSK as part of your year-end tax planning. Also donating appreciated assets such as securities, real-estate, collectibles and artwork may realize a much more favorable result for tax purpose.

Some of us may not be able to itemize for tax purpose, because IRS allowed standard deductions amount is greater than our total itemized deductions. (2015 standard deduction amount is \$12,400 for married filing jointly.) In this case you may want to consider paying two years property taxes, donations, etc., in one year to maximize the total itemized deductions. For example, if you are planning to donate \$1,000/year, donate \$2,000 in every other year. For property taxes, pay 2015 taxes in early January 2016 and 2016 taxes at end of December 2016.

Please note donations must be made by the end of the tax year for which you want to claim the tax deduction and SHSK is an "IRS-qualified" charity.

Should you have any questions on tax deductions for donations, please feel free to call me at 337-857-1995.

Sincerely,

Ravi C. Vallalar

Treasurer



Find us on Facebook and get SHSK updates



Subscribe to SHSK channel on youtube and listen to devotional playlists.

The Spiritual Significance of Kartika Poornima

Kartika Poornima is the holy festival for Hindus on the full moon day of the first month of the year according to the Hindu calendar, Kartika. It is called Dev Diwali, the festival of lights for Gods in India and it is also called Tripuri Poornima or Tripurari Poornima. It coincides with Guru Nanak Jayanti, a festival for Sikhs.

History and Origin

The demon named Tarakasur had three sons called Tripurasura who destroyed the world and created three cities called 'Tripura'. Lord Shiva in the form of Tripurantaka destroyed those cities with the help of a single arrow. All the other Gods were overjoyed so they announced this day as the festival of lights. Thus, it is known as Dev Diwali, Diwali for Gods. Kartika Poornima is also celebrated for many other reasons. It is the birthday of Matsya (fifth incarnation of Lord Vishnu as well as the birthday of Kartikey (The son of Shiva). Radha (a lover of Lord Krishna) likes this day as Radha and Krishna perform Ras Lila on this day. This day is also dedicated to the fore fathers.

Customs and Traditions

Nadi Snan or River Bath



The common rituals of Kartika Poornima are having a river bath and praying to Lord Shiva and observing a fast for the whole day. Devotees would prefer to have a bath in the holy rivers as it is believed that by simply performing the Nadi Snan or river bath in the Kartika Month one gets a lot of virtue and if it is on Kartika Poornima the virtue is multi folded.

If a devotee is able to perform the Tripura Poornima Snan, the bath that is performed in Varanasi in the holy river Ganga it is believed that the virtue of the bath would bring Salvation. All the steps in the Ghats of the river Ganga in Varanasi are lit with diyas.

Lighting of Lamps

Devotees would visit the temple of Lord Shiva and lit lamps. A pack of 365 wicks is usually lit. Each wick is for each day of the year.

Some devotees would light a wick on the floats made from the stems of the Banana Tree and set it afloat on the river. Few devotees would also give Deepa Danam or donate a lit diya.

Devotees also would lit the diya in front of Tulasi plant, where the idols of Radha and Krishna are kept.

Vrat & Abhishekam

One of the most auspicious days for performing the Satya Narayana Swamy Vrat is Karthika Poornima. Kartika Poornima is one of the favorite days of Lord Vishnu. Hence devotees would prefer and try their level best to perform the SatyaNarayana Vrat on Karthika Poornima. The virtue of performing the SatyaNarayana Vrat on Kartika Poornima is multi folded when compared to performing the same on other days.



Almost all the temples of Lord Shiva would perform the Ekadasi Rudra Abhishekam on Kartika Poornima. It is bathing Lord Shiva by chanting the Rudra Chamakam and Rudra Namakam Eleven times. Before performing the Ekadasi Rudra Abhishekam the body has to be cleansed by reciting the Mahanyasam. It is believed that by performing the Ekadasi Rudra Abhishekam on Kartika Poornima one would get free of all the sins and would get salvation.

Fairs and Tourism on Kartika Poornima

Ganga Mahotsav

A tourist centric festival which is organized in Varnasi which is five day long festival. The Ganga Mahotsav starts on Prabodini Ekadasi and ends on Kartika Poornima. The festival showcases the rich heritage and culture of Varanasi. Country boat races, Melas and ends with the lighting of all the Ghats with over a million earthen diyas on the Kartika Poornima day. On Kartika Poornima, Arati is given to the holy river Ganga or Goddess Ganga.



Pushkar Fair of Rajasthan

Pushkar Fair of Rajasthan start on Prabodhini Ekadasi and ends on Kartika Poornima. The fair is organized in Pushkar of Rajasthan in the honor of

God Brahma. There is a temple of Lord Brahma in Pushkar. Devotees throng this temple and would take a bath in the Pushkar lake. It is believed that by taking a bath in the Pushkar Lake one gets the virtue to get salvation. Pushkar fair is also the largest camel fair of Asia.

Ananthagiri Jatara

A fair or mela or Jatara is organized at the Ananthagiri Padmanabha swamy temple in Andhra Pradesh.

Boita Bandana

Boita Bandana is celebrated in Orissa on Kartika Poornima. Devotees would prepare a boat from cork and colored paper and set them afloat. Some use the bark of the Banana tree for the same.

Kartikeshwar Idols in Cuttack

In Cuttack huge idols of Kartikeshwara are built and worshipped on Kartika Poornima. These idols are then taken out as procession in the evening and immersed in river Mahanadi.



www.sandhira.com & www.speakingtree.in

Language Classes through SHSK

The greatest and most powerful gift a parent can give their children is to pass their language and culture. Literacy in the mother tongue strengthens cultural identity and heritage. The mother tongue plays a very important role in developing thoughts, shaping experiences, exploring customs, and articulating values.

Encouraging young children to learn their Mother Tongue would help them to develop confidence, self-esteem and their unique identity in the global world. With this as the mission a group of SHSK volunteers came forward to start teaching Telugu and Tamil Languages to children in Lafayette. Few classes have already gone through the past couple of weeks and children seems to enjoy their language classes. If you are interested to know more about the classes please contact the respective coordinators.

MANA BADI - Telugu Classes

Kiran Yerasi - 270.320.5906
dockiranmai@yahoo.co.in

VALLUVAR THAMIZH PALLI - Tamil Classes

Senthil Thavamani - 337.857.0765
tsenthil@hotmail.com



Ganesh Chaturthi Celebrations organized by SHSK and Lafayette Gujarat Samaj on September 18th, 2015

Karma Yoga - Part III

... Continued from page 2

Benefits of Karma Yoga?

By doing selfless service you purify your heart. Egoism, hatred, jealousy, ideas of superiority and all the kindred negative qualities will vanish. You will develop humility, pure love, sympathy, tolerance and mercy. Sense of separateness will be annihilated. Selfishness will be eradicated. You will get a broad and liberal outlook on life. You will begin to feel oneness and unity. Eventually you will obtain knowledge of the Self. You will realize One in all and All in one.

Generally people are impatient and they expect Siddhis after doing a little service. The real Karma Yogi who serves people with humility and *Atma Bhava* (seeing God in every face) becomes a real ruler of the world. He is honored and respected by all. The more service you do with *Atma Bhava* the more power, energy and capacity you get. Practice this and feel.

If you really want to grow in the spiritual path you must do all sorts of service daily till the end of your life. Then only you are safe. Do not stop doing service when you have become a famous Yogi. The spirit of service must enter every nerve, cell, tissue and bone of your body. It must become ingrained in you. Then only you will become a real, full-blown, practical Vedantin. Is there any greater Vedantin or Karma Yogi than Lord Buddha? He still lives in our hearts, because that spirit of service was ingrained in him and he spent his whole life in serving others



in a variety of ways. He is indeed a magnanimous soul, one without a second. You can also become a Buddha if you apply yourself diligently to selfless service with the right mental attitude.

In the practice of Nishkama Karma Yoga, there is no loss of effort. There is no harm. There is no transgression also. Even a little of this practice can protect you from great fear of rebirth, of death with its concomitant evils. You will reap the fruits of Karma Yoga, viz. Jnana. There is no uncertainty here. The path of Karma Yoga eventually leads to the attainment of Bliss of the Self.

May you all attain purity of heart through constant selfless service. May you all shine as dynamic

Karma Yogins radiating joy, peace and bliss everywhere. May you all rejoice in the welfare of all beings. May your minds be fixed in the Lord while your hands are in the service of humanity. May you all understand the principles and techniques of Karma Yoga. May all your actions become offerings unto the Lord. May you all attain Kaivalya Moksha through the practice of Karma Yoga in this very birth.

.....www.dlshq.org

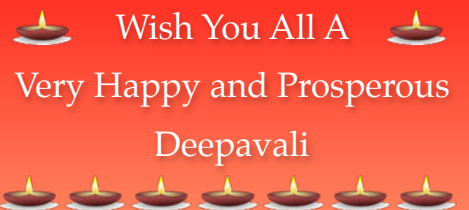
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Thank you for your support and blessings.
Srinivasan Ambatipati, Editor