

Vedanshi

The part of the sacred knowledge

Salvation is found by both renunciation and performance of action. But of these two, the Yoga of works is better than renunciation of works.

Chapter 5, Verse 2; Bhagavad Gita

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue No 8: July 2014

How to perform Varalakshmi vratam



Important dates in the month of July are listed.
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SHSK Updates

- Land Closing - July 15th
- Bhumi Puja - Sept. 6th
- Introducing SHSK facebook and youtube pages

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August Festivals

- Varalakshmi vrat



- Janmashtami
- Ganesh Chaturthi

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Sri Tirupati Balaji History from Puranas

Shrinivasa ordained that a pilgrimage to His shrine would not be complete unless it is preceded by a bath in the Pushkarini and Darshan of Shri VarahaSwami, and that Puja and Naivedyam should be offered to Shri Varaha first.

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I don't belong to any place

A short story

The stranger replied calmly: "I don't belong to any place. I just manage to earn my bread by hard labor. The only sadhana I do is Namasmaran [repeating the name of the Lord]."

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Mantras, Shlokas & Stotras

GURU

Om Guruve namah

It is indeed a strange phenomenon that a human child has to depend on its elders for its survival, for a long period. No doubt all children are born with latent talents. But these talents have to be developed and guided in children by the teacher to achieve secular and spiritual perfection. So the teacher is the guide for every human being. The word 'Guru' consists of two letters gu and ru. Gu means ignorance and ru means one who removes it.

Gurur brahmaa gurur vishnuh
gurur devo maheshvarah
gurussakshaat parabrahma
tasmai shree gurave namah.

Know the Guru to be verily Brahma himself. He is Vishnu, He is also Shiva. Know Him to be verily the



Supreme Brahman, and offer thy adorations unto that peerless Guru.

Brahmaanandam paramasukhadam
kevalam jnaanamoortim
dvandvaateetam gaganasadrisham

tattvamasyaadi lakshyam
ekam nityam viamalam achalam
sarvadhee saakshibhootam
bhaavaateetam trigunarahitam
sadgurum tam nammami.

Salutations to the true Guru who is the embodiment of the Bliss of Brahman and the bestower of supreme happiness, who is detached, knowledge personified and beyond duality, who is like the sky, and is indicated by such Vedic dicta as "Thou art That" and who is One, eternal pure, immovable, the witness of all the changes in the Buddhi (intellect), beyond all states and devoid of the three gunas.

- A prayer book for children

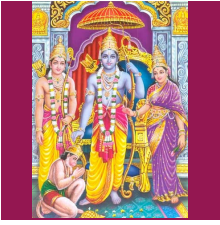
Om

Dhyaana-Muulam Gurur-Muurtih
Puujaa-Muulam Gurur-Padam |
Mantra-Muulam Gurur-Vaakyam
Mokssa-Muulam Guruur-Krpaa ||

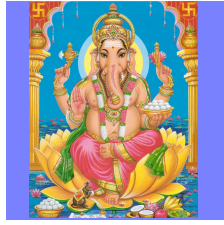
Meaning:

- 1: The Root of Meditation is the Form of the Guru,
- 2: The Root of Worship is the Feet of the Guru,
- 3: The Root of Mantra is the Word of the Guru,
- 4: The Root of Liberation is the Grace of the Guru.

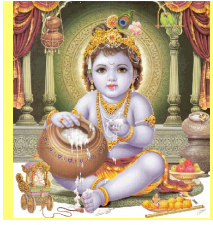
Sita Ram



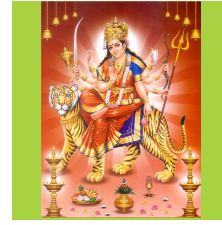
Ganesh



Krishna



Durga



Shiva



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How to Perform Varalakshmi Vratam?

The second Friday of the month of Sravanam has great significance. The holiest of all - Varalakshmi Vratam is performed on this auspicious day by married women. It is believed to grant long life to their husbands, and great riches to their families.

On the day of Varalakshmi Vratam, wake up early in the morning. Take a shower and arrange the things to perform the pooja. Decorate the peetham with kolam or muggu after applying haldi paste to it. Place Goddess Lakshmi's photo on it. Put kalasam in front of the deity and arrange thoralu, akshatalu, turmeric Ganapati, flowers, fruits etc there.

How to prepare thoram?

Make a five or nine threaded thorams with white color cotton thread and apply haldi paste to it. Make five or nine knots to it, place them near the puja peetam.

Things needed for the Varalakshmi puja:

turmeric powder, kumkuma powder, red blouse piece-1, sandal paste, flowers, fruits, betel leaves, betel nuts, white thread to make thorams, coconuts, lamps, ghee to light the lamp, camphor, incense sticks, rice, and chana.

Varalakshmi Vrata Katha (Legend or Story of Varalakshmi Vratam)

Varalakshmi Vrata is observed on the Second Friday of the Shravan month. Charumathi, a Brahmin woman lived in a town, Kundina. She was very humble and kind in her nature. She was very much devoted to her husband and family. One night, Goddess Lakshmi appeared in her dream and told her to worship Varalakshmi and seek her blessings. Goddess Lakshmi also explained the Vrata procedure and the best day to observe

Varalakshmi Vrat. Lakshmi asked Charumathi to observe Varalakshmi Vrata on the Second Friday of Shravana Month.

Charumathi informed about the dream to his husband and family. She also told to her friends and the word spread throughout the town. On the Second Friday of Shravana Month, Charumathi along with her family, friends and the women of the town observed Varalakshmi Vrata. They worshipped Varalakshmi with utmost devotion and offered special recipes and fruits to please her. Goddess Varalakshmi appeared before them and granted boons to all of them. Their houses were filled with grains, diamonds, jewels and gold. They all lived happily in their rest of life. Since the time, women have begun observing Varalakshmi Vrata every year on the specific Friday.

A full copy of the pooja vidanam can be found in our website (www.sanatanlft.org)

- <http://varalakshmi vratam.blogspot.com/>



July Important Dates

Based on Lafayette, Louisiana, US Time

08 Tuesday	Devshayani Ekadashi
12 Saturday	Guru Purnima
16 Wednesday	Karka Sankranti
22 Tuesday	Kamika Ekadashi
29 Tuesday	Hariyali Teej
31 Thursday	Nag Panchami

August Important Dates

Based on Lafayette, Louisiana, US Time

08 Friday	Varalakshmi Vrat
16 Saturday	Janmashtami
29 Friday	Ganesh Chaturthi

For more details please refer DrikPanchang.com

SHSK Updates

Land Closing - July 15th

Bhumi Puja - September 6th



Find us on Facebook and get SHSK updates



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

Sri Tirupati Balaji History from Puranas - Part I

The Rishis headed by Kasyapa began to perform a sacrifice (yaga) on the banks of the Ganges. Sage Narada visited them at that time and asked them to tell him why they were performing the sacrifice and who would be pleased by it. Not being able to answer the question the Rishis approached Sage Bhrigu. To reach a solution after a direct ascertainment of reality, Sage Bhrigu first went to Satyaloka (the abode of Lord Brahma). There, he found Brahma reciting the four Vedas with his four heads in praise of Lord Narayana and attended upon by Saraswati and not taking notice of Bhrigu offering obeisance. Concluding that Brahma was unfit for worship, Bhrigu left Brahmaloaka for Kailasa.

At Kailasa, Bhrigu found Lord Siva spending his time pleasantly with Parvati and not noticing Sage Bhrigu. Parvati drew the attention of Siva to the presence of the Sage. Lord Siva became furious at the intrusion of Bhrigu and tried to destroy him. The sage cursed and left for Vaikuntam. The angry sage went to Shri Vaikuntam. Shrimannarayana was reposing at that time on Adishesha with Shri Mahalakshmi at His feet in service. Finding that Shrimannarayana also did not notice him, the sage was infuriated and he kicked the Lord on His chest, the place where Mahalakshmi resides.

At once the Lord hastened to make apologies to the angry Sage and pressed his feet to allay the pain caused to the leg. In doing so the Lord removed the eye in the foot of the Sage, which gave him power as



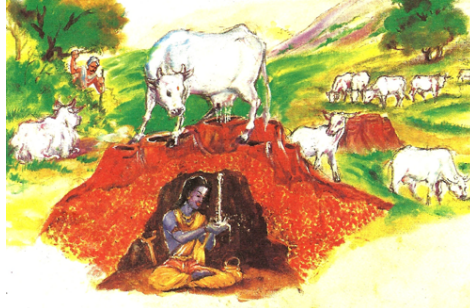
to defy the Devas. The Sage thereupon decided that Shri MahaVishnu was the most Supreme of the Trimurtis and told the Rishis the same. They thereupon decided that Shri MahaVishnu was the fruit of the Yaga and sacrifice was offered to Him (Vishnu).

At the commencement of the present Sveta Varaha Kalpa, the whole Universe was filled with water and the earth was immersed in it. Lord Vishnu took to form of a White Boar and dived into the water to lift the earth. He slew the demon Hiranyaksha who caused obstruction to him and rescued the earth. Brahma and the other Devas extolled Shri Varaha at the time with the chanting of the Vedas and showered flowers on him for saving the Earth. Lord Vishnu decided to stay on Earth in the form of the White Boar for some time, to punish the wicked and

protect the virtuous. This place thenceforward came to be known as Varaha Kshetra and Varaha Kalpa began from that time.

After the departure of Mahalakshmi, Lord Vishnu left Vaikunta in a forlorn condition and took his abode in an ant-hill on the Venkata Hill under a tamarind tree beside a Pushkarini. Brahma and Mahesvara, taking pity on the condition of Vishnu, made up their mind to assume the forms of a cow and its calf to serve him. The Sun God informed Mahalakshmi of this and requested her to sell the cow and calf to the king of the Chola country assuming the form of a cowherdess.

The king of the Chola country bought the cow and



its calf and sent them to graze on the Venkata Hill along with his herd of cattle. Discovering Lord Vishnu in the ant-hill, the cow everyday emptied her under over the ant-hill and thus fed the LORD. Finding that the cow did not yield any milk, the Chola Queen chastised the cowherd severely. To find out the cause of the absence of milk, the cowherd followed the cow and hid himself in a bush and discovered the cow emptying her under over the ant-hill.

Getting wild over the conduct of the cow, the cowherd aimed a blow with his axe on the head of the cow. But the God rose from the ant-hill to receive the blow and save the cow. When the cowherd saw the Lord bleed at the blow of his axe he fell down and died. On the death of the cowherd, the cow returned bellowing to the presence of the Chola King with blood stains over her body. To find out the cause of the terror of the cow the Chola King followed her to the scene of the incident.

Near an ant-hill, the King found the cowherd lying dead on the ground. While he stood wondering how it had happened, the Lord rose from the ant-hill and cursed the king to become an Asura (demon) from the fault of his servant. Entreated by the king who pleaded innocence, the Lord blessed him by saying that His curse would end when He was adorned with the Kireetam presented by Akasa Raja at the time of His marriage with Shri Padmavati.

Thereafter Shrinivasa decided to stay in this Varaha Kshetra. He therefore requested Shri Varahaswami to grant Him a site for His stay. His request being readily granted, Shrinivasa ordained that a pilgrimage to His shrine would not be complete unless it is preceded by a bath in the Pushkarini and Darsan of Shri VarahaSwami, and that Puja and Naivedyam should be offered to Shri Varaha first.

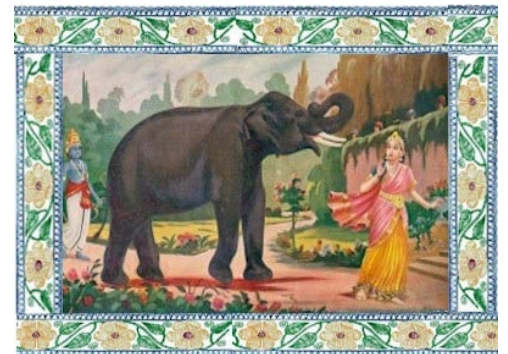
Yasoda brought up Shri Krishna, the son of Devaki, in his early years. Yasoda was not blessed to witness the marriage of Shri Krishna with Rukmini and she felt very sad. Shri Krishna promised to fulfil her desire in her next birth as Vakuladevi in his next Avatara as Shrinivasa. This Vakuladevi was sent to serve Shrinivasa by Lord Varahaswami, on whom she was attending till Shrinivasa came to Venkatachala.

Sometime after, a King named Akasa Raja who belonged to the Lunar race was ruling over Thondamandalam. He had a brother named Thondaman. Akasa Raja had no issue for a long time and so he wanted to perform a sacrifice for obtaining an offspring. While he was himself ploughing and ground for sacrifice, his plough turned up a lotus in the ground. On examining the lotus, the King found a female child in it.

The king was happy to find a child even before he performed a sacrifice and carried it to his place and gave it to his Queen to tend it. At that time he heard an aerial voice which said "O King, tend it as your child and fortune will befall you". As she was found in a lotus, the king named her Padmavati.

In course of time Princess Padmavati grew up into a beautiful maiden and was attended by a host of maids. One day while she was spending her time in a garden picking flowers with her maids, Saint Narada approached her. Assuring her that he was her well-wisher, he asked her to show him her palm to read her future. He foretold that she was destined to be the spouse of Lord Vishnu himself.

At this time Lord Shrinivasa, who went for hunting chased a wild elephant in the forests surrounding the hills. In the pursuit, Shrinivasa was led into a garden, where Princess Padmavati and her maids were picking flowers. The sight of the elephant frightened them and their Princess.



But the Elephant immediately turned round and saluted the Lord and disappeared in the forest. Lord Shrinivasa came on horse back and saw the frightened maidens and he was accosted by them with queries. — To be continued...

**Best Compliments from
Jay Venkat and
Indra Ramasubbu**

Sanatan Hindu Temple

Lafayette, Louisiana, USA



Short Story

I don't belong to any place

One day in the sacred shrine of lord Viswanath at Kasi, all the devotees and temple priests were immersed in singing hymns and reciting chants. All of a sudden, they heard a metallic sound. When they turned their heads in that direction they saw a shining gold plate on the floor of the shrine. It must have fallen through an open space in the center of the hall from the sky leading to the sanctum sanctorum. All of them gathered round with wonder, while the chief temple priest went close to examine it. He found some letters inscribed on it. "This belongs to my dear devotee". The priest read the inscription loudly. All the temple priests vied with one another to snatch the plate with the feeling, "Who could be a greater devotee than myself. I spend my time, talent and strength only to offer worship to the Lord Viswanath." But the plate changed into an earthen one the moment they touched it one after another. News spread like wild fire about the golden plate. Several scholars, singers, poets and preachers came and tried their luck

but in vain. Days, weeks and months rolled on but the plate remained there without a claimant.

One day, a stranger came to the temple. He stood at the entrance and tears gathered in his eyes when he saw beggars, blind, dumb and lame piteously pleading for alms. He felt ashamed of his inability to relieve them of their hunger and agony. He wanted to pray to the Lord and so stepped into the temple. He saw people gathered round and discussing something. He tried to squeeze himself into the crowd to find out why they were standing there. He saw a golden plate in the center of that enclosure. He enquired and was told about the episode of the golden plate. He was rather surprised and sad at the attitude of the people and the priests. Instead of praying to the Lord of the Universe and trying to possess Him, they were eager to possess the golden plate. Observing his non-chalant attitude, the high priest requested him to try his hand. The stranger replied: "Oh Revered one! I do not care for either gold or silver, what I long for is God's Grace." The priest's esteem for that man increased. So he once again pressed him, "At

least to satisfy us, please try your hand." The stranger touched the plate without a trace of attachment. Lo! It shone forth with redoubled effulgence. All the priests gathered round and queried: "Sir, where do you come from? What are your qualifications? What are the branches of learning you have mastered? How many years did you do penance?" The stranger replied calmly: "I don't belong to any place. I just manage to earn my bread by hard labor. The only sadhana I do is Namasmaraan [repeating the name of the Lord]. This has perhaps rendered my heart pure and filled it with love and compassion. It has enabled me to control my mind and the senses. I have not read any book or mastered any science. The only art I know of is chanting the Name Divine. The only act I do is to be kind to the poor."

So, the only qualification to become dear to the Lord is to acquire a compassionate heart and sense control. These two can be acquired through Namasmaraan with full faith in the Lord.

-Balachandra Jaykumar Swadia

Thank you for your support and blessings.

Srinivasan Ambatipati
Editor