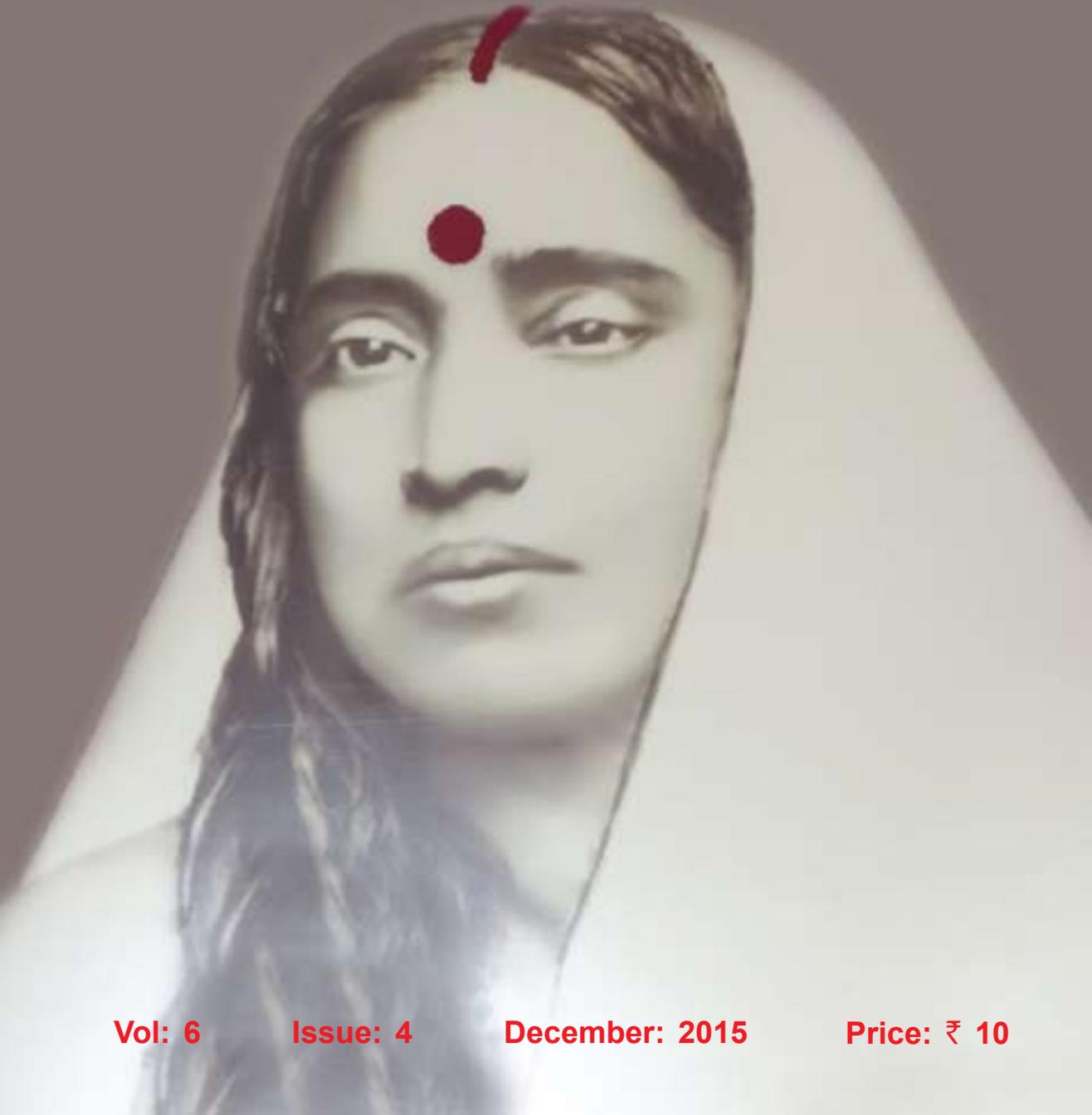


Nachiketanjali

an offering...



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MAHADURGA



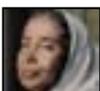
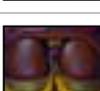
Form of Mahadurga on the day of Vijayadashami at Ma Yoga Shakti Peetam

Mahadurga in her most pristine beauty...

**If you have missed various forms of
Mother and Her attributes, here is a
culmination of all other forms in one
form as Mahadurga, with all grandeur,
radiating highest feminine energy,
bringing creator into action...**



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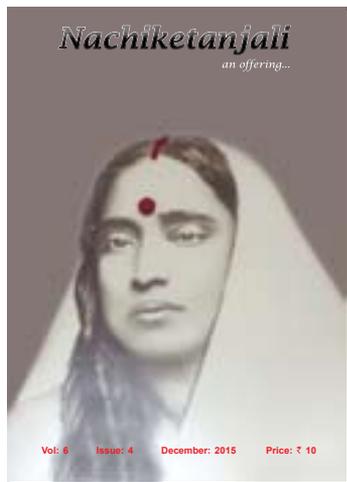
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Cover Story



In Sarada Ma the world found a unique figure in its history, who combined in herself the roles of a perfect wife, nun, mother and teacher at the same time. In the endless procession of the members of the human species on this planet of ours, the Holy Mother stands out as a unique example, whose utter innocence could melt even the hardest of hearts, who never looked at the fault of others, whose love never made any distinction between the deserving and the undeserving, in whose eyes the saint and the sinner were alike her precious children, whose wide heart held all humanity in its maternal embrace, and who considered it a privilege to labour and to suffer for even the least of them. If we cannot see here the face of the all-loving Universal Mother, of God the Redeemer, where else can we? Only we should have the sensitiveness to recognise that the subtle potency of love transcends the obtrusive display of power.

- Swami Tapasyananda

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You are the King of Your Inner World

Recently a picture of two *yogis* doing the balancing act was circulating on Whatsapp which set me thinking. Is it necessary for *yogis* to exhibit their *Siddhis*? In fact what are the requisites for a *yogi* in his *Sadhana*?

During my various pilgrimages, I have come across several *yogis*. Some were deeply immersed in meditation, unaware of what was going on in the outside world. Some were observing everything around in silence but their eyes revealed that they were in constant communion with God. Some were simply dressed in saffron and looting money from devotees and their body language revealed they were impostors in the garb of *Sadhus*. No wonder because of such traitors many stopped believing the holy men. But a true *Yogi* is unperturbed whether someone believes him or not.

When we see sincere *Sadhakas* meditating in caves, in adverse conditions, we might question the need for them to starve and give up all worldly pleasures. What are they contemplating on any way? If it is God then why can't they seek God in everyone as holy men have declared? For those who haven't truly understood the divine principles these are some of the common doubts that arise. We have read in our ancient scriptures how our *Rishis* performed penance for thousands of years at a stretch and how anthills grew up around them without them being aware of it. They had an uninterrupted constant communion with God. As they got rid of layers of ignorance one by one, flames of fire appeared around them depicting their *Jnanagni* or fire of knowledge.

For us common people, belief and faith in God's existence is the foremost criteria. Once the faith is established then the search begins. Initially the search might go at a snail's pace but once we start getting glimpses of HIS existence we intensify our search and with sincere *Sadhana* it is revealed to us that God not only exists in the universe but also within us as we are a part of this universe which is HIS creation.

Nevertheless to reach this state it is not that easy as it may sound. We have to make many sacrifices. One who is bound by the world and entangled in relations, wealth and pleasures will find it difficult to tread the path. But if we are sincere in our *Sadhana*, it is possible to give up everything; for the layers are shed even without us being aware of it. Suddenly we become aware of our transformation which went unnoticed.

A *Sadhaka* needs to be always cautious. There might be negative forces to distract one from the path. It is something similar to frogs in the well trying to pull down their fellow mates from climbing out of the well. Caution and perseverance can always bring success in a *Sadhaka's* pursuit. Then a stage will be reached where the *Sadhaka* becomes the king of his inner world... a world which is unparalleled.

- Subhadra K.

Swamiji's Discourse – Vijayadashami 2015

Hum Namah Shivaya!

I really enjoyed all the nine days. I enjoyed being part of Navaratri. Every day it was something new. I really liked the way Mother has manifested. Surely credit should go to all of you because not two tiny hands but many tiny hands were working day and night to put all their art together. But somewhere I felt that Mother herself was functioning through you all. And probably that is why everyday Mother was so lively...so inspiring...so touching! I hardly spent an hour at Ma Yoga Shakthi Peetham during Navaratri as I was in *Mouna Diksha* and most of the time my eyes were closed and yet I was able to experience. It was going on from early morning 3.30 am till the night Arati and not only that, I was also able to communicate with Divine Mother.

Dear friends, you must have seen 'Tare zameen par' or the recent 'Bajrangi Bhaijan' movie. You must have enjoyed watching the movie. It was very touching and most of you would have shed tears watching the movie. I usually don't watch movies but Ma asked me to watch these movies and so we all watched. There was many a time when I shed tears as I watched the movie. But that is only a movie. Somebody has picturised and people like us are watching. But I don't see the same reaction when pathetic situations are happening right in front of our eyes. Why? We are not even able to shed two tears and we don't share such things with anyone. Is that right on our part? Things happening in reality have no impact on us... Is it because our sensitivity has collapsed totally? We lead artificial lives. Even our soldiers' struggle doesn't move us in any way. In movies we are connected but in reality we are not connected. If something happens to our near or dear ones you instantly react but why doesn't that happen with others?



It is not necessary to shed tears openly but at least shed two tears in silence. It is like a prayer and it will surely reach Divine Mother. It is like a prayer when you are in utter chaos and helpless. When you feel that no one is there to take care of you and when you feel that there is no way to come out of the garbage that you yourself have created, when you feel that your life is no more useful to any one, just go somewhere, sit and shed two tears silently. And Mother will respond to those tears. Your life will be transformed...

Navaratri has come to an end but I want you to carry the essence from here. Stay connected to that essence. Don't miss the connection. We are all human beings. We are influenced by our emotions and sometimes consciously and sometimes unconsciously things go wrong. We might hurt others knowingly or unknowingly. That is because we miss the connection.

I am speaking on behalf of Nachiketa Tapovan. I am always there to take care of you. If any help is needed, please come to me, and I'll do my best. Nagamani, Shravani, Savitri and Shiva though are pursuing higher studies are still connected to us. They are connected to the organization. They haven't missed the connection.

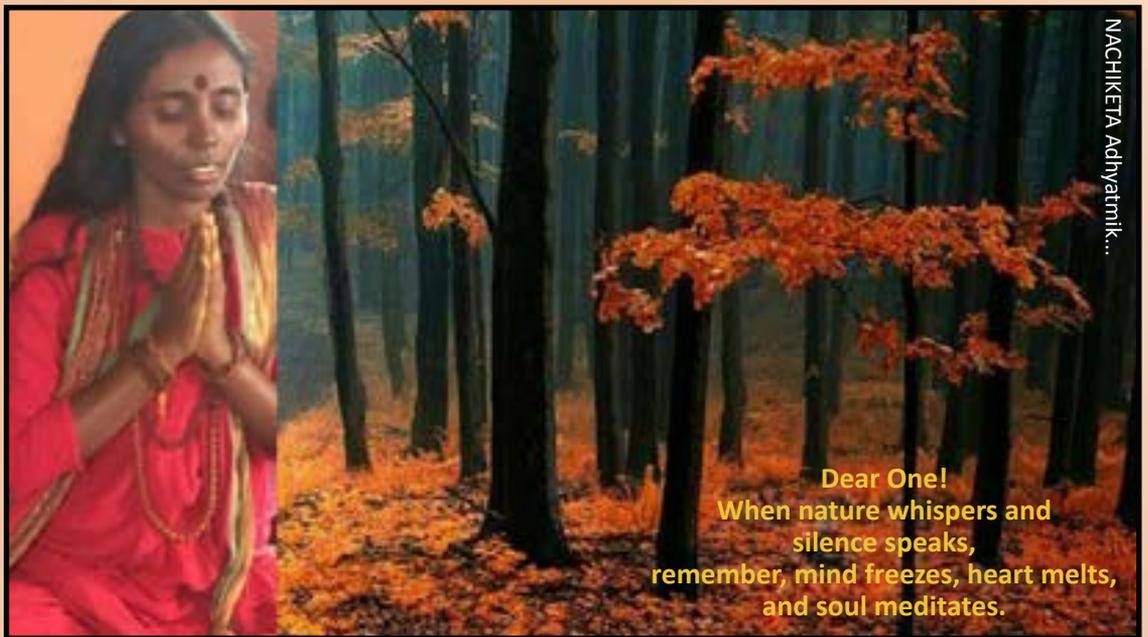
I want all of you children to stay connected. After 10th you will go out of Tapovan and pursue higher studies. But when you leave, please leave your footprint behind. Leave a rich legacy behind. People should remember you. You can always come back to the organization and serve the organization. I am totally happy and content. Nachiketa Tapovan has found a few gems in the form of Shiva, Nagamani, Sravani, Savitri and so on. They might not transform the society but they have transformed themselves. Prem chaitanya is in the process of transforming himself. Leave aside your inertia and do something. Seriousness is necessary. When lotus can bloom from muddy water we also can. Have that strong conviction in yourself. We are all from the same source but why is it there is only one Swami Vivekananda and not many? That question we should ask ourselves. It is your own life and you have to enjoy by all means. But you should have the knowledge to experience.

Only then you can enjoy? Then where is the source of that knowledge. My dear children, you yourself are the source. The source is within you. I am enjoying my life because I have found the source within and I am connected to that source. I am able to experience life, then why not you? We are all from the same source. If I can, you too can! Your life is very much with you but you are not aware of your own life. Please understand that no one has stolen your life. It is very much with you. But you are making your life miserable because you are lacking the awareness. If you are not able to grow then why blame others? Blame yourselves.

Nachiketa Tapovan is making some sense in your lives but eventually it is you yourself who has to understand life. The organization is trying to stretch itself in bringing change in your lives. But that is not enough. You have to change from within. Make a promise that you will search your own life... promise that you will touch your own life... promise that you will touch others' lives by touching your own lives.

Hari Om Tat Sat!

- Swami Nachiketanaanda Puri





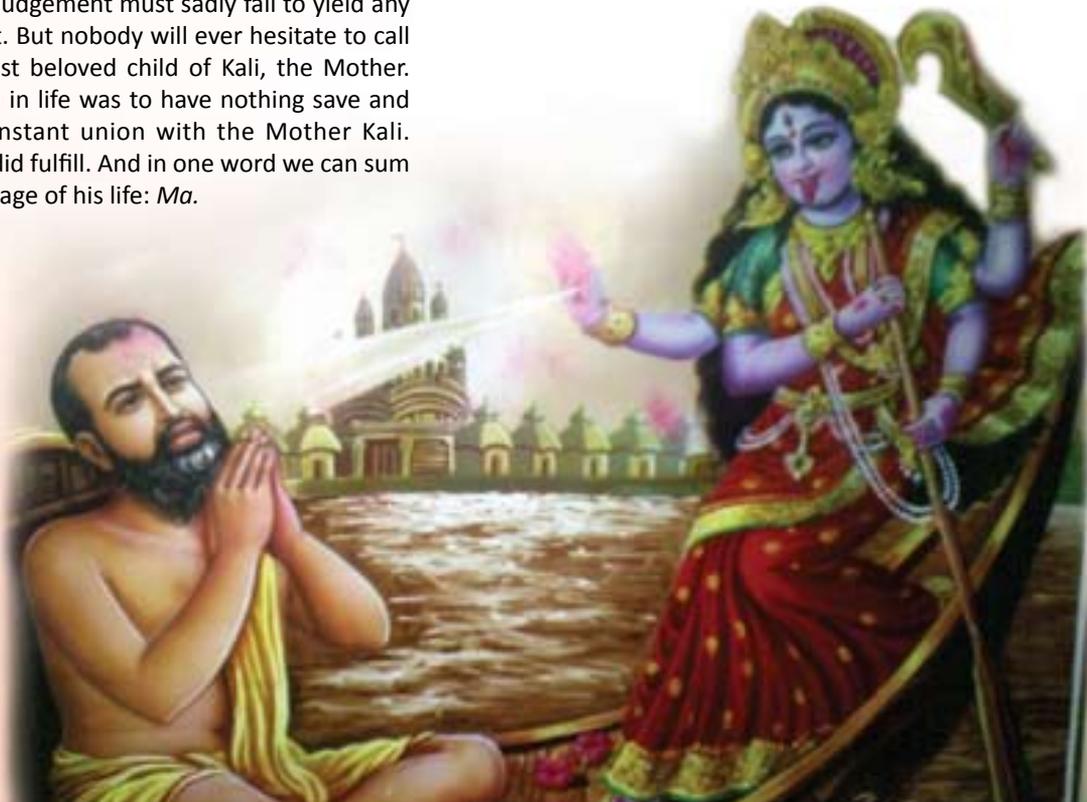
The child of Kali

The child Ramakrishna was at once God-centric and God-intoxicated. It is often that a God-lover is misunderstood and considered to be a lunatic of the first water. Sri Ramakrishna was no exception in the eyes of some of his countrymen. As a child cries to his mother for sweets and toys, so did the child Ramakrishna cry for love and devotion to his Mother Kali. And this love and devotion is nothing other than the secret key to open the door to God-realization.

Ramakrishna will appear to one as a man of overflowing emotion, to a second as an ardent aspirant, to a third as a man of philosophical wisdom, to a fourth as a man of unique sincerity. It is obvious that different persons should possess different opinions regarding his personality. For in a matter like this, a flawless analysis on an intellectual basis is next to impossible, and all our human judgement must sadly fail to yield any useful result. But nobody will ever hesitate to call him the most beloved child of Kali, the Mother. His sole aim in life was to have nothing save and except a constant union with the Mother Kali. His aim he did fulfill. And in one word we can sum up the message of his life: *Ma*.

A wonderful swimmer in the sea of Brahman's Silence, a unique clarion in the world-atmosphere of the Spirit's expression was Sri Ramakrishna. Although he had attained to the transcendental plane, he preferred to be the flute to be played by his Mother Kali. To cite him: "I do not want to be sugar, but I want to taste sugar"...

It was Ramakrishna who peacefully housed in himself the Cosmic and Trans-cosmic Consciousness with all possible inclusiveness of outlook. What he felt was spontaneous. What he said was spontaneous. What he did was spontaneous. He had no purpose of his own, and whatever we apparently hold to have been his purpose, that too, to our astonishment, was never influenced by the stream of desire. He had no will save that of his Mother Kali. Consequently, an occasion never



arose in his self-dedicated life to the Mother on which he had to hold himself responsible for any of his activities.

We can easily come to the conclusion that the descent of Avatars like Sri Ramakrishna with a human body is intended simply to uplift and further the progress of mankind in the evolutionary process...

Naturally, we do not and cannot know all the phases of Sri Ramakrishna's mystic life. But what we dare understand is this: that he taught us how to call to the Mother. No doubt we are Her children, but it is absolutely necessary to feel that She is our real Mother, and that we are Her real children, and that we have every right to demand of Her all our needs, which She will never fail to fulfill for us.

It is quite surprising that Naren, the dearest disciple of Ramakrishna, had in the beginning no faith in Mother Kali. Days ran into weeks, weeks into months, and months into years, yet the proud head of Naren would not surrender to Kali. In season and out he would argue with his Master about the authenticity of divinity in the Mother. At times the Master was hurt. But the Mother used to brush off his qualms. Once She told Her child that in due time Naren would have faith in Her and stop arguing with him. With a heart full of certitude the Master said to his hesitating disciple that a time would come when at the mere mention of Mother Kali his eyes would shed tears. Infallible was his prophecy. In after years Vivekananda says: "How I used to hate Kali and all Her ways! That was the ground of my six years' fight — that I would not accept Her. But I had to accept Her at last. Ramakrishna Paramahansa dedicated me to Her, and now I believe that She guides me in every little thing I do, and does with me what She wills."

He made bold to declare so on the strength of his supreme identification with his Father. Now I must bring Sri Ramakrishna's consort on the scene. Sarada Devi constantly felt and saw that the child of Kali had completely identified himself with his Mother. So to her he was neither her husband nor the God-man Ramakrishna, but *Kali*.

Compilation source:

'Vivekananda: an ancient silence-heart and a modern dynamism-life' by Sri Chinmoy

Nachiketa

इन्द्र-इहक्ति

...a spiritual calling

Is Streeshakti a mere title? Come, let's break the stereotype! Welcoming woman power that moulds, nurtures and transforms the world. Nachiketa Tapovan Ashram is a sanctuary where our most beloved Adhyatmik Praneta, Paramahansa Swami Shivananda Puri, is here to guide and initiate women

- ◆ who are passionate towards serving the needy
- ◆ who are deeply rooted in moral and spiritual values
- ◆ who look forward for Spiritual awakening

We are looking for...

- ◆ **Sevakas:** Women who are willing to work at the Ashram receiving basic salary
- ◆ **Sevavratris:** Women who prefer to offer voluntary services with or without honorarium for a duration of their choice
- ◆ **Sadhakas:** Seekers of Truth who are willing to receive Sadhana or various initiations like Yog Shakti Deeksha, Mantra Deeksha, Kriyayog and Chaturashram Deekshas like Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Vanaprastha and Sanyasa Deeksha etc to explore the inner world and express inner beauty by way of Karmayoga or service to humanity

Note:

- The power of discretion and autonomy in selecting candidates and decision making lies with the Ashram Management
- Food and Accommodation with basic amenities will be provided at the Ashram
- Our gentle appeal is not to consider Ashram as an orphanage or old age home

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Holy Mother

*T*HE HOLY MOTHER Sri Sarada Devi is THE ROLE MODEL for the women of this age. Her life is wonderful indeed! Assuming human form, she led the life of an ordinary housewife, but she was in truth Primordial Energy in person, the Mother of the universe. The scriptures mention Kali, Tara, Shodashi and others as the ten Mahavidyas. Mother, one of these ten, incarnated herself in order to fulfill the Sri Ramakrishna's mission of founding the Yuga Dharma. How can ordinary beings know her true identity? She concealed her divinity so well that it was beyond one's power to know her. Master alone knew who she really was, and Swami Vivekananda too, to some extent. Before travelling to the west, Swamiji confined his plans to Mother alone and crossed the oceans with her blessings. Mother, too, blessing him wholeheartedly, said "Son, may you return of Saraswati". That's just what took place. With Mother's blessings, Swamiji conquered the world. Such deep reverence he had for her! He used to say that he had gone overseas and conquered the world with Mother's blessings. At times he would go so far as to claim that Mother was greater than even the Master! His reverence for Mother was such magnitude! Master himself had once declared. "if she who dwells in Nahabat is displeased with someone, it will be beyond my power even to protect him".

Primordial Energy had incarnated Herself as Mother in order to awaken the women of the world. Her advent followed by an unprecedented awakening of the women of the world. They are now resolved to build up their lives in all-round gracefulness and to advance in all directions. Not much has been achieved yet, for this is just the beginning. As the Vedic and Pauranic times saw the efflorescence of wonderful characters like Gargi, Maitreyi, Sita, Savitri, and others likewise this age will see the blossoming of even greater characters among women. There is remarkable activation among women in the spheres of spiritual pursuits, politics, science, the arts, literature, etc. And more is to come. This is the play of Divine Power, the mysterious significance of which is beyond conception of ordinary mortals.

**Source: Reminiscences of Sri Sarada Devi
by Monastics, Devotees, & Others
Compiled & Edited in Bengali by Swami Purnatmananda
Translated by Maloti Sen Gupta**



LETTERS WRITTEN BY SARADA DEVI

(To Mahendra Nath Gupta - on his publishing Kathamrita)

Dear Child,

Whatever you had heard from him (Ramakrishna) is nothing but the truth. You need not feel any diffidence about it. At one time it was he who had placed those words with you. And it is now he who is bringing them to the light of the day according to the needs of the time. Know it for certain that unless these words are published, man will not have his consciousness awakened. All the words of his that you have with you everyone of them is true. One day when you read them out to me I felt as if it was he who was speaking.

Jairambati,
21st Ashada, 1304,
(4th July, 1897)

The Vrindavan Love...

There are so many wonderful stories of Krishna's time in Vrindavan, when he tended to the cows and went out with his cowherd friends and the Gopis.

One of my favourite ones is when Krishna has returned home in the evening after grazing the cows, his mother, Yashodha Maiya, is fussing over him and drenching Krishna with her motherly affection when she notices that there are a few blades of grass sticking between his toes. With tears in her eyes, she chides him for not wearing the shoes she has stitched for him from the softest fabric possible. To which he tells Yashodha Maiya that it is not possible for him to wear shoes and walk on the land, a land where the *Brijvaasies* lay their hearts out on to the ground for him so that his feet aren't hurt. Therefore, how can he trample anyone's heart wearing shoes? It is bad enough that he is walking on this land with his feet, he should be doing it standing on his head.

Now when you grow up listening to such stories of devotion and love, you also want to walk this land only barefooted...

I did the *Parikrama* of the Govardhan Parvath (also referred to as Girirajji or the Lord of hills) one morning. By the end of the three hours of walking barefooted, my feet were blistered, bleeding and aching.

I walked alone from 5 am to 7:30 am, and chanted the *Mahamantra* and *Jai Jai Shri Radhey*. The scenery changed from the setting golden yellow moon in the inky blue sky to the rising sun, golden yellow too, in the light blue sky. I thought about how both the colours are associated with Krishna, Yellow (*pitambar*) and Blue (*shyam*).

Till today, I had viewed these stories as mere stories, said to add to the romance and devotional fragrance of Lord Krishna's childhood lore...but today, I experienced this love and devotion at a completely different level...as my feet were bruised and bleeding, each step hurt a little more than the previous one...and each time, I smiled a little more deeply than before and chanted the name of Sri Radha and Sri Krishna with ever more love and reverence. The pain of the blisters was 'sweet', it spoke of love, it spoke of devotion... not just mine, but of everyone who has walked this beautiful land as a pilgrim.

And before I knew it, I had completed the *Parikrama* in record time...something I wasn't capable of doing, it was simply and purely 'grace' of Shri Radhaji and my beloved Krishna.

Jai Jai Sri Radhey!!!

**Hare Krishna Hare Krishna
Krishna Krishna Hare Hare
Hare Ram Hare Ram
Ram Ram Hare Hare**

- *Gautam Vir*





Two mothers and a son

Bhuvaneshwari, Sarada Devi and Naren



*S*weeter than the sweetest is the smile of our physical mother. Deeper than the deepest is her affection. Mightier than the mightiest is the power of her blessing. Vaster than the vastest is her hope for her son.

If there be anything never-to-be forgotten, it is the reminiscences of one's own mother. "Wife and children may desert a man, but his mother never," so says Vivekananda. In his childhood and boyhood Vivekananda found his confidante in nobody else save his mother; and from her he inherited not only moral purity and aesthetic sense, but also many intellectual faculties and a unique memory. His mother's commanding personality could easily win the respect and veneration of all who came in contact with her. Her son's influence shook the world, and her influence moulded his life considerably...

In after years, many times Vivekananda spoke of his mother with a deep sense of gratitude. "It is my mother who has been the constant inspiration of my life and work."

In 1894 Vivekananda was a guest of Mrs. Ole Bull in America. To comply with her request he gave a lecture on "The ideals of Indian Women" to the women of Cambridge, suburb of Boston. They were so charmed by it that they could not help writing a letter to his mother in India.

"To The Mother of Swami Vivekananda,
Dear Madam,

..we, who have your son in our midst, send you greetings. His generous service to men, women and children in our midst was laid at your feet by him in an address he gave us the other day on 'The Ideals of Indian Women.' The worship of his mother will be to all who heard him an inspiration and an uplift... Accept, dear Madam, our grateful

recognition of your life and work in and through your son. And may it be accepted by you as a slight token of remembrance to serve in its use as a tangible reminder that the world is coming to its true inheritance from God, Brotherhood and Unity.”...

Now let us turn to his spiritual mother, Sarada Devi. However great the earthly mother may be, her love is no match for the disinterested love of the spiritual Mother. Vivekananda’s deepest conviction about the spiritual Mother runs:

“Eternal, unquestioning self-surrender to the Mother alone can give us peace. Love her for herself, without fear... Love her because you are her child. See her in all, good and bad alike. Then alone will come ‘Sameness’ and Bliss Eternal that is Mother herself..”

Once Vivekananda’s physical mother went to the Belur Math with one of her woman friends. She showed her friend the newly constructed buildings and the beautiful surroundings and remarked, “My Naren has done all this.” Sarada Devi and Naren also happened to be nearby. Vivekananda in no time corrected his mother, saying, “Not your Naren,” and pointing to Sarada Devi, “but hers. Your Naren is by no means capable of such achievements.”

On the eve of his departure for America he decided that he would cross the seas only after having some concrete indications from his Master. He waited and waited, but in vain. At last he argued that his spiritual Mother and the Master were one and the same, and that he would seek her permission to go abroad. Accordingly he wrote a letter to Sarada Devi from Madras. By the time he received a letter from her he had had a dream in which he saw his Master Sri Ramakrishna proceed to the West over the waves and waters. This he took for approval of his plan. Presently he received whole-hearted permission from his spiritual Mother. With redoubled faith he was able to undertake his historic voyage...

When the Swadeshi movement was in full swing, Sarada Devi once remarked, “Had my Naren been alive, he could not have remained quiet and would have surely been put in jail.” This indicates

how constantly she cherished the memory of her darling Naren, whom she would not allow to go anywhere alone after his triumphant return from the West...

On the day of Sri Ramakrishna’s passing, his disciples and consort were standing by him. An excruciating pain was in their hearts. Sarada Devi’s eyes were full of tears, for soon her Kali (Ramakrishna) would pass behind the curtain of eternity. Naren was confused — almost baffled. Suddenly to their surprise Sri Ramakrishna, to whose life remained a few fleeting hours, said to Sarada Devi: “Why do you weep so bitterly? *I leave your Naren with you.*”

We have dealt with the two mothers, physical and spiritual. Now let us focus our attention on their son. It will not be sufficient to say that Vivekananda was the son or brother or friend of so and so. Who, then, was Vivekananda? Or was there any need for anyone to ask him for his credentials? Let us leave J.H. Wright to answer it. “To ask you, Swami, for your credentials is like asking the Sun to state its right to shine.”

“The very fact that Ramakrishna’s chosen instrument for world-work was Vivekananda, a complex passionate analytic mind, a highly cultured master of system and organisation, a richly endowed physical nature, shows that India moves instinctively to grip earth no less than heaven. At least the intention of Ramakrishna was to reshape through Vivekananda the whole of the country’s life in the light of God-realisation.” With these most significant words K.D. Sethna has depicted with unsurpassed mastery Vivekananda’s life-long mission.

Compilation Source:
Vivekananda: an ancient silence-heart and a modern dynamism-life by Sri Chinmoy

CHANGE IN TITLE

Please Note

The subtitle of this magazine
‘an offering..’

will be removed and
Nachiketanjali
will be the sole title from our
January 2016 issue.



Time... Never Returns

*M*y article did not appear in the magazine in the month of October... Do you know why? It's because I was lethargic and didn't know how to manage my time. I had started to take everything for granted and I even procrastinated. So, when I had the time to write my article, i.e., when I was sitting at home with nothing to do, I decided to do it later. And that was a big mistake. Later when I thought I would write the article, I had no time! It would be because I was studying for exams or because I was shifting my residence or something or the other. Finally I ended up not having my article published in the magazine. So if this article is anything, it is a diary entry of all my mistakes with time, and an apology to all those whom I have taken for granted.

If you had to study for an exam and had a party to attend, which one would you do first? Of course we all would like to go to the party because it's fun. But the thing about time and fun is that, time flies by when you're having fun! That is why we must finish our work first, and then do whatever we like! There are two reasons for this. If we finish our work first, then we can have all the time to do anything we want. Secondly, if you want to enjoy first, then there is something nagging you about the work that is pending, and this does not let you enjoy thoroughly. If your work is done then there is nothing left to think about, right? Just enjoy!

My mother is the perfect living example for finishing work before doing anything she likes. She used to watch a television show at 9 pm, and that is usually the time when we would just finish eating dinner, and so there would be some amount of work to be done, like washing the dishes, getting some things ready for the next day, leaving the curd for it to set, etc. Yet she would finish everything quickly and then she would watch her show. In the instance that her work is not done she would even skip her show! From this what we should learn is that, your work and duty should come before your pleasure.

In my previous article I have said that you should grab an opportunity whenever you get it. Same way use your time whenever you have it. Because if you waste time, you won't get it back. You find out the value of things only after you lose them, and the same goes with time.

As you saw in my case, I wasted my time and poof! No article!

You shouldn't waste your time for sure, but you shouldn't waste other people's time definitely! My best friend for instance, does not know when he should end a phone call. Many a time, when I have some work to do, and I am speaking to him, though I tell him that I need to go, he won't hang up because he doesn't understand the gravity of

the situation. There is also a mistake on my part, as I didn't assert myself enough, but hey, a friend is a friend! As it is, I waste a lot of time, and to top it I have a friend like this! Just wonderful! What I am trying to say from this is if you don't know the value of your own time, at least learn to value other peoples' time. Especially people who have a limited amount of time on this earth. I have repeatedly emphasised on the importance of spending time with your elders in my previous articles. They won't be around for long, so you should spend some quality time with them. Don't waste your time watching television or speaking on the phone or chatting on whatsapp. I'm not saying that you shouldn't do those things at all. I am saying that when you have the time to be with your grandparents don't waste it on something else.

Finally, I'd like to say that time is a very peculiar thing. We don't know when it comes and when it goes. All of us would like a time machine, but considering that we don't have one, let's just learn to manage our time well. Then maybe, we won't even need a time machine!

With your time you should not mess about.

Meanwhile, I'm going to take a time out!

N. Rohan C. Govind
Class 11,

GT Aloha Vidya Mandir, Chennai



*"The time that is passed, never returns.
The witness that is unsurpassed, never moves.
The knower that knows the time is beyond time.
The timeless."*

- Sw. Chidananda Tirtha

An Appeal

Basic education is a distant dream for hundreds of underprivileged in and around the villages of Jadcherla Mandal. Education is the fundamental right of every child. Nachiketa Tapovan Vidya Mandir strives to make basic education an achievable goal for these children.

Help us Build! Help us secure a safer place!

ONGOING PROJECTS:

- Classrooms
- Toilets for children



The rapidly rising costs of building materials have placed a great strain on our ability to complete these projects. With your helping hands we aim to change the course of many.

Our Requirement, Our Request

S.No.	Particulars	Specification	Amount	We need
1	Single Classroom accommodating 25 children	Outer Dimension 30'.0" x 30'.0" Construction area: 980 sq.ft	₹ 8 Lakhs per classroom.	8 classrooms
2	Single Toilet Complex	Outer Dimension for each complex 34'.0" x 18'.0" accommodating 5 toilets in 1 complex.	₹ 90,000/- per toilet.	10 Toilets In 2 complexes.
3	Septic Tank	Dimensions 20' x 10' x 10' (L x W x D)	₹ 9 Lakhs	1 Septic Tank

About How You Can Help:

- ◆ by contributing to our Building Fund
- ◆ by donating building materials (steel, cement, bricks, sand, sanitary fittings, electrical fittings, tiles, flooring, paint, window glass, etc.)
- ◆ by donating classroom requirements like desks, mats, blackboards, e-learning kit, stationery etc.
- ◆ help us raise Corpus Fund for projects to become self-sustainable.

All Donations are exempted from I.T. Under 80-G & accorded permission under FCRA

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A CASE FOR NOT MISUSING PRIVILEGES

I was a visit to a holy abode of God. I had all my bookings intact, which were made months before the actual visit. The day we actually went to the temple happened to be a local festival. Understandably, the temple was teeming with people in serpentine queues. Some people were quietly dwelling on God and waiting for their turn, while a few others were getting impatient and dodging the others. In this *melee*, I noticed a few people, having acquaintances in the temple's management board, being able to have a quick *Darshan*. Contacts at play!

Then, the other day a visit to a government office showed how important knowing someone in power was. Tasks could be done quickly and with less effort. The officer had written something and handed it over to the juniors. And lo! The work was done with doubled speed. The work was something in the routine nature of activities of the office. Those coming through the prescribed procedure had to wait longer. As mentioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in his address to the nation on Independence Day, contacts or rather 'recommendation' is a plus point even while applying for jobs and for promotions. In fact, even people without any proven track record or limited qualifications secure good jobs, while those qualified have to stand in the queue. This is the case more so in the private sector.

Hopefully, this scenario will change in the future. Why should we rely on knowing someone to get our work done? I think it is a two-pronged problem – one, it is giving birth to a culture based on privileges and not rights, and second, it is a breeding ground for corruption. When someone

does something for us, it is mostly in expectation of a future return of favour. This way, the cycle of give and take begins. Does this mean that we should never take someone's help?

Taking help is different from expecting a favour. We should respect the systems in place. Violation of established practices should be an exception and not a rule. We should be mindful to not misuse our privileges. I remember reading a speech of Subroto Bagchi, the famous Indian entrepreneur and business author. He related how his father, a District Employment Officer, taught him propriety by using the government's jeep allotted to him only to tour the interiors of the district. He did not even use it for commuting to office on normal days. The jeep was 'an expensive resource' of the government; it was not his personal asset. Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, our beloved former President too forsook privilege on many occasions.

God rarely makes people like Mr. Bagchi's father and Dr. Kalam these days. However, we could aspire to walk on the path shown by them. Isn't it better to obey the rules and get our job done? What is required is only a little more patience and awareness. Patience to wait till we are heard, and awareness to know our rights. This is the first step towards removing corruption in public life. Let us look inwards and weigh our actions. Mahatma Gandhi dreamt that even the last person in the queue should be sufficiently served. Let us work towards fulfilling that aspiration and build a wonderful nation.

- Neetika Gogula

An advocate and has passion for writing on social issues.





The Mistaken Me

She was a little girl aged nine and was the apple of her mother's eye. Avni was not very popular at school. At times, children talked behind her back. For example, one day, while Avni was walking in the corridor of school, she heard someone whispering about her. She turned around to find two girls looking at her in disgust and poking fun at her gait. Avni was not surprised. She was accustomed to other children jeering and sneering at her. She had tried complaining to the teacher several times. Would she listen?! NO! Avni was not only disliked in school, but also was not very good at her studies. Teachers were disappointed each year to find her in their class. Avni was used to this too.



Avni, even though she was not as clever as other children, she too adored learning; things that we would not define as regular education. Every afternoon, Avni would run down the hill, where there was a wonderful garden. It was covered with the most beautiful trees and plants that one could ever imagine. There she would sit, having the time of her life. She would tear down leaves and observe them very carefully. One day, while she was deciding which leaf looked irregular to her and would be interesting to observe, she heard a feeble voice. She knew it would not be wise to go closer to the source of this unknown voice and decided to go home. It was getting dark as the sun was setting. She slowly started hobbling back home but the voice was becoming stronger.

It seemed to say – “Don't despair Avni. All is well. Be proud of who you are and what you can do. Don't look back and regret what you cannot do. Give the world what you have and it will know you well.” Avni was stunned at what she heard. Maybe it was her inner voice, she thought. That incident brought about a great change in her confidence and behavior.

In school, she set out on a mission to come out of her shyness and reach out to others in any ways she could. Slowly, the teachers and kids started taking notice of her as a guide, leader and most of all as a friend. When the time came for the awards ceremony, Avni's parents and she were surprised

to hear her name announced for the “Best Turn around” award. Everyone watched her as she nervously stumbled up the dais. That's when they took notice of her artificial leg. That explained her funny gait, her stumble and her limp. She had actually lost her limb saving her friend out of a serious fire accident. The audience was in tears and at the same time in great honor for this girl who was a joke but turned out a champion!

That evening Avni visited her favorite garden down the hill. As she started back home, the voice echoed “Well done my child!”

- Anjali Vinodh,
4B, NPS HSR



NAVARATRI

Nine Celestial Nights



Navaratri festivities at the Nachiketa Tapovan Ashram started on 13th October 2015. Volunteers and children of Nachiketa Tapovan Vidya Mandir arrived a day earlier to take part in the celebrations. There was a festive spirit all around.

Swamiji and Mataji premeditated an array of activities giving us novel concepts of experiencing the Divine. Every day would begin with *Abhishekam* to Divine Mother Kali at Ma Yoga Shakthi Peetham, who was worshipped as Nava Durgas during Navaratri. Our young volunteers Manga and Krishna assisted by the children would do the *Alankarana* and Mataji with her divine touch would bring life into the form. *Pooja* rituals were performed by Maheshwari and the melody in her voice would push everyone into a trance like state. *Arati* would be given by Mataji and volunteers and everyone would be transfixed by Mother's resplendent beauty.

Sadhakas would continue their *sadhana* at Ma Yoga Shakthi Peetham. *Kumkuma puja*, *Devi Mahatmya Parayana* and *Havan* were followed by the evening *arati* which was attended by Swamiji who was observing *Mouna deeksha*. It was mesmerizing to see the children engrossed in the night-long *sadhana*.

Divine Mother manifested as Shailaputri, Brahmacharini, Chandraghanta, Kushmanda, Skandamata, Katyayani, Kalaratri, Maha Gowri and Siddhidatri during Navaratri. Devotees

from neighbouring villages and *tandas* would descend on the Ashram to seek Mother's blessings and some of them took *deeksha* from Mataji for Navaratri. *Bathukamma* was celebrated enthusiastically at the Ashram.

Time flew past unnoticed and before anyone realized, Navaratri festivities came to an end on the day of Vijayadasami. Mother's victory was celebrated with *dandiya* by our young Nachiketans.

Swamiji ended his *mouna deeksha* on the morning of Vijayadasami and delivered his divine discourse which highlighted the most important aspect that women should always be protected and respected and it is everyone's responsibility to counter harassment of women.

We thank Smt Vasundhara and Vijaya for dishing out delicious *prasadam*s from our Anna-purna (kitchen) and for taking care of feeding everyone who arrived at the Ashram. We also thank the cooks and all *karmayogis* who helped in glorifying Navaratri celebrations. Brahmachari Prema Chaitanya deserves special appreciation for carrying out meticulously all the tasks entrusted to him by Swamiji and Mataji.

All nine days and nights were spent in tune with the Divine and at the end every *sadhaka* was awarded with rich spiritual experiences. Divine Mother enraptured everyone with Her grace, revealing the magic spiritual world through many mystic messages. All souls were united on one thread- the thread of devotion.



*I can walk
with you but
I can't walk
for you*

- Swami Nachiketananda Puri



शरीर

जहाँ आचार लाचार हो जाते हैं
रिश्तो के मायने बदल जाते हैं
जब शरीर बस शरीर दिखाई देता है
बलात्कार तो वही हो जाता है।

इंसान अन्धा नहीं है
वह अन्धा हो जाता है
जब शरीर बस शरीर दिखाई देता है
बलात्कार तो वही हो जाता है।

लाचारी अकारण है
कारण तो बस एक ही है
जब शरीर बस शरीर दिखाई देता है
बलात्कार तो वही हो जाता है।

बलात्कार हमारी सोच में है
ना कि शास्त्रों में और धर्मों में
जब शरीर बस शरीर दिखाई देता है
बलात्कार तो वही हो जाता है।

वो लाचार नहीं, ना ही अबला है
वो तो बस दुनिया का विश्वास करती है
वर्ना है किसी में हिम्मत की हाथ लगाये
जलाकर राख कर देगी, वो माँ भवानी है।

स्वामी नचिकेतानंद पुरी

Dare not... she is fire... she is marching!

Nachiketa samskriti



Na janaami sabdham, na janaami cha artham,
Na janami padyam, na janami gadhyam,
Chideka shadaasyaa hrudhi dyothathe may,
Mukhanthissaranthe giraschapi chithram.

*Though I do not know words,
Nor the meanings of words,
Nor the form of prose or verse,
The six headed one shines in my heart,
And wonder of wonders,
Words flow from my heart without a stop,
And make a pretty picture using words.*



A PILGRIM LOOKS AT THE WORLD

A Pilgrim Looks at the World, is a running narrative, interspersed with observations and comments, by Swami Ranganathananda, of his many lecture tours abroad. Several of these tours of Swamiji were sponsored and organized by the Government of India through its Ministries of Education and External Affairs.

I have the great fortune of being his disciple; he gave me *mantra diksha* in 1994. This book was suggested by Swami Satyalokananda to me. It is unfortunate however that the book's last edition is in 1990 and I found it after much difficulty and paid a small sum of Rs.55 for the first volume. This book has become my cherished possession now as I feel Swamiji is with me as I am reading his narrative. I can visualize him writing his diary even after exhaustive talks sometimes 4 to 5 in a day and in distant places and still find time to write. He has written about the history of the places, background of universities and his impressions on the temples he has visited.

I would like to however give his impressions about his lecture tour of Japanese Universities in 1958. He has even found time to visit Maruzen co Ltd, the biggest book publishers and book sellers of Tokyo to impress upon them to stock the books on Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda literature. He had with him books on *Ramakrishna Mission: its ideals and Activites*, *Thus spake Vivekananda*, and *Vivekananda's Chicago address and My Master* etc. which he handed over to the University libraries.

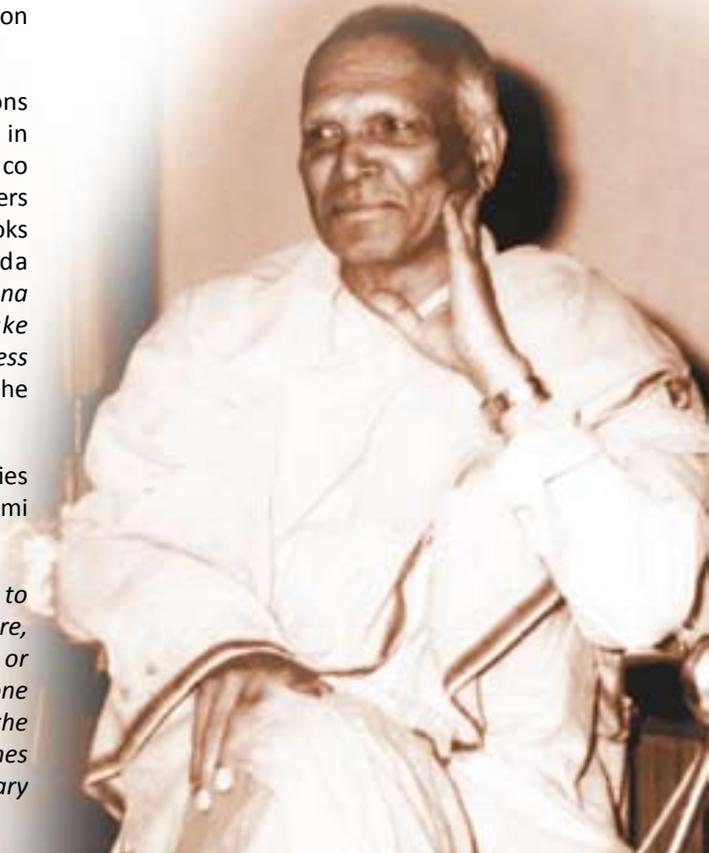
He would in all his lectures in the Universities write on the black board the statements of Swami Vivekananda:

Each soul is potentially Divine; the goal is to manifest this Divine within by controlling nature, external and internal, Do this either by work, or worship, or psychic control, or philosophy, by one or more or by all of these, and be free. This is the whole of religion. Doctrines and dogmas, churches and temples, rituals and forms, are but secondary details.

His impressions on one of the lectures he gave at Tsurumi Women's College are given in his own narrative below:

'I gave a 44 minutes speech, translated sentence by sentence. The subject covered the themes of Buddha, Ramakrishna, Vivekananda, education, religion, citizenship, and meditation. The speech was a clear presentation of education and religion as a single discipline of life –development and fulfillment, and was listened to with attention and interest.

What amazed me was that the thousand girls, who were sitting on the bare floor in the Japanese national style, with the legs folded back and the haunches resting on them, never



changed position, never turned their attention from the speaker and his speech to here and there, during the whole of the lecture! It presented the picture of the Japanese youths' discipline of body and mind in a vivid manner. This discipline of body and mind is what the Indian tradition calls *tapas*. The essence of education, says Swami Vivekananda, is concentration of mind and not memorizing of facts and formulae. Japanese education puts this emphasis on the *training of the mind*, whereas Indian education confines itself today to the *stuffing of the brain*. Concentration and training of the mind were the characteristics of Indian education in times past; but not in recent times. The result is that India is losing that capacity of physical and mental discipline, that age old capacity of *tapas*, which is the basis of all personality efficiency. The attention of most of the students, and even of adults, in India, in class rooms, lecture halls, and music halls, can get distracted, I have again and again observed, by a new arrival into the class room or hall, or even by a bird flying across the room or hall! The absence of a disciplined will behind movements of the mind makes one's attention weak; it is such weak attention that *automatically* gets snatched away from the speaker or singer towards an intruding phenomenon, without even the awareness of the person concerned!

I feel I am doing injustice by not sharing the entire book but only taking out bits and pieces. I will in the coming months share many more of his impressions. Until next month 'sayanora'.

Compiled by Geetha Koduru

**Source: 'A Pilgrim Looks at the World'
by Swami Ranganathananda
(Bharati Vidya Bhavan – Bombay)**

Nachiketa विद्या

An Appeal for Corpus Fund

For ₹ 1 Lakh

Your donation will last a lifetime, Turn around their future!

VIDYA MANDIR, HYDERABAD

*a free Home School for underprivileged children
&*

VIDYA MANDIR, KODGAL

a free Home School for Tribal and local children

- Nachiketa Tapovan aims at imparting a value-based education
- Education is received by 262 children from Vidya Mandir Hyderabad from levels 1-10 and 150 tribal and local children from Vidya Mandir at Kodgal.
- We also have Yoga, Arts & Crafts, Vocational Training, Music, Dance, Sanskrit and Computer classes as a part of the curriculum

We appeal to Sponsors to help us educate them by joining our

Sponsor-a-Child Corpus Fund

structure which is a great opportunity to make a difference in a child's life- the chance to form a lasting, meaningful relationship with a child. All your kindness will add up to a bright future.

- ✍ Interest accruing from your donation is only used without touching the principal itself. This way your DONATION remains forever
- ✍ At present, we only have 78 corpus sponsorships. Help us reach all of our 262 children in Hyderabad & 150 children in Kodgal
- ✍ Donors receive annual report card
- ✍ We express our thanks to Corpus Donors by permanently inscribing their names on the recognition board at Nachiketa Tapovan

All Donations are exempted from I.T. Under 80-G & accorded permission under FCRA

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SRINIVASA RAMANUJAN

(22/12/1887 – 26/04/1920)

When we were children, we were playing billa-danda (akin to the present cricket); we were projecting marbles to strike another marble in a shallow ditch on the ground and if the marble in the ditch gets out, then that boy is a winner (in an elastic collision between two bodies linear momentum is conserved); in a race, boys rolling the worn out wheel, the winner gets sweet mints from the losers; during those days, young Ramanujan was playing with numbers.

In an elementary school, one day mathematics teacher was explaining division (one of the four fundamental mathematical rules) and drilling them (to teach by repeated exercise). As the teacher was giving examples like $8/8 = 1$, $15/15=1$... Ramanujan stood up and asked the teacher the value of $0/0=?$ The teacher was stupefied.

Ramanujan studied Pythagoras theorem. He knew that $X^3+Y^3 \neq Z^3$. He wanted to work out $X^3+Y^3+Z^3=XYZ$, where X, Y and Z are digits only. He caught hold of: $1^3+5^3+3^3= 1+125+27= 153$. He was very happy. There after he got 370, 371 and 407 following the same rule and no other number below 1000.

Ramanujan passed first in first class in Matriculation from Madras University in 1903. He was awarded "Subrahmanyam" scholarship for higher education. It was a gift for him and a boon to the impoverished family. He joined in F.A. (Fellow of Arts) in Kumbakonam Government college. He had to study English, Sanskrit, Tamil, Mathematics, Physiology and Greek History. His interest was in Mathematics; he could not get time for the other subjects. Consequently, he failed in the examination. Ramanujan had no alternative except to seek for a job. He joined as a petty clerk in Madras Port Trust. Later Justice Sundaram Ayyer recognised that he was a bright and sincere worker and called him to his office bringing all the material with him. A few days later, Justice Ayyer recommended appointing him as a research student in Madras University.



In 1909, Ramanujan married Janaki, then nine years old. In 1911, the Indian Mathematical Society Journal was published and his work – theory of partitions and the theory of continued fractions –was judged as the best by eminent mathematicians. In 1913, Madras University Board of Studies Chairman, Prof. Hanumantha Rao and Justice Sundaram Ayyer, recommended to appoint Ramanujan as Research Student with remuneration of Rs.75 per month. In 1914, he got overseas research scholarship from the University of Madras. Ramanujan became famous overseas. Professors of Cambridge University G.H.Hardy, Littlewood, E.H.Neville were requesting Ramanujan to join them but he politely denied as he did not want

to leave his parents. Once Nevilla, as a guest to Madras University, met him and persuaded him to join Cambridge University. He also told him that he would receive him in Cambridge.

Ramanujan joined the University and started his research work. He received Honorary B.A. degree from University of Cambridge in 1916 and on 28th February 1918, he was selected as a Fellow of the Royal Society. Though unwell he was working on Hyper geometric series, Fourier Series and Integrals, Elliptical Integrals and so on. Ramanujan was working in spite of his sickness but he was infected with T.B. and the weakening efforts forced him to go back home and live with his kith and kin. Ramanujan started on 27th February 1919 and reached Mumbai on 27th March 1919 and then to Madras on 2nd April 1919. He was continuing his work in spite of his illness.

When G.H Hardy learnt that Ramanujan was on the death-bed, he rushed to Madras to console his parents and Janaki. He offered fruits, flowers, medicines and an envelope. He encouraged them that he would be in good health soon. "May Jehovah bless you", he told Ramanujan that he reached his house in a taxi with plate number 1729 which is an ugly number. Ramanujan corrected him that it is a beautiful number because $1729=9^3+10^3$ and also it is 12^3+1^3 . Hardy was surprised, stood up to devote him and simultaneously Ramanujam said that 1729 is the product of three prime numbers which are sacred. Hardy asked him how he could say extempore and how he could understand the subject of his pursuit in various languages, Ramanujam looking at the portraits on the wall said that with the blessings of Lord Saranga Raja of Kumbakonam and Namagiri Teyaru he was able to interpret by just noting the notations and symbols used. The love he bore to learning and towards Saraswati was indescribable. For example—a figure implying a word, an idea or a sound such as those in use among the ancient Egyptians— this is Hieroglyph.

The greatest mathematical wizard succumbed to tuberculosis on 26-4-1920 at the age of thirty three.

"Those whom God loves die young".

- *K. V. Ramakrishna Sastry*



Parijatha

Parijatha is used for worship by Hindus and Buddhists. They are produced in clusters of two to seven together. These are apparently only flowers that Hindus offer to God picked from the ground instead of plucking from the tree.

According to mythology, this is a heavenly tree brought to earth by Sri Krishna. Both Satyabhama and Rukmini, Krishna's wives wanted the flower. So Krishna planted the tree in Satya-bhama's courtyard in a way that when the tree flowered, the flowers fell in Rukmini's courtyard. Another romantic story woven around the tree is about Parijataka, a princess. She fell in love with the sun but when he deserted her she committed suicide and a tree sprung from the ashes. Unable to stand the sight of the lover who left her, the tree flowers only at night and sheds them like tear-drops before the sun rises.

Botanical name: *Nyctanthes arbortristis*

Family: Oleaceae (Jasmine family)

Source: Info – Flowers of India, Wiki, Top
Tropicals.com



HOW INDEPENDENT ARE WE?

We earn money and we think we are independent. We acquire property, huge bank balance, investments, degrees, jobs, business, social status, glamour and we think we are independent.

Are we really independent?

When someone insults us or humiliates us or criticizes us we accept that easily without judging how true it is. On the other hand when someone praises us, which might be a lie or a flattering, we accept that too and become pleased or glad.

Are we really independent?

Do we ourselves know what are the qualities and weaknesses we have? Actually we don't find time for all this and hence we accept public opinion for us very easily.

Suppose we are working out to overcome our anger and suddenly one day we become angry. People start commenting "Oh! This is how you were trying to overcome your anger? This is what your practice or meditation results?" Even we start cursing ourselves- "that I cannot do it! I am a failure! I am not able to change my nature! I am so bad that for my own people I am bad! My own people don't accept me wholeheartedly! We start comparing ourselves with people around." But we forget here that while we are working out to overcome our weaknesses we will get all kind of feedbacks (praises and criticism) & those feedbacks are based on the *Sanskaras* (the habits acquired since past and present birth) of the people who are giving feedbacks.

We constrict ourselves to become dependent on others for letting us know how good and how bad are we. Just measuring the materialistic things that we accomplish is not sufficient to proclaim our independence.

It is very important to gauge ourselves with the help of below self-analysis tool:

Where I was?

Where I am?

Where I am heading?

This will help us not to fluctuate with public opinions (or what our family, our spouse, our siblings, our children or our friends comments) & get closer to the *Paramananda*.

Listen to the feedbacks but inside ourselves we need to know the complete truth about ourselves with the grace of Guru. We need not be dependent on people around for our happiness & sorrow, for our success & failure, for love & hatred, rather we should be dependent on the only Truth on which not only Gods & Goddesses and living beings, even the evil spirits are dependent is the Parabrahma.

For the attainment of liberation from the cycle of birth and death, for the *Paramananda*, every other dependence or independence of this materialistic world which is considered as *Maya* is not true.

- *Om Lokesh*



1500 Kms and 60 Years Journey for the Dosa Entrepreneur



The story covers geographic region from a small urban village in Tamil nadu- Vellore to the Premium Management Institute in the Steel City well known as XLRI. A small case study by a fresh graduate from Mithibai College, Mumbai.

The story has a humble beginning about 60 years back with Mr. Vardharaja taking a bold step to leave his native place in south and travelling all the way to Jamshedpur to do what he did best-make and sell *Dosas* and *Idly*. He did that whole of his life and now his grandson continues the legacy with hundreds of patrons who would vouch for his food and even more so his character.

Balaji Pillai, a 30 year old young chap struggling to make ends meet as he quit basic schooling to support his family of ailing father and sisters whom he had to settle in marriage. The patrons for his *dosa* and *idly* has grown over a period of time but sales have declined.



Kriti Agarwal interviews Balaji Pillai

Necessity is the mother of invention- no body taught him this but he very well implements in his work. He branded his *dosa* as *Place Com Dosa* and *Good Luck Dosa* to charm the yearning students who come with much hope to crack the interviews. They look up to Balaji for his wishes and service and of course the *dosa* packed with good luck filling.

Needless to mention he expands his menu with a variety of fillings such as Cheese, Oregano, Mayo, and addition of Curd Rice and Filter Coffee to sustain with his earnings. His father Mr. Rao helps him with the duo making daily purchase in day time and the son starting his *Bundy* (cart) by evening 4 pm. That has been his routine since the age he was supposed to spend time in his class room and evening in the fields playing with his peers.

This story perhaps belongs to millions in the country who carry on their daily grind with a hope that some miracle takes them off their condition and makes things better.

XLRI library has a book 'Loss n Profit' by Prof. Ramkumar Kakkani. He has mentioned Balaji and his hard work, sincerity, discipline & hospitality.

Mr. Anubhav from Dholpur says, even with the rising economics Balaji maintains his quality of *dosa* by changing the iron *tava* every two years, ranging around Rs 2000/.

- Rohit Agarwal

Karikal Ammaiyar

One of the few women saints whose stories appear in the 'Periapuranam, The Lives of the Sixty-Three Saivite Saints', is that of Karikal Ammaiyar. The stories of the 'Periapuranam' may expand our hearts by showing the depths of devotion to Lord Shiva that can be reached by mortal man.



was a great sin to live with her as her husband. On the pretext of going to a foreign country for trade, he sailed with a ship load of goods. On return, he established himself in a big city in the Pandyan kingdom. He married a Vaisya girl and lived happily. He had a daughter by her and he named her Punithavathy, after his first wife.

The story of Karikal Ammaiyar

Punithavathiar as Karaikal Ammaiyar was called was born in a Vaisya family. Her father was Danadathan. He was a wealthy merchant. He was very virtuous, too. He and his dutiful wife prayed to the Lord for a child, and the child the Lord blessed them with they called Punithavathy. From her childhood, Punithavathy had an intense love for Lord Siva and His Bhaktas. She was married to Paramadattan, a wealthy Vaisya. Both of them were leading an ideal householder's life.

One day Paramadattan sent two mangoes to his house. Punithavathy kept them safely so that she could serve her husband with them at meal-time. In the meantime, a Siva Yogi appeared before her. He was hungry and completely exhausted. Punithavathy worshipped him and offered him *Bhiksha*. She had nothing to give him, except the mangoes. She gave one to the guest. At midday Paramadattan came to the house. The wife served him with one mango. He liked it, and asked for the other. She was upset. She appealed to the Lord for help.

When she finished her prayer, mysteriously a mango fell on the palm of her hand. She gave it to her husband. He tasted it. It was exceptionally sweet. He asked her to tell him from where she got it, as he was quite sure it was not the mango he had sent. Punithavathy told him the whole truth. Paramadattan, however, would not believe this and challenged her to produce another. She prayed again to the Lord. Another mango appeared on her palm. She gave it to him. But, at once it disappeared from his hand. He was astounded. He understood the greatness of his wife. He felt that it

Punithavathiyar's relatives came to know of her husband's whereabouts and took her also there in a palanquin. When Paramadattan heard that Punithavathy was coming to him, he, with his second wife and child, went forward, and fell at Punithavathy's feet. When the people demanded an explanation, he revealed that he regarded her, not as his wife, but as a Goddess. Punithavathy understood his mental condition, and prayed to the Lord: 'In that case, Oh Lord, deprive me of the present physical charm and let me have a demonical form.' Her prayer was immediately granted and her charming body was transformed into a skeleton.

Then she went on a pilgrimage to the holy Kailasa. Feeling that it would be a great sin to place her foot on those sacred grounds, she made the last part of the journey on her head. Mother Parvathy was surprised to see Punithavathy's strange form and her wonderful devotion. Lord Siva told her of Ammaiyar's greatness. When she went near Him, Lord Siva welcomed her with extreme love and granted a boon to her. She fell at His Feet, and prayed: 'Oh Lord of Mercy, give me sincere, pure, unalloyed, eternal and overflowing devotion unto You. I want no more birth. If, however, I have to take birth here, grant me that I should never forget You. Whenever You dance, I must be at Your feet singing Your praise. This is my only wish.' Lord Siva granted the boon and asked her to proceed to Tiruvalangadu to witness His dance. She went to that place and spent her life singing the praise of Lord Siva.

By Swami Shivananda
Source: Arunachalgrace



FAIRIES

Fairies took flight
 Far away they flew
 To help ripen the strawberries
 And collect the drops of dew
 Chatting merry in the crop
 Putting green to grass
 Watching out in awe
 For the sweet young lass
 In a plant so majestic
 The fairies surround the tree
 They help its leaves, they help it grow
 These very fairies wee
 Sitting in the bloom
 Praising sweet flowers
 Planting their seeds
 And asking for showers
 Making the rain
 It's their very task
 Swirling the water
 Giving what the others ask

Helping them out right from birth
 Until making them tame
 Brushing and feeding them
 Next, it's always the same
 Making all the ice
 And all the snow
 When a blizzards' coming
 They'd be the first to know
 When you want to fly a kite
 Windy day is a thrill
 They would help you in a contest
 It also brings a chill
 Fruit, grass, tree, flower, water, animals,
 Snow & wind
 Fairies we are all
 Flying close to you
 Be it winter, spring, summer or fall.

- **Gangireddy Siva Pranavabharathi**
 Grade 4, Hillside Academy



Go Green...



**If these children of immortality can do it,
why not then we...???**



NACHIKETA paryavaran...

इबलइरगो १इइठ = इरगु इररर

tvAtumun



(Continued from October issue)

Look at the translation of 'I get up early to do yoga' as the following forms. The first uses 'tvA/ya' form whereas the latter uses 'tum':

अहं शीघ्रम् उत्थाय योगं करोमि।

अहं योगं कर्तुं शीघ्रम् उत्तिष्ठामि।

Translate the following into two forms as in the above example.

- 1) Come and have food at my home.
- 2) He went to the playground to play.
- 3) Read Panchatantra and improve (or know) Samskrit.
- 4) Earn well and send me money.
- 5) Sit down and eat.

Typical answers for above:

- 1) भवान् मम गृहम् आगत्य खादतु - अथवा - खादितुम् भवान् मम गृहम् आगच्छतु।
- 2) सः क्रीडाङ्गणं गत्वा क्रीडितवान् - अथवा - सः क्रीडितुं क्रीडाङ्गणं गतवान्।
- 3) भवन्तः संस्कृतं सम्यक् ज्ञातुं पञ्चतन्त्रं पठन्तु - अथवा - भवन्तः पञ्चतन्त्रं पठित्वा संस्कृतं सम्यक् जानन्तु।
- 4) सम्यक् सम्पाद्य भवान् धनं मह्यं प्रेषयतु - अथवा - मह्यं प्रेषयितुं भवान् सम्यक् धनं सम्पादयतु।
- 5) भवान् उपविश्य खादतु - अथवा - खादितुं भवान् उपविशतु।

- Krupalu Ogeti

Samskrit Bharati, Hyderabad, okrupalu@samskritam.net, Ph : 73962 49650

Thanks to Donors



We are extremely thankful to

A volunteer
for his kind donation of
₹ 50,000/-
towards
Annadanam - Corpus Fund



**Nachiketa's
GO GREEN CLUB**

We convey our thanks to all the participants of the WOW initiative. You helped us earn Rs. 19,095/- in the month of October and helped in keeping Mother Earth cleaner by recycling about 2727 kg of plastic and paper waste material.



Sadhana

Everyone doesn't have the same mentality or Prakruti. So our sages have practiced and introduced various streams of Yoga viz. Karmayoga, Bhaktiyoga, Tantrayoga, Rajayoga, Jnanayoga, Kriyayoga for different people. You may have great interest in service, but not the same interest towards Meditation or Jnana and vice versa. Now you may wonder as to what type of Sadhana is suitable for you. A realized Guru can guide you in adopting the right path or you can also discover your predominant nature; according to which you can choose the stream of Sadhana.

- Paramahansa Swami Shivananda Puri

Bhavanimala and beyond



Date: 16th Oct 2015



Whether it is religious fervour or a spiritual server, one thing that makes us happy is at least for a few days, people would keep themselves away from unhealthy lifestyle. That's how we look at people around and initiate them accordingly, slowly getting them into the spiritual fold...

NACHIKETA adhyatma...

Annadanam



Annadanam Sponsored by Sarada, in the fond memory of her loving mother Smt Kamala Kumari



Date: Oct 27, 2015



Celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, festivals, and any special occasions with children of Ashram just by contributing ₹ 3000

Nachiketa Seva



Sree Devi Ma with family offers puja to Mahagauri



Sree Devi Ma, IAS, Honourable Collector, Mahaboobnagar Dist on her spiritual visit to Ashram on Oct 24.

A great human being within & without

Day: Sunday, 4th Oct 2015... a very special day. We had a guest from Greyhounds Hyderabad. A very soft spoken, swift in action and sweet hearted soul, brought more than 50 villagers to Ashram to rekindle their inner fire to make them realise their capabilities and also to awaken the spirit of togetherness in them...



Villagers from Masthipuram, Atmakur

We strongly believe, with this speed, motive and genuine desire, Grama Jyoti would soon be a possibility taking villages to new heights...



Sri Ramesh, IPS, Greyhounds, Group Commander

All the best!



NACHIKETA Adhyatmik...



Annadanam



Annadanam Sponsored by Sri Venkat Reddy on the occasion of his Birthday



Nachiketa Tapovan wishes you a very happy Birthday



Celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, festivals, and any special occasions with children of Ashram just by contributing ₹ 3000

Date: Nov 6, 2015

Nachiketa Seva

EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

Warangal Outing

On 28th September, 2015 Smt. Sridevi Amma, sponsored and coordinated an outing to Warangal for 7th class students. Volunteer Mani Amma and teacher Ujwala also accompanied them. They visited places like Thousand Pillar Temple, Warangal Fort and Bhadrakali Temple. Children enjoyed and came to know about the religious and architectural importance of these places.



Nachiketa
इन्द्रा वाहिनी

...infusing values

Do you wish to bring a change around you?

Help yourself! Help the people around you!

Nachiketa Seva Vahini is a wing of Nachiketa Tapovan to spread the moral, spiritual and cultural values through samskaravargas and service activities.

Nachiketa Tapovan invites eager minds

- who wish to make a difference in the world around them
- who are passionate to serve the society irrespective of age
- who think this change is vital in creating a positive impact at a larger level

Our Programmes:

Bala Vahini : Sowing a right seed in young minds

Yuva Vahini : Channelizing the youth energy for nation building

Matru Vahini : Translating feminine energy to transform the society

Vanaprastha Vahini : Serving the humanity with rich experiences

We are in the process of forming committees from village to national level.

You can be a member of Nachiketa Seva Vahini



For further details please contact:

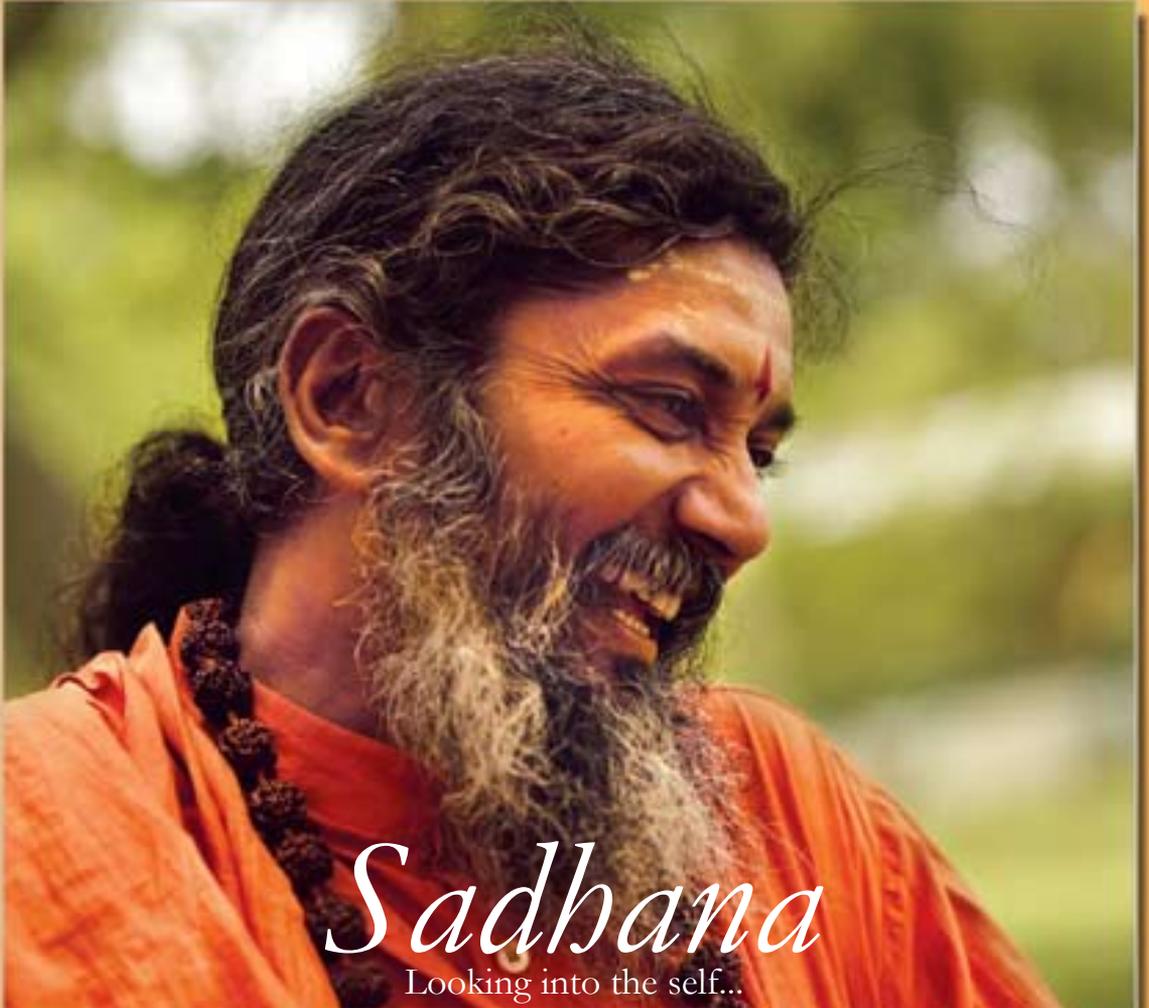
Nachiketa Tapovan, Kodgal: 8008882828,

Nachiketa Tapovan, Hyderabad: 9849168937

SMS to Swamiji: 9908234545

nachiketananda@gmail.com; admin@nachiketatapovan.org

Website: www.nachiketatapovan.org



Sadhana

Looking into the self...

Swami Nachiketananda Puri

“Sadhana”

Along with memorable photographs, Sadhana mirrors the spiritual guidance of Swami Nachiketananda Puri in Question & Answer pattern.

Pages 36, Price: ₹ 100/-

The Books are available at

Nachiketa Tapovan

70, Phase - I, Kavuri Hills,
Madhapur, Hyderabad-500081
Phone: 9849168937,
Email: n_tapovan@rediffmail.com
Timing: 9am to 4pm.

Nachiketa Tapovan Ashram

Nachiketa Adhyatmapuri,
Kodgal Village,
Jadcherla Mandal,
Mahaboobnagar Dist.
Ph : 8008882828

SHREE KSHETRA GANAGAPUR



Nirguna Padukas

Shree Kshetra Ganagapur is a holy place of Lord Dattatreya and the place is a very important "Darshaneeya kshetra". The Main Temple in Ganagapur where Shree Guru used to stay is known as Nirguna Math. There is a holy tree of *Ashwattha* in the temple. The significance of the *Kshetra* was explained by Shreeguru and it can be seen in "Shree Guru Charitra".

At the time of *Antardhan* (disappearance) Shreeguru said to his disciples:

Vasathi Rani Sangamase Jate Nithya Bikshese Taya Vare Ganagapurase Madhyana Kaala Pareyasa

"You need not worry. I shall stay at this Ganagapur kshetra secretly. I shall have bath at the Bheema-Amaraja Sangam river in the morning. In the mid day, I shall come to Ganagapur mutt and accept *Biksha* in this village and accept your *pooja* and devotional services. From the view point of the public, I am going away from this place. My living presence will be experienced by anyone who bathes in the Bheema-Amaraja Sangam and takes *darshan* of my *Padukas* here. I will receive *poojas* at this *Kshetra* in the form of *Padukas*". The *Padukas* of Shreeguru Shree Nrusimha Saraswathy Swamy at this place are "**Nirguna Padukas**"

Shreeguru has been blessing his devotees with his divine acts on countless occasions. **The aspirations of Datta devotees who worship him at Ganagapur Kshetra with true love, faith and dedication will be fulfilled.**

- *Kshetra Purana*

Only Because of YOU...

Celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, festivals and special occasions with children at Tapovan by sponsoring:

Donations towards operation costs

Vidya Daanam (Education)	₹ 6500/year/child
Anna Daanam (Mid-day Meals)	₹ 5800/day
Alpa Aharam (Snacks)	₹ 1200/day
Vastra Daanam (Uniforms)	₹ 900/2 pairs
Stationery Supplies (Copier Paper)	₹ 5000/term
Medicines (For needy people)	₹ 5000/month
Festival at Ma Yogashakti Peetham	₹ 20000

Donations within India- Details

Donations can be made directly by cheque or DD in favor of "Nachiketa Tapovan". The donations in India are exempt under the U/s 80G of IT Act, 1961. PAN No. AAATN2406K

Donations can be also directed through bank account as below

'Nachiketa Tapovan' A/c No 18090100004093, Bank of Baroda, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad.

IFSC Code : BARBOJUBILE

(Note: IFSC code contains the number "zero" not letter "O")

*Corpus Fund Options

Sponsor a child	₹ 1 Lakh
Anna Daanam (Mid-day Meals)	₹ 60000/-
Alpa Aharam (Snacks)	₹ 10000/-

* With the accrued annual interest the following will be achieved every year, respectively.

- One child's education annually.
- Mid-day Meals for children for one day annually.
- Snacks for children for one day annually.

Overseas Donations- Details

Donations can be made directly by cheque or DD in favor of "Nachiketa Tapovan". Nachiketa Tapovan has permission to receive donations from abroad under FCRA act

Bank Information

Bank Name	: State Bank of India
Branch Name & Code	: Kavuri Hills-12655
A/c Name	: Nachiketa Tapovan
A/c No	: 30953215793
IFSC Code	: SBIN0012655
SWIFT Code	: SBININBB214

(Note: IFSC code contains the number "zeros" not letters "O")

For further details please contact:

Nachiketa Tapovan, Kodgal: 8008882828,
Nachiketa Tapovan, Hyderabad: 9849168937

SMS to Swamiji: 9908234545

nachiketananda@gmail.com; admin@nachiketatapovan.org

Website: www.nachiketatapovan.org



Invitation



We cordially invite you to attend our celebrations

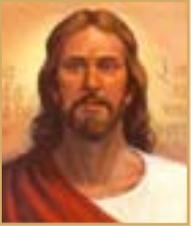


GITA JAYANTHI

21st December 2015
at Nachiketa Tapovan,
Kodgal Village, Jadcherla.

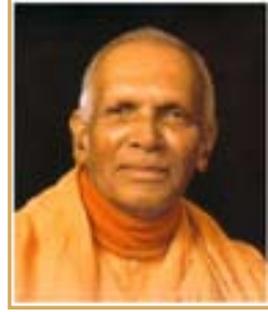
SARADA MA JAYANTI

22nd December 2015
at 10 am.
@ Nachiketa Tapovan,
Kavuri Hills, Hyd.



CHRISTMAS

24th December 2015
at 12:45 pm.
@ Nachiketa Tapovan,
Kavuri Hills, Hyderabad.



Swami Ranganathananda Birthday Celebrations

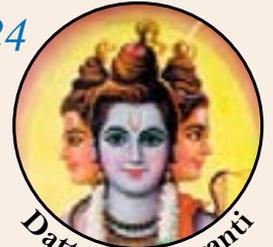
Satsang by
Swami Nachiketananda Puri
&
Paramhansa Swami Shivananda Puri
15th December 2015 at 6 pm.
at 1180, Road No. 45,
Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad.

21



Gita Jayanti

24



Dattatreya Jayanti

22



Sharada Ma Jayanti

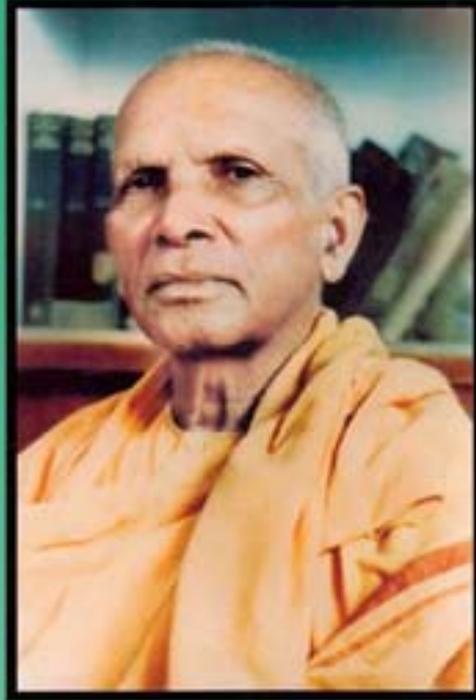
Festivals & Events of DECEMBER 2015

25



Christmas

We pay our homage to
Rev. Swami Ranganathanandaji
on the occasion of His Birthday
15th December 2015



(1908 - 2005)

*Learning to Be and Learning
to Do have to become two
inseparable aspects of any
education designed to help
the human child to achieve
life fulfilment.*

- Swami Ranganathananda

Hotel Sri Brindavan
Nampally Station Road, Hyderabad

Today you have a choice, tomorrow may be too late...

By the year 2025, 2.8 billion people, one third of the world's population will experience water scarcity. About 25 to 30% of the population in Gujarat, Rajasthan, the Gangetic Plains, West Bengal and the North Eastern Areas will have practically no water.

Consequently the water crisis will dwarf the oil crisis.

Ignore the crisis and be a part of the problem, evaluate your option and be a part of the solution. The choice is simple, so is our contribution, a **Dual Flush**.

Flush the **Superflo** way, use the **Dual Flush**.

It's small, it's smart, it's a start.



PATENTED



*Superflo Dual Flush Valve
Indian Patent Nos. 196441 & 200284

A Dual Flush is a valve, which gives you the flexibility to discharge varying amounts of water depending on the usage.

It can be adjusted to discharge less quantity of water say 3 liters (half flush) or 6 liters (full flush).

All the leading Sanitaryware Manufacturers have chosen the **Superflo Dual Flush**.*

Use a dual flush; be a part of the drive – a drive to save the most precious resource of our planet...
water!

*Water is the very core of life,
It is life's mother (source) and medium.
There is no life without water.
It is high time we realize & accept this truth.*

– Gautam Vir