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A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE KANCHI MATH



पशूनां पतिं पापनाशं परेशं
गजेन्द्रस्य कृत्तिं वसानं वरेण्यम् ।
जटाजूटमध्ये स्फुरद्गाङ्गवारिं
महादेवमेकं स्मरामि स्मरारिम् ॥ १ ॥

I dwell in my mind on the Overlord of Gods, the Lord of all souls, the destroyer of sins, the supreme Lord, the wearer of the elephant's hide, one who is sought after, one in whose thicket of matted hair the stream of Ganges shines and one who is the enemy of Cupid.

- Vedasarasivastotram of Adi Sankara

The Book "AN ELUCIDATION OF BRIHADARANYAKA UPANISHAD" based on Vidyananda's Anubhuti Prakasa written by Sri S. Balakrishnan and published by the Adi Sankara Advaita Research Centre, Mylapore will be released at a function at the Srinivasa Sastry Hall, Luz Church Road, Mylapore, Chennai at 6.00 PM on 26.7.2007. Sri Goda Venkateswara Sastrigal presides. Dr. R. Krishnamurthy Sastrigal releases the Book. Dr. Mani David Sastrigal receives the first copy. The book priced at Rs. 100/- will be available at the Centre's Office (at New No.17, Bishop Wallers Avenue (West), C.I.T. Colony, Mylapore, Chennai-4) or can be obtained through courier by sending the courier charges of Rs. 50/- for outstation and Rs. 25/- for Chennai.



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CHAATURMASYAM OF SANYASINS

Pujyashri Kanchi Mahaswamigal

Every aasrama has its special dharma or duty. It has been enjoined that a sanyasi should not remain in one place for any length of time. The idea is that he should be moving from place to place, coming into contact with his lay disciples, ministering to their spiritual needs, and guiding them to regulate their lives according to the sastras. If a sanyasi remains in one place for a long time, there is the danger of his contracting "attachments", or getting involved in local controversies.

This constant movement from place to place may prevent a sanyasi from devoting sufficient time to meditation and other spiritual practices, and to the acquisition of aatmajnanam leading to the realisation of the Ultimate Truth. Therefore, he is permitted to remain in one place during the chaatur maasya period, commencing from the full moon in the Tamil month of Aani.

The chaaturmaasya observance is a common feature of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism. The Asokan edicts, which are about 2,000 years old, show that chaaturmaasya was observed for four months, as the term indicated. It is not clear when the period came to be reduced to two months. Probably the rule that a maasa (month) is synonymous with paksha (fortnight) - *pakshovai maasah*, - came to be applied, and chaaturmaasya limited to four pakshaas or two months.

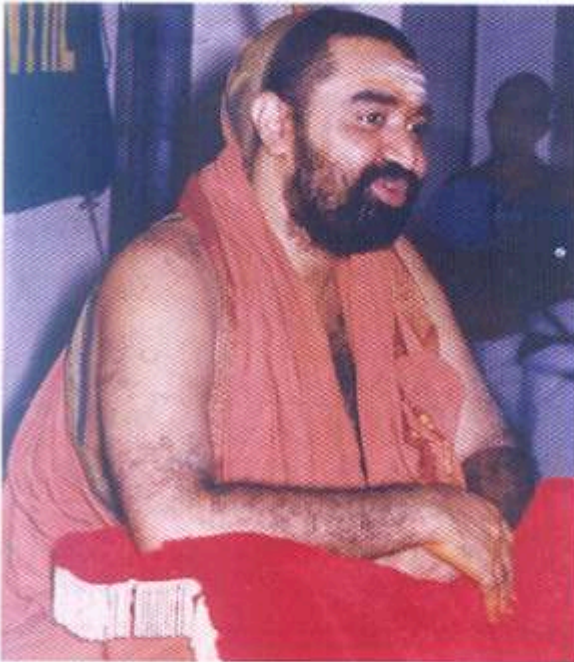
A sanyasi takes the resolve to observe chaaturmaasya after performing Vyasa Pooja. This pooja is as important to sanyasins as Upaakarma is to those who belong to the other aasramas.

It is not Veda Vyasa alone who is worshipped on Vyasa Pooja day. Six groups of preceptors (moola purushas) of jnana, each group consisting of five preceptors are worshipped. The first group is called Krishna Panchaka and consists of Sri Krishna, Vaasudeva, Pradyumna, Aniruddha and Sankarshana. The five groups, besides the Sri Krishnapanchaka mentioned above, are: (1) The Vyasa Panchaka, consisting of Sri Vyasa, Sri Paila, Sri Vaisampayana, Sri Jaimini, and Sri Sumanlu; (2) The Bhagavatpada Panchaka, consisting of Sri Sankara Bhagavatpada, Sri Padmapadaacharya, Sri Sureswaraacharya, Sri Hastaamalakaacharya, and Sri Totakaacharya; (3) The Sanaka Panchaka, consisting of Sri Sanaka, Sri Sanandana, Sri Sanaatana, Sri Sanat Kumara, and Sri Sanatsujaata; (4) The Dravida Panchaka, consisting of Sri Dravidaacharya, Sri Gaudapaadaacharya, Sri Govinda Bhagavatpaadaacharya, Sri Sankshepakaacharya, and Sri Vivaranaacharya; and (5) The Guru Panchaka, consisting of the Guru, the Parama Guru, the Parameshti Guru, and the Paraapara Guru of the sanyasins, and other promulgators of the sampradaya. Worship is also offered to Sri Suka, Sri Narada, Sri Durga, Sri Ganapati, the Kshetrapaalaas, Sri Saraswati, and the ten guardians of the directions, beginning with Indra.

Jagadguru Pujyashri Jayendra Saraswati Swamigal and Jagadguru Pujyashri Sankara Vijayendra Saraswati Swamigal will be performing Vyasa Puja at the Sri Matham, Kanchipuram on 29.7.2007 and observing Chaturmasyam upto 26.9.2007.

வேதத்தைப் பற்றி ...

பூஜ்ய ஸ்ரீ விஜயேந்திர சரஸ்வதி ஸ்வாமிகள் அருளாசி



நாம் எல்லோரும் வேதத்தில் சொல்லியுள்ளதைச் செய்ய வேண்டும். தம்மத்தின் அடிப்படையிலே வேதம் தான். வேதம் என்பது ஒருவர் மூலம் இன்னொருவருக்கு கிடைக்கப்பெற்றது என்பதனால் எழுத்து வடிவில் பல பகுதிகள் கிடைக்கவில்லை. அவ்வாறு கிடைத்த பகுதியிலிருந்து மிகவும் குறைவாகவே தெரிந்து கொள்ளும் வாய்ப்பு இப்போது உள்ளது. ருக் வேதத்திற்கு இரண்டு சாகைகள்தான் நடைமுறையில் உள்ளது. வேதத்தினை சாப்பதற்காகவே முதல் அவதாரம் ஏற்பட்டது. வேதத்தினை கவரவிட வேண்டும். நம்பிக்கை வளர வேண்டும். சொல்லப்பட்டுள்ள சர்மாக்களை எந்த நியதியில் செய்யச் சொல்லியுள்ளதோ அதுபோலவே செய்ய வேண்டும். நான்கு வேதங்கள் இருந்தாலும் ருக் வேதத்திற்கு "ஸம்ஹிதை ஹேராமம்" என்பது பழக்கத்தில் உள்ளது. 10520 ருக்குகள் சொல்லி இருக்கிறார்கள். வேதத்தில் வரும் ரிஷிகளின் பெயர்கள் எல்லாவற்றையும் சேட்டாலே புண்ணியம். யாகத்திலும் இந்த மந்திரத்தைச் சொல்லி ஹேராமம் செய்ய வழி இருக்கிறது. இதனை முறையாக புரிந்து கொண்டு செய்தால் "கோம" போன்ற வியாதியும் தீரும். ருக்வேத பாஷ்யத்தை வ்யாகரணம், மீமாம்ஸம், சாஸ்திரம் போன்றவற்றை நன்றாகப் படித்திருந்தால்தான் புரிந்து கொள்ள முடியும். ஜ்ஞாயஜ்ஞம் விநியாசம் ஸ்வாமிகள் எழுதிய அர்த்தத்தைத்தான் பிராமணமாக வைத்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறோம். வேதத்தினை அந்நியமம் செய்து அர்த்தத்தைப்

புரிந்து கொண்டு நிஷ்காரணே ஸ்வதர்மம் என்ற எண்ணத்துடன் பக்தி சிரத்தையுடன் செய்து வரவேண்டும். ருக் வேதத்தில் பிராமணத்தை அந்நியமம் செய்வார்கள் மிகக்குறைவு. இதனை மனப்பாடம் செய்வது மிகவும் சிரமம். கத்யம் போன்றது பத்யம் என்பது பாட்டு. பிராசீமணை தம்மத்தைத் தெரிந்து கொள்ள ஆரண்யகத்தில் ஐதரேய உபநிஷத் உள்ளது. இதனால் யாவருக்கும் சிரேயஸ் கிடைக்க ஆசீர்வதிக்கிறோம்.

114TH JAYANTI CELEBRATION OF PUJYASHRI KANCHI MAHASWAMIGAL

At a function organised by the ADI SANKARA ADVAITA RESEARCH CENTRE, Chennai at the Srinivasa Sastry Hall on 31.5.2007, the 114th Jayanti of Pujyashri Mahaswamigal was celebrated with great devotional fervour. Sri R. Prasanna Venkatesan, Board Member, ASARC welcomed the audience.



Distinguished guests - Justice Shri N.V. Balasubramaniam and Dr. S. Srinivasa Sarma.

Justice Sri N.V. Balasubramanian, former Judge of the Madras High Court delivering his presidential address referred to the Sage of Kanchi and described him as the very embodiment of Sanatana Dharma and mentioned in particular his utmost humanity and total simplicity. Ostentatious marriages, spending huge sums on silk sarees, etc., were anathema to the Acharya. He was very much concerned with the happiness of all humility. Dr. S. Srinivasa Sarma, Editor of the Sanskrit monthly journal, "SAMSKRITASRI" narrated several episodes in a reminiscent mood to show that the saint was compassion incarnate and that



Vedic recital at the Jayanti Celebrations.



Dr. S. Srinivasa Sarma, Editor, "SAMSKRITASRI", addresses.

he combined ancient wisdom with modern concepts. Earlier, the function commenced with Vedic recitation.

The Centre utilised this holy occasion to give a Cash Award to a young student of Sanskrit, Shri M.P. Anand of Guru Nanak College, Chennai for securing the University first rank in Sanskrit in the B.Sc. Examination, 2007.

114TH JAYANTI MAHOTSAVAM OF MAHASWAMIGAL AT KANCHI

The 114th Jayanti Mahotsavam of Sri Mahaswamigal, the 68th Peetadhipati of Sri Kanchi Kamakshi Peetam, was observed on 31st May 2007, at the Mutt Premises, Kanchipuram, in the presence of Pujyashri Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal and Sri Sankara Vijayendra Saraswathi Swamigal. Special Homams, Veda Parayanam and Music Programmes had been arranged from 29th May 2007 to 31st May 2007.

MahaSwamigal's 114th Jayanti Mahotsavam was also celebrated at the Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Sankara Mutt, Sri Hanuman Mandir, Skandagiri, Secunderabad from 28th May 2007 to 31st May 2007. On the Jayanti Day (31.05.07) the programme consisted of Veda Parayanam, Ekadasa Rudrabhishekam, Maha Ganapathi Homam, Aavahanti Homam, Dakshinamurthy Homam, Suvasini Puja, Kanya Puja, Deeparadhana and Annadanam.

"PARIHARAS CAN ONLY MITIGATE PLANETARY INFLUENCES" - Pujyashri Acharya

Giving Anugrahabhashanam at the Music Academy on 12.5.2007 on the commencement of the 6th year of publication of the periodical "KUMUDAM JYOTHIDAM", Pujyashri Jayendra Saraswati Swamigal said that Jyotisha is a part of Vedas and scholars well-versed in Jyotisha like Shri A.M. Rajagopalan, Editor of the Journal, with the blessings of the Almighty and Gurus, could predict the future and guide the public. Jyotisha should not be commercialised. It should be remembered that pariharas suggested could only mitigate the malefic effects of the Planetary influences and not eradicate them. Earlier, Nagai Mukundan welcomed the gathering.

Padmabhushan Dr. S.S. Badrinath, Founder of Sankara Netralaya said that Pujyashri Acharya had advised him to start the Institution and referred to his compassion for the humanity at large. Shri T.S. Raghavan, former Chairman of the Indian Bank felicitated the Editor of the journal.

TRAINING CLASSES ON INDIAN CULTURE

Inaugurating the training classes in Indian culture for some 250 boys and girls organised by the All India Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Devotees Forum at Sankaralayam, Chetpet, Chennai on 13.5.2007, Pujyashri Jayendra Saraswati Swamigal said that our children should understand our cultural ethos and the esteem with which parents should be treated. He exhorted the children to imbibe good character and noble qualities. The classes lasted upto 20.5.2007 and covered yoga, spoken Sanskrit, human resources development and moral instruction stories. Eminent scholars handled the classes. On the concluding day the children received silver coins, cassettes and certificates from the Acharya at the Kanchi Math.

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Sri Pallikondeeswarar, Suruttapalli

The ancient temple at Suruttapalli (on the Chennai-Tirupati bus route at a distance of 56 km) in Andhra Pradesh is unique in that Lord Siva is seen here in lying posture resting on the lap of Goddess Parvati. Legend has it that when the milky ocean was churned by the Devas and Asuras to get at Amrita, Vasuki's venom spilled out causing great havoc and destruction. Heeding the entreaties of the Devas and Asuras, Lord Siva consumed the poison. Fearing a holocaust of the entire universe, Goddess Parvati gently pressed Lord Siva's neck to stop the poison going in. As the Lord contained the Halahala poison in His *kantha* (neck), He came to be called Neelakanta, 'the one with the black neck'. For a while, the Lord took rest with His head on the lap of His consort. This episode is depicted dramatically in idol form at this temple.

Devotees in large numbers visit this Temple to worship Lord Pallikondeeswarar on Pradosham days when He is believed to have danced between the two horns of Nandikeswara in the evening hours.

All deities at this temple are to be seen with their consorts, Pallikondeeswarar - Sarva Mangalambika, Valmikeeswarar - Maragatambika, Siddhi - Vinayaka, Purna - Pushkala - Sasta and Dakshinamurti with Parvati.