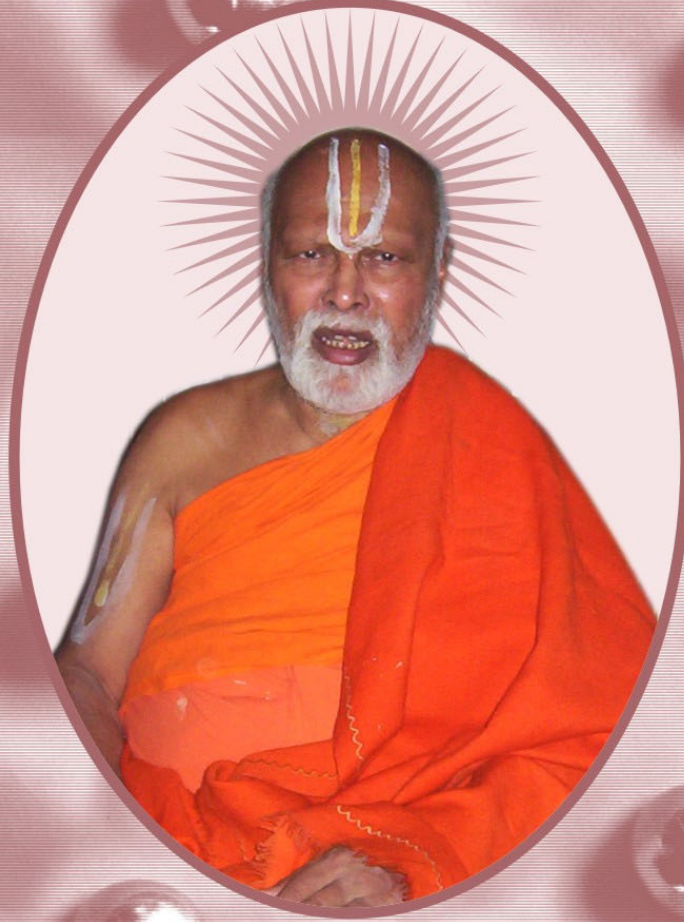




Varadharajar of Hedathale

Sri Rangapriya Swamigal Tiruvadigale Sharanam



Lakshminarasimhan Sridhar
-presents-
Asmath Acharyan's



Pearls of Wisdom



pearls of wisdom

pearl strand - i

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Acknowledgements

My Sister Smt.Jayashree Muralidharan, USA

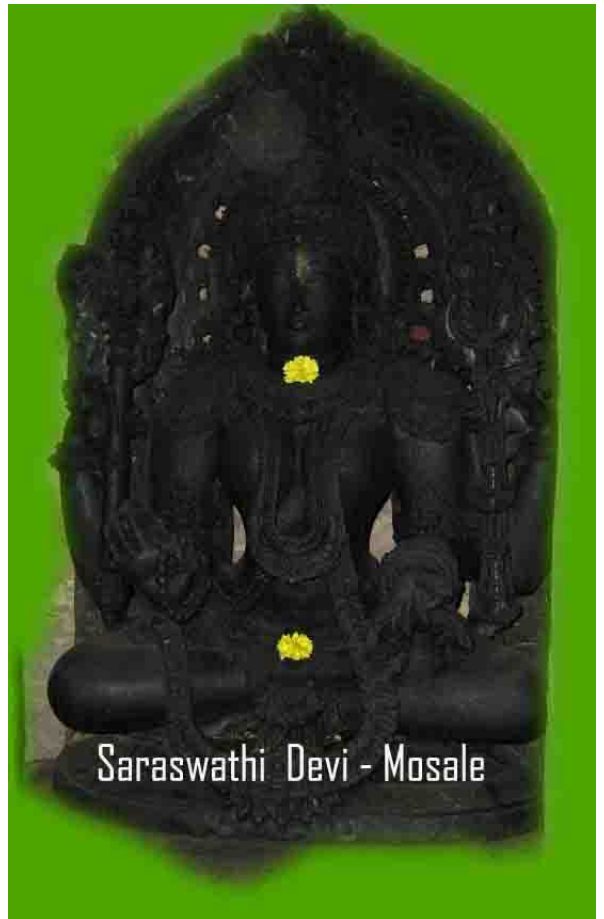
Respected Bhagavathas,

I had the Good fortune to visit the Ashram on 19th September and I was fortunate to hear a short discourse of Swami on **navarAtrA** celebrations yes it is **navarAtrA** not NavarAtri. I am presenting you the seventh pearl in the pearl string. I am repeating what Swami told us.



Today is the inaugural day of Sharad navaratra - the nine celebrated dates in the autumn season.

Among the nine days; the first three days are specially made for the worship of Sri lakshmi, the second three days for the worship of saraswathi



goddess and the last three days for worship of bhagavati durga. So all the finites are permeated with

the spirit of Mother Goddess - lakshmi, saraswathi and durga. During this season, the

Mother Nature is very favorable for the worship of these Goddesses.





Now, it is celebrated in another sense. During this season it is said that SrI rAmA the most worship worthy among Gods has Himself worshipped Gods. SrI rAmAcandra is a worship worthy God. "aNDa carAcarangaLai vaikuNTham yEtti" - the Supreme Lord, whose pratigyai it is to take the whole of ayOdhyA to VaikuNThA. This anugraha is not found in any other avatAra. And secondly 'martyA avatArastviha martya SIKshaNam' - SrImad bhAgavatam says that this incarnation of rAmA was for teaching how to lead an ideal life for all human beings; it was not merely for killing rAvaNa/slaying rAvaNa It was specially meant for setting an ideal for all human beings.

If it was mainly for the killing of rAvaNa, rAmA could have done it with His mere wish, need not have taken birth as a human being and had all these troubles and tribulations throughout His Life. The Supreme Lord who destroys all the Worlds during the time of mahApraLaya, the great deluge, will not find it difficult to destroy rAvaNa with one look. The special reason for this avatAra is to make Him an ideal for all human beings. 'martya avatArasya martya SIKshaNam' to give sikshaNa for all human beings. "rakshO vadhAyaiva na kevalam vibhOH" - not merely for slaying the demon. Ofcourse that was also one of the reasons, but the pradhAna kARANA was not that. And His devotion to dharma is most celebrated. Every act of SrI rAmA is replete with dhArmic fervor - for eg; after He killed rAvaNa in the famous battle, all the booty of rAvaNA belonged to Him according to the general rules. In that list, the pushpaka vimANA, the celebrated celestial plane that also would have belonged to SrI rAmA; infact vibhIshaNan requested Him to take it, but SrI



rAmA said "No!" and said that it should go back to kuberA, who is the legal owner of it. The creator God presented it to kuberA only and rAvANa seized it from his brother. If SrI rAmA also took it away, He has seized from vibhIshaNa, so what difference is there between SrI rAmA and rAvANa? The property legally belongs to kuberA. That is SrI rAmA - dharmA in

every action.

When vibhIshaNa comes over to Him, to surrender Himself completely at the Feet of the Lord, to seek refuge with Him than with rAvANa and others, then all the members among His retinue and advisers give a verdict in favor of either killing him or testing him, to put him to test. But inspite of the remonstrances of all of them, Lord rAmAcandra says "he has surrendered himself to Me! Under no circumstances will I desert him! Why vibhIshaNa, even if his brother rAvANa comes as a refugee, I will protect him! And you said he is a demon and we should always be very careful about him.



vibhishana Saranagathi

When I am not afraid of rAvaNa should I be afraid of his younger brother? No! I will grant him refuge!" That is SrI rAmA!

And as said now, SrI RAma returns the vimAna to kuberA! Ofcourse for a temporarily usage He takes it to ayOdhyA, but as soon as the work was over he did send it back to kuberA! But that celebrated aeroplane requested rAmA that "You have touched me! So no other person can touch me now. I will remain with you only!" For which SrI rAmA said that "It is My conjunction irrevocable decision that you should go and live with him only. Who is kuberA? He is also My vibhUti, My Power only. So remember ME and stay there itself!" Ofcourse there is one advantage to SrI rAmA! There is one more condition that whenever SrI rAmA remembers the pushpak vimAna it will come to His service. Otherwise it will stay with kuberA. This is definitel advantage for SrI rAmA because without petrol and without paying rent for it He can use it ! That is SrI rAmA's greatness! 'rAmo vighravAn dharmO vighravAn adharma viratim dhanvI sa tanvIta na:' says AcArya vedAnta deSika! 'vighravAn dharmA' - the very embodiment of dharmA!

And SrI rAmacandra the most worship worthy among Gods as I told, worships Gods! And it is on the vijayadasami day that He triumphed over rAvaNA! It is also said that the pANDavAs got victory by the grace of bhagavati durgA on this occasion. Now worship the Goddesses or the devout recitation (or pArAyaNa) of great verse like SrImad rAmAyaNa and performing the paTTAbhisheka on the vijayadasami day. And bhagavati Saraswati is worshipped on the last three days and bhagavAn SrI hayagrIva is worshipped on the mahA navami day.



Remember these wordings are the worship of the Guru Bhagavan about the greatness and glory of the navarAtrA festival! It is navarAtrA not navarAtri - shivarAtri is correct but navarAtri is wrong! According to the point of aphorism "aha sarve Karesha SankhyAtha Punyacha rathreehe. It is Sankhya Vachaka Nava , it has become rAtrA not rAtri so navarAtrA.

May bhagavati mahA lakshmi, mahA saraswati and durga - may these goddesses raise Their hands in benediction over all of us and enable us to remember what she has said through me .

||nArAyaNa! nArAyaNa! nArAyaNa!||

Sri Rangapriya Swamigal Thiruvadigale Sharanam.

Dasan

Lakshminarasimhan Sridhar