

Acharya Bhakthi

- Ramapriya

In Ra:ma:nuja Nootthanda:di Swami Ramanuja is called the one "Who clarified and corrected the procedures and protocols in SriRangam", by Thiru arangath Amudanar. SriRamanuja also accounted for all the wealth and properties of Lord Ranganatha, that all the Uthsavams will happen accordingly. While He was doing this some of the trustees of the Temple were not happy, because they doubted, that all their corruptions will be found out. Some of them planned to kill Him and decided to poison His Prasadam. Somehow Swami Ramanuja found out about this plan, and was saddened by this fact. He started to starve Himself and didn't take any Prasadam for a few days. Among His five Acharyas Swami Thirukoshtiyur Nambi found out about this and out of concern for Him, decided to visit SriRangam in a hurry. SriRamanuja also found out about His Acharyas' visit and went to the banks of Kaveri to receive Nambi. It was a hot summer, and part of the river was dry, and the sand was so hot, one couldn't even just stand on it. The moment SriRamanuja saw Nambi; He fell at His Acharya's holy feet, stretched full length on the hot sand, in full prostration. Nambi saw this, but didn't order SriRamanuja to get up. (Once one has prostrated to their Acharya it is customary that, they not get up until their Acharya bids them to).

Once of the sishyas (follower) that accompanied Nambi was KidambiAchhan. He was deeply devoted to SriRamanuja and he couldn't stand to see this anymore. He addressed Nambi thus "What is this! Does anybody care that He is getting burnt with the hot sun, would one throw a beautiful flower garland in the hot sun. This is worse than killing Him with poison.", and with lot of love and care he picked up Sri Ramanuja and dusted off the hot sand from His body. Nambi was very much pleased with Kidambi A:cchan and said to him "A:cchan, I was just waiting for someone to show care and concern for SriRamanuja. Among all the people here you had the courage to act, out of your love and respect for Sri Ramanuja. From now on I am putting you in charge of the kitchen for Ramanuja. He need not go for bhiksha (alms)



from tomorrow on. It is written that for a very long time Kidambi A:ccha:n took care of Sri Ramanuja's Prasadam needs. (From GURUPARAMPARA PRABHAVAM)

What is the take home message?

Most important message is that one should be very much concerned for their A:cha:rya's well being. It is A:cha:rya who helps us to cross the ocean of samsa:ra and reach Paramapadam. He is God's representative. One shouldn't shy away from any task, for one's A:cha:rya, however menial it is. One should wait for the bidding of His A:charya and do it with full heart. Sri Ramanuja and His followers propagate and spread the message of God, and they sacrificed their life doing it. To be recognized by your A:cha:rya and do His Kainkaryam is the greatest gift on Earth. Among our forefathers many lived just for the Kainkaryam only, even forsaking God. Of course, God is very pleased with devotion and surrender to one's A:cha:rya. This is stated very clearly in Thiruppa:vai.

Lord Himself chose to be a Sishya (disciple) and Guru (Teacher) to show the importance of Acharya (Guru). In Badrikasramam He came as Nara and Na:ra:yana and taught Ashtakshari the 8 syllabled Narayana Maha Mantra. In Paramapadam He taught Dwaya manthra to SriMahalakshmi and in Kurukshethra, He taught Charama Slokam, the third Manthra, to Arjuna. Srimannarayana is our first A:charya and when we chant Guruparampara we start with "Lakshmina:ttha Sama:rambha:m..."

Who is an A:cha:rya?

One who strictly abides by the vedic scriptures and traditional practices uncompromisingly, cares about seekers of Lord and guide people in the righteous path. He is the one who teaches you the three important Mantras. We should see God in our Acharya, since He is here as His representative.

Who is a sishya?

One who abides by his A:cha:rya and very much concerned for his welfare.

