

## MY EXPERIENCES

The following are the selected extracts of the said discussion between Madhu (the author of the last month's article) and H.H.

M:- Swamiji ! I participated in Sri Vishnu Sahasrana:ma para:yana few minutes ago. It is said that one name of Lord Krishna is equal to thousand names of Lord Vishnu. **If it is so why should we chant Sahasrana:ma instead of the names of Lord Krishna i.e. Hare Krishna Maha Manthra? Why should we glorify Lord Vishnu who is the part manifestation of Lord Krishna instead of Lord Krishna?**

H.H.:- May we know the basis for your statements or conclusions.

M:- the scriptures.

H.H.:- We have not come across such statements in any of the authentic scriptures. Hence, could you please name the scriptures that say so?

M:- Chaithanya Maha prabhu himself has said so.

H.H.:- We accept such general statements only when they are authoritatively supported by authentic scriptures. Such statements might go wrong in all probabilities. Hence, we should rely only on authentic scriptures before we decide anything in such matters

As regards Sri Vishnu Sahasra Na:ma Stho:thra is concerned, it is taken from the Anusa:sana parva of

Maha:bha:ratham. It was revealed to the Pa:ndavas by grand sire Bhi:shma. He did so at the behest of Lord Krishna and in the divine presence of the Supreme Lord Krishna Himself. **In-fact Lord Krishna Himself is the preceding deity of this stho:thra** vide 14th verse of pu:rva pi:ttika of the same Stho:thra. Lord Krishna was very pleased after listening to grand sire Bhi:shma glorifying Him with these names. He has further enhanced the glory of this Stho:thra by saying "O Son of Pa:ndu, **If anyone thinks of eulogizing me with these thousand names know that I will be pleased even if he does so with any one of these names.**"

This Stho:thra was compiled by none other than the great sage Ve:da-Vyasa Himself. Such is the greatness of these names of the Lord. Before looking down upon some thing we should know what exactly it is. Please try to realize the Pu:rva pi:ttika and Uththara pi:ttika of Sri Vishnu Sahasrana:ma Stho:thra. If you do so, you will know its greatness. In fact it is considered to be one of the greatest Manthras. Hence, it is also called as Maha: Manthra.

As regards your second question is concerned Lord Vishnu is not different from Lord Krishna. In fact all these forms are the different manifestations of the Supreme Lord Narayana Himself. Hence, we should worship them equally. We should not look down upon any form of the Lord.

M:- Lord Brahma Himself has said that Lord Krishna is the Primeval Lord in the first verse of *Brahma samhitha*. When Lord Brahma Himself has said so why should we not accept it? Who can be more authoritative than Lord Brahma?

H.H - When did we say that Lord Krishna is not the primeval Lord? We said that Lord Krishna is not different from Lord Vishnu. We also said that these different forms are the manifestations of Lord Narayana Himself. To be precise the Lord is equally potent in all His forms. He possesses all the auspicious qualities to the fullest in all His forms. The starting verse of the *I:sa:va:sya* Upanishad i.e. *pu:rnām idam pu:rnām adaha*, also says the same. He might exhibit some qualities in one form and some in another according to the circumstance and His discretion. That does not mean that some forms of the Lord are inferior to the others. The authentic scriptures also do not support such doctrines.

Well, again in *Bramha samhitha* the scripture that you have cited, Lord Brahma does not differentiate between Lord Krishna and other forms. Whereas He has referred to Lord Krishna as Narayana in one of the verses of *Bramha samhitha*. In the 39th verse of *Bramha samhitha*. Lord Brahma himself has said that Lord Krishna Himself incarnates in various forms like Rama, Narasimha etc according to the need of the time and circumstances. We again say that the

Supreme Lord is equally potent and retains all His qualities in all His forms including the *archa*: i.e. deity form.

One should learn the scriptures under an *A:cha:rya* (a Spiritual Master) who is proficient in them and who does not deviate from the tradition. Or else, he will acquire contrary knowledge like you have done. Religious leaders of modern days select only the parts of scriptures that suit their philosophy and expound them. By that they are misleading the society. One should properly study the scriptures before coming to some conclusions.

M: - Could you please teach me the scriptures and accept me as your disciple?

H.H. :- If you sincerely want to learn the scriptures we don't mind teaching you. We do not accept anybody as our disciples whereas **we accept disciples on behalf of Bhagavad Ramanuja**. Hence, you have to learn the philosophy of Ramanuja before becoming His disciple.

With the permission of H.H. I started to learn the Scriptures along with the students of *Bharathiya Thaththva Kala:sa:la*. I was initiated into the *Sri-Vaishnava* fold by H.H. after a couple of months. Because of His causeless and boundless mercy and compassion, I am blessed to be in the service of H.H. today.

