

This month, we will be celebrating the birth anniversaries of three foremost a:lwa:r saints. Collectively these three saints are called 'Mudala:lwa:rs' or the foremost a:lwa:rs. Also, we will be celebrating the birth anniversary of Sri: Pillai lo:ka:charya, one of the greatest a:cha:ryas of our tradition, by whose grace we are able to get the secrets of our scriptures through his wonderful compositions, and who also saved the deity of Lord Sri: Rangana:tha from a great calamity of foreign invasion.

**Saro: Yo:gi (Poigai a:lwa:r) :**  
**November 1st, 2003**

He is the first among a:lwa:r saints who came to this mundane world to lead all of us to the divine lotus feet of Lord Sri:manna:ra:yana. As per solar calender, he was born in the month of 'thula' with the star 'sravanam' in dwa:para yugam. He was not born from a mother's womb. He came out of a golden lotus in a lake in front of the 'Yatho:kthaka:ri' peruma:l's temple, in the holy town of Ka:nchi:puram. Hence his name became 'Poigai' (Lake) a:lwa:r. He could not bear any separation from Lord even in his thoughts, right from his birth. He renounced all relations with this 'samsa:ra' because it was becoming obstacle for enjoying Lord's wonderful qualities. He was living in forests, doing thapas for more than 3000 years, not taking any food or drink, taking Lord's qualities only as the life support for himself. He got initiation from none other than Lord's chieftan Sri: Vishvakse:na .

**Bhu:tha yo:gi (Pu:daththa:lwa:r)**  
**November 2nd, 2003**

He is the second among a:lwa:r saints after Poigai a:lwa:r. He was also



born in dwa:para yugam, from a 'ma:dhavi' flower (Gurivinda in Telugu) in the present day Maha:balipuram near Chennai. He was also 'ayo:nija' (not born from a mother's womb) and was initiated by Sri: Vishvakse:na like Poigai a:lwa:r. He was born one day after 'saro: yo:gi' with his birth star as 'dhani:shta'. Bhu:tham means the truth or a:thma in sanskrit. He spoke about the absolute truth in his works and also because of his immense knowledge, Lord considered him to be His very a:thma. Hence his name became Bhu:tha yo:gi. He also lived for more than 3000 years, renouncing the samsa:ra and enjoying Lord's qualities incessantly.

**Maha: yo:gi (Pe:ya:lwa:r)**  
**November 3rd, 2003**

The third in succession, he was born one day after Bhu:tha yo:gi. He was also an 'ayo:nija' and initiated by Sri: Vishvakse:na like the previous two a:lwa:rs. He was born from a red 'nalina' flower (lotus like flower but with soft stems – Kaluva in Telugu), in a well named 'Mani Kairavam' in Mylapore of today's Chennai. His birth star is 'sathabhisham' in the same 'thula' month. He was so immersed in enjoying Lord's divine qualities that he did not even notice wordly things. People considered him to be a lunatic and named him after 'Pe:y' (mad person), but he was having extraordinary intelligence and divine wisdom. He also lived for more than 3000 years like the other two a:lwa:rs.

One night when saro:yo:gi was wandering around in a holy place 'Thirukko:valu:r', it was raining heavily. He sought shelter in the veranda:h in front of a house and slept there. After sometime, Pu:daththa:lwa:r also arrived at the same place, and asked

poigai a:lwa:r whether he could share the space until the rain passed. Poigai a:lwa:r replied that the space was big enough for one to sleep, but two could comfortably sit and offered him the place. Both of them being great devotees, they were enjoying each other's company discussing about their divine experiences. In a little while, pe:ya:lwa:r also came there and sought shelter from them. They said that two could sit but three could easily stand and invited Peya:lwa:r also. Though it was heavy downpour outside, all three of them were so happy to meet each other and became engrossed in enjoying each other's experiences singing Lord's glory.

As Lord said in Bhagavad Gi:tha - 'va:sude:vas sarvamithi sa maha:thma: sudurlabhaha' – It is very difficult and almost impossible to get at least one realized soul who believes that Lord Sri:manna:ra:yana is everything for him. Now that three such great 'maha:thma's have come together at one place, Lord Sri:manna:ra:yana in the temple of Tirukko:valu:r, could not wait anymore to see them. He also came there and took shelter along with the three of them, without being seen by anyone. All three felt that suddenly the place became crowded and they were jostled against each other by an unseen fourth person. They were surprised as there was no one around. Using their yogic power and divine vision, they felt Lord's presence amidst them. They were extremely joyous to see Lord with all his 'pariva:ram' and instantly started rendering wonderful poems in Tamil. Each one composed 100 poems and those compositions are called 'mudal thiruvanda:di', 'iranda:m thiruvanda:di' and 'mu:nra:m thiruvanda:di' meaning first, second and third 100s. Anda:di means the last word of the previous poem will be the beginning word of the next one. The first pa:surams (poems) of these three prabandhams are regularly recited even today during mangala:sa:sanam giving



'ha:rathi' or 'ni:ra:janam' to Lord Srimanna:ra:yana. Let us learn about wonderful meaning of those pa:surams – one in each of the forthcoming three issues.

Let us remember the benevolence of the three a:lwa:rs by praying to their lotus feet on their birth anniversaries this year with the following slo:kams :

#### **Poigai a:lwa:r**

thula:ya:m sravane: ja:tham  
ka:nchya:m ka:nchana va:rija:th |  
dva:pare: pa:nchajanya:msam  
saro:yo:ginam a:sraye: ||

#### **Pu:daththa:lwa:r**

thula: dhanishta: sambhu:tham  
bhu:tham kallolama:linaha |  
thi:re: phullothpale: malla:  
purya:m i:de: gada:msajam ||

#### **Pe:ya:lwa:r**

thula: sathabhishagja:tham  
mayu:ra puri kairava:th |  
maha:ntham mahada:khy:tham  
vande: sri:nandaka:msajam ||

#### **Pillai Lo:ka:cha:rya** **November 1st, 2003**

Sri Pillai Lo:ka:cha:rya was the son of a great a:charya named Sri Krishna Pa:da who was also known as 'Vadaku thiruveedhi pillai'. Sri: Krishna Pa:da's mother prayed to his a:cha:rya Sri Nampillai, to bless him with a son. Shri Nampillai, was a great devotee and an excellent orator in describing Lord's qualities and stories. When he was giving lectures, people even used to leave the Lord's temple to hear his speeches. When a son was born to Sri Krishna Pa:da at the blessings of Sri Nampillai, Sri Krishna Pa:da named him after his a:cha:rya Nambillai as 'Pillai Lo:ka:cha:rya'. Hearing of this great honor, Sri Nampillai said that he would have preferred that the Lord's own name be given to the son, and blessed to

have another. In due course, a second son was born to the devout couple, and was named 'Azhagiya Manava:la Perumal Na:yana:r', another name for Sri: Rangana:tha at Srirangam.

Both the brothers learnt all the scriptures with the inner secrets and commentaries of pu:rva:cha:ryas. In those days, such sacred scriptures were taught to only selected number of people, as it required those with the discipline, character, and wisdom to learn them properly. However, the very compassionate, Sri Pillai Lo:ka:cha:rya sought to remove this difficulty such that everyone in the society, including those who do not have either knowledge of Sanskrit or do not qualify for study of ve:das, could understand the essence of our philosophy. So, with the permission of his teachers, he composed many compositions in simple language, bringing out the summary of the teachings of our a:cha:ryas. Some of them are 'mumukshupadi', 'thatthva thrayam', 'shri:vachana bh:shanam' etc. Together all these works are called 18 secrets or 'ashta:dasa rahasyas'. His brother brought out another great composition 'a:cha:rya hrudayam' affirming the authority of 'sri:vachana bh:shanam' in presence of Lord Sri Rangana:tha.

All of us who listen to the beautiful lectures of our great a:cha:rya HH Sri: Chinna Jeeyar Swa:miji are probably familiar with the series which gives the meaning of Sri: Na:ra:yana mantram. Sri Pillai lo:ka:cha:rya's Mumukshupadi is the one that brings out the essence of the meaning of this Na:rayana manthram, Dwaya Manthram and Charama Slo:kam. If our Swamiji's lectures are only based on the first portion of this work, we can only imagine the unfathomable depth of the remaining ones.

When Sri:rangam was attacked by foreign invaders, Sri pillai Lo:ka:cha:rya was well into his 90s. However, he personally supervised the construction of

a wall protecting the main sanctum. He then took the procession deities of Lord (Namperuma:l) and fled from SriRangam. He travelled through thick forests to protect the deities of the Lord. He attained paramapadam on the way leaving the custody of these deities in the safe hands of his disciples. If we are able to see Lord Sri Ranganatha, today, it is only because of Sri Pillai lo:ka:cha:rya's daring actions.

Let us pray to the lotus feet of such great a:cha:rya on his birth anniversary, to bless and guide us on the right path :

*lo:ka:cha:rya:ya gurave:  
krishna pa:dasya su:nave: |  
samsa:ra bh:gi sandashta  
ji:va ji:va:thave: namaha ||*

*Jai Srimannarayana !*

### November Quiz:

-Varadan Ramanuja Dasa

1. From which chapter and sloka does the Lord's teaching start in the Bhagavad Gita?
2. What is the meaning of sa:nkhyā?
3. To whom does Krishna reveal Jna:na yo:ga for the first time? (according to Bhagavad Githa)
4. Which chapter explains the concept of a sthitha prajna?
5. What is the essence of the third chapter of the Bhagavad Gita?
6. In which group of six chapters (shatkam) is bhakti yo:ga described in detail?
7. What is the name of the fourth chapter?
8. What is the key message in the 18th chapter?
9. In which chapter are different types of yajna:s according to Visishta:dwaitham described?
10. What are the commentaries available on Bhagavad Githa, and who wrote them?  
(Answers on Page 23)

