

SEEKING THE BALANCE

VamsiMudumbaiRamanujaDasa

His Holiness Sri Sri Sri Tridandi Ramanuja Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji arrived in California, San Francisco on June 28, 2003 from India. His Holiness spent a week showering His grace on devotees in the Bay Area, conducting numerous programs including a *Sa:mu:hika Sri: Krishna Puja* at Sunnyvale temple, a very special two-day kids workshop at Stanford University, and *Laksmi: Na:ra:yana Ishti* at Sunnyvale Temple. His Holiness was also invited to the TANA festival to bless the attendees about greatness of Vedic culture. Devotees participated in all the programmes with great enthusiasm and the entire Bay area was enveloped in a blanket of devotion for the entire week.

One of Sri Jeeyar Swamiji's most inspiring lectures focussed on attaining a balance between materialism and spirituality, which was conducted at the *Siva-Vishnu* Temple in Livermore, CA. The following is a short transcript of the discourse:

There is no doubt that we people are living in a materialistic world. This world is true. Our every experience is True. It is not illusionary as some people claim. How, else, could we have built such a temple as this one? All over the world, there are numerous temples that are being built though

they are not following the temple construction science described in *A:gama* in building these temples. Temples are being built with devotion, however they are being built in a way that distorts the *A:gama Sa:sthra*. It is like, I want to cure my disease but I don't want to follow the medical science prescription. Most unfortunate thing is these people bow to masons as architects and engineers, ignoring the *sa:sthra* behind. No exception, they suffer their own destiny.

But, life in general is filled with contradictions. For example, we all agree that there should be no more terrorism, and we all are willing to go through the long lines and complex procedure in the airport screening process. However, while we can screen things, how can we screen what is going on in the minds of the people?

A lot of people ask us this question, "Swamiji, can we say that devotion is at its height? Is devotion increasing or decreasing?" The devotees feel it is increasing. If so, then why are problems also increasing? People ought to be more liberal, peaceful and generous, if devotion was really increasing. This does not seem to be happening. So, it appears that growth, whether spiritual or material, needs to be controlled and



directed towards the good. Controlled growth is always for the good, uncontrollable growth is a recipe for disaster. If your stomach grows abnormally you are in for trouble.

Earlier people used to go to temples to only see God and never to ask for all sorts of boons. Now when we go to the temples, we ask for Visa, for a job, for health, for share market to boom, and so on. This is not what should be done. When we go to temples we should ask what Goda Devi asked, “...**unnai aruththiththu vando:m...**, Oh God! We came to you not to take something from you but to take YOU along with us.” What’s the result? If He is with us, everything is with us. When we constrain ourselves with small wishes - A mother desires for her daughter’s marriage, for example. Then with this wish fulfilled comes kids, then grandkids, and so on and this mundane wants are endless and represent ‘unwarranted responsibilities’.

All are aware of the three monkeys which represent ‘not seeing evil’, ‘not hearing evil’ and ‘not talking evil’. As it is said in Hindi “*Na sun bura, na de:kh bura, na bo:l bura*”. But in today’s era the monkey, instead of closing its mouth, is acutally closing the mouth of other monkeys. This is today’s position. Where is the end? Is it God’s duty to note down every wish of ours and fulfill it? Remember! He never takes unwarranted responsibility.

Devotion is surely very high in today’s world, but the goal is different. We need to aim for peace in the mind, not buy it in the market, or try to search for it in the temple.

So, what is the purpose of praying to God ? To ask for peace.

Some people prefer meditation, even that is a method. The ultimate goal of doing all these practices is to reach a balanced state of mind for your own sake.

People are worried not because they lack something, but because their neighbour owns more than they do. If a neighbour owns a house with 2 garages, one aims for building a house with 3 garages. If someone owns a Benz car, the worry starts. If the car breaks down, one somehow derives saddistic pleasure out of it.



HH was explaining about the Yagnam

God provides what is sufficient for everyone. He fulfills our needs, not our greeds. Look at today's world; people are over-exploiting the nature. It is true that Nature provides our needs, but the over-exploitation is what's killing the balance and momentum.



Young Yagnacharya preparing for the Havanam
In olden days there were two cities, one was Ayodhya, one was Lanka. Which one evokes positive feelings? Ayodhya, of course. Why? In spite of the wealth that *Dasarattha* possessed, he shared it with all the people. However, *Ra:vana* never shared his wealth with anyone; he wanted to possess and enjoy everything all by himself.

That is the state of today's world. We possess a lot but we still want to exploit others. Even countries want to dominate using wealth or religion as a pretext. Today man is creating hybrids out of vegetables. In spite of the 'size' of our vegetables, the taste leaves much to be desired. People are afraid of taking ghee, butter etc. Why? Cholesterol is the answer. *A:yurve:da* says that longevity increases if ghee is eaten,

"ghruthe:na a:yuhu vardhathe:". That's because ghee used to be produced in the right manner. Now, because of the contamination and the improper processes (than what our *Sasthra* says) being followed, the power and sanctity are lost. Ghee is good for every one IF it is prepared in the right process !!

Man is corrupting nature and animals. The general saying goes "Serving Humanity ONLY is service to God". It's an inaccurate representation, it should in fact be "Serve **all beings** as service to God."

Ra:vana was notorious because he seized away possessions of others and used it to cause ill to others. Alas! Man is tending to become selfish and narrow-minded. *Sa:sthras* came into existence for humanity, not for plants and animals. However, humanity's application of it makes it benefit all. Let us make Earth as a divine abode of God. We are the children of the Divine God – the *Amrutha Purusha*.

How do we do that? By leading a pious life and following the teachings of *Sa:sthras*.

We know only one side of the coin, but not the other side. One side shows the denomination, the other side has a face which is changeable. It started off with faces of lions and other animals. Now, we see politicians instead.

We need to earn, have belongings etc.. but this is only one side of the coin which is always



changing. The other side of the coin is constant. We should realize that. Let us remember that our body is an abode which is to be used appropriately. Let us try to understand both sides of the coin and synchronize our activities appropriately. If we try and understand the power behind us, i.e., *Parama:thma*, then, we would make a giant leap in the right direction. Let us try to explore our own greatness, the source of which is the Power that is behind all of us. If our goal is such, other activities become secondary. If we do not do this, then God Himself will become secondary to us.

That is our state today! we all speak of devotion, but none of us are really 'concerned' about God.

The ultimate goal of spirituality is to feel oneness with all beings through the realization of the God that pervades all. Lord *Krishna* said - 'Do all your activities, but feel My presence in all of them. That is the way.'

All the participants in the programmes of HH Sri Swamiji have felt the divine touch and they wished to be in the divine service. After listening to HH Sri Swamiji, every one realised that doing our duty sincerely and with devotion unto lord, following the Sashtra ordained by Him, is the ultimate way of our life. HH Sri Swamiji blessed one and all for their good spiritual strength and for vigorously participating in the Divine activities ie., the service activities like

those carried on by JET and VIKASATARANGINI.

All the devotees in the California area have pledged to take part in the wonderful activities conducted by JET and VIKASATARANGINI. Every one praised Sriman Vishnu Reddy and the group of volunteers who strived continuously to make HH Visit be useful to many devotees in a great way.

The balance of the materialistic outlook with the spiritual sense is what the present day need is. This is not only for our group of people, but, in general for all.

We are extremely fortunate to have HH Sri Swamiji in this area whose presence has sanctified our hearts and pacified the agitating minds, rejuvenating the latent spiritual strengths, to be put into His service. Our Acharya is so compassionate to bless all of us in this corner of the world, with His direct presence.

With His blessings we are fully confident that the spark lit will keep glowing, to lead more and more on the Divine path.

Jai Sriman Narayana!

Do you know?

How many miles did Hanuma:n jump across the sea to reach Lanka?



*100 Yo:janas or 800 miles !!!
(1 Yo:jana = 8 miles)*

