

SPIRITUAL FEAST AT MINNEAPOLIS

Murali Krishna Yekkirala Ramanuja Dasa

It was a spiritual feast for the devotees at Minneapolis when HH Sri Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji blessed this place with his visit during July 14 and 15. It was a fascinating experience, as we could get His *Darsan* and *Pravachan* the following day of *Guru Pu:nima*. It could happen as He wished that way.

While some of us missed the opportunity of participating in the earlier spiritual retreat, HH Sri Swamiji blessed the Minneapolis devotees in different programmes arranged by the devotees. The programmes were a spiritual treat with a package - a discourse for about one and half hours at the Hindu Temple of Minneapolis, followed by Questions and answers for another half an hour. There were some private sessions too, wherein the devotees could get their doubts clarified and got blessed by HH Sri Swamiji.

In the discourse at the Hindu Mandir, HH Sri Swamiji emphasized the significance of Vedic lore and explained that it is a way of life and not a religion. It laid down the path of how the humans should do their duties towards other humans, the animal, plant kingdom and inanimate objects too. His Holiness explained the significance of '*Na:ra:ya:na*' and '*Na:ra:yanathwam*', that Omnipresent God is manifested in the animate and the inanimate objects too. If that were the case, the wisdom of narrow minded individuals who profess the differences between different religions is questioned. Is it not equivalent to questioning the 'Omni-presence' of God? Is it not defining the infinite in terms of limited human comprehension?

HH Sri Swamiji brought about the significance of Vedic lore and laid down two aphorisms for the enlightenment of devotees - first "WORSHIP YOUR OWN, Be Steadfast in your faith " and second "RESPECT OTHERS' too".

He explained the duties of man towards the Mother Nature, how God has given the *Pancha bhuthas* - five elements in plenty for the well being of man, but how man has become greedy and selfish and started exploiting Mother Nature, which is resulting in the present nature calamities, diseases and questioning the survival of the human race too. God has provided the five basic elements so that man can live peacefully along with all other species too. While all other beings live for the day without bothering about future, man always thinks of past with regret and future with anxiety and uncertainty.

How can man get over this and attain peace? *Na:masmarana* is the only path, which can purify the human soul as well as the external environment too. It is the duty of all individuals to chant and spread the divine name of God and HH Sri Swamiji guided the devotees by leading a couple of Bhajans too.

The Hindu Mandir was overflowing with devotees and as the main hall was not sufficient, the devotees had to occupy the upstairs. For the entire duration of the discourse, the devotees were spellbound with the presence of God in the form of *Archa: Mu:rthi* as well as in Guru's form too as HH Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji. What more can we expect on the auspicious occasion of *Guru Pu:nima* ?

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