

Jun 15

ADIYONGAL THIRUMADAL

A SYDNEY ANDAL GROUP NEWSLETTER

About ten years ago in May 2005, a group of Sydney Sri Vaishnavites gathered at Eastwood to celebrate Swami Ramanuja Jayanthi. Coincidentally this group was formed on that day with our acharyan, who is also known as Thiruppavai Jeeyar, showing us the way to celebrate the first Andal Kalyanam in 2006 and then onwards this has become a flagship event for this group. Hence the group has earned its name "Sri Andal Group"



First Sri Andal Thirukalyanam Jan 2006

From Jan 2010 onwards this group started regular monthly chanting of 4000 divyaprabandham at various group members' houses. When Sri Venkateswara Temple (SVT) Helensburgh celebrated its first brahmotsvam, this group was privileged to chant the divyaprabandham during perumal *purappadu* and continues every year.



Note the dates:

June 1

Vaikasi Visakam – Namazhvar
Thirunakshatiram

June 2

Vaikasi anusham – Parasara
Bhattar Thirunakshatiram

June 27

Ani Swathi – Periazhvar
Thirunakshatiram

Important Announcement

Thiruvaimozhi chanting @ SVT

Sat 30/5 2pm, 1m – 4mpathu,
Sun 31/5 2pm 5m – 8mpathu
Mon 01/6 (am) 9 & 10mpathu
followed by sattrumurai.

www.sriandalsydney.org

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From Dec 2012 onwards the group's regular monthly chanting of divyaprabandham has been shifted to SVT. This group also involved in chanting the divyaprabandham in front of divyadampathis for events like pavithrotsavam, pagal pathu-raa pathu, vaikunta ekadasi, sahasra kalasabishekam etc. The group has created its own website www.sriandalsydney.org which contains photographs, videos and interesting articles contributed by members, which has attracted world wide attention.

The group members felt the pressing need for archa vigrahams for alvars and aacharyas. Due to strong initiative from SVT committee members duly supported by this group, perumal has ordained us to bring Nammalwar and Sri Ramanujar to SVT in Dec 2013.



In Jan 2015, this group performed the GGG utsavam of offering 100 tada vennai and 100 tada akkaraadisal to Govinda (perumal), a wish of Godha (Andal) fulfilled by Godagraja (Ramanujar). This group also co-sponsoring various events including the visits of Sri Velukkudi Krishnan, Sri Dushyant Sridhar etc.

In Apr 2015, this group with the initiatives from young members started the Bhagavath Baagavatha Kaimkaryam with the following two initiatives

- Donations to Divyadesa temples / Abimanasthalams which are getting less funding from HRCE (Government Dept which allocates funding) for performing daily rituals / utsavams.
- Helping Archakals / Sri Vaishnava Scholars who are getting less salary and finding it hard to make ends meet.

You can make your contributions for this kaimkaryams to: **Prasanna Ramaswamy; BSB: 944300; A/c No: 015637638; Description: <Your Name>**

With the increasing quest for sharing the sath-vishayams across the group members, it was decided to come up with a newsletter every month covering on purely various bhagavatha and bhaagavatha vishayangal (related contents).

We hope you will enjoy reading each and every article in this newsletter. If you wish to contribute or have any feedback, please email us using "sydney.andal@gmail.com"

Sydney Andal Group

Mohan's Musings - Part 1 (by Mohan Vijayaraghavan)

srl:

"Radhe Radhe". "Jai Shri Krishna", "Jai Shri Ram", "Jai Seetha Ram" -- These were the words ringing in our ears all the time during our journey to UP and Gujarat.

Namaskarams to everyone.

Here, in this section, I shall attempt to recall and relive every moment of our (Viji & Mohan) trip to Brindhavan, Mathura, Ayodhya, Chitrakoot, Naimisharanyam, Kasi, Dwaraka and Ahobilam during Dec'14-Jan'15.

"Nanri marapadu nanrandu"...ennum vakiathukku yerpa..

Both myself and Viji are thankful and grateful to Jadish Swami of Brindavan to have accompanied us during our trip until dwaraka and had taken enormous interest in sharing a wealth of information and also taken care to put us in the most satvic places to stay and have food. We shall never forget the hospitality of the bhagavatas in many places we had visited and in those houses where we had taken food. I shall of course cover this side as well as we go along.

I should also wish to point out that only by repeated listening to Shri Velukkudi Krishnan Swami's and other bhagavatas upanyasams on these divya shtreams that we had developed a great Love to visit these places that have great importance in our history. By sharing our experiences, we hope that other bhagavatas also develop the interest to visit and develop great Love for Rama and Krishna and the entire parivar.

If there are any inconsistencies observed or something does not sound right in what I had written, then when you get time, "vandu vongi en mudugula oru aryai kodunga" ..Feel free..

So, come, let's travel back...

Dec10-2014: – New Delhi to Brindavan

We landed in New Delhi Airport, got picked by a driver named Banti (soft spoken nice gentleman) and started around 12.30pm to Brindavan. (Ref: Banti Rajpoot, Tour and Travels – Tel: 9410039391/9045126424/9259773178)

There are two routes to get to Brindavan from New Delhi Airport.

- 1) via Noida taking the Yamuna Express Way
- 2) via Gurgaon passing via Palwal

Our driver took the option-2 via Palwal because of traffic conditions..On the way we stopped to have tiffin at 'Hari Om Dhaba' at Palwal. Very nice food, of course vegetarian only. Anyone passing by do stop by here.

This place gave indication that Vrindavan was near...

Mohan's Musings - (contd)

How ? They use lots of ghee here in this place !!!.

Reached Brindavan around 5.30pm and checked into 'Savitri Seva Sadan', Madhuban Colony, Sunrakh Road, Vrindavan(Tel:0565-254-0880).. Rooms are just ok and we paid Rs.700 per night.

Heard Shri Velukkudi Krishnan Swami had used 'Ananda Krishna Van' at Vrindavan in the same above locality during his visit. You can check this out as well.

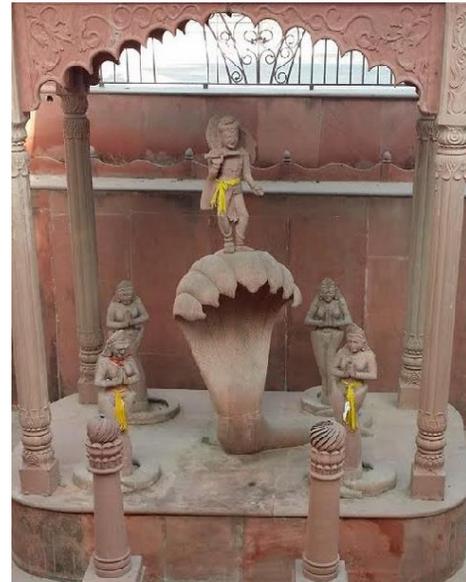
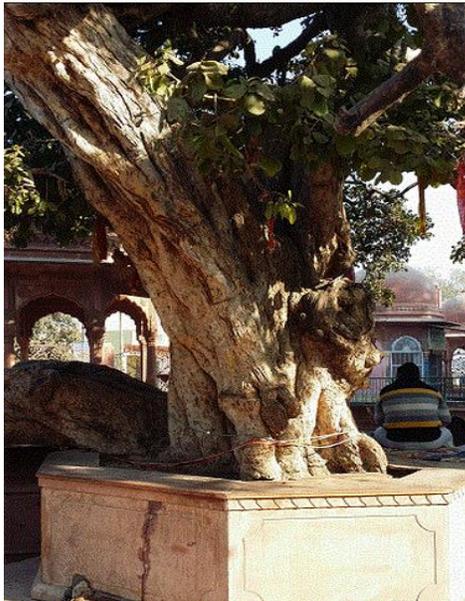
Behind Savitri Seva Sadan is our Perumal temple called 'Uthra Tirupathi Balaji Mandir' (Parikrama Marg, Raman Reti, Vrindavan Tel:09219407838/09286244454). This temple is maintained by Shrimath Andavan Ashramam. Had dharshan of Perumal on two occasions here. That same evening, we went and visited ISKON temple and this also had a separate guest house and vegetarian restaurant (no-onion-garlic). So for the next 3 nights we shifted to ISKON guesthouse.

We paid Rs.900 / night for stay here. Again rooms are just basic, but to us, it was good since we always were hearing the names of Radharani and Krishna chanted almost all hours in this place and had the opportunity to visit the aarti both morning and evening.

There are various ashrams in Vrindavan and many of them start Hari Nama Sankirtan as early as 3am. So, if you are staying in ISKON, one should be prepared to do away with any early morning sleep after 3am or else stay in some other place like 'Ananda Krishna Van'. Since around the ISKON temple and to other historic places, we had to travel through narrow street, we used battery operated rickshaws (good ones) to move about. This can seat up to 4 adults quite easily.

Dec11-2014:-

The first place we visited today 11th Dec was where Krishna did Kalianardhan. (Attached images 20141211_093256-Kalianardhan.gif and 20141211_093644-Kalianardhan.jpg)



That is the original tree where Krishna jumped from on top of Kalingan and to the Yamuna.

Mohan's Musings – (contd)

In those times, Yamuna was running close to this tree, but now it has receded almost 1km from this place.

Also as shown in the image "20141211_093644-Kalianardhan.jpg ", the story goes is, Sowbarya Maharishi (what I heard was this name, but..might be slightly different) had given a curse to Garuda (since he was eating and dropping snakes) that if it comes to Yamuna Garuda's head will burst.

So, for this reason, Kalingan had taken refuge in Yamuna and after Krishna finished his Kalinga nardanam and released all nagas, they all it seems went to another dweepam near current 'Bali' and that is the reason we were told that even today in Bali they do lot of Naga worship.

Also, when Garuda was carrying the Amritha Kalas, he rested for a while on this tree and some of the amrit spilled here and so they do mini kumba mela here every 6 years.

So, for two reasons, this vriksha(tree) is divine..(1) Krishna's feet being felt all over (2) Amrit spilling on..

Close to this tree, I was shown a small Kutir (6ftx3ft) which was used by a mahatma called Kalaibaba who it seems passed away only 15 or 20 years ago. (ref attached image 20141211_094339-Kaliababa.gif)



He was a very rich man in Bengal, but gave away all, came to brindavan and spent his last 15 or 20 years sweeping the streets and vanam's in brindavan and then in his last 5 years spent in this cave like kutir. He never used to take bath but his body used to give only some divine smell.

All villagers around used to bring lots of tiffin carriers of food, but he used to feed all the cows and birds with those but he lived only on water. He either went and sat under the tree from what Krishna had jumped or in this cave. (to be continued)

Vedam Tamizh Seida Maaran Sadagopan (by Smt. Vasumathi Harish)

This "manmatha" year, on June 01 (Vaikasi Visakam) marks the tirunakshatram of Swami Nammazhvar, the foremost and greatest of the twelve saints (Azhvars). On this auspicious day, let us endeavour to know more about this beacon of light and exponent of "Sri Vaishnavite thought and experience". Early literature places the birth of Swami Nammazhvar as being the 42nd day after the onset of Kali Yuga (3102 B.C), however modern day historians place his birth more toward the ninth century. Swami Nammazhvar is believed to be the amsa of Visvaksena (the Commander-in-Chief of the Lord's army). Nammazhvar's birth was prophesied by Veda Vyasa in the Bhagvata Purana. It has been mentioned in the Bhavishyath Purana that a great saint would be born, at the advent of Kali Yuga, in Dravida land by the river Tamaraparani.

Nammazhvar (also known as Maaran, Sadagopan, Parankusan) was born in Kuruhur (later referred to as Azhvar Tirunagari) in the Tirunelveli district of Tamilnadu to Kaari and Udainangaiyaar. By the divine grace of Tirukurunkudi Nambi, they were blessed with a child whom they named "Maaran" (meaning one who is unique). The baby never cried, moved or drank milk. Finally out of desperation, the parents left the child under a tamarind tree (supposed to be an avataram of Adishesha) next to the temple. Thus, the child remained motionless for 16 years in deep meditation.

Around the same time, another saint Madurakavi Azhvar, a vedic scholar, was on a pilgrimage in Ayodhya and, seeing a bright light southwards, he walked until he reached the tamarind tree in Azhvar Tirunagari, under which "Maaran" was seated. To test him, Madurakavi Azhvar threw a small pebble before him. Lo and Behold, the divine boy woke up out of his trance for the first time. Madurakavi posed a philosophical question to the boy. The question he asked was this: if the Jeeva (life which is eternal) is born into the body, which is lifeless, what will it experience and where will it live? The young saint answered "If the Jeeva is a realized soul, it will contemplate on the Paramatma and will live in this divine consciousness". At once Madurakavi Azhvar prostrated before Nammazhvar and requested to be accepted as his disciple.

Swami Nammazhvar is called as "Satagopan" as he conquered the "Satavayu" and senses. The term "Nammazhvar" was used by the Lord to address him. The "Shataari" which represents the Lord's feet and which is applied to devotees' head in temples as a sign of His protection is also named after "Satagopan". Nammazhvar authored four works which captured the entire essence of the 4 Vedas. They are 1) Tiruvaasiriyam, expounding the Rig Veda wherein the Azhvar describes and enjoys the beauty of the Lord, 2) Tiruviruttam expounding the Yajur Veda where the Azhvar maintains that he finds mundane life in this world unbearable, 3) Peria Tiruvandadhi bringing out the essence of the Atharvana veda where the Azhvar cries out to the Lord to take him in his fold, and 4) Tiruvaaymozhi, the magnum opus, expounding the Sama Veda, the azhvar enjoys the Lord, tells us the way towards Him and concludes with his "Moksha Anubhavam"

Divyadesam #98

Name: **Thirukurugoor**; Naadu: **Pandya**

Moolavar: **Aadipiran**; Urchavar: **Polinduninra Piran**

Thaayar: **Kurugoor valli, Aadinathavalli Thaayaar**

Vimaanam: **Govinda vimaanam**; Theertham: **Brahma Theertham, Tamirabarani**

Naamavali: **Sri Aadhinathavalli nayiga samede Sri Aadhinatha parabramane namaha**

Location: This sthalam is situated one mile from Azhvar Thirunagari railway station between Tirunelveli to Tiruchendur railway lane.

Address: Sri Aadinaathan Tirukkoi, Alwartirunagari, Tirunelveli Dist.,

Tel: **+91 4639 273 607**. The Temple is open from morning 7.30 to 12.00 noon and from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. Contact Appu Sadagopachari **04639 273984**.

Hayagreevam Upāsmāhe (by Smt Priya Prasanna & Smt Ramya Venkatesh)

1. Who is Sri Havaarivar ?

Hayagriva, also spelt **Hayagreeva** (Sanskrit: हयग्रीव, IAST: hayagrīva), is a horse-headed avatar of the Lord Vishnu . In Sanskrit, Hayagrīva means haya=Horse, grīva=Neck. He is worshipped as the God of knowledge and wisdom. He is the Four form of Veda, viz. Rig, Yajur, Sama and Atharva Vedas.

2. Meaning of Hayagrivar?

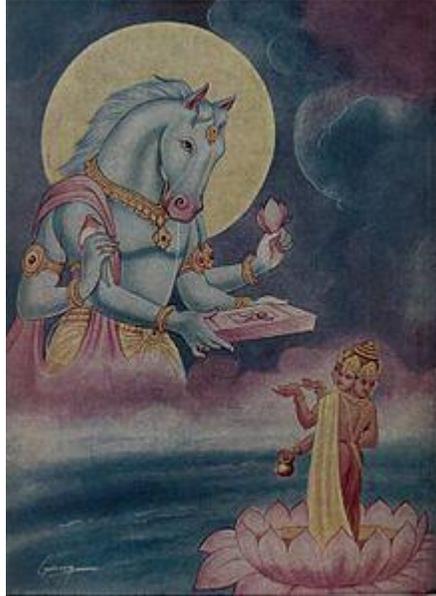
He who is hailed as "Hayasirsa". Hayaśirṣa means haya=**Horse**, śirṣa=**Head**

3. Why did Lord Vishnu chose horse head?

It is said Vishnu was unable to defeat this horse-headed demon because the latter had a boon that he could be killed only by another horse-headed creature. So He incarnated as Hayagrivar.

4. When did Lord Vishnu take 'Hayagrivar' form?

In starting of KALI YUGA brahma was meditating upon lord Vishnu. On that time unfortunately two water drops fell from the lotus in which brahma resides. These 2 water drops fell on the earth's crust (rasatala) thus demons were born. The demons Madhu and Kaitabha stole the Vedas from Brahma, and Vishnu then took the Hayagriva form to recover them.



Hayagrivar slokam

*jñānānanda mayam devam nirmala sphatikākṛtiṃ
ādhāraṃ sarvavidyānaṃ hayagrīvaṃ upāsmāhe*

In Devanāgarī

ज्ञानानन्द मयं देवं निर्मल स्फटिकाकृतिं

आधारं सर्वविद्यानं हयग्रीवं उपास्महे

Link to enjoy songs of Hayagrivar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzaR2BUt1O8>

Question for the month:

Find temples of Sri Hayagrivar in India (not Sannadhi a separate temple for Lord Hayagrivar)

Note: [Answer will be provided in next edition]

B. Find Hayagriva from the below table

H	Y	V	R	G	O	N	R	A
A	A	I	K	G	I	Y	V	R
H	A	Y	A	G	R	I	V	A
I	A	G	A	N	R	G	I	H
R	H	Y	R	G	A	H	A	I
V	H	I	A	G	R	Y	H	G
A	I	Y	R	G	R	I	A	K
R	A	H	I	K	R	H	V	G
H	A	Y	A	G	R	I	V	A

C. Help the little boy and girl to find the way to swami Hayagriva temple

