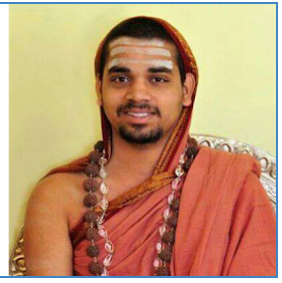


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Prārthanā

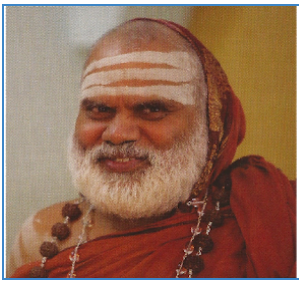


या कुन्देन्दुतुषारहारधवला या शुभ्रवस्त्रावृता
या वीणावरदण्डमण्डितकरा या श्वेतपद्मासना ।
या ब्रह्माच्युतशंकरप्रभृतिभिर्देवैः सदा पूजिता
सा मां पातु सरस्वती भगवती निःशेषजाड्यापहा ॥

yā kundēndutuṣārahāradhavalā yā śubhravastrāvṛtā
yā vīṇāvaradaṇḍamaṇḍitakarā yā śvētapadmāsana |
yā brahmācyutaśaṅkaraprabhṛtibhirdēvaiḥ sadā pūjitā
sā māṁ pātu sarasvatī bhagavatī niḥśēṣajāḍyāpahā ||

May the Goddess Saraswati protect me. She is fair like the jasmine-colored moon, and whose pure white garland is like frosty dew drops. She is adorned in radiant white attire, on whose beautiful arm rests the veena, and whose throne is a white lotus. She is surrounded and respected by the Gods. Please remove my weariness, sluggishness and ignorance.

We submit our efforts at the Lotus feet of Jagadguru Śankarācārya His Holiness Mahāsannidhānam Śrī Śrī Śrī Bhārati Tīrtha Mahāswāmiji and Jagadguru Śankarācārya His Holiness Sannidhānam Śrī Śrī Śrī Vidhuśekhara Bhārati Mahāswāmiji



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Acharya Sandesham

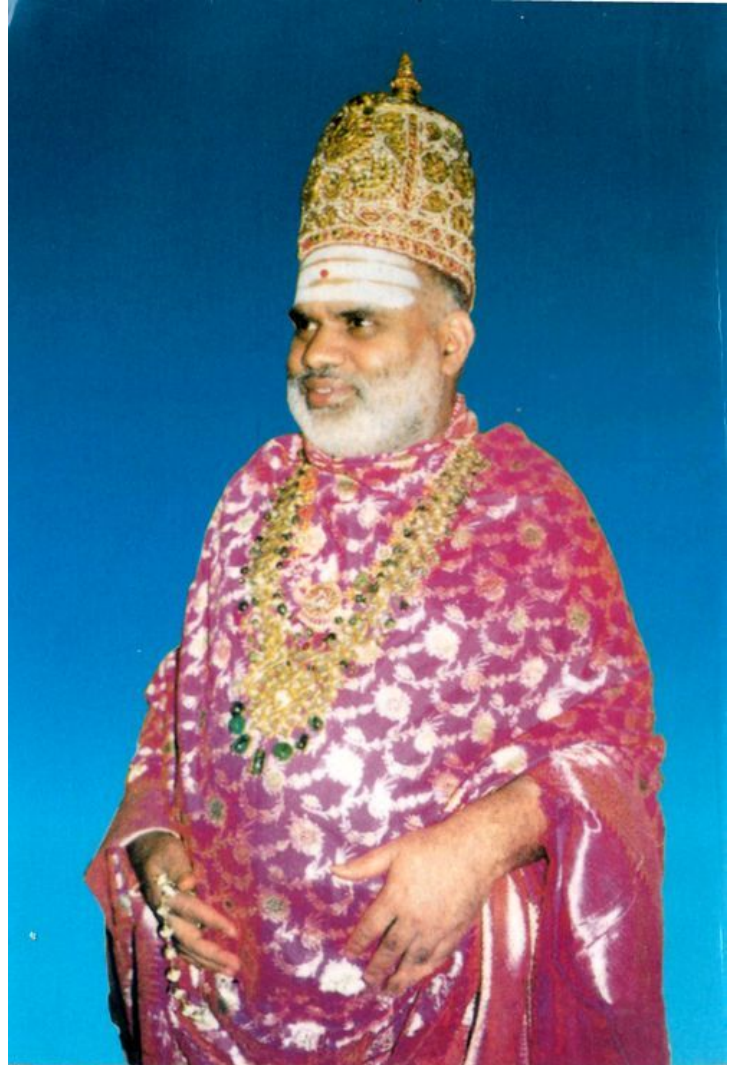
शारदा शारदाम्भोजवदना वदनाम्बुजे ।
सर्वदा सर्वदास्माकं सन्निधिं सन्निधिं क्रियात् ॥
śāradā śāradāmbhōjavadanā vadanāmbujē |
sarvadā sarvadāsmākam
sannidhiṁ sannidhiṁ kriyāt ||

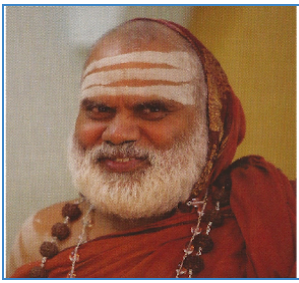
Peace of mind is the most important thing for all human beings than any other things. Even if a man possesses lot of wealth, if he does not have peace of mind his life will become a big burden. Hence to obtain such a great peace of mind one has to necessarily have Ishwara's grace. Moreover we are not supposed to hinder anyone in our life. Those who have given lot of hindrances to other people in previous birth lose peace of mind in this birth.

We must do services to Ishwara, and help deserving people in distress. Moreover we must refrain from troubling others and do our duty to best of our ability. Those who follow such ideal four principles which are mentioned above will obtain peace of mind. Ishwara showers his graces to everyone equally. HE doesn't have any sort of discrimination towards anyone. Hence we must worship Ishwara with ardent devotion and staunch bhakti.

So everyone should worship Bhagavan and do services to the deserving people and refrain from hindering others. By leading such a life one will attain shreyas in life.

--- Jagadguru Śankarācārya His Holiness Mahāsannidhānam Śrī Śrī Śrī Bhārati Tirtha Mahāswāmiji



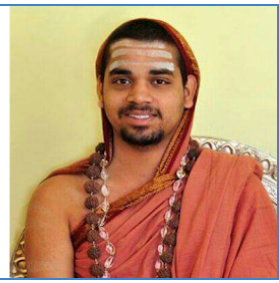


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Navratri Special

Significance of celebration Navratri Mahotsava by Pujyasri Swami Omkarananda Saraswati.

One should have the ability to discriminate between body and atman. Most of the people are of the view that the atman is what body is. But it is not so. Atman and body are different. Atman is residing in the body. This is the ultimate truth, said in sastras.

The human birth is very rarest one to obtain. Following of dharma, worshipping of Ishwara and showering love and affection towards everyone is the most important aspect of human being.

Ishwara is the supreme power and we must realize this truth and worship him with ardent devotion.

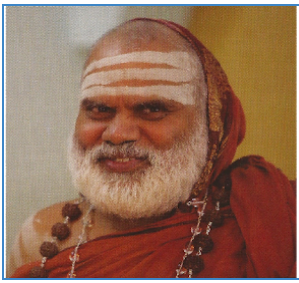
Agriculture is the basis for the celebration of all festivals. The aim of celebrating festivals is to know the real purpose of being born as a human being.

In our country, particularly in our sanatana dharma, although Ishwara is formless, we worship him by giving some specific form to Bhagavan. The fact is that although the atman doesn't have form we have form (body). Likewise we give some form to Ishwara and through the tattvas of the form we are expressing our devotion on him.

Purification of mind is the main concept of Idol worship.

Our great ancestors they are very well aware of psychology. The Brahman (Ishwara) who does



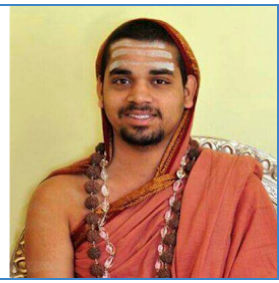


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not have any form or name in fact expands HIMSELF in the minds of great Rishis with umpteen forms and namas inside them. Through them the temple worship method was developed with idol worship and celebrations of festivals. Through this our cultures developed in dharmic way and make us to lead a cultured life.

We are not telling that there are different Gods. Our sanatana dharma says that the whole Universe itself is Ishwara. To realize this we need highly empowered mind. Shaktham' worship is one of the classifications of worshipping the Lord in the form of Goddess (Shakti Form of Worshipping).

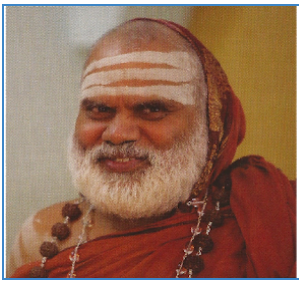


Navratri celebration comes under this category. This form of worshipping is seen in "Devi Bhagavatam, Devi Mahatmyam'. We see stories like Ambika killing demons like 'Madhu Kaida, Raktabeeja, Chanda Munda, Mahishasura etc. The real fact is these characters are the gunas (qualities) we possess within ourselves. Shakti possesses two weapons pasa and angusa. Pasa signifies the unwanted desires we possess and angusa is the weapon to destroy such undesirable desires.

Maa Durga does not have any personal wishes, desires or anger with anyone. In Lalitha Sahasranama we can see this in "Raga Swaroopa...." SHE is controlling and ruling over the desires and keep the anger under her control. Killing of demons indicates that one should overcome anger and desires which are the root cause of samsara bandham. MAgisha vatam shows

the eradication of Tamo Guna. Tamo guna means laziness, telling lies, dull headedness and all adharmic activities.

In Navratri we are celebrating Maa Durga in first three days, Maa Lakshmi in next three days and last three days for worshipping Maa Saraswati. By worshipping the 9 days in such a manner we are getting our atma tattva darshan. By celebrating NAvratri through worshipping of Maa Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati we get divine knowledge through proper education, unlimited wealth and sound body. And Vijayadashami symbolizes the victory in our life by the demolition of ignorance.

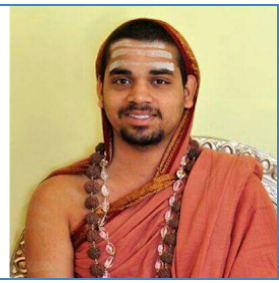


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Worshipping of Maa Durga:

For having an active and peaceful life physical fitness (ie) a life without any diseases is very much important. Without a proper physical fitness we will not have any energy to accomplish our duties without any failure. Both mental and physical fitness should be in a balanced manner, so that we have energy to render our valuable services to this society and to ourselves. This will lead us to a peaceful lifestyle. For this, there should be a limited proper food intake, pure and divine food should be taken by us daily and there should be proper exercise (yoga) and we



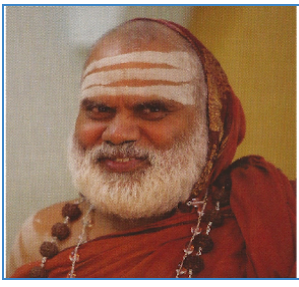
should work hard up to our working ability daily. And to have a fit body, there should be a sound sleep and proper rest should also give to this body in proper interval. The rarest birth in this universe is human birth. So it is our prime duty to protect this treasure in proper manner and it should be utilized in a proper manner, that is useful for both the society and for ourselves to cross the ocean of samsara.

Durga worship gives the strength and sound health without any disturbances and hurdles in our life. So it is a must to do Durga Pooja on first three days of Navratri.

Worshipping of Maa Lakshmi:

From 4th day to 6th day on Navratri, we worship Maa Lakshmi. WE should realize the surprising fact the body and jeeva are different but the mind and jeeva are related to each other. In the cycle of birth and death, bodies will change. Hence to obtain human birth is the rarest aspect. The rarest thing is to obtain the human birth with a body, without any disablement. This is the real wealth. All other wealth we possess is only materialistic one and that is only for our

lifestyle living purposes. We must use this rarest human birth to get proper guna (character), education and should lead a dharmic life. One can lead family life or ascetic (sannyasi) life but should lead such life in dharmic manner , which enables him to cross over the bondage of samsara sagara. The sensual pleasures can be enjoyed by even animals. But the purpose of

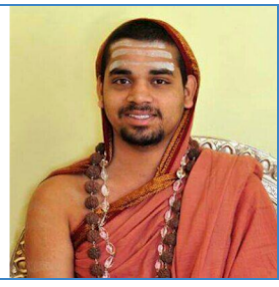


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human birth is not for sensual pleasures. It is only to get out of the darkness of the ignorance and obtain liberation through satsang. Mere doing of pooja alone is not sufficed and one should lead a dharmic life by realizing the value of human birth. So from day to night we have to use our body and mind to get out of this cycle of birth and attained supreme power of liberation.



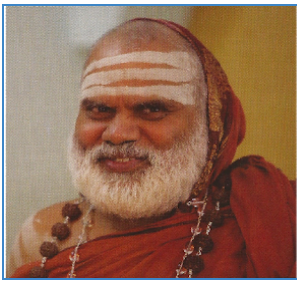
This human birth is obtained by carrying high value deposit of punya karmas that we did in our previous births. Now this boat (human birth) has been given to us. So we have to utilize this opportunity in a proper way to cross the ocean of samsara before this boat is broken. Thus says a Sanskrit sloka.

Like the veena instrumental string which should not be either tight or too loose. In the same way we should not give this body either too much strain or too much comfort. Everything should be in a balance manner. We have to do penance as per our shastras and we should not do fasting according to our wishes. While praying to Maa Devi, we should pray as this body is surviving from food we must worship Maa devi to protect it. Since the body is secured by food in the end it has to become either ashes or mud and become a fertilizer for creation off another being. One should always

chant Annapurna sloka written to us by Adi Shankara daily without any fail so that we will always get such a body (birth) that is useful for all at all the time.

In this slokas Sri Adi Shankaracharya says "Hey Maa Devi! You are the wife of Lord Shiva. You bestow me pure mind, pure intellect, detachment and strength to obtain liberation. So to get all these, Maa Devi! Bestow me with proper food." The jnanais and great saints are having food only for the purpose of survival to cross over the ocean of bondage.

Maa Lakshmi shall not bestow her fortune on a person who has the character of jealousy. For such person she will rather send her elder sister and Maa Lakshmi will not stay with such person. We must chant Lakshmi Ashtottara, Kanakarasotra... etc.. from those scriptures we are able to draw what is the real wealth and what the people in this universe general considered

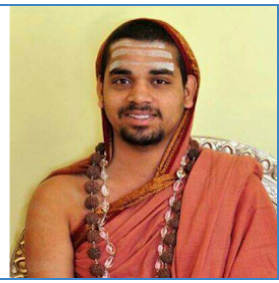


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as wealth. Money alone is not the wealth. The wealth in the hands of anti-social elements, that wealth will be used for all adharmic activities. Even Thiruvalluvar quotes that wealth in the hands of wrong people is the most dangerous one equal that is to poison. Poverty of a highly

educated person is dangerous and the wealth in the hands of a foolish person is double the danger.



The residing divine places of Maa Mahalakshmi are chest of Mahavishnu, in the thorana (house entrance), goshala, deepa, the shoulders of the valiant, in the hard work of the people, gold, face of divine ladies, velour, army, ... such holy places. There is a beautiful sloka which compares blossom of

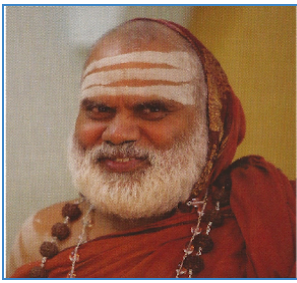
lotus flower with Mahalakshmi. We see in the face of ladies Bhagyalakshmi, In the hands Danalakshmi, in shoulders Veeralakshmi, Body Mahalakshmi, Guna (culture) Keerti Lakshmi, Life is Moksha Lakshmi and in the mind and intellect Karuna Lakshmi and in the tongue (speech) Satya Lakshmi. Let we pray these Ashtalakshmi to be will us always and grace us with strength, name, fame, power, beauty, status, all types of wealth and peace of mind.

Worship of Maa Saraswati

Last three days are for the worship of Maa Saraswati. Shakti worship is very much important. For strength, power and long life we pray Maa Durga. To run our life with peace and wealth we pray Maa Lakshmi. But without proper knowledge the above said two qualities such us physical strength and wealth does not have any value.

We have to discriminate which one is permanent to bestow us peace surely it is only the pure knowledge. We should not use our knowledge for spoiling others. We should always use our knowledge for the benefit of others upliftment.

Tamo guna would always induce a person to harm others. Rajo guna has the tendency of selfish nature. Only the sattva guna alone will make us to think for others.

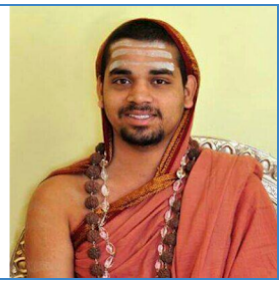


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Gayatri mantra explains this only. It asks for the opening of our inner mind to realize the ultimate truth of life. I.e to use our intellect (buddi) in proper way i.e in the path of dharma. There is no limit for learning. Continue to learn and should remember always what we have learnt. There is no end to studies. So knowledge is utmost important in our life.



We should always have the awareness for the real meaning of every action that is done by us in our day to day life. Along with the materialistic education, we must give much importance to learn the great values of our sanatana dharma and also follow the glorious values of sanatana dharma in our life. Furthermore we must inculcate such dharmic values of sanatana dharma to the next generation also.

We should not make our mind a dust bin by learning unwanted and undesirable things which will give only sorrows in life. Hence we must have highly knowledgeable education with utmost humility. Thus celebration of Navaratri is for shaping our inner mind with peace, strength, prosperity, progress, fortune, good health, wealth and

success in our life.

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