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SRI MADHWA SIDDHANTA

Monthly Journal of

Sriman Madhwa Siddhantonnahini Sabha

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S.M.S.O. Sabha Journal - 385th Issue (Feb-24)

Listen To Maagha Maasa Maahaatmyam

From 25th Jan. to 24th Feb.

Ref: **Sri. T.S.Raghavendran** book —

“Maghamasa Mahatmyam” in Vayu Purana (Part 1)

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One may have time or convenience to have bath in Magha Masa in a holy river or not, the grace of the Lord Sri Madhava (Husband and Master of Mahalakshmi) is certain if the devotee owns this sacred book and reads the Mahimas of this great month Magha Masa.

श्री ब्रह्मोवाच — **Sri Chaturmukha Brahma said:**

To Remove Sorrows In Kali Yuga

न माघमासात् परमोऽस्ति धर्मः
संसारदुःखं विनिवर्तितुं कलौ ।
यथा कलौ विष्णुकथापरागतिः
तथैव स्नानं मकरे दिवाकरे ॥ 24 ॥

In the age of Kali, to clear off the grief of the people, there is nothing more superior dharma than Magha Masa. In the age of Kali, a person who drinks the nectar of “Sri Harikatha” attains liberation and Moksha. Likewise, when the Sun is in Makara rasi, a person taking holy bath early in the month of Magha will attain Moksha. (Sl 24).

Magha Snana Period
25-01-2024 to 24-02-2024

पापानि विलयं यान्ति तमांसीव भगोदये ।
 समागच्छन्ति पुण्यानि यथा गुरुकृपोदये ॥ 25 ॥

All the sins are destroyed by such sacred early bath just like the darkness is destroyed by Soorya Udaya. Further, all the virtues are attained by that person, just like by the grace of guru all the desired results are obtained. (Chapter 1, Sloka 25).

अकृतं माघमासे तु प्रातः स्नानं नराधमः ।
 पैशाचीं योनिमासाद्य तिष्ठत्याभूतसंश्रवम् ॥ 28 ॥

Whoever fails to do Magha early bath in the morning, will attain the birth of a ghost, and will live in the water graves. (Chapter 1, Sloka 28).

Magha Masa Is Roaring

“प्रातःस्नानं पुनाति” इति माघो गर्जति गर्जति ।
 किञ्चित् अभ्युदिते भानौ रटन्त्यापो दिवानिशम् ॥39॥
 अत्युग्रपापिनं वापि प्रातःस्नानात् पुनीमहे ।

Magha Masa is again and again roaring to have early morning bath at the rising of the Sun. *Ratanti*, means to call out loudly and shout with a sense of pity. **“Enough if you perform Snana at the Sun rise. I will cleanse you, even though you are the worst sinner”**. (Ch. 1, Sloka 39).

Magha Snana Procedure, Sankalpa, etc. were published in previous issue Jan. 2024, Page 7.

अस्नातो माघमासे तु प्रातर्नाडीचतुष्टये ।
नरं चाण्डालतां याति नारी चेद्विधवा भवेत् ॥ 42 ॥

That person who fails to take bath in Magha Masa early in the morning before four ghaligas, then that person will become a Chandala. (Sloka 42).

इह जन्मनि यत्पापं यत्पापं पूर्वजन्मसु ।
तत्पापं नाशमायाति माघस्नानेन नारद ॥ 57 ॥

Oh! Narada! all the heinous sins committed in this birth and also in the earlier births are totally destroyed by the holy early bath in the morning of Magha Masa. (Chapter 1, Sloka 57).

मेरुमन्दरतुल्यं च यत्पापं पापिभिः कृतम् ।
तत्पापं नाशमायाति माघस्नानेन नारद ॥ 58 ॥

Oh! Narada! by the sinners even though sins are committed which are equivalent to Meru-Himalayas mountain size, even then, all these sins are liquidated and are cleared off by the early holy bath in the morning of Maghamasa. (Sloka 58).

**“I will do Maagha Snana”
Is Enough**

“माघस्नानं करिष्यामि” इत्येवं सङ्कल्पतो मुने ।
ध्रुवं नश्यन्ति पापानि बलवन्ति प्रयत्नतः ॥ ५९ ॥

Oh! Narada! even though a person with determination takes a vow to perform Snana in the early morning of Magha Masa, then all the heinous sins definitely get destroyed. (Even the Sankalpa is enough and such is the glory of Magha Masa Snana early in the morning with devotion).

Mrittika Shoucha (Cleaning With Mud)

मृदाशौचं तु कर्तव्यं यथा गन्धक्षयो भवेत् ।
मूत्रोत्सर्गविधिस्त्वेषो गृहस्थानां विधिः स्मृतः ॥ 16 ॥

After completing the nature's call (Mala Mootra Visarjana), the private secret parts have to be cleaned with mud, till the odour of the night soil totally disappears. After this, the hands and legs are to be cleaned with mud and then pure water. This is called “**Mrittika Shoucha**”. This way of rules and adoption should be known by the householder. (Chapter 2, Sloka 16).

Note:— This Mrittika is NOT the mud taken from the bottom of Thulasi plant. The above said Mrittika is normal pure mud meant only for cleaning purposes. This mud can be taken from river bed or ant-hill (huttu).

गन्धक्षयकरः शौचः स्त्रीशूद्राणां विधिः स्मृतः ।

वल्मीकं मूषकोत्खातं सेतौ मार्गे व्रजे गृहे ॥ 18 ॥

This watering until the odour is got rid off is also applicable to women as well as to other Varnas. This should be known and to be understood so. For cleaning, mud-mrittika should be taken. The mrittika out of bushes, roads, cow-sheds, in the bridges, etc., should not be used. (Chapter 2, Sloka 18).

अन्यशिष्टावशिष्टां च वर्जयेन् मृत्तिकां बुधः ।

एका लिङ्गे करे तिस्र उभयोर्मृद्वयं स्मृतम् ॥ 19 ॥

The mrittika used by others should be abandoned. The mrittika should be applied once to the private part, for the left hand thrice, and then twice for both the hands and cleaning shall be made. Again and again cleaning has to be made by pure water. (Chapter 2, Sloka 19).

पश्चापाने दशैकस्मिन् उभयोः सप्त मृत्तिकाः ।

लिङ्गे तिस्रो गुदे पञ्च प्रत्येकं करयोस्त्रयः ॥ 20 ॥

Then cleaning should be done for the anus 5 times or 10 times; for both the hands 7 times each, for the private secret part 3 times, and for both the legs each three times; cleaning with mrittika to be done. (Chapter 2, Sloka 20).

उभयोः पादयोस्तिस्रः पुरीषे मृत्तिकाविधिः ।

लिङ्गे चैका करे चैका तिस्रश्च करयोर्भवेत् ॥ 21 ॥

Like this, the mrittika to be applied and to be cleaned. Otherwise for the private part once, for the hands once, and then for both the hands and legs 3 times, twice cleaning to be done in this manner. (Chapter 2, Sloka 21).

नान्यत्र मृदमादाय कुर्यात् शौचं हृदादिषु ।
आप्रकोष्ठकराद्वारि मृत्तिकां तु समाचरेत् ॥ 22 ॥

The hands should be cleaned till the joint in the middle of the forearms. For the legs also they should be cleaned till the knees. What has been told earlier regarding mrittika, the other mrittika should not be taken into account. Like this, the cleaning should be made. (Chapter 2, Sloka 22).

Important:— This “Mrittika Shoucha” is applicable and to be performed daily throughout the year. Since these details are given in Magha-masa Mahatmyam, this is included here. Hence this cleaning method has to be performed daily, not only during Magha-masa period.

Danta Dhaavanam (Cleaning The Teeth)

पादौ प्रक्षाल्य विप्रेन्द्र दन्तधावनमाचरेत् ।
प्रतिपत्पर्वषष्ठीषु नवम्यां द्वादशीदिने ॥ 23 ॥
दन्तानां काष्ठसंयोगो दहत्यासप्तमं कुलम् ।
तृणपर्णैः सदा कुर्यात् अमां एकादशीं विना ॥ 24 ॥

Oh! Narada Muni, like this, the cleaning of the feet should be made. Then the cleaning of the teeth has to be done. In the case of Pratipadaa, Amavasya, Shashti, Navami, Dwadashi and in these days, the cleaning of the teeth should not be done by the sticks, as on other days. Except Amavasya and Ekadasi days, cleaning of teeth is to be done by the grass or the leaves of a tree. If sticks is used on those days, seven kulas would be burnt. (Chapter 2, Sloka 23, 24).

गण्डूषं अथवा कुर्यात् दशवारं द्विजोत्तम ।
नारायणं देवगुरुं मानसे तु समाविशेत् ॥ 25 ॥

Oh! best of the brahmins, otherwise 10 times the rules of Gandusha should be repeated. Further, Sriman Narayana, the Devatas, Guru should be meditated upon at that time. (Chap. 2, Sloka 25).

Think of the Lord's Presence In The Water During Snana

समस्तजगदाधार शङ्खचक्रगदाधर ।
देव देहि ममानुज्ञां युष्मत्तीर्थनिषेवणे ॥ 26 ॥

Oh! Deva! the sole supporter for all the worlds, holding Shankha, Chakra, Gada and other weapons, please permit me to take bath in this Tirtha (holy water) which belongs to You. Like this, He should be meditated upon. (Chap. 2, Sloka 26).

यन्नखाग्रात् समाभूता गङ्गा त्रैलोक्यपावनी ।
यत्पादे तीर्थजातानि माधवं तं नमाम्यहम् ॥ 27 ॥

The Holy river Ganga was born out of the tip of the nail of His left leg. All the holy rivers are born out of His Lotus Feet. I worship that glorious Lord Madhava. Like this, **the remembrance of Sriman Narayana has to be made at the time of Snana.** (Chap. 2, Sloka 27).

योऽसौ तीर्थपदे विष्णुः चिद्रूपी परमेश्वरः ।
स एव द्रवरूपेण वसत्येव जलाशये ॥ 28 ॥

Under the Lotus Feet of the Lord Vishnu, all the holy rivers are residing with, that 'Chit Roopi' Lord is residing in the water and its resources in the form of liquid. (Chapter 2, Sloka 28).

Ganga Smarana during Snana for her presence in the water, Chant 12 Names of Ganga, Arghya During Snana — See Page 24 in the previous January issue.

A Separate Snana For Ancestors And Gurus

यथामलकपिष्टेन गोमयेन समाचरेत् ।
पितृन् गुरुन् समुद्दिश्य प्रत्येकं स्नानमाचरेत् ॥ 40 ॥

By the Aamalakapishta as well as by the cow's dung, a separate Snana for ancestors and a separate Snana for Gurus should be performed. (Chapter 2, Sloka 40).

ततोऽघमर्षणं स्नानं कुर्यान् मन्त्रादतन्द्रितः । 41 ।

Then without laziness Aghamarshana Snana should be performed. (Chapter 2, Sloka 41).

Shikhodaka Food For Ancestors

जलात् पश्चाद्विनिस्तीर्य तर्पयेत् देवताऋषीन् ।
 पितृस्ततः शिखास्कन्धे दक्षिरे तु न्यसेत्ततः ॥ 42 ॥
 शिखोदकं भूपतितं पिबन्ति पितरोऽखिलाः । 43 ।
 शिखासंस्थामात्रभूमौ पित्राहारो भवत्विति । 49 ।

Then he should come out of water, and perform Tarpana for Devatas, Rishis and Pitrus (ancestors). Then the Shika should be placed on the right shoulder. This is because, the water fallen out of the Shikha on the ground is drunk by all forefathers and ancestors. (Chapter 2, Sloka 42, 43).

Amrita is staying in the Shikha of Brahmanas. When they fall out from the Shika in the form of water, they shall become food for Pitru Devatas. (49).

तस्मात् शिखोदकं दद्यात् पितृभ्यस्तुष्टिकारणम् ॥ ५१ ॥

Therefore, Shikhodaka (water from Shikha) should be given after Snana to please and satisfy the Pitru Devatas. (Chapter 2, Sloka 51).

Puja to SRI MADHAVA A Peaceful And Smiling Face

माघमासप्रियं देवं शङ्खचक्रगदाधरम् ।
 प्रसन्नं सुस्मितं शान्तं माधवं पूजयेत्तथा ॥ 55 ॥

Puja should be performed to the Lord Sri Madhava who is very dear to the Magha Masa. He wears Shankha, Chakra, Gada and other weapons. **He is always with beautiful smiling face, always sober and peaceful.** (Lord Madhava is the presiding deity of Magha Masa.)

After Magha Snana, puja should be performed to the Lord Sri Madhava. (Sloka 55).

Puja With Thulasi

अर्चितस्तुलसीपत्रैः माधवो भक्तवत्सलः ॥ 70 ॥

अपराधसहस्रं वा सहते नात्र संशयः ।

If a devotee performs Archana with Thulasi leaves with devotion to Lord Sri Madhava, then the Lord will excuse the thousands of faults and sins of the devotee. There is no doubt about it at all. (Chapter 2, Sloka 70).

यः कुर्यात् तुलसीपत्रैः पूजां विष्णोर्महात्मनः ॥ 71 ॥

जन्मकोटिसहस्रं तु दरिद्रो न भवेन्नरः ।

विधवात्वं न चाप्नोति नारी जन्मशतैरपि ॥ 72 ॥

If a devotee performs Puja with Thulasi leaves with devotion to Sri Maha Vishnu, then there will not be poverty for hundreds and crores of births. If that person takes birth as a woman, then he will not get the widowhood at all for hundreds of births. (Chapter 2, Slokas 71, 72).

Offer Thulasi to the Lord For Ancestors and Gurus

पितृन् गुरून् समुद्दिश्य तुलसी विष्णवेऽर्पिता ॥ 66 ॥

ब्रह्महत्याकोटिशतं अगम्यानां अनन्तकम् ।

आभितः कोटि पापानि दहत्यग्निरिवेन्धनम् ॥ 67 ॥

If a devotee offers Thulasi to the Lord for the benefit of his ancestors and Gurus with devotion, then that person gets destroyed all the heinous sins like the killing of Brahmins, etc. committed in hundreds and crores of births. Uncountable sins are washed off by such offerings to the Lord.

Just like fire destroys the firewood sticks and reduces to ashes, like that sins are burnt out of the devotee. (Sloka 66, 67).

Puja With Lotus Flowers Abundant Punya

यः पूजयति देवेशं कमलैः कमलेक्षणम् ।

तस्य पुण्यफलं वक्तुं कः शक्तो वर्तते भुवि ॥68॥

The Lord Madhava has eyes like lotus flowers. Whoever performs Puja to that lotus-eyed Lord with lotus flowers, then the virtue amassed by such devotee cannot be described by any one in this world. None can describe his glories. (Chapter 2, Sloka 68).

कमलैः पूजिते विष्णौ कमलावसते गृहे ।

फलन्ति कामाः सर्वेऽपि नैव दुःखं प्रजायते ॥ 69 ॥

द्वात्रिंशत् अपराधानि क्षमते पुरुषोत्तमः ।

The Lord is the Master of Devatas and gives happiness to Mahalakshmi. Whoever performs Puja to the Lord with lotus flowers, then all his desires are fulfilled. Not only the fulfillment of his desires but also in him, in his house Mahalakshmi always stays there and blesses all of them. Further he would not experience even an iota of grief.

Further, such devotees' sins of 32 kinds will be excused and pardon will be granted by the Lord Purushottama. (Chapter 2, Slokas 69).

Deepa Daana For Agnyana Naasha

दीपदानं तु यः कुर्यात् देवाय परमात्मने ॥ 79 ॥
अज्ञानान्धं तमो भित्वा साक्षात्पश्यति तं हरिम् ।

Agnyana gets destroyed by Deepa Dana to the Lord. He/she will have the vision of the Lord. (Chapter 2, Sloka 79).

Deepa dana includes - Deepa vessel, cotton threads, oil, oil-vessel, match stick, etc.

यो को वाऽस्मत्कुले जातो माघे मासि हरिप्रियः ।
दद्यात् दीपं स्वयं वाऽपि स नः सन्तारयिष्यति ॥८१॥

The person who is devoted to Lord Sri Hari takes birth in the family and does charity of light/lamp/ Dipa in the month of Maagha, not only he crosses the ocean of Samsaara, but also he redeems and lifts higher the ancestors of the family. This is the thinking of ancestors very often about their progeny. (Chapter 2, Slokas 81).

If it is not possible to donate oil, cotton threads or the vessel by anyone, then at least he / she should bring to the front the light lit by others; which means, the cotton threads should be brought to the front and the oil should be poured and to be adusted properly. Cleaning process should be made also. (Sloka 84).

Naivedya To The Lord — A Must

विदधाति हरेः पूजां विना नैवेद्यं अज्ञधीः ॥ 84 ॥
कुम्भीपाके महाघोरे पच्यते नरकाग्निना ।

Offer Naivedya to the Lord. One who does not perform Naivedya to Sri Hari and takes food without offerings, then that person will be roasted in the Kumbhipaka hell by the agni / fire. (Sloka 85).

Nirmalya Visarjana

स्तोत्रपाठमृते कुर्यात् निर्माल्यस्य विसर्जनम् ॥ ८७ ॥
स चोन्मादी भवत्याशु नात्र कार्या विचारणा ।

A person who performs Nirmalya Visarjana without extolling or praising the Lord, he would be affected by severe disease called 'Unmaada' without doubt. (Chapter 2, Sloka 87).

Saashtaanga Namaskara After Puja

पूजान्ते माधवस्याग्रे साष्टाङ्गं प्रणमेद्यदि ॥ 93 ॥
अश्वमेधसहस्रेषु सम्यक् चीर्णेषु यत्फलम् ।
तत्फलं समवाप्नोति नात्र कार्या विचारणा ॥ 94 ॥

After completion of Puja, in front of the Lord Madhava, one who falls flat with devotion and does Namaskara to the full extent (Saashtaanga Namaskara), he gets the Phala of performing thousands of Ashwamedha Yaga. There is no doubt about this point at all. (Sloka 94).

Pradakshina

यानि कानि च पापानि जन्मान्तरकृतानि च ।
तानि सर्वाणि नश्यन्ति प्रदक्षिणपदे पदे ॥ 96 ॥

When a devotee takes step by step Pradakshina to the Lord, all the sins committed by him in the past gets destroyed. (Chapter 2, Sloka 96).

तावत्पापभयं नृणां जन्ममृत्युजराभयम् ।
यावत्प्रदक्षिणं कुर्यात् मनो यस्य न विद्यते ॥ 97 ॥

When a person does not perform Pradakshina and Namaskara to Sri Hari, till then he would suffer with great sins' fear. He would also have the fear of birth, death and diseases. When he starts doing Pradakshina to Sri Hari with devotion, then immediately such fears are cleared off. This is just like darkness being cleared off immediately when the Sun starts raising in the Eastern Sky. (Slo. 97).

Cleaning With Cow Dung Moksha In Hands

यः क्षालयति देवस्य गृहं गोमयवारिणा ।
तस्य पापानि शान्तानि मुक्तिस्तस्य करे स्थिता ॥99॥

Whoever cleans the Puja room (or) temple of Sri Vishnu with cow dung and water, then all sins are destroyed totally. Further, liberation (Moksha) will be in hands readily; which whenever he/she desires, he/she would obtain the Moksha. (Sloka 99).

माघे मासि महाविष्णोः माधवस्य महात्मनः ।
गोमयेनोपलिप्याद्यो गोसहस्रफलं लभेत् ॥ 100 ॥

The devotee who cleanses the temple of Lord Vishnu in the month of Magha with cow dung and water, he/she would achieve the result of 1000 cows being in charity to the deserved. (Sloka 100).

Woman Will Uplift The Kula Of Her Parents and Also Husband

या नारी रङ्गवल्लीभिः पञ्चरङ्गैः हरेर्गृहम् ।
अलङ्करोति सद्भक्त्या तस्याः पुण्यफलं शृणु ॥ 101 ॥

Whichever woman with five colours of Rangavalli decorate the Puja room (or temple), her virtue and punya is going to be listed by me. Please hear that.

आजन्मसान्तपर्यन्तं विधवात्वं न चाप्नुयात् ।
नापुत्रा जायते क्वापि नाधर्मे जायते मतिः ॥ 102 ॥

For that woman, from that birth onwards, widowhood will not be there. Further, always she will not be without sons. Further, her mind will never tend towards adharmic activities at all. (Sloka 102).

मातापित्रोः कुलं भर्तुः समुद्धृत्य सुभागिनी ।
सर्वभोगसमायुक्ता विष्णोर्लोके महीयते ॥ 103 ॥

That woman will uplift the family of her father and mother and also the family of her husband. Further, she will enjoy all the desired results and finally will reach the loka of Maha Vishnu and live there permanently, peacefully and with happiness.

No Garbha Vaasa Again

एवं स्नात्वा मासमेकं सम्यगभ्यर्च्य माधवम् ।
इमाः कथास्तथा श्रुत्वा नो गर्भे वसति ध्रुवम् ॥106॥

Like this, with the regulations as narrated above, the early holy bath in Magha Masa has to be done for one month. Then with all might and respect Sri Madhava has to be praised and Puja to be performed to Him. Further, this story has to be heard with devotion. Then definitely that devotee will not have again the stay in the mother's garbha (which means he will not have births and deaths).

Sinful Intentions Do Not Remain In The Mind And Heart

न पापबुद्धिर्न च कर्मबन्धो
न वा कुयोनिः न पिशाचदेहः ।
नाग्न्यर्कसोमानिलबन्धदेह
प्रातर्जलस्पर्शनमात्रतोऽङ्ग ॥ 39 ॥

Sinful intentions do not remain in the mind and heart, **by merely touching the waters in the early morning of Magha-masa**. He/she will not be born in bad family. He would not get the birth of ghosts. Further, the Matter - Prakriti bondage also gets destroyed. There will not be any fear at all due to Fire, Sun, Moon and Air. (Ch-5, Slo-39).

जिह्वा न वक्ति यदि माधवनामधेयं
 चेतश्च न स्मरति माधवपादपद्मम् ।
 प्रातर्न वा यैर्न च माघमासे
 स्नानं कृतं तस्य हि कर्मबन्धः ॥ 40 ॥
 अस्मत्सहागतानां ते मुनीनां च समागमात् ।
 प्रातर्माघे जलस्पर्शो भाग्यदः सुसमागमः ॥ 41 ॥

That person who does not utter the name of Sri Madhava with his tongue, further that person who does not remember the Lotus Padas of the Lord, further that person who does not take bath in the early morning in the month of Magha, for him definitely there will be bondage from Yama.

Oh! Sutapa, because of the presence of Munis who had came along with me, further due to the touch of water in the early morning in the month of Magha, further due to good company, your danger is destroyed. (Chapter-5, Sloka-40, 41).

**Unable To Do Magha Snana
 Think Of Prayaaga Kshetra**

स्नान अशक्तो माघमासि परिधाय च वाससी ।
 प्रयागस्मरणं कृत्वा माघस्नानफलं लभेत् ॥ 31 ॥

Oh! Narada, if a person is unable to take bath in the month of Magha, it does not matter, provided he gets up early in the morning and wears clean clothes and remembers Prayaaga Kshetra, then he would get the Phala of the holy bath of Maghamasa. (Chapter 7, Sloka 31).

No Yama Loka

प्रातस्नानरता ये च ते न यान्ति यमालयम् ।
 येषां गृहे च तुलसी रोपिता वर्धतेऽनिशम् ॥ 41 ॥

Those who are taking early morning bath, they do not reach Yamaloka at all. In whose house, the Thulasi is planted and always fully grown and is in abundance, that person will not come to the abode of Yamadharma Raja. (Chapter 8, Sloka 41).

शालग्रामशिला वापि न ते यान्ति यमालयम् ।
 ये च विष्णुकथासक्ता ये च तत्सज्जनाश्रयाः ॥42॥

Further in whose house, the sacred stones of Saligrama are present, they do not come to the abode of Yama. Those persons **who involve themselves in the stories of Maha Vishnu and are immersed in them**, further those who have the company of good Saadhu Saatwic souls, will not come to the abode of Yama. (Chapter 8, Sloka 42).

गायत्री जपनिरतास्ते न यान्ति यमालयम् ।
सहस्रनामपठननिरताः स्तोत्रपाठकाः ॥ 43 ॥

Further those who are involved and recite the **Gayatri Japa**, do not reach the house of Yama at all. Those who recite **Vishnu Sahasranama** and other Stotra Granthas and are interested in them, will not reach Yama loka. (Chapter 8, Sloka 43).

गीतापाठे तु निरतास्ते न यान्ति यमालयम् ।
एकादशीव्रतस्था ये द्वादशी नातिलङ्घिनः ॥ 44 ॥

Further those who are interested in reciting **Srimad Bhagavad Gita**, will not reach Yama loka. For that person who observes **Ekadasi full fasting** and does not disrespect **Dwadashi Tithi** (and take Paarana at the proper and appropriate time), will not come to the abode of Yama. (Ch-8, Sloka 44).

Magha Snana Outside The House

ग्रामात् बहिर्जले स्नात्वा मुच्यते सर्वकिल्बिषैः ।
ब्रह्मघ्नं वा पितृघ्नं वा गोघ्नं भ्रूणहन् तथा ॥ 32 ॥

Early holy bath should be taken in the resource outside the village or the town. Then one will be released from all sins and crimes, such as killing of a Brahmin, father, mother, cow or the killing of children. (Adh-1, Sloka-32).

प्रातर्माघे बहिःस्नानं कुर्यादिति स्मृतीरितम् ।
ब्रह्मचारी गृहस्थो वा वनस्थो यतिरेव च ॥ 61 ॥

Smritis proclaim:- Brahmachari, Grihastha (householder), Vaana-prastha, Sanyaasi — all these persons should take bath early in the morning outside the town in the month of Magha. (Adh-1, Slo-61).

Ashwamedha Phala

माघस्नानं समुद्दिश्य बहिर्गच्छेद्यदा नरः ।
पदे पदेऽश्वमेधस्य फलं प्राप्नोत्यसंशयः ॥ 121 ॥

For the purpose of performing holy bath in the water resources outside the city, town, or village, the person who proceeds so, for every step he amasses the virtue of performing Ashwamedha Yaaga. This is certain and there is no doubt at all. (Adh-2, Sloka-121).

All Sins Destroyed Live Happily For Many Years

सर्वदानेषु यत्पुण्यं सर्वतीर्थेषु यत्फलम् ।
तत्फलं समवाप्नोति माघस्नानेन नारद ॥ 42 ॥

Chaturmukha Brahma tells:— A person who performs Magha Snana early in the morning gets the punya of all daanas and the phala of taking bath in all the holy rivers. (Chapter 5, Sloka 42).

तादृक् पापं च नैवास्ति यच्च माघान्न गच्छति ।
तस्मात् माघकृतस्नानात् सुखी भव चिरं मुने ॥43॥

Like this, there is no sin which is not destroyed by the virtue obtained by Magha Masa early bath. Therefore, Oh! Sutapa Muni! You do perform the early bath of Magha Masa and live happily for many many years for a very long time. (Ch-5, Sloka 43).

How To Get A Copy Of Maghamasa Mahatmyam ?

The copies of Maghamasa Mahatmyam can be obtained from the author (TSR) 95970 38909 or his son **T.R.V.Vittal** 99949 41706. Landline: 0422 - 2441706.

When the Devatas, Rishis, great Kings like Dilipa, etc., performed Magha Snana, where is the need to emphasise ordinary person who are immersed in the ocean of Samsaara ? (There is no need at all is the answer. It is indispensable to them.) (Chapter 5, Sloka 52, 53, 54).

Even then the facts are like this, still in the world, persons are suffering un-necessarily. This is really a great wonder. When the month of Magha has arrived, and when the body and other Indriyas are under his control and command, and even then if a person does not desire to take bath early in the morning, then there will not be any hesitation to call him as 'Jada' (an inanimate object.) (Chapter 5, Sloka 55).

Puja & Dana in Maagha

Saaligrama Puja and Daana are as important in Maagha as Snana. If not all the 30 days, perform Saaligrama Puja atleast on a few days whenever possible. It gives Maha-phala. The Maasa-murthy for Maagha-maasa is Madhava. The Lakshmi Roopa is Kamala. Thus with this in mind भारतीरमण मुख्यप्राणान्तर्गत श्री कमला-माधव प्रेरणया, श्री कमला-माधव प्रीत्यर्थ -- perform puja, daana, parayana, etc.

Vishnu-sahasra-nama Parayana can be done daily. Deepa dana, Saligrama dana, Krishna, Shimshumaara-murthy pratima dana, Paayasa dana, fruits dana like *Daadima* or *Maadula* --- these danas give visesha phala in Maagha masa. All these are meant to please maasa murthy Sri Kamala Madhava. (श्री कमला-माधवः प्रीयताम्).

TILA DANA IS IMPORTANT

Tila Dana is important in Pushya / Maagha. Give plenty of Tila. Give Tila along with Paatra. Give Tila mixed with sugar, Tila mixed with Bella (Chigili in Tamil Nadu Kannada). This Vaakya of Nirnaya Sindhu says that Tila-Daana in Uttarayana brings what all you desire in life:- (नि.सिं p.162)

धेनुं तिलमयीं राजन्, दद्यात् यः उत्तरायणे ।

सर्वान् कामान् अवाप्नोति, विन्दते परमं सुखम् ॥

TILO ANNA-DANA

Tila-Anna (or Tila-Chitraanna) Dana on Magha Amavasya day is so effective that it pleases our Pitrus for 10,000 years (*Varsha Ayuta Tripti-dam*) माघ अमावास्यां, पितृभ्यः तिलान्न-दानं वर्ष अयुत तृप्तिदम् ॥ (स्मृत्यर्थ सागर-p.113)

OTHER DAANA ITEMS

1) Black Tila-Dana with Paatra, 2) White-Tila, mixed with jaggery powder can be offered in a Paatra, on Sankranti day or any day in Maagha. Other items:- 3) Kambala-Dana, (4) Vastra Dana, 5) Paada-Raksha, (6) Pillow, (7) Bed-sheet, (8) Gold/Silver, (9) Dampati-Vastra Dana, (9) Dampati Anna Dana, (10) Mere Tila in plenty, (12) Tila-Taila Deepa Dana, (13) Tila mixed with Bella (Chigili), (14) Kooshmaanda Dana (white pumpkin) on Ratha Saptami day for Santaana Abhi-Vriddhi.

Tila mixed with jaggery powder can be given as Dana everyday during Maagha. (3/4 Bhaaga Tila and 1/4 Bhaaga jaggery powder.) If not daily, give as many days as possible.

White Tila & Black Tila

White Tila for Devara-Naivedya and for Dana. Black Tila for Pitru-Tarpana. (Dharma Sindhu - p.101)

शुक्ल तिलैः देवादि तर्पणं, कृष्ण-तिलैः पितृ तर्पणं च कार्यम् ॥

DANA METHOD

Sankranti day and Ratha Saptami day are the most fruit-yielding days for Dana in Maagha as also Maagha-shuddha Dwa-dasi. Make a ChaturaMandala in front of Devaru. Write ॥ श्रीः ॥ on it. Place the Dana Item on the Mandala and add Dakshina and Tulasi-dala. Offer it to the Lord and pray for His Anugraha. Thus, Dana is offered first to the Lord and then only to Brahmana, when he comes. Offer him proper seat. Reverentially sprinkle Mantrashata on him and chant:-

नमोस्तु अनन्ताय सहस्र मूर्तये
 सहस्र पादाक्षि शिरोरु बाहवे ।
 सहस्र नाम्ने पुरुषाय शाश्वते
 सहस्र-कोटि युग-धारिणे नमः ॥

Take the Dana item in your hands, chant this Mantra.

भारती-रमण मुख्य प्राणान्तर्गत, श्रीलक्ष्मी नारायण प्रेरणया,
 श्रीलक्ष्मी नारायण प्रीत्यर्थ, इदं दानं तुभ्य-महं संप्रद-दे ॥
 न मम, न मम ॥

Upto this stage, Dana Mantra is the same as above, for all Dana Items. A few extra wordings are to be added while giving different Danas. They are as under:-

TILA PAATRA DANA (घ.सिं. P.104)

1. वाङ्-मनः कायज त्रिविध-पाप-नाशन पूर्वकं, ब्रह्म-लोक-
प्राप्तिकामः तिल-पात्र-दानं करिष्ये । विप्रं संपूज्य-
2. देव-देव जगन्नाथ, वाञ्छितार्थ फल-प्रद ।
तिल-पात्रं प्रदास्यामि तवाग्रे संस्थितो ह्यहम् ॥

तिल दानम्

3. तिलाः पुण्याः पवित्राश्च, सर्व-पापहराः स्मृताः ।
शुक्लाश्चैव तथा कृष्णाः, विष्णु-गात्र-समुद्भवाः ॥
4. यानि कानि च पापानि, ब्रह्म-हत्या समानि च ।
तिल-पात्र प्रदानेन तानि नश्यन्तु मे सदा ॥
इदं तिलपात्रं स-दक्षिणाकं
तुभ्य-महं सं-प्रहदे ॥ न मम, न मम ॥

वस्त्र-दानम् (दानचन्द्रिका P.53)

शीत, वातोष्ण सन्त्राणं, लज्जाया रक्षणं परम् ।
देहालङ्-करणं वस्त्रं अतः शान्तिं प्रयच्छ मे ॥
समस्त पाप-क्षय-कामः इमं वस्त्र-द्वयं
तुभ्यमहं सं-प्रददे ॥ न मम न मम ॥

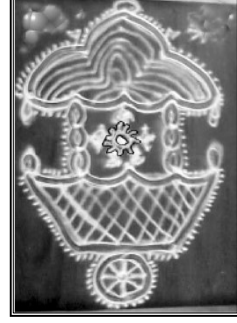
रजत दानं (दानचन्द्रिका P.54)

प्रीति-र्यतः पितृणां च विष्णु शंकरयोः सदा ।
शिव नेत्रोद्भवं रूप्यं अतः शान्तिं प्रयच्छ मे ॥
मम समस्त पाप क्षयार्थं इदं रजत दानं
तुभ्यमहं सं-प्रददे ॥ न मम न मम ॥

RATHA- SAPTAMI

16th Feb. — Friday

(Maagha-Shuddha-Saptami)



सूर्य-ग्रहण तुल्या तु, शुक्ले माघस्य सप्तमी ।

अरुणोदय वेलायां तस्यां, स्नानं महाफलम् ॥

-- *Vishnusmriti / Smrityartha Sagara* (p. 111)

Maagha Maasa – Shukla Paksha – Saptami (Rathasaptami) is equivalent to Soorya Grahana. On this day, Snana (with Sankalpa) in Arunodaya Kaala gives Maha-phala. (Arunodaya Kaala is from 4.30 am till Sun-rise.)

Place Arka leaves 3 on head, 2 on left shoulder and 2 on right shoulder. Perform Snana by chanting these slokas:-

Snana Mantra

(Dharma Sindhu p. 106)

यद् यद् जन्म-कृतं पापं, मया सप्तसु जन्मसु ।

तन्मे रोगं च शोकं च, माकरी हन्तु सप्तमी ॥

एतद् जन्म-कृतं पापं यच्च जन्मान्त-रार्जितम् ।

मनो वाक् कायजं यच्च, ज्ञाताज्ञाते च ये पुनः ॥

इति सप्तविधं पापं स्नानान् मे सप्त-सप्तिके ।
सप्त व्याधि समायुक्तं हर माकरि-सप्तमि ॥

(**Maakari-Saptami** = Saptami in Makara month)

Immediately after Snana, give Arghya by chanting this sloka:-

Snana Arghya Mantra

सप्त सप्ति-बह प्रीत सप्त लोक-प्रदीपन ।
सप्तम्या सहितो देव, गृहाण अर्घ्यं दिवाकर ॥
(सूर्याय नमः इदं अर्घ्यं)

Now Snana is completed. Then Sandhya, Puja, etc. Let us perform Rathasaptami Snana before sun rise and be blessed with Lord's Anugraha.

Procedure On Ratha Saptami Day

(1) Snana (2) Gopi-Nama-Mudra (3) Sandhya-vandana / Gayatri Japa (4) Devara Puja (5) Soorya Ratha Puja in the open (if possible) (6) Sarva Pitru Tarpana (7) Danas (if any).

(Soorya-Ratha-Puja with book)

Sarva Pitru Tarpana

On Rathasaptami day, Tila Tarpana has to be offered to Pitrus.

आचमनं, गुरुवन्दनं, पवित्र-धारणं, प्राणायामः । ॐ भूः
ॐ भुवः एवं गुण विशेषण विशिष्टायां, पुण्यतिथौ,
(प्राचीनावीति - अपसव्य)

रथसप्तमी पर्वकाल प्रयुक्त, अस्मत् पित्रादि समस्त पितृन् उद्दिश्य, तिल-तर्पणं करिष्ये ॥ अस्मत् पितरं offer Tarpana to all Pitrus.

Conclusion

अनेन रथसप्तमी प्रयुक्त, पित्रादि समस्त पितृन् उद्दिश्य, तिल-तर्पणेन अस्मत् पित्रादि समस्त पित्रन्तर्यामि भगवान् भारतीरमण मुख्यप्राणान्तर्गत जनार्दन वासुदेवः प्रीयताम् । सुप्रीतो वरदो भवतु । श्रीकृष्णार्पणमस्तु ॥ पवित्र विसर्जनं, आचमनम् ॥

Kooshmaanda Dana On Rathasaptami

(Mahaphala)

Clean the ground and mark a mandala in front of Puja box or in front of a Lord's picture. Place a leaf on the mandala and put raw rice on the leaf. Place the Kooshmaanda (white pumpkin) on the rice. Decorate the Kooshmaanda with arisina, kumkuma, gajavastra, small white towel, blouse bit, flower maala, etc. Keep Taamboola and, dakshina (a decent amount) with tulasi. Offer this to the Lord. Kooshmaanda is offered as daana on this day, for Santhaana Praapti (progeny).

Brahmana Puja and Kooshmaanada Devata Puja

Offer pushpa, mantrakshata on Kooshmaanda by chanting

कूष्माण्ड देवताभ्यो नमः सकल पूजार्थे, पुष्पाक्षतान् समर्पयामि

Offer seat (wooden plank) to the Brahmana who receives Daana. Sprinkle mantrakshata on his head by chanting this sloka.

नमोऽस्तु अनन्ताय सहस्र-मूर्तये सहस्र पादाक्षि शिरोरुबाहवे ।
सहस्र नाम्ने पुरुषाय शाश्वते सहस्रकोटि युगधारिणे नमः ॥

Daana Sankalpa and Daana

आचमनं, प्राणायमः । शुभे शोभने मुहूर्ते, आद्य-ब्रह्मणः
..... एवं गुण विशेषण विशिष्टायां शुभ तिथौ, भारतीरमण
मुख्यप्राणान्तर्गत, श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण प्रेरणया, श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण
प्रीत्यर्थं, मम, मम धर्म-पत्न्याश्च, समस्त पाप-क्षय पूर्वक, पुत्र-
पौत्र, सौभाग्यादि सकल मनोभीष्ट सिद्ध्यर्थं, सोपस्करयुतं, इदं
कूष्माण्डदानं करिष्ये ।

Take Kooshmaanda with tamboola, dakshina, thulasi and give it to the Brahmana after chanting this sloka.

Kooshmaanda Daana Mantra

ब्रह्म-हत्यादि पापघ्नं, ब्रह्मणा निर्मितं पुरा ।
कूष्माण्डं बहु बीजाढ्यं पुत्र पौत्रादि वृद्धिदम् ॥
मुक्ता-प्रवाळ-हेमादियुक्तं, दत्तं तवद्विज ।
अनन्त-पुण्य फलदं अतः शान्तिं प्रयच्छ मे ॥

इदं कूष्माण्डं, तण्डुलराशि सहितं, सोपस्करं सदक्षिणाकं, सतांबूलं,
लक्ष्मी नारायण-प्रीतिं कामयमानः तुभ्यमहं संप्रददे । नमम न मम
॥ अनेन कूष्माण्ड दानेन, भारतीरमण मुख्यप्राणान्तर्गत, श्री लक्ष्मी
नारायणः प्रीयताम् ॥ सुप्रीतो वरदो भवतु ॥ श्री कृष्णार्पणमस्तु ॥
आचमनम् ॥

BHEESHMA ASHTAMI

17th Feb. — Saturday

(Maagha-Shuddha-Ashtami)

Bheeshma Tarpana:- It is our Kula Dharma. For our own good we offer Tarpana for Bheeshmacharya on every year Maagha-maasa Shukla-paksha Ashtami.

Tarpana has to be given even if father is alive. (जीवत्पिता अपि कुर्वीत तर्पणं यम-भीष्मयोः - Padma Purana). If father is alive, this is to be offered with rice and water. Janivara in Savya. Others offer with Tila and Janivara in Apasavya. No Pavitra. Regular food can be taken at night. (No Phala-aahaara niyama at night).

Bheeshma Tarpana is not like Pitru Tarpana; but Arghya, because Bheeshmacharya is one of Ashtavasu (Dyu-namaka-vasu) (not our Pitru).

Therefore we offer this as Arghya. That is: the Tila-water flows down through our four fingers (not through the thumb). This same principle even in Yama-Tarpana.

If Devara Puja not possible, atleast Sandhyavandana and then offer Bheeshma Tarpana. Those who perform Brahmayagnya, offer Bheeshma Tarpana after completing Brahmayagnya.

Sankalpa

आचमनं, प्राणायमः । ॐ भूः ॐ भुवः एवं गुण
विशेषण विशिष्टायां, पुण्यतिथौ, भारतीरमण मुख्यप्राणान्तर्गत,
श्री जनार्दन वासुदेव प्रेरणया, श्री जनार्दन वासुदेव प्रीत्यर्थं, भीष्माष्टमी
प्रयुक्त, भीष्म तर्पणं करिष्ये ॥

Bheeshma Tarpana Mantra

भीष्मः शान्तनवो धीरः सत्यवादी जितेन्द्रियः ।

आ-भि-रद्भिरवाप्नोतु पुत्र-पौत्रो-चितां क्रियाम् ॥

(भीष्माय नमः इदं अर्घ्यं)

वैयाघ्र-पाद गोत्राय, सांकृति प्रव-राय च ।

अपुत्राय ददा-म्येतत् सलिलं भीष्म वर्मणे ॥

(भीष्माय नमः इदं अर्घ्यं)

वसूनां अवताराय, शन्तनो-रात्म-जाय च ।

अर्घ्यं ददामि भीष्माय, आ-बाल-ब्रह्मचारिणे ॥

(भीष्माय नमः इदं अर्घ्यं)

अनेन भीष्माष्टमी प्रयुक्त, भीष्म तर्पणेन भीष्मान्तर्गत
भारतीरमण मुख्यप्राणान्तर्गत श्री जनार्दन वासुदेवः प्रीयताम् ।
सुप्रीतो वरदो भवतु । श्रीकृष्णार्पणमस्तु ॥ आचमनम् ॥

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