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S.M.S.O. Sabha Journal - 384 Issue (Jan-24)

Why Worry Any More ? Asks

MAAGHA MAASA

Uttarayana has come. Why worry any more? asks Dharma Shastra:- उत्तरायणं आसाद्य, नरः कस्मात् स-शोचति? Maagha maasa comes in Uttarayana. Its previous month is Pushya Maasa. The most sacred and fruit-yielding Maagha-snana-parva-kala begins on Pushya Shuddha Pournami and concludes on Maagha Suddha Pournami (30days). Who are eligible for the fortunes of Maagha Snana?

ब्रह्मचारी, गृहस्थो वा, वानप्रस्थोऽथ भिक्षुकः ।

बाल - वृद्ध - युवानश्च, नर नारी नपुंसकः ।

स्नात्वा, माघे, शुभे तीर्थे प्राप्नुवन्ति ईप्सितं फलम् ।

(Nir. Sindhu.p.152)

Brahmachari, Grihastha, Vaana Prastha, Sanyasi, children, aged persons, middle-aged, youths, men, women, Napumsakas, whoever completes the month-long Maagha-snana, gets her/his heart's prayer fulfilled in due course. (*Praap-nu-vanti Eepsitam Phalam*) It is good if you have any Punya-Tirtha (Nadee or Pushkarinee nearby). For others, Shastra advises in these words:-

यत्र - कुत्रापि यो माघे, प्रयाग स्मर-णा-न्वितः ।
करोति मज्जनं तीर्थे स लभेत् गाङ्ग मज्जनम् ॥

No matter where you take bath. Be it any river, Pushkarini or the well-water. Or let it be even a bathroom in your house. Let it be any place for bath (*Yatra-Kutra-Api*). During your bath, if your mind goes to Pra-yaaga (Tri-venee-sangama), you are assured of the fruits of Ganga-Snana, says the sloka above.

Maagha-Masa is the early morning hours for Devatas. The Maasa-murthy is Madhava. His presence (*saan-nidhya*) in water is more at that point of time. Therefore this early morning hour in Maagha Masa is the most sacred and fruit-yielding hour for us.

The gracious Jala-Devatas, seeing us in all sorts of sufferings in life, call out loudly in great pity.

This calling is for a couple of hours only during the early morning hours in Maagha-Masa. See this Vaakya.

माघ-मासे रटन्ति आपः किञ्चित् अभ्युदिते खौ ।

ब्रह्मघ्नं वा सुरापं वा, कं पतन्तं पुनीमहे ॥ (नि.सि.159)

Ratanti, means to call out loudly and shout with a sense of pity. They shout at us:- “O! suffering men and women, enough if you just fall in the water with a repentance for your sins. **We will cleanse you and relieve you of your sufferings in life.**”

Please see the spirit, the force and the firm assurance in the above vaakya.

How is it possible?

How is it that a mere bath could remove sufferings in life? The root cause for sufferings is our own impure thoughts. When the mind is filled with impure thoughts, the Lord cannot enter. The mind becomes a play ground for the devils of Satanic Kali. Ultimately, our own thoughts and actions land us in sufferings.

When Kali rules our mind, our thinking turns negative; our tendency promotes laziness, our behaviour provokes others and we appear bad for others. All this happens due to Kali playing through our mind, speech and body activities:- *Mano-Vaak-Kaaya-Poorvakam* explains Dharma Shastra. One remedy to drive away the Kali is Maagha-Snana, says Dharma Shastra:-

वाङ्-मनः कायज, त्रिविधं पाप-नाश-पूर्वकम् ।

दुःख दारिद्र्य नाशाय, श्रीविष्णोः तोषणाय च ।

प्रातः स्नानं करोम्यद्य, माघे पाप विनाशनम् ॥

(Toshana = to please)

Try it for one day

As a test case, just try for one day. Get up early morning; take bath at sun-rise chanting the simple Sankalpa-Vaakya, then Gopi-Chandana Nama Mudra Sandhya Vandana followed by Saligrama Puja as much or as little as you know. Conclude it, get up and offer full

Namaskara to Lord. Everything completed by 7 or 7.15 a.m. This one-day experience would be so pleasant and you may feel like doing it next day also and every day. This inner pleasure is an indication that Lord's Anugraha has come to you. You would recommend this to others and advise your son and grandson.

We should always keep it in mind that Tatwa-Abhimani Devatas are ever present in our body. They are much pleased whenever we do Parva-Kala-Snana. The result is : without our knowing, they prompt our thinking in positive ways and it leads us to success in life.

Reward from Devatas

He becomes (*Sura-Poojita-h*)=honoured by Devatas who takes bath at Aruno-daya around 4.30 a.m. in Maagha, with his mind fixed on the feet of Lord Sri Madhava:-

अरुणोदये तु संप्राप्ते, स्नानकाले विचक्षणः ।

माधवाङ्घ्रि-युगं ध्यायन् यः स्नाति सुरपूजितः ॥

(नि.सिं.159)

Maagha Snana in Hot Water

Dharma Shastra is very practical while prescribing the rule. It says: if you are bodily weak, do Maagha-Snana in hot-water at least:-

उष्णोदकेन वा स्नायात् अशक्ये सति कुर्वते ॥ (नि.सिं.158)

But bodily strong, and still if you stand in 'Q' for hot water, it means you are weak-minded; unmindful even if it makes you cheap for others: दृढेषु सर्व-गात्रेषु, उष्णोदकं न विशिष्यते ॥ (p.158).

Other Unseen Effects

The month-long Maagha Snana in a sacred punya Tirtha is so effective that it paves the way for our bygone forefathers of seven generations to swarga-Loka. (fore fathers of our Pitru-vamsha and Maatru-Vamsha.)

उद्धृत्य सप्त-पुरुषान्, पितृ-मातृ वंश्यान् ।

स्वर्गं प्रयाति, अमर देह-धरो नरोऽसौ ॥ (नि.सिं.159)

If Not 30-days, Atleast 3 days

The period of Maagha Snana is 30 days (Pushya Pournami to Maagha Pournami). If not all the 30 days, do it atleast for 3 days or even one day:- (p.159)

मास पर्यन्तं स्नानं असंभवे तु, त्रि-अहं, एकाहं वा स्नायात् ॥

Snana - Kaala

The appropriate timings for Maagha snana is from 4.30 a.m. upto sun-rise अरुणोदयं आरभ्य, प्रातः काल पर्यन्तम् ॥

Magha Snana Procedure

On the previous day (24-01-2024), prayer to Sri Madhava should be performed to commence the Magha Snana from next day:-

आसमाप्तिं महादेव निर्विघ्नं कुरु माधव ।
इति सङ्कल्प्य पूर्वद्युः कुर्यात् स्नानमनन्तरम् ॥

Oh! Madhava, You are the Deva of the Devatas (*Mahadeva*). This Magha Snana should be completed without any obstacles till the end (for one month).

The next day (25-01-2024), the Magha Snana should be commenced. अरुणोदयवेलायां समुत्थाय द्विजोत्तम Get up from the bed at Arunodaya Kala (around 4.30 a.m.). After performing morning routines, go to Snana.

After performing regular Snana, 12 Namas (using water), Achamana, Pranayama and Sankalpa.

Snana - Sankalpa

..... एवं गुण विशेषण विशिष्टायां, शुभ-तिथौ, भारतीरमण मुख्यप्राणान्तर्गत श्री कमला-माधव प्रेरणया, श्री कमला-माधव प्रीत्यर्थं, ज्ञान-भक्ति-वैराग्य सिद्ध्यर्थं माघ-स्नानं करिष्ये ॥

माघ-मास-मिमं पूर्णं स्नास्येऽहं देव माधव ।
तीर्थस्यास्य जले नित्यं इति सङ्कल्प्य चेतसि ॥

Think like this:- Oh! Madhava! I perform this month-long Magha Snana. Everyday Your presence

(*Saannidya*) exist in this water (which I am using for my bath) and thus becomes a Tirtha (sacred water).

Snana - Mantra

माघ-मासे रटन्त्यापः किञ्चित् अभ्युदिते रवौ ।
ब्रह्मघ्नं वा सुरापं वा, कं पतन्तं पुनीमहे ॥ १ ॥

दुःख-दारिद्र्य-नाशाय श्रीविष्णोस्तोषणाय च ।
प्रातःस्नानं करोम्यद्य, माघे पाप-विनाशनम् ॥ २ ॥

I perform this early morning Magha Snana which pleases the Lord Vishnu. And it removes the sins (*Papa-Vinaashanam*) and sufferings (*Duhkha-Naasha*) and brings prosperity in the family.

मकरस्थे रवौ माघे, गोविन्दाच्युत माधव ।
स्नानेन अनेन मे देव, यथोक्त-फलदो भव ॥ ३ ॥

Oh! Govinda, Achyuta, Madhava! Bless me with the fruits of this Magha Snana. (Magha Snana is the period when Surya is in Makara Rasi.)

कृष्णाच्युत निमज्यामि प्रभातेऽस्मिन् शुभोदके ।
अनेन माघस्नानेन सुप्रीतो मां समुद्धर ॥ ४ ॥

माघस्नानं करिष्यामि मकरस्थे दिवाकरे ।
आसमाप्ति महादेव निर्विघ्नं कुरु माधव ॥ ५ ॥

After chanting the above 5 slokas, perform Snana again and chant the regular Snana Mantras.

Arghya Mantra

When Snana is completed, before getting out of the water, Arghya has to be offered as the last item of the Snana. Take water with both palms, offer Arghya and then come out. The Arghya Mantra:-

तपस्यर्कोदये नद्यां स्नातोऽहं विधिपूर्वकम् ।

माधवाय ददामीदं अर्घ्यं सम्यक् प्रसीदतु ॥

(माधवाय नमः इदं अर्घ्यं)

सवित्रे, प्रसवित्रे च, परं-धाम जले मम ।

त्वत् तेजसा परि-भ्रष्टं, पापं यातु सहस्रधा ॥

(सूर्याय नमः इदं अर्घ्यं)

O Parandhama, O Madhava (who resides in water), O Narayana (who resides in Soorya), by your extraordinary Tejas, let my sins break into thousands of pieces and run away in water. I offer this Arghya to you.

Note:— The Arghya water should not go into the drainage. So, if you perform Snana in bathroom, then chant the Arghya Mantra alone in the bathroom. After coming out of bathroom, wear 12 Namas using water and then offer Arghya water in a vessel. (For any clarification, please call 73387 06674 or email 2121raghu@gmail.com).

Women should also chant these Mantras during Snana and offer Arghya.

If unable to do Magha Snana, think of “Prayaaga Kshetra”. See details in Page 31.

Dhanurmasa Samaapti

14th Jan — Sunday

Dhanurmasa ends on 14-01-2024. Lord Krishna says, “my presence (*Saanidya*) is more in Dhanurmasa”. Even one day Puja and Huggi Naivedya before Sun-rise, brings 1000 years Puja Phala. If Saligrama Puja is not possible, Naivedya to the Lord’s picture can be done. Even this brings Lord’s Anugraha. Do it before Sun-rise.

Even Punya Karmaas Lead To Sufferings

While doing Devara Puja, if you think that you are only doing Puja by your own efforts, then even though Puja is a Punya Kaarya, it may cause to take several births and subsequent sufferings. Because, it is the God who “**propels**” to perform Puja (depending upon the Swabhaava and other factors). Therefore even a Punya Karmaa may lead to sufferings, if that is performed without proper anusandhaana.

— *Sri Malagi Jayatheerthachar*

Uttarayana Punya-kala

Makara Sankramana

15th Jan. — Monday

Parvakala — 8.37 a.m. to 2.37 p.m.

Most Effective Parvakala — 8.37 a.m. to 10.37 a.m.

Snana with Sankalpa, Saligrama Puja, Sarva-Pitru Tarpana are a must on this sacred, powerful Parva Kala.

If the day is spent without even a Sankalpa Snana, what to speak of such a cursed life; condemns Dharma Sindhu (p.101).

रवि संक्रमणे प्राप्ते, न स्नायात् यस्तु मानवः ।
सः सप्त जन्मनि रोगी-स्यात्, निर्धन-श्चैव जायते ॥

Laziness and indifferent way of life in young age, naturally leads to **Daridra** and **Roga** in later age of life. That is the spirit of the above sloka.

Faithful adherence to Kula-Dharma (religious duty) removes negative habits in us without our knowing. That is the secret cause of success in life. If you search mentally for an example, you may find many, among your friends / relatives. They never tom-tom that they are orthodox. It is all private and at home.

Dana

Whatever Dana you give on a Sankramana day, Soorya (the Saakshi Devata) credits it in your account and gives it back in many fold at the appropriate hour unexpectedly, says Dharma Sindhu (p.101)

संक्रान्तौ यानि दत्तानि हव्य-कव्यानि दातृभिः ।
तानि नित्यं ददाति अर्कः पुनः जन्मनि जन्मनि ॥

Havya and Kavya are Danas meant to be given on Sankramana days; so beneficial to the giver. **Havya**=Offerings made to devatas are Havya. Danas offered in memory of Pitrus are **Kavya**. **Arka** = Soorya.

Honey and Ghee are said to be specially ideal Danas. The other items are umbrella, Chappal etc. (Yatha-Shakti, maximum possible). All with Tamboola Dakshina and Thulasi.

Tarpana A Must

Sarva Pitru Tarpana is a must for those who have no father. Saligrama Puja, Sarva Pithru Tarpana and Danas are highly beneficial on Punya-Kala, for the whole family.

Parvakala Tarpana Sankalpa

Aachamana, Pavitra Dhaarana, Pranayama and then Sankalpa:-

ॐ भूः, ॐ भुवः..... अस्मिन् वर्तमाने,
 नाम संवत्सरे, उत्तरायणे हेमन्त ऋतौ, पुष्य मासे,
 पक्षे,तिथौ, वासर युक्तायां, नक्षत्रे,योगे,
करणे, पुण्यतिथौ । (प्राचीनावीति) Apa-savya.

अस्मत् पित्रादि समस्त पित्रन्तर्यामि, भारतीरमण मुख्य-
 प्राणान्तर्गत मध्व-वल्लभ श्री जनार्दन वासुदेव प्रेरणया, श्री जनार्दन
 वासुदेव प्रीत्यर्थं, मकर-संक्रमण, उत्तरायण पुण्यकाल प्रयुक्त,
 पित्रादि समस्त पितृन् उद्दिश्य तिल तर्पण-महं करिष्ये ॥ अस्मत्
 पितरं.....

Concluding Part

यस्य स्मृत्या च नामोक्त्या, ... परिपूर्णं तदस्तु मे ॥

अनेन, अस्मत् पित्रादि समस्त पितृणां उद्दिश्य, मकर
 संक्रमण, उत्तरायण पुण्य-काल प्रयुक्त, तिलतर्पणेन, अस्मत् पित्रादि
 समस्त पित्रन्तर्यामि भारतीरमण मुख्य-प्राणान्तर्गत मध्व-वल्लभ
 श्री जनार्दन वासुदेवः प्रीयताम् ॥

॥ सुप्रीतो वरदो भवतु ॥ श्री कृष्णार्पणमस्तु ॥

Remove the Pavitra, untie it and then Achamana.

NOTE : For Full Tarpana Mantra, see Srimushnam
 V. Nagarajachar's 'TARPANA-BOOK'.

Importance of MAGHA SNANA

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“Maghamasa Mahatmyam” has been published in four parts. Here in this article, a few slokas from Part 1 is given. It is an excellent conversation between Chaturmukha Brahma and divine sage Narada.

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.

Sloka - 26 — All the sins accumulated in thousands of crores of births, which are very heinous get themselves destroyed by the proper early holy bath in the month of Maagha.

Sloka - 40 — Even though, the person is the worst sinner, still “When the Sun is just at dawn in the morning holy bath is taken, then all the

Devatas present in the waters of three and a half crores of holy rivers in all the three worlds proclaim and shout loudly for such person's redemption from all sins".

Sloka 53 — For a devotee who is involved in the early bath of Maghamasa, either the Sun and other planets, the Bhoothas, ghosts, pretas, the snakes, serpents will not touch him at all.

Magha Snana Period
25-1-2024 to 24-2-2024

First Adhyaya

नारद उवाच — Narada said:

संसारे क्लिश्यमाणानां जन्तूनां पापकारिणाम् ।
कर्मणा भ्राम्यमाणानां का गतिः कमलोद्भव ॥ १ ॥

Oh ! Lotus born Chaturmukha Brahma, what will be the fate or destiny of these creatures, who are immersed in the ocean of Samsaara and who are committing various kinds of heinous activities and who are by their activities got involved into the wheel of births and deaths, and are undergoing great miseries. (Sloka 1).

सुखमिच्छन्ति ते मूढा नेच्छन्ति सुखकारणम् ।
नेच्छन्ति दुःखलेशं वा तद्धेतौ सततं यतः ॥ २ ॥

Such those foolish creatures always aspire only happiness. They do not investigate or think over as to how such happiness can be achieved ? They are not interested in knowing the reasons for this. They do not tolerate or bear even small amount of grief or unhappiness. Like this, always they will be reasoning for themselves. (Sloka 2).

अलसा धर्मविमुखा विषयासक्तचेतसः ।
तेषां मुक्तिः कथं ब्रह्मन् रतिर्धर्मे कथं भवेत् ॥ ३ ॥

They are interested in the worldly temporary pleasures. They are far away from dharmic activities. They are lazy. How is it possible for them to attain liberation (Moksha) ? How their 'minds' got involved in dharmic activities ? (Sloka 3).

कृपाविष्टेन चित्तेन नरानेतान् समुद्धर ।
धर्मानपेक्ष्य वचसा विष्णुभक्तिविवर्धनान् ॥ ४ ॥

Oh! Chaturmukha Brahma, please save and redeem these persons, who have no devotion towards Lord Sri Vishnu, by preaching and teaching them dharmic activities by proper words with great sympathy and pity on them. (Sloka 4).

वह्निमादातुकामानां बालानां मातरो यथा ।
निर्वर्तयित्वा सुरुचिं जनयन्ति फले यथा ॥ ५ ॥

Just like children are saved and protected by the mother, who play with fire without understanding the dangers involved, you have to save them and

give the tasty fruits like mother. (You have to inspire in them, the taste for fruits). (Sloka 5).

धर्मास्तु बहवः सन्ति श्रुतिस्मृत्युदिता अपि ।
ते धर्माः कष्टसाध्या हि तेष्वदौ विमुखा नराः ॥९॥

Even though, there are many many Srutis and Smritis (Vedas, Upanishads, Itihasas, Puranas, etc.) teaching dharmas, still they are very difficult to adhere and to follow them. Further, people out of ignorance are far away from them already (which means they do not follow the mandates of Srutis and Smritis). (Sloka 9).

वद धर्मं सुखोपास्यं सर्वबन्धविनाशनम् ॥ १० ॥

यत्कुर्वतोऽपैति समस्तबन्धो
जायेत शुद्धा मतिरास्तिका च ।
भक्तिर्हरौ तत्पुरुषेषु सख्यं
तदैव तेषां हितकाम्यया वद ॥ ११ ॥

Hence please tell the dharmic activities which are easy to adhere and to follow. Let them destroy all the time immemorial bondage and attachment, but at the same time make the mind and heart, clean and pure.

These dharmic activities which bring devotion towards Lord Sri Hari and creates friendship with Him by bringing them near to Him, be told for the benefit and welfare of those persons. (Sloka 10, 11).

श्री ब्रह्मोवाच — Sri Chaturmukha Brahma said:

हितेच्छया तु मन्दानां कृतः प्रश्नस्त्वया मुने ।
सन्तोषयति लोकांश्च सन्तोषयति मे मनः ॥ १५ ॥

Oh! Narada Muni, you are putting questions to me with the intention of helping the down-trodden. By this, the entire world is pleased. My mind is also very much pleased and happy over this. (Sloka 15).

Secret of the Secrets Easy Way To Adopt

प्रणम्य विष्णुं पुरुषं पुराणं
निरामयं निश्चलमद्वितीयम् ।
वक्ष्यामि गोप्यं सुलभं शुभावहं
धर्मं त्वया पृष्टमतो महात्मन् ॥ १७ ॥

Now, I shall prostrate before Lord Vishnu, who is the ancient first person, not shakable, not having any one who is above Him (there is no second one like Him in all respects), not having any defects at all (diseases). After performing that, I shall narrate the dharmic path which is the secret of the secrets and the easy way to adopt which would bring all mangala results, you hear them. (Sloka 17).

Magha Snana Is Mandatory

सर्वेषामेव धर्माणां स्नानं माघे विदुर्बुधाः ।
विना स्नानं कृतं कर्म गजभुक्तकपित्थवत् ॥ १८ ॥

Oh! Narada, for all, the holy bath in the month of Magha Masa is the very important dharma. Without taking bath, whatever activity is done is just like an elephant taking the fruit of बलवलफलं, which has no use or meaning at all. Like that, the activity will become useless to the performer. Hence the holy bath is mandatory and is a sine-quanon. (Sloka 18).

Early Morning Bath

तत्राप्युषसि सुस्नायात् विष्णुधर्मपरायणाः ।
न तस्मिन् पापलेशोऽस्ति कृतघ्ने सुकृतं यथा ॥१९॥

Therefore, those who are devoted to Lord Sri Vishnu shall take bath in the early morning. If done so, then there will not be any iota of sin in them. Just like virtue or punya will not be available in a person who forgets those who have helped him, (likewise, sins will not be in the devotee of Sri Vishnu, who takes bath early the morning). (Sloka 19).

न कुर्यात् त्रिषु लोकेषु प्रातः स्नानं नराधमः ।
रौरवं नरकं याति यावदिन्द्राश्चतुर्दश ॥ २२ ॥

If a person fails to take such holy bath in the early morning as told earlier, then that person is the worst entity in the three worlds and more over he would fall in the hell by the name 'Raurava' for the duration of the regime of 14 Indras. (Sloka 22).

निरीक्ष्य माघमासं तु प्रातः प्रातर्जलाश्रये ।
अस्नातं पापिनं मूढं शापं दत्वा ब्रजन्ति च ॥ ४१ ॥

That person, who does not get up early in the morning in Magha Masa and fails to have holy bath, such bad fellow will be cursed. Then the Devatas in the rivers will start to their destiny. (Sloka 41).

अनन्तजन्मानुगतं महान्तं
दुष्कर्ममूलं प्रतिबन्धमुग्रम् ।
स्नानं रवौ चाभ्युदिते नराणां
निर्वर्तयत्याशु रविर्यथा हिमम् ॥ ४४ ॥

The holy bath taken at the time of the raising of the Sun will redeem persons out of various sins committed in infinite earlier births. It also destroys the bondage completely, just like the Sun destroys the snow completely like that, the early morning holy bath in Magha Masa does. (Sloka 44).

Listen To Magha Snana Mahatmya

माघस्नानस्य माहात्म्यं वाच्यमानं द्विजोत्तम ।
न शृणोति विमूढात्मा तस्मात्कोऽन्वपरः पशुः ॥४६॥

Oh! Supreme among Brahmins, (Narada), one who does not hear the Mahatmya (greatness) of holy bath in Magha Masa, is a great fool. There will not be any animal greater than that person, i.e., such person is worse than the animal. (Sloka 46).

कृत्वोषसि स्नानमनन्यमानसा
 माघे तु संस्थे मकरे दिवाकरे ।
 भक्त्या समभ्यर्च्य तथैव माधवं
 मातुः स्तनं नैव पुनः पिबन्ति ॥ ५५ ॥

With concentrated mind and Bhakti, one who performs early morning Magha Snana and then Puja to the Lord Madhava will not have the misery of coming out of the womb of his mother. (That means, he attains Moksha and is never born again.) He never drinks milk of his mother again. (Sloka 55).

Best Medicine

संसारसर्पदृष्टानां जन्तूनामविवेकिनाम् ।
 माघे उषसि स्नानं च मकरे परमौषधम् ॥

For those, who are destroyed by the serpent of Samsara and who have no mental equanimity, and for them, the early morning holy bath in the Magha Masa is the Best Medicine. (56).

“I will do Maagha Snana” Is Enough

“माघस्नानं करिष्यामि” इत्येवं सङ्कल्पतो मुने ।
 ध्रुवं नश्यन्ति पापानि बलवन्ति प्रयत्नतः ॥ ५६ ॥

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). (Slo 59).

प्रातः प्रातः सदा स्नायान् माघे मास्युदिते रवौ ।
अस्नात्वा चाप्यदत्वा च माघमासो गतो यदि ॥६२॥

In the month of Magha, when the Sun is just raising up in the sky, holy bath should be performed. If sometimes if such early bath is not done and donations, charities are not given and the holy month of Magha is spent like that, then, (Sloka 62)

श्वानयोनिशतं प्राप्य विष्टयां जायते कृमिः ।
प्रातः स्नानं प्रकुर्वीत माघे मासि द्विजोत्तमाः ॥
अयं हि परमो धर्मः संसारोत्तारकारकम् ॥ ६३ ॥

He would be born as a dog one hundred times. Then he would be born as an insect and suffer.

Suta Puranika explains:

Oh! Rishis, therefore in the month of Magha definitely without fail do perform early morning Snana. For crossing the ocean of Samsaara, this is the Supreme way and the modality to be adhered to. (Sloka 63).

न माघमासात्परमो हि बन्धुः
न माघमासात्परमः सखास्ति ।
न माघमासादपरं च दानं
न माघमासादपरः क्रतुर्वा ॥ ६४ ॥

There is no other relative like the month of Magha. There is no other friend like Magha Masa. There is no superior daana like the month of Magha. There is no equal or superior to Magha Masa in sacrifices / Yajnyas / Yaagas. (Sloka 64).

Second Adhyaya

Magha Snana Period

श्री ब्रह्मोवाच — Sri Chaturmukha Brahma said:

पूर्णमायां तु प्रारभ्य पूर्णिमायां समापयेत् ।
मकरं वा समारभ्य कुम्भे वा तु समापयेत् ॥ ७ ॥

Commencing on Pushya Shuddha Purnima day and ending with Magha Shuddha Purnima day or otherwise it can be commenced in Makara Rasi and shall be completed under Kumbha Rasi. Such period is the best for Magha Masa Vratas. (Sloka 7).

Ganga Smarana During Snana For Her Presence In The Water

गङ्गायाः सरितः सर्वा यस्मिन्कस्मिन् जलाशये ।
संस्मरेत् स्नानकाले तु सद्यः सन्निहिताः सदा ॥२९॥

While taking bath in any one of the water resources, if you meditate (think of) Ganga and other holy rivers in the water, then those holy rivers are present in the water. Hence the meditation of Ganga

and other holy rivers are to be made. After that meditation, the bath should be taken. (Sloka 29).

Chant 12 Names of Ganga

नन्दिनी नलिनी सीता मालती च मलापहा ।
 विष्णुपादाब्जसम्भूता गङ्गा त्रिपथगामिनी ॥ ३० ॥
 भागीरथी भोगवती जाह्नवी त्रिदशेश्वरी ।
 द्वादशैतानि नामानि यत्र यत्र जलाशये ॥ ३१ ॥
 स्नानकाले पठेन्नित्यं तत्र सन्निहिता तु सा ॥३२॥

Nandini, Nalini, Seeta, Maalathee,
 Malaapahaa, Vishnu-paadaabja-sambhootaa,
 Gangaa, Tri-patha-gaaminee, Bhaa-gee-rathee,
 Bhogavatee, Jaahnavee, Trida-sheshwari.

Whoever meditates these 12 names at the time of bath, then actually as a matter of fact, the river Ganga will be present in that water resource.

Arghya During Snana

At the time of taking bath, Arghya should be given. This Arghya along with the flow of the current in the river or in the eastern side standing should be offered. नदीस्ताः प्रावहत्वैव देवायार्घ्यं निवेदयेत् ॥ ३३

Note:— The Arghya water should not go into the drainage. Please see page 17 for details.

The Mantra for Arghya is:-

नमस्ते कञ्जनाभाय नमस्ते जलशायिने ।
 नमस्तेऽस्तु हृषीकेश गृहाणार्घ्यं नमोऽस्तुते ॥
 माघे मासि महादेव व्रतस्थोऽहं जगत्पते ।
 गृहाणार्घ्यं मया दत्तं माधवाय प्रसीद मे ॥ ३४ ॥

Hrisheekesha, for you prostrations. Please accept the Arghya submitted by me. In the month of Magha Masa, Oh! Great Deva! Father of all the worlds, please accept the Arghya offered by me. Oh! Madhava, please be pleased by this humble offerings. (Slokas 34).

विष्णुपादाब्जसम्भूते गङ्गे त्रिपथगामिनि ।
 गृहाणार्घ्यं मया दत्तं जले सन्निहिता भव ॥ ३५ ॥
 वृद्धगङ्गे महापुण्ये गौतमस्याघनाशनी ।
 गोदावरि गृहाणार्घ्यं त्र्यम्बकस्य जटोद्भवे ॥ ३६ ॥

Oh! Ganges, you have started from the Lotus Feet of Lord Sri Vishnu and is residing on the head of Lord Rudra. Oh! Ganges, please be present in the Arghya water offered by me. The most sacred one. You are the destroyer of all sins which has taken place due to the curse of Gautama Rishi and others. (Sloka 35, 36).

कलिङ्गदेशतनये पृथक्सागरगामिनि ।
 गृहाणार्घ्यं मया दत्तं यमुने मे फलप्रदे ॥ ३७ ॥

You were born in the Kalinga Desa and merges with the sea later. Yamuna, please accept the Arghya submitted by me and you are the bestower of all good results. (Sloka 37).

अन्यानदीः समुद्दिश्य दद्यादर्घ्यं यथाविधि ।
 पृथक् सागरगामिन्यां नद्यां स्नानपरो नरः ॥ ३८ ॥
 विना गोदां विना गङ्गां नदीमन्यां न कीर्तयेत् ।
 त्रिर्निर्मृज्य च पश्चात्तु मृत्तिकास्नानमाचरेत् ॥ ३९ ॥

By these mantras, Arghya Pradana should be offered. Likewise, by the holy rivers of others also, as far as possible, Arghya should be offered. A person taking bath in other rivers which are flowing towards the sea, should remember Godavari and also Ganges (Bhagirathi). Others should not be meditated upon. First, one should take dip three times and have bath. Then by pasting Mrittika over the body, bath should be taken. (Slokas 38, 39).

Magha Masa Murthy **Sri Madhava** **A Peaceful And Smiling Face**

माघमासप्रियं देवं शङ्खचक्रगदाधरम् ।
 प्रसन्नं सुस्मितं शान्तं माधवं पूजयेत्तथा ॥ ५५ ॥

Sri Madhava (the presiding deity of Magha Masa) likes the month of Magha. He wears Shankha, Chakra,

Gada and other weapons. He is always with beautiful smiling face, always sober and peaceful and who is the Master Deva of all Devatas.

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

Puja With Thulasi

माधवे तुलसीपत्रैर्मकरस्थे दिवाकरे ॥ ५९ ॥

सकृदभ्यर्च्य देवेशं न पुनर्जायते भुवि ।

यः पूजां तुलसीहीनां माघे मकरगे रवौ ॥ ६० ॥

कुर्यादिति विमूढात्मा हृदि शल्यं ममार्पितम् ।

In the month of Magha, when the Sun is at Makara rasi, if a person performs Puja to the Lord Madhava with the petals of Thulasi, that person is never born again in this world. If a person performs Puja without the petals of Thulasi, then that person is just like putting arrows on the chest of the Lord Madhava. (Sloka 59, 60, 61).

Hari Katha Sravana Is Important In Magha Masa

एवं सम्पूज्य देवेशं कथां श्रुत्वा हरेरिमाम् ॥ १०५ ॥

Oh! Narada Muni, like this Puja is performed to the Lord Sri Vishnu (Master of all Devatas) and His stories (Harikatha) are to be heard compulsorily.

Hari Katha Is A Sharp Knife

खड्गो यथा शाणनिशातमुग्रं
 घोरैः प्रयुक्तं खलु हन्ति शत्रून् ।
 एवं कथाशाणनिशातितं मनो
 हिनस्ति कामाद्यरिषट्कवर्गम् ॥ १०८ ॥

The knife when sharpened on the appropriate disc, it becomes very sharp and kills the enemies. Likewise Harikatha (Lord Vishnu's stories and hearing His Mahima) is the most proper knife / sword to destroy the enemies like Kaama, Krodha, Lobha, Moha, Mada, Maatsarya, — the 6 enemies to mankind. They are killed within a second completely without any residue left out. (Sloka 108).

कथानिमित्तं यदि कर्मलोपो
 भवेज्जने भागवते हि लोके ।
 स कर्मलोपो न भवेन्मदीये
 जने विचार्यैवमनिन्द्य कर्म ॥ १०९ ॥

If the devotee's time is spent in hearing of Sri Hari-katha and due to that, if any shortage were to happen in his Kaarmic activities (regular rituals), then such shortage of Karma is not counted at all at them. Hence giving greater prominence to Sri Harikatha Sravana is not a matter for criticism at all (even though that comes in the way and decreases the duration of other Karmas). (Sloka 109).

Fourth Adhyaya

प्रातःस्नानं पूजनं माधवस्य
 गीतापाठो वैष्णवानां च पूजा ।
 शास्त्राभ्यासो भोजनं ब्रह्मपत्रे
 मायाभर्तुर्मूर्तिदानं च दद्यात् ॥ ३६ ॥

Early morning bath, Puja to the Paramatma Sri Madhava, Recitation of Srimad Bhagavad Gita, respect to Vishnu's devotees, enquiry of Vedantic Shastras and discussion of the same, donation of the idols of Sri Vishnu, all these should be adhered to.

Supreme Dharmic Activities In Magha Masa

प्रातःस्नाने माधवस्यार्चने च
 येषां बुद्धिर्जायते सत्कथासु ।
 तेषां लोका अक्षयाः कर्मलभ्याः
 कुलं तेषां स्थापितं विष्णुलोके ॥ ३८ ॥

- (1) Early morning bath
- (2) Worship of the Lord Madhava
- (3) Hearing the stories of Sri Vishnu (सत् कथा like Bhagavata and so on).

Whoever indulges devotedly in these three activities in Magha Masa, that person would attain the proper destiny as per his status. He would get

indispensable regions as well as all his family would reside in the Vishnu-loka.

Touching The Water Removes Sins

माघ मासि मुनिश्रेष्ठ यो जलस्पर्शमाचरेत् ।
जलस्य स्पर्शमात्रेण मुच्यते सर्वकिल्बिषैः ॥ ८ ॥

Oh! Supreme Muni! a person, who just touches the water in the month of Magha, is exonerated and relieved from all defects and sins. (Sloka-8).

No Brass / Bronze Vessel In Magha Masa

यः कांस्यभुग्भवेन्माघे सजंबूको भवेत् ध्रुवम् ।
तस्मात् कांस्ये न भोक्तव्यं माघे मासि द्विजोत्तम ॥४०॥

Oh Narada, whoever takes food in the brass / bronze vessels in Magha Masa, would surely be born as jackal later. Hence brass / bronze vessels should not be used for taking food in the month of Magha.

No Oil Bath In Magha Masa

तैलाभ्यङ्गं तैलभोगं माघमासे विवर्जयेत् ।
तैलाभ्यङ्गे कृते विप्र वज्रवृक्षो भवेत् ध्रुवम् ॥ ४१ ॥

Oil bath as well as oil usage for nourishing should be avoided in the month of Magha. Oh! Narada, if a person takes oil bath in the month of Magha, he would be born as a stone tree.

Mahima Of Magha Snana

सर्वदानेषु यत्पुण्यं सर्वतीर्थेषु यत्फलम् ।
तत्फलं समवाप्नोति माघस्नानेन नारद ॥ ४२ ॥

Chaturmukha Brahma tells:- Oh! Narada, by doing all kinds of charities and donation (Daanaas) and by taking baths in all the holy rivers, what amount of Punya or virtue is amassed, the same quantum of Punya is achieved by taking bath early in the morning in Magha Masa. (Chapter-5, Sloka-42).

तादृक् पापं च नैवास्ति यच्च माघान्न गच्छति ।
तस्मात् माघकृतस्नानात् सुखी भव चिरं मुने ॥४३॥

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 long time. (Chapter-5, Sloka-43).

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

स्नान अशक्तो माघमासि परिधाय च वाससी ।
प्रयागस्मरणं कृत्वा माघस्नानफलं लभेत् ॥ ३१ ॥

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).

Eighth Adhyaya

This Is Very Secret

Listen To This Mahima Daily

न कस्यापि समाख्येयं गोप्यं भागवतोत्तमम् ।

य इदं शृणुयान्नित्यं माघस्नानपरायणः ॥ ८९ ॥

स कर्मबन्धमुक्तः सन् विष्णुलोके महीयते ॥ ९० ॥

This secret Mahima has not been given so far to anyone else or told to anyone. Those who are interested in the punya of Maghamasa holy bath should hear this Maahaatmya every day. Then he would be released from the bondage of Karmas and will be worshipped in Vishnu Loka. (Slokas 89, 90).

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.

<p>Magha Snana Proedure is given in Page 7.</p>
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