

## 'SRIMADBHAGAVATHAM-DASAMASKANDAM'

### GRANDHA AVISHKARANAM



Jnanasri Arshavidya Gurukulam organized the releasing ceremony of the sacred text 'Srimadbhagavatham-Dasama skandam (purvardham)' by an eminent Sanskrit scholar and an internationally reputed authority on Vedanta Shastra, Parama pujya Sri Tattvaidananda Saraswathi Swamiji at Raveendra Bharathi conference hall, Hyderabad on the 30<sup>th</sup> may'09.



The programme started around 6:15 pm. Sri Jonnalagadda Srinivasa rao of Gurukulam invited the guests to the dais and introduced them to the congregation. H.H Sri Tattvaidananda Saraswathi Swami, Sri M.V.R Sastry-editor of Andhrabhoomi, Sri I.Y.R Krishna Rao IAS-Principal Secretary for Finance, Sri K. Aravinda Rao I.P.S-Additional D.G.P Intelligence, Sri P. Venkateswarlu-Managing Director of Kakatiya Cements and Pujya Gurudev Sri Prem Siddharth were the guests.



After the inaugural ceremony and lighting the lamp by the invitees, Sri Jonnalagadda Srinivasa Rao started the events with his inaugural speech about the importance of respecting and propagating the Vedic heritage that Indians possess but have ignored over the generations. He urged the audience to contemplate on the need to realize and learn from our holy scriptures to build a society with lesser evils. This welcome address was a suitable precursor to another thought provoking speech from Sri M.V.R Sastry who indicated the propensity of Indians to respect the knowledge that comes from outside India and not realizing the glory of our Puranas and other epics that contain ageless wisdom. He spoke about the dismal state of our knowledge and learning where Indica by Megasthenes is probably considered the most detailed text on Indians while we are in the dark about the vivid detailing that Puranas have given us about Indian history and culture.



This evocative address was followed by a jovial recounting of the part that Srimadbhagavatham played in his childhood and life by Sri I.Y.R Krishna Rao, who released the book. He effortlessly recited padyams from Pothana Bhagavatham. He showed the underlying secular nature of the message of Srimadbhagavatha by taking the example of the most famous padyam '*Ewani Che Janinchu jagambu...*' that he recited at school as a child - where there is no mention of any particular form of God or the religion.

While Sri Krishna Rao gave us the aspect of Bhakthi from the scripture, Sri K. Aravinda Rao introduced us to the vedantic interpretation of Srimadbhagavatham and its teaching that aids the Sravanam, Mananam and Nidhi Dhyasanam of a spiritual seeker at different stages. Different parts of the epic cater to the emotional and intellectual needs of a varied sadhakas. While the stories of valor and miracles of Krishna engage the children, the young are captivated by the Rasaleela and with maturity the reader is grasped by the beauty of the self knowledge. He mentioned about Sridhara and Vamsidhara Vyakhyanams on the bhagavatham. He stressed on the need for youngsters to be interested in shastra and its essence to create a better society. He also revealed about his wish of creating a Vedanta society in Hyderabad, in which Pujya Gurudev Prem Siddharth will play a pivotal role.



After a brief prayer offered to the Guru Parampara and the Sabha, in which many eminent scholars, speakers and intelligentsia who are contributing to the welfare of the society were present, Gurudev explained about the relationship of Bhagavatham with the Veda by quoting the opening verse 'Nigama kalpa Tarorgalitam Phalam...' and admonished the idea that Bhagavatham is an independent text and is greater than Veda itself. He cleared the wrong notions about the "5<sup>th</sup> Purushartha" that is being propagated by some krishana bhaktas as a sheer misinterpretation of Srimadbhagavatha as the Veda talks about only four purusharthas called Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha. He established the supremacy of Vedas as the source of all knowledge and the role of Vedanta as the ultimate Moksha Shastra.



At the same time he spoke about the importance of Bhakti and Bhagavatha. He presented Bhakti, not as a separate yoga, but as an ideal condition that fosters the Yoga trayam called Karma, Upasana and Jnana. He then enlightened us about the four kinds of Bhakthas- Aartha, Arthaarathi, Jignayasu and Jnani and explained that Srimadbhagavatham was the right text for the Artha Bhaktha and also to Arthaarathi who look to God for security and fulfillment of desire. He told us that Srimadbhagavatham instills confidence in the Artha bhakta, by efficiently presenting the episodes of Prahalada, Vibhishana,

Gajendra, Panchali, Ahalya and Dhruva. He also instructed the audience on the Para and Apra prakritis of Ishwara.



Taking an example from Swami Tatvavidananda's commentary, he showed to the audience the underlying Vedantic message that is present in the form of the prayer that all gods offered to Narayana, who is about to incarnate as Sri Krishna. Gurudev said that the puranas like Srimadbhagavatham though mostly focus on the Saguna, also try to hint at the Nirguna aspect of Ishwara. In conclusion he said that by this endeavour of Pujya Tattvavidananda ji maharaj in the form of this book, Vedantis would finally be free of the misconception that they are against to Bhakti and cannot enjoy true devotion, while it is the Jnanai alone who can solely experience the Svatma rupa Bhakthi, also known as Atma Nivedanam. Pujya Gurudev urged all to learn at least the basic tenets of our culture and work their propagation.



Sri P. Venkateswarlu was very brief in his address. He remembered his Guru Sri kanchi Sankaracharya Jadadguru Sri Sri Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati Swamiji by whose blessings and guidance he was able to publish all the 18 Puranas with telugu translation. He stressed on his habit of being able to listen and to apply the teachings of elders to improve his life.

Swami Tattvaidananda Saraswathi ji delivered a short address. He told that this book is not a mere word to word translation but a careful Vivarana or explanation of the original text by Sri Vyasa Maharshi. He clarified that he followed the traditional Vyakhyanam and quoting an excerpt from the text, he detailed to the audience about how he wanted to convey more than the mere meaning of a sloka. His sense of humor made the audience laugh when he explained about his experiences with the working style of the TTD press that released each volume of his commentary on Srimadbhagavatham only during the Pushkarams. He thanked Sri Uppala for his contribution in this effort and encouraged the organizers of Jnanasri Arsha Vidya Gurukulam to do more programmes for the good of all.

The vote of thanks and the brief summary of the entire programme by a member of Jnanasri Arsha Vidya Gurukulam was an apt conclusion to the evening of enlightening speeches and enriching thoughts followed by snacks.



# HARI OM