

American Hindu Association

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HINDU CONNECTIONS

May, 2008

Hanuman Jayanti ~ Sundarkand Path



In recognition of Hanuman Jayanti, the American Hindu Association conducted the Sundarkand Path and puja on April 20, 2008 at Body in Balance (6333 Odana Rd., Madison-WI). Whole event was graciously sponsored by Naren Sharma and his family. All the devotees narrated Sundarkand Path very enthusiastically for two hours followed by related Hanuman Chalisa and Arati.

About Sundarkand: Maharshi Valmiki wrote Ramayan in Sanskrit about c.3000 BC, describing about divine Lord Ram and his journey of life. Similar to Valmiki's Ramayana, Goswami Tulsidas wrote Ramacharitamans in Awadhi, a dialect language of central Uttar Pradesh. His scripture is popularly known as Tulsikrita Ramayan, which consists of seven chapters namely Bal Kand, Ayodhya Kand, Aranya Kand, Kiskindha Kand, Sundar Kand, Lanka Kand and Uttar Kand.

Fifth chapter of this Ramcharitamans, Sunderkand, mainly focus on depth of Bhakti Hanuman's devotion and dedication for his divine Lord Ram. Sunderkand commences with the departure of Hanuman in search of Sita and ends with Ram ready to cross the ocean for Lanka in order to liberate Sita. The real beauty of Sunderkand lies in its revelation of spiritual truth and the path of a successful life of worldly existence, devoted and dedicated to Rama who is the Divine Consciousness itself in human form. Legends say by reading the Sundrakand one attains fame and wealth.

If there is one place on the face of earth where all the dreams of living men have found a home from the very earliest days when man began the dream of existence, it is India. French scholar Romain Rolland

"Upanishads Are India's Greatest Gift To The World"

<http://www.hinduismtoday.com/lipi/2008/4/27#2.shtml>

NEW DELHI, INDIA, April 27, 2008: (By Rajiv Malik, HPI Correspondent India/South Asia) "Upanishads are India's greatest gift to the world and the message of Upanishads is not meant for the people of any particular caste, creed, country or religion. They show the correct path to the whole of mankind." These views were expressed by Dr. Karan Singh, President, Indian Council for Cultural Relations [ICCR] while releasing a book entitled "Hum Purnamada" authored by Acharya Yash Kumar Verma (Shri Ramdasanudas) on April 27th, 2008. The book contains translation of five hundred fifty mantras selected from nine Upanishads. The function was attended by a large number of Vedic scholars, intellectuals and media persons. Dr. Karan Singh praised the organizers of the event "Shabda Setu" [bridge of words] and its president Dr.

Padmashri Dr. Shyam Singh Shashi and Shri Mookhesswar Ghosee, High Commissioner of Mauritius in India was a special guest of honor for the evening.

GEMS FROM THE BHAGVAD GEETA

This is a series of extracts from the Sri Bhagavada Geeta (The Divine Song). The Bhagavada Geeta is said to be the essence of all the Vedas and Upanishads. Its teachings are as relevant today as they were when the Lord, Sri Krishna, expounded to prince Arjuna on the sacred battle field of Kurukshetra thousands of years ago. While it is impossible to do justice to a profound work such as this in a newsletter, in each edition we present a few randomly chosen set of couplets and their brief meaning. We hope it enriches your life and helps you find a balance between your material and spiritual journey.

Ch4: Couplet # 16

kim karma kim akarmeti kavayo 'py atra mohitah
tat te karma pravakasyami yaj jnatva moksyase 'subhat

What is action? What is non action? Even the wise mind get confused about these. Now, I will explain you about the actions on performing which you will liberated from all its evil (binding nature).

Ch4: Couplet # 17

karmano hy api boddhavyamboddhavyam ca vikarmanah
akarmanas ca boddhavyam gahana karmano gatih

Nature of action is mysterious. So, one must know the truth about the actions, the forbidden actions, and must understand the truth about inaction.

Ch4: Couplet # 18

karmany akarma yah pasyed akarmani ca karma yah
sa buddhiman manusyesu sa yuktah krtsna-karma-kr

He is wise among men who see inaction in action, and action in inaction. He is a Yogi and he performs all his duties.

Ch4: Couplet # 19

yasya sarve samarambhah kama-sankalpa-varjitah
jnanagni-dagdha-karmanam tam ahuh panditam budhah

One whose all efforts for action are free of intention of desires and free from any wish, whose actions are burnt in the fire of knowledge, is called wise by the learned.

Ch4: Couplet # 20

tyaktva karma-phalasangam nitya-trpto nirasrayah
karmany abhipravrtto 'pi naiva kincit karoti sah

Having abandoned the attachments of fruits of actions and result of activities, free from any wishes, is ever content and independent, he do nothing even though he is betrothed in action.

Ch4: Couplet # 21

nirasir yata-cittatma tyakta-sarva-parigraha
sariram kevalam karma kurvan napnoti kilbisam

One who is free from desires of the fruits of actions, who has control on his mentality and has given up all his attachments and possessions and performs action related only to the body, incurs no sins.

Ch4: Couplet # 22

yadrccha-labha-santusto dvandvatito vimatsarah
samah siddhav asiddhau ca kritvapi na nibadhyate

The Karamayogi who is contented with what he gets, who is free from duality (like joy and grief) and does not envy, who is balanced in both success and failure, is not bounded by these, even though he is performing actions.

Dear Readers,

This is our monthly newsletter. Our intention is to inform our readers about our spiritual programs. If you would like to participate in this endeavor, want to volunteer for spiritual activities of AHA, or make some financial contribution for its services please contact us at whindu@yahoo.com.

We invite our readers to send us news, stories, shlokas, sayings of our sages etc. on Hindu culture, philosophy and/or religion. The article could be big or small. The editor will try to fit it in the Hindu Connection as soon as possible. If the article is not acceptable then we will notify the sender/author. The article is accepted only through email. Please be kind to proof read your article. Send the articles to editor at whindu@yahoo.com. AHA staffs are all volunteers and receive no payments for services. Contributions to the American Hindu Association are tax deductible.

AHA uses e-mail to save paper and postage. Confidentiality statement: AHA never shares its e-mail list of members.

Upcoming Community Events.

AIA MOTHERS' DAY CELEBRATIONS
WWW.AIAMADISON.COM

Dates: Saturday May 17th, 2008, 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Venue: Badger Ridge Middle School
740 Main St, Verona 53593

Contact: Vinay Dhedda. @ 836-0723 ~ vinaydhedda@yahoo.com

ART OF LIVING ~ WWW.ARTOFLIVING.ORG

Intro to Basic Part-1 Course Public Event + Refresher Session.

Dates: Sunday May 18th, 2008, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Venue: Union South, UW-Madison

Contact: Bipin K. @ 520-730-4374 ~ bkaran@gmail.com

ART OF LIVING ~ Basic Part-1 Course ~

WWW.ARTOFLIVING.ORG

Dates: Friday June 6th - Monday June 9th, 2008

Venue: UW-Madison / Best Western Inn & Suites - West Towne

Time: Weekdays 6:30 - 9:00 pm, Weekends 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Contact: Bipin K. @ 520-730-4374 ~ bkaran@gmail.com

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