

# American Hindu Association

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## HINDU CONNECTIONS

September, 2008

### AHA ~ Celebrated Sri Krishna Janmashtami

On August 23, 2008, the American Hindu Association (AHA) organized a large and joyous Krishna Janmashtami festival on behalf of the Madison area Hindu community. Siddheshvari Deviji's talk reflected



tradition. She emphasized the power of

the feminine and the path of bakti (faith) in this generation where is not enough time for long term study meditation. For the first time in quite a long term study meditation. For the first time in quite a while new temples are being built in India itself, showing that Hinduism is regaining its former self-confidence, and is putting forth one of the most responsible and new living traditions today. What impressed me most was when she asked

what is the purpose of human life? Answer: To seek God/ Goddess. This simple and fundamental point is all too often lost in religious arguments. Yes, God is the All, the source and sole purpose of all that is, was, and will ever be.

### AHA Balagokulam ~ Starting on 9-20-08

We are happy to announce that we are going to be resuming Balagokulam classes on the 20th of September, 2008.

The class will be held inside the Memorial High School premises every Saturday from 2:00 till 3:00 P.M. We are in need of volunteers to lead the classes, so if you are interested in volunteering, please contact Namita Basavatia @497-0298 or [namitabasavatia@yahoo.com](mailto:namitabasavatia@yahoo.com).

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

### Not Newton Alone, But Also Madhava!

Source: <http://www.mumbaimirror.com/net/mnpaper.aspx?>

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*MUMBAI, INDIA, August 2008: Prof. K. Ramasubramanian of IIT-Bombay has recently released a two-volume translation of the Ganita-Yukti-Bhasa by Jyesthdeva pointing to the fact that some subsets of calculus existed in Indian manuscripts almost two centuries before Isaac Newton published his work. Also, an Indian mathematician and astronomer Nilakantha Somayaji spoke, in parts, about a planetary model, credited to Tycho Brahe almost a century later. The Ganita-Yukti-Bhasa is divided into 15 chapters. Seven chapters are devoted to mathematics, and eight to astronomy. It was published some time between 1530 and 1540. "However, what's important," says Ramasubramanian, "is that the material in this book is far older. For, the author makes it clear that his manuscript only explains in detail the work described in the Tantra Sangraha by Nilakantha Somayaji. So the work spoken about is actually much older, as Nilakantha in the 15th century."*

*"The Ganita-Yukti-Bhasa attributes its mathematical models work to Madhava, who lived from 1340 to 1420. That's way ahead of Newton. But it would be too sweeping a statement to say that this was the first work on calculus," added the professor with a conservative approach.*

### **Illinois Professor Studies 19th Century Hindu**

**Renaissance** [www.thenline.com/article.cfm?id=213064](http://www.thenline.com/article.cfm?id=213064)

*BLOOMINGTON, IL, USA, August 20, 2008: When Brian Hatcher, now a professor at Illinois Wesleyan University, first gazed upon a pamphlet of obscure Hindu writings in a London library, he knew he had happened upon something significant. His find, in 1990, marked an exciting moment for a professor delving into his topic: the modernist Hindu movement of the 19th century. Hatcher translates the Bengali-language pamphlet title as "Discourses by Members" — the members being prominent Indians who called themselves the Truth-Prepropagating Society ("Tattvabodhini Sabha"). The writings dated to 1839 and 1840. The publication date was 1841. There was no table of contents and only initials to identify authors of 21 discourses. Research enabled Hatcher to identify with reasonable certainty most of these authors, and through his research he knew the group well. The Truth-Prepropagating Society was a piece of a Vedanta-Centered Hindu reform movement aimed at bridging the ancient religion into the modern world. Hatcher believes his find at least inches forward the study of modern Hinduism.*

### **RECIPE CORNER: KEERAI MASIAL**

*By Arthi Prabhakar*

**Ingredients:** 500gm Spinach, 3-4 red chillies, 2 pinch hing, 1tsp coriander powder, Salt as per your taste, 2 tsp urad dhal, 1/2tsp Mustard seeds, 1 tbspc coconut oil **Method:** 1. Wash the spinach nicely and boil it is until tender and cooked well. 2. Drain the excess water from the boiled spinach and allow it to cool for a few minutes. 3. Beat the spinach now in a Mixie until it is smashed nicely and keep it aside. 4. Now add 1 spoon of oil in a kadai and heat it for 2mins. 5. Add Mustard seeds and allow it to splutter. 6. Add the red chillies, urad dhal, coriander powder, hing etc to the oil. 7. Add the smashed spinach to the above mixture and simmer for 1 mins. 8. Add salt as per your taste and mix well.

### **Save the Date – Upcoming Event**

**CBF is hosting our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sight Walk on Saturday, September 13, 2008 from 7:30am – 11:00am.** The Sight Walk is a 5k walk from the Library Mall on the UW Campus to the Lake Path, Observatory Drive and ending back at Library Mall. Registration is only \$20.00, and we encourage you to get others to walk or pledge you to walk. All proceed from the Sight Walk will fund Free Cataract Surgery in Developing Countries and the UW Free Community Eye Care Clinic. For registration forms call the CBF office at 608-238-7777 or visit website at [www.combatblindness.org](http://www.combatblindness.org)

AIA Diwali Celebrations ~ Saturday, October 18, 2008

### **Daily Inspiration**

**Science is not only compatible with spirituality; it is a profound source of spirituality – Carl Sagan.**

### **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. It's 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.*

#### **Ch5: Couplet # 18**

*vidya-vinaya-sampanne brahmane gavi hastini  
suni caiva sva-pake ca panditah sama-darshinah  
Wise men associate the learned and humble sage, a cow, an elephant, a dog and a dog-eater (an outcaste) with equal vision...*

#### **Ch5: Couplet # 19**

*ihaiva tair jitah sargo yesham samye sthitam manah  
nirdosam hi samam brahma tasmad brahmani te sthitah  
The disciples of Lord, whose minds are established in equanimity, have conquered this world even living in this body. Definitely the God is pure and alike. So, being stable in God, they reside in God.*

#### **Ch5: Couplet # 20**

*na prahrsyet priyam prapya nodvijet prapya capriyam  
sthira-buddhir asammudho brahma-vid brahmani sthitah  
Resolute minded persons, devoid of delusion, possessing spiritual knowledge and established (residing) in God neither rejoice upon achieving something pleasing nor grieve ever upon obtaining something unpleasant.*

#### **Ch5: Couplet # 21**

*bahya-sparsesv asaktatma vindaty atmani yat sukham  
sa brahma-yoga-yuktatma sukham akshayam asnute  
A person no longer fascinated by the pleasant and unpleasant situations enjoys the pleasure in self. Having completely merged himself with God, he enjoys eternal bliss.*

#### **Ch5: Couplet # 22**

*ye hi samsparsha-ja bhoga dukkha-yonaya eva te  
ady-antavantah kaunteya na tesu ramate budhah  
The pleasures that are born of senses, definitely, are the source of misery. Such pleasures have a beginning and an end. Wise man does not delight in them.*

#### **Ch5: Couplet # 23**

*saknotihaiva yah sodhum prak sarira-vimokshanat*

*kama-krodhodbhavam vegam sa yuktah sa sukhi narah*  
*Before giving up his body, one who can tolerate impulses of the desires*  
*(lust) and anger, who do not gets overpowered by greed and enmity, he is an*  
*ascetic (Yogi). He is the happy person.*

Editorial Board ~ American Hindu Association

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