

**Jai Srimannarayana!  
Asmat Gurubhyo Namaha!**

## **Divine Experience** (by Sarma Allakki Ramanuja dasa)

Over many years, it has been adiyen's unfulfilled aspiration to attend our Acharya Tirunakshatram celebrations in India. With Sri Swamiji's mangalasanams, this was possible this year during the Silver Jubilee celebrations and Sri Acharya Seva Yatra.

Adiyen reached Hyderabad on Oct 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005 and on the same day visited Sri Swamiji at Sri Ramanagar Ashram during Chaturmasa Diksha. The Ashram is situated on a 50-acre land at Sri Ramanagar which is just outside of Samshabad, about 30 km south of Hyderabad. It is very close to the new International Airport. This is a very sacred site where all the Vaishnava Acharyas visited and planted mango trees in the early June 2004. On Feb 2005, adiyen was fortunate to attend the ground breaking ceremony on this land. For the Chaturmasa Diksha that started in August, one beautiful circular building was erected that houses rooms for Sri Swamiji, His Perumal, close associates and an office room.

### **Tirunakshatram Celebrations and Jeeyar Puraskaram (Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005)**

Adiyen reached the Ashram in the midnight of Deepavali. The preparations for the Tirunakshatram celebrations were going on until the early hours of Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>. People were erecting the tents, and others were cleaning the premises. Devotees started coming in starting at 5am. Though it rained in the previous weeks, that day was very beautiful.

The teertha goshti and Sri Rama:yanam Pa:ra:yanam were completed early by about 10am. Then, Sri Swamiji accompanied by HH Sri Ahobilam Jeeyar Swamy and HH Sri Vrathadhara Ramanuja Jeeyar Swamy arrived to the stage in the midst of more than 10,000 devotees cheering Jai Srimannarayana. Sri Swamiji was looking very radiant with beautiful and divine smile. Sri Swamiji cordially invited the recipient of Jeeyar Puraskaram, Brahmasri Gullapalli Anjaneya Ghanapati, a Krishna Yajurveda scholar. His passion of Veda Samskruthi was so profound, he made all his 6 sons as Vedic scholars. Not only that, all his 6 son-in-laws are also Vedic scholars. As a representative for the devotees from USA, adiyen was also invited to the dais. Sri Swamiji, in His speech, praised Sriman Anjaneya Ghanapati for dedicating himself and his entire family for the preservation of Vedas. Sri Swamiji also mentioned that His life force is Vedas. He announced the decision to setup an International level Vedic University at Sri Ramanagar. The university is named as Jeeyar International Vedic University. In the first phase, the university will have the class rooms and residences for at least 1200 students. Besides the core curriculum, the university will also cater for ad-hoc training in Vedic culture to the adult aspirants who can spare from one week to 6 months time. The university also includes the research facility, a state-of-the-art auditorium, library and the housing for visitors. Sri Swamiji also announced the construction and the progress of Sri Rama Temple on the premises. Maa TV chairman, Sriman Raju garu sponsored the temple. Sri Swamiji honored many devotees that are instrumental in the progress of the Ashram beginning with Sriman Rameswara Rao garu who donated the land and also was the key person in the development of many activities. Sri Swamiji inaugurated many books and the first copies were given to the honorable gentlemen. On behalf of the JET USA and Vedics Foundation, adiyen received the first copy of the Tirunakshatram souvenir. The recipient of the Jeeyar puraskar, Sriman Anjaneya Ghanapati garu mentioned in his speech

the importance of preserving the Vedas without losing even one syllable. He commended our Swamiji's efforts in the propagation of Veda Samskruti.

In the afternoon, about 150 priests from Badari to Sri Rangam brought and offered Temple honors to Sri Swamiji. With the mangalasanams from each Divya Desam Perumal, Swamiji's radiance multiplied, and looked like Bhagavad Ramanuja Swamy.

In the evening, the celebrations continued with Srivari Pa:da puja. With thousands of devotees chanting Acharya's divya na:ma, Swamiji went into trance. Adiyen was fortunate to sit close to Sri Swamiji and could not take the eyes off. I waited until Sri Swamiji opened beautiful lotus-like eyes that appeared like Lord Sri Rama with Kodandam during His coronation. Adiyen was very fortunate to be there on this auspicious occasion.

Later, Sri Swamiji distributed fruits and blessed all the devotees personally which took more than 3 hours. The celebration concluded with excellent display of fireworks. Evening a:radhana and purna:huti finished after midnight.

### **Sahasra Kalasa:bhishekam on Kartika Panchami (Nov 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005)**

One thousand pots each with coconut, mango leaves and flowers were arranged ceremoniously that occupied two-thirds of the mandapam with the guidance of Yagna:cha:rya Sriman Madhusudanacharyulu. After teertha goshti and Sri Ramayana parayanam, Sri Swamiji explained the significance of the public Tirumanjanam to Swamiji's Perumal, Sri Ramachandra Murthy. In 1993, after the Tirunakshatram celebrations in Sitanagaram, the Perumal Murthis were stolen. The local sub-inspector, Sriman Koteswara Rao, after understanding the grave situation at the ashram, promised Sri Swamiji that he would not change the clothes he were wearing and also he would not touch even water until the Murthis were recovered, and brought back to the ashram. He and his police staff searched relentlessly, and on the third day found the Murthis in a thorny bush few kilometers from the ashram. Their joy had no bounds. They took the Perumal to the police station, gave Tirumanjanam, performed puja and offered fruits. Then, Sriman Koteswara Rao came to the ashram and gave good news to Sri Swamiji. The relieved Swamiji gave a fruit to him who ate immediately. That evening, Perumal came back to the ashram. Next day, on Kartika Panchami day, Sri Swamiji performed Sahasra Kalasabhishekam in public, by passing each kalasam through Sriman Koteswara Rao's hands. This tradition continues every year. With Swamiji's and Perumal's blessings, the honesty and sincerity of Sriman Koteswara Rao's efforts earned him a life-time reward. Without any formal invitation, Sriman Koteswara Rao comes on this day every year. This is the only day that the Tirumanjanam to Perumal is performed in public, and thousands come to witness it.

Ground-breaking ceremony was performed for Jeeyar International Vedic University. The first phase is expected to complete by end of 2006.

The sahasra kalasabhishekam started with Vedic chants, and each kalasam was passed through a human chain to Sriman Koteswara Rao, and then passed to Sri Swamiji. Sri Swamiji performed the Tirumanjanam to Sri Ramachandra Perumal, Sri Krishna Perumal along with Alwars. Most pots contain water, some have milk, some yogurt, some honey and some have fruit juices. With the Vedic chanting reverberating the mandapam, our Swamiji looked like a Nitya Suri performing Tirumanjanam to Sri Vaikunthanatha in the Paramapadam. The entire place was electrifying with divine charge that carried every devotee to an elevation they never experienced before. This abhishekam went on for 6

hours. The Perumal never looked better. At the end, Sri Swamiji thanked all the devotees who supplied milk, yogurt, honey, fruits etc. and devotees who made flower garlands all night. After the purnahuthi, Perumal went back inside for Sri Swamiji to give Tirumanjanam and decorate Him.

### **Last day of Cha:turma:sa Diksha (Nov 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005)**

Nov 15<sup>th</sup> was the last of Chaturmasa Diksha. About 2000 devotees gathered to greet Sri Swamiji. After Sri Ramayana Parayanam, Sri Swamiji with the pariva:ram left the Ashram. Next four days, He was at various places within Hyderabad surroundings.

### **Sri Sita Ramachandra Kalyanam (Nov 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005)**

Nov 18<sup>th</sup> was scheduled to perform Sri Rama Kalyanam after one round of Sri Ramayana Parayanam completed. Adiyen could not attend on that day and regretted for missing the Kalyanam. Adiyen joined Sri Swamiji in Acharya Seva Yatra again on Nov 19<sup>th</sup> at Sriman Ramesh Gupta's house. Then, Sri Swamiji mentioned that Sri Ramachandra decided to postpone the Kalyanam to Nov 19<sup>th</sup>. Adiyen felt it was Acharya Anugraham and blessings. After the Sri Ramayana Parayanam, Sri Sita Ramachandra Kalyanam was performed. What a divine celebration that more than 1000 devotees witnessed. Sri Swamiji gave a pravachanam.

### **Sri Acharya Seva Yatra**

Adiyen was very fortunate to participate in Acharya Seva Yatra for 13 days during the month of November 2005; 6 days at the ashram and 7 days outside. Adiyen joined the Acharya Seva Yatra on Nov 19<sup>th</sup> and went to Vishnupuram near Miriyalaguda that evening. The township of the Indian Cements hosted the yatra. Many devotees attended the pravachanam and the Sri Ramayana Parayana. On Nov 20<sup>th</sup>, the Yatra reached Chirala. The Vikasa Tarangini volunteers organized the place extremely well. Next day, on Nov 21<sup>st</sup>, after the Sri Ramayana Parayanam, we all went to Katharipa:lem (fishermen village) to visit the construction of a school that was sponsored by devotees from Houston. Smt. Geetaji from Houston was also there. Sri Swamiji addressed the gathering of children and parents, and explained that the school would be ready in a month's time. From there, we went to another fishermen village where Sri Matsya Narayana temple was built on the sea shore. The youth gave a fine performance dancing around Sri Swamiji. Sri Swamiji performed Prokshana to the temple and the temple was officially opened. Swamiji gave a discourse and told the fishermen to take care of the temple. They requested Swamiji to build the Mandapam also. That evening, we reached Ka:vali. Arrangements were made at TTD hall. Many attended Sri Swamiji's pravachanam.

Next day, on Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>, after the morning Parayana and Purnahuti, on the request of a devotee, Sri Swamiji went to visit Sri Venkateswara Temple site. It was raining very heavily. When we reached there, many devotees were waiting. Swamiji, still in the car, told the devotees that it was raining very badly and there was no point in coming out (as if He was testing them). Then, the devotees insisted that Sri Swamiji must set foot on the site, and they would cover Him with umbrellas. Then Swamiji said ok, and opened the car door. Immediately, the rain stopped, not even one drop was falling from the sky. It was a miracle. Swamiji walked around the temple premises, broke a coconut, distributed fruits to all the waiting devotees and left within 20 minutes. When the car reached the main road, the heavy

rain started again. That evening, we proceeded to Gudur. Evening pravachanam and homam was at lemon market. In spite of heavy rain, many devotees attended.

### **Historic Visit to Tirumala (Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005)**

On Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005, Sri Ramayana Parayanam started very early and Purnahuti was completed by 9am. By 10am, Sri Swamiji with the parivaram left Gudur. First, Sri Swamiji visited Tiruchanur to pay respects to Sri Govindaraja Swamy and Sri Padmavati ammavaru. On the approach to Alipiri, the seven hills looked very beautiful with top half of the hills were covered with white cloud and fog, and with hundreds of water falls all over the hills. Madhavan Swamy from Chennai commented that the hills looked exactly like what was described in the Divya Prabandham. Previous couple of days, it rained heavily on the hills as if the hills were cleaned for Sri Swamiji's visit. We reached Alipiri by 1pm. About 10,000 devotees and press were waiting there. Tirumala priests received Sri Swamiji with Temple honors. About 1.30pm, Sri Swamiji started climbing the steps along with 3000 cheering devotees. Within half hour, it started raining again, yet times heavily. In many places, the water was flowing ankle deep on the steps. All the devotees were wet and cold, but everybody enjoyed. The walking distance to Tirumala – 3500 steps covering about 8 miles. With chanting of Sri Vishnu Sahasranama stotram and bhajans, the cheerful crowd easily reached Tirumala at 5.20pm. There another 1500 devotees joined. After visiting the Sri Rama Stupam that was erected by HH Sri Sri Sri Pedda Jeeyar Swamyvaru, we proceeded to Sri Varahaswamy temple. Sri Swamiji also came there and after the seva, we all came to the Vaikuntha queue complex. There, the regular queue was stopped temporarily, and Sri Swamiji was requested to go through the Kalyanam queue to reach the sanctum quickly. All the 4500 devotees started moving through the queue. Sri Swamiji promised that He would be in the sanctum until all the devotees had the darshan of Lord Venkateswara. Thus, Sri Swamiji was in the temple for two and half hours. All the devotees were blessed to have the darshan of Perumal through our beloved Acharya. This rare experience got imprinted on our hearts. With our Acharya, we paid our respects to Sri Vishwaksena and also Bhagavad Ramanuja Swamy. Sri Swamiji gave a brief press statement before proceeding to JET ashram. Our Vikasa Tarangini volunteers organized food and accommodation for all the devotees. We left Tirumala at 10.10pm by car. After Sri Swamiji's meeting with Sri Pedda Jeeyangar of Tirumala, we proceeded to Chandragiri, next halt in Acharya Seva Yatra.

Acharya Pa:da Yatra to Tirumala touched many hearts. With the mangalasanams of our beloved Acharya, we all had the experience of a life-time. Acharya literally took each one of us to the abode of Gods. We will cherish this for the rest of our lives.

On Nov 24<sup>th</sup>, 2005, Acharya Seva Yatra proceeded to Tamilnadu. Adiyen, with heavy heart, had to depart to return back to USA.

We are indeed very fortunate to walk on the same land that Sri Swamiji is walking, breathe the same air that Sri Swamiji is breathing, and drink the same water that Sri Swamiji is drinking. Our Acharya is none other than Kaliyuga Sri Ramachandra Murthy with Tridandam in the place of Kodandam.

Our Swamiji conveys mangalasanams to all the devotees in USA.

Jai Srimannarayana!

Adiyen Sarma Allakki Ramanuja dasa