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Following the Footsteps...

Prabhu Premi Sangh Newsletter



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Reflections from Pujya Swamiji's Diary...



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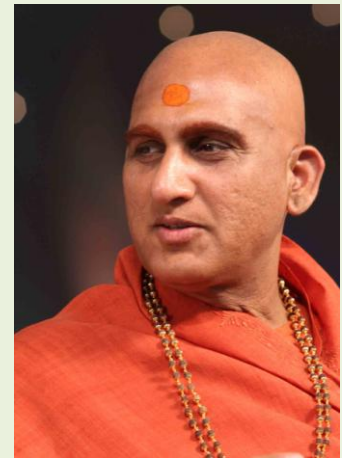
Dear Prabhu Premi,

Prabhu bless you.

God is an omnipresent entity. All that is present in the form of water, air, fire, sky, and earth, is nothing but God. To respect and love each one by viewing all with equanimity is indeed the highest form of worship.

Having developed feelings of respect, love, and compassion for all, one should remain in constant remembrance of the Lord.

*With best wishes,
Swami Avdhesanand Giri*



Inspiring pearls of wisdom from the diary of Pujya Acharya Sri...

News in a Nutshell

Hari Om!

The vibrant and pious festival of Navratri marks the beginning of the festive season in India. Along with religious observances such as fasting, prayer and worship, Navratri is also a time for effervescent and

zealous celebrations in the form of music, song and dance. Ardent devotees consider this as an extremely auspicious occasion to spend time in dedicated worship of the Divine Mother.

Following the completion of 'Adhik Maas Anushtan'

at Haridwar, H.H. Swamiji travelled to different cities.

In the month of October, Shrimad Bhagavad Katha will be conducted by H.H. Swamiji at Bhiwadi from October 16 to October 22, 2012 and at Jagannath Puri Dham from October 29 to November 4, 2012.

Following the Footsteps

Work is Worship

When work or action is performed with honesty, dedication and sincerity, then it occupies an even higher place than worship. Considering action to be predominant in the world, Goswami Tulsidas ji has written, '*Karma Pradhan Vishva Rachi Rakha*' i.e. 'The world is governed by the law of karma and actions are the single most important thing in the world.'

In the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna has also said, "You must only perform your duty, do not expect the result. Whatever work you do, keep surrendering it to me."

This implies is that after carrying out any noble deed; do not consider yourself to be its 'doer'. This is because whatever noble acts are performed, are actually completed with the help of



divine inspiration. Thus, all works are being performed by some Invisible Power. This Invisible Power is the Lord, who is the Manager or Driving Force of the entire universe.

When we will realize that we have come in this world which is a '*karmakshetra*' (sphere or field of activity), only to perform our duty, then we will automatically choose superior actions. Performance of noble acts is worship. Duty is worship. Actions which cause pain to others can never be worship.

Actions are being performed by individuals every moment

i.e. everyone is engaged in performing some action or the other at all times. In this context, Lord Krishna has stated in the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, "No person can stay without performing action even for a single moment." If under the influence of laziness, we avoid physical labor, even then our mind and intellect is working.

The significance of noble acts like worship, prayer and remembrance of the Lord is that while spending time with the God, if we can attain harmony and peace for even a few moments, then we will definitely receive His love and blessing as a result of this divine association.

For example, if our feet happen to get stuck in the muck, then no matter how much we try to get rid of, a foul smell will definitely

linger for some time. Likewise, if some perfume is sprinkled on our feet, then it will undoubtedly spread a pleasant fragrance around us. Thus, noble actions like prayer and worship always leave a mark of divinity on the devotee.

In addition, a person who truly worships God will automatically avoid treading the wrong path. There will be no falsehood or immorality in such an individual. Such a person always keeps in mind that the omnipresent Lord is the witness of his every action. We should thus request God to bless us with the power and capacity to perform noble acts. If we constantly pray in this manner, God will certainly listen to our prayer.

(Excerpt from H.H. Swami Avdhesanand Giri Ji's 'Muktipath')

Spiritual Q and A



Question: How can one attain peace?

Answer: Peace is attained by the renunciation of desires. Hence, in order to experience happiness, one should renounce desires and thoughts such as 'Things should take place the way I want' or 'I should get whatever I wish for'. Only then can one attain peace.

Nav Durga – Nine Divine Forms of the Goddess

The Nine embodiments of the Mother Goddess, known as Nav Durga are worshipped by devotees during Navratri. These nine forms are explained in brief as follows:

1. Shailputri: The first form of the Goddess is known as 'Shailputri'. The word 'Shail' means the mountains and 'putri' means daughter; hence the name 'Shailputri' refers to the daughter of the Parvatraj Himalaya (King of the Mountains). This form is represented as being astride on a bull, carrying a trident in her right hand and a lotus flower in the left. Worshipped on the first day of Navratri, she is symbolic of the strong determination of a seeker, and it is this kind of determination which leads to spiritual success.

2. Brahmacharini: The form of the Goddess which is worshipped on the second day is known as 'Brahmacharini', who holds a 'Kamandalu' (pot of water) in the left hand and a *Rudraksh mala* in the right. This form is associated with the severe penance undertaken by Parvati to attain Lord Shiva as her husband.

She is extremely pious, epitomizing pure love and loyalty and is also considered to be the storehouse of divine knowledge and wisdom.



3. Chandraghanta: The third form is known as 'Chandraghanta'. 'Chandra' means moon and 'ghanta' refers to bell, hence 'Chandraghanta' refers to the crescent moon on the forehead of the Goddess, which looks like a bell. She possesses ten arms, three eyes and her mount is a tiger. This form of the Mother refers to bliss, serenity and peace, like the cool breeze in a moonlit night.

4. Kushmanda: The fourth embodiment of Goddess Durga, which is worshipped on the fourth day of Navratri, is known as 'Kushmanda, who possesses eight arms and is astride the tiger. Ma Kushmanda is considered to be the Creator of the Universe. Her body is radiant like the sun, and her divine smile illumines and spreads brightness in all directions.

5. Skandmata: Skandmata is the fifth form whose favorite flower is the lotus and lion is the chosen vehicle. It is believed that by the means

of Her grace and mercy, the most unwise person can be transformed into an ocean of knowledge. In this form, she is depicted as the mother of Kartikeya, who is also known as Skanda. She is extremely benevolent as it is a motherly form of the Goddess.

6. Katyayani: Katyayani is the sixth embodiment of the Goddess Durga. She came to be known as Katyayani as she was born to the sage Katyayan who performed intense penance to please the Divine Mother in order to attain Goddess Durga as his daughter. The Divine Mother granted his wish. This form of the Goddess has a golden hue, possessing three eyes and four arms.

7. Kalratri: Kalratri means the destroyer of darkness (of ignorance). This form of the Goddess is four armed, possessing three eyes and long cascading hair. Ferocious in her looks and dark in complexion, she destroys fear and provides safety from imminent danger to her devotees.

8. Mahagauri: This form reflects pristine purity. With four arms, dressed in white, and possessing a fair complexion, she emanates peace, serenity and compassion. She is the



savior of the virtuous and the embodiment of grace, who pardons the sins of those who worship her.

9. Siddhidatri: In her ninth form as 'Siddhidatri', the Goddess is seated on a lotus, and is four-armed holding a lotus, mace, discus and conch. Worshipped on the ninth day of Navratri, she is the remover of ignorance and the bestower of the Highest knowledge. She grants *siddhis* (boons) to those who worship her in the prescribed manner with faith and dedication.

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH



"Learn to remain cheerful. Donate smiles and keep the environment positive and pure."

A Real Devotee



There was once a lady who was a great devotee of God. However, her conduct towards her family, neighbors and relatives was very harsh as she was filled with egoism. On account of this, everyone was upset with her behavior.

One day a renowned saint arrived in their city. Numerous people went to see him and receive his teachings. The lady also decided to visit the saint. In his sermon, the saint said, "One who is filled with true devotion, is not far from experiencing the presence of God."

When the sermon ended, the lady approached the saint and said, "Maharaj, I have a question. I feel that I am practicing devotion from the past several months, but till today, I have never experienced the presence of the Lord. What is the reason?"

The saint looked at her, and fell silent for a while. Then he affectionately replied, "Dear child, it somehow seems that God is annoyed with you. He feels that you harbor ill feelings towards His beloved children and your behavior towards them is not appropriate. I think that is the reason why you cannot experience Him."

The lady immediately understood the meaning of the saint's words. Since that day, she transformed her behavior. Everyone began to shower her with great affection and respect, praising her for the change in her nature. She began to experience peace from all sides and gradually began to experience God in those feelings of peace.

A devotee cannot achieve happiness as long as he is proud of his devotion. If a devotee is not marked by compassion, love, kindness, etc, then such devotion cannot bring about transformation in one's personality. A person who behaves with love while practicing devotion, he alone experiences God.

Prabhu Premi Sangh

H.H. Swamiji's Upcoming schedule

- October 16 to October 22 : Shrimad Bhagavad Katha at Bhiwadi, Rajasthan
- October 29 to November 4 : Shrimad Bhagavad Katha at Jagannath Puri Dham, Orissa

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About the Organization...

'Prabhu Premi Sangh' is founded, directed and led by His Holiness Param Pujya Acharya Swami Avdheshanand Giriji Maharaj. H.H. Swamiji is the spiritual head of the JunaAkhada, the biggest and the oldest order of the Sanatan Vedic Dharma, which has millions of saints. H.H. Acharya Sri is playing a vital role as a board member of the 'World Council of Religious Leaders', a council of great religious leaders devoted to the noble purpose of promoting world peace and communal harmony. His divine vision for the spiritual and social welfare of mankind and his devoted efforts in this direction, led to the formation of 'Prabhu Premi Sangh'. It has beautiful ashrams established in a divine, peaceful setting in the cities of Ambala and Haridwar, as well as numerous branches throughout India and abroad. Prabhu Premi Sangh is constantly engaged in various spiritual pursuits and programs with the mission to promote amongst society a spirit of selfless service, and impart spiritual knowledge via the study of scriptures, yoga camps, discourses and spiritual gatherings (*satsang*).



Please visit us online at: www.prabhupremisangh.org.



Feedback

Prabhu Premi Sangh's e-newsletter welcomes your suggestions, comments and queries. We invite you to share with us your viewpoints concerning spirituality, prayer and meditation. Please email us at prabhupremisanghnews@gmail.com.

"No creature can exist without love."