

Special Guru Puja to the Glorious Feet of Lord Sri Arunachaleshwara

Shloka:

|| Ekatah sarvadaanaani vrataani vividhaani cha
tirthaani, niyamaa, yajna sivapaadukaaraadhana ekatah ||

Meaning: The Vedas state that while all the practices such as charities, fasts, tirthas (pilgrimages), yagnams (sacrificial rituals), niyamas and nishthas (rules and regulations) have a certain importance, worship of the feet of Lord Shiva has an entirely different important status. Because while the former practices take one to the abode of the Lord's feet, the worship of the feet itself takes one directly to the Lord's feet.

1. The sound of 'OM' is Shiva and Shakti or the two feet of Shiva.
2. The essential nature of the two feet of Shiva is half masculine and half feminine or Ardhanariswara.
3. The essence of Shiva and Shakti is like the word and it's meaning.

In this manner the nature of Ishvara (Supreme God) has been described in all the Vedas, Upanishads (Vedanta), shastras, etc. and we see this great principle of Shiva in the form of the two lotus feet of Shiva and Shakti. It is this supreme divine light together with the power of Shiva and Shakti that is seen in the lotus feet of Shiva.

So what exactly happens when we worship these very powerful divine lotus feet?

When we worship with mantras, we are invoking the Lord with the power of our devotional feelings. It is then that the Lord manifests himself in and around the sacred feet that we are worshipping.

Thereafter, the almighty Parameshwara who is prevailing in each and every atom of the magnificent Shiva's feet accepts our worship.

Therefore, there is no greater sadhana than worshipping His Divine Feet on the full moon day of Guru Purnima. The worship of the powerful Shiva Padukas burns to ashes the millions of lifetimes of heinous sins granting happiness in this world and the other Divine world and eventually moksha.

The meaning of the essence of Sri Arunachala Shiva is supremely beautiful. Shiva means auspiciousness and well-being, goodness, selflessness to list just a few.

This essence of Shiva cannot be known during the waking, dreaming, and sleeping states. However, there is another state beyond these three states or "Trigunas". The fourth state is known as the samadhi state or "Turiya", which is Shiva.

Shiva means supreme peace; unshakable joyful peace. This Shiva is the root cause of the divine light illuminating the millions of galaxies. That which is present in all and all is present in that, is Shiva. In the 2 letters of Shiva (Shi + va) are hidden treasures of great powers and prosperity and eternal spiritual power.

Calling His name, "Arunachala" even once is enough. You get peace, auspiciousness, purity, and liberation because that is his very nature - to grant all these qualities. Swami with his consort Amba known as "Saambu"(sa+amba= saamba) is protecting and managing all the millions of galaxies in the universe.

There are many kinds of people in the world. Those who have practiced the steps of Sravana (listening), Manana (reflecting), Dhyana (meditating) attain Jnana or knowledge and experience their Self and are pure and blessed.

In the world of the ancestors	To One who has attained knowledge of the Self by leading a spiritual life.	That knowledge is like a dream.
In the world of the celestial musicians	To One who has attained knowledge of the Self by leading a spiritual life.	That knowledge is like a reflection in the water.
In the world of Brahma	To One who has attained knowledge of the Self by leading a spiritual life.	That knowledge is like a difference in the shadow and light
In the Human world	To One who has attained knowledge of the Self by leading a spiritual life.	That knowledge is like seeing oneself in the mirror

It is easy to attain Atma Jnana or knowledge of the Self in the human world but definitely not in any other world.

It is not easy to go to Brahma-loka (abode of Lord Brahma). However, if one has performed penance, tapas for a very long time, then one can go to Brahma-loka. Having gone to the Brahma-loka, even there one has to still do "Atma vichara" or self-introspection such as, who am I? Where did I come from? What is my relationship to others? And as an individual what is my responsibility? No matter which world the soul goes to, one has to continue to do this sadhana until one attains paripurnatvam or complete wholeness.

In a pot there is water. The sky reflects in the water. Where is the pot? In the sky? When the pot breaks the reflected sky merges with the all-pervading sky outside. Similarly, some people in order to

reach the Paramatman (Supreme Self) need not hope to reach some divine world. Because no matter what divine world they came from, they are already in Parabrahman (Supreme Brahman) and not separate from it. In other words, they are in true essence Parabrahman already. Those who know this always enjoy their natural state of Parabrahman.

As an infant sometimes Divine Mother Karunamayi would be left alone in a room with different things like toys, snacks, books, and Divine pictures, etc. The adults would then observe what item Mother Karunamayi would pick up. In the next room a yogi would be sitting in front of a Bana Lingam (svayambhu lingam from Narmada river) and meditating. To everyone's surprise, Amma would go to the next room and pick up that Bana Lingam. As we can see devotion to Shiva was Mother Karunamayi's very existence since birth itself.

There are different kinds of devotion to Shiva:

- Devotion to Shiva
- Shiva archana
- Shiva vratam
- Shiva gnanam
- Shiva dhyanam

The union of the five types of devotion is known as maha yogam. This creates a vast empire. Whoever sits at the center of the maha yogam is most powerful, wealthy, and described as maharajas in the Vedas.

The home where Amma Sri Karunamayi was born was full of devotion to Vishnu. For more than a hundred generations, Amma Karunamayi's ancestors were all devotees of either Lord Krishna, Lord Sri Rama, Sri Venkateshwara, Sri Narasimha Swami or Goddess Lakshmi Devi. In every generation, there were devotees in the family who wrote a million ramakoti (also known as a likhita japa chanting

by writing the Lord's name). They frequently chanted Sundara Kanda, Ramayana, Mukunda mala stavanam etc. and even the parrots chanted Lord Rama's name -Ramanamam.

How did Amma Sri Karunamayi become a devotee of Lord Shiva in such an abode full of Vaishnavites? There was no possibility of devotion to Lord Shiva in that atmosphere.

However, with being influenced by anyone, Amma since birth was innately ecstatic about Shiva and would be immersed in Shiva meditation. Nobody taught her anything. Amma was devoted to Shiva by birth which was the nectarine ambrosial devotion. She was the empress of the inner empire that she Herself created.

Amma visited Thiruvannamalai for the first time with her parents at the age of 16 years. She experienced numerous miracles in those thick forests. On returning home, the light of Arunachalam stayed in her heart to such an extent that she was oblivious of her surroundings and was unaware of the existence of this world. She stayed in that blissful state enjoying Shiva meditation for a long time.

After a while Amma Sri Karunamayi left for the top of Garudachala mountains of Sri Penusila forest. She stayed in meditative state for many days which extended to weeks, months and years. Amma spent ten years meditating but for Amma it felt like ten minutes. She drank the nectar from the infinite ocean of Arunachala Shiva. She completed her lifetimes of penance on Shiva and came down from the mountains with a genuine abundance of love and compassion.

Humanity was struggling in the maya or illusion of "I", "me", "mine" and was confused about what is real and unreal, and struggling to untie the knot of ignorance. That being so, with boundless compassion for humanity She came down to our level with true love.

She removed the ignorance of "I", "me" and "mine" by imparting the knowledge of our true Self. She pierced through the illusionary bondage of our existence that we have carried from the beginning of creation by imparting the liberating knowledge which releases us from this cycle of birth and death. Who else is there but Amma Sri Karunamayi who gives us this knowledge?

With the wonderful touch of Her knowledge who else but Amma Sri Karunamayi has woken up the sleeping humanity to their natural state of peace?

She came into this world on the auspicious day of Vijayadashami. She has manifested herself innumerable times only for us. We are so fortunate to be present during her sweet presence in this world and we are truly blessed.

Shlokam:

|| Thrikona rupini shaktihi bindu rupah shivah smrutah

avinaabhaava sambandaha tasmaath bindu trikonayoh ||

Meaning:

The central top bindu of Sri Chakra is Shiva. Shiva envelopes the Trikona Shakti. The inseparable connection between Shiva and Shakti itself is in the Arunachala Shiva Padukas. While one paduka is for Shiva, the other one is for Shakti.

In Rudra Veda mantram:

Yogneyo apsuya aushadhiishu

Yorudro Vishwa bhuvanani vasha

Tasmai rudraya namo asthu.

Meaning:

This is the truth mentioned in the Veda Mantra. What is the common thing in fire, water and medicines? Present in all these is the great radiance of Shiva Shakti of Sri Guru Dakshinamurthy and Mother Divine Sri Dakshinamurthy Rupini.

Shiva and Shakti forms are pervading across the earth among the 5 elements in 11 different forms (5 elements x 11 forms = 55 forms.)

1. All the planets in space.
2. All the Devatas or divine forms.
3. All the sages.
4. All human beings and millions of living beings in the external universe.
5. In all the yajnam or sacrificial rites listed below.

- Vaak Yajnam - austerity of speech
- Mano Yajnam - austerity in thought, word, and deed
- Karma Yajnam - austerity in actions
- Gnana Yajnam - austerity in Knowledge
- Tapo Yanam - austerity in penance
- Dana Yajnam - austerity in Charity
- Seva Yajnam - austerity in Service
- Svadhyayana Yajnam - austerity in reading Vedic scriptures
- Veda Patana - austerity In reciting Vedas
- Vydiiki Agni Yajnas - austerity in performing Vedic Fire Ceremonies

Realizing that Shiva and Shakti are omnipresent is a huge blessing. However, to witness the Sri Arunachala Shiva Shakti Paduka Puja performed by Sri Karunamayi Mahadevi Herself, we must be benefitting from some incredible merits performed in our previous lives to witness this priceless event.

Sri Saligrama Dakshinamurthy Swami Guru puja will be performed at Penusila Ashram on the day before Guru Purnima (July 4) which is a very powerful ritual. When one witnesses the puja, they will lose ignorance, lethargy, memory loss and gain the grace and auspiciousness.

The presence of Saligrama Dakshinamurthy in Penusila is very powerful. He who worships Dakshinamurthy here benefits from all auspiciousness no matter how ignorant, inactive, dull headed or forgetful one may be.

On July 5, Sri Arunachala Shiva paduka puja will be performed by Divine Mother Sri Karunamayi Devi herself.

Even if all the 9 Planets are not properly situated or are in negative positions, by worshipping Sri Dakshinamurthy, with his blessings and strength, one can acquire strength from Guru Planet (Jupiter). Even if the remaining planets are weak, with strength from Guru or Jupiter, one can avoid accusations, controversies, family squabbles, sarpa doshas and doshas from other planets.

Furthermore, if one worships Sri Dakshinamurthy in the form of Saligrama, then Guru shakti will be unlimited and immense. During these challenging times, even the most difficult task is effortlessly accomplished and one would be successful, all negative doshas will vanish. Everything will be favorable, and one will achieve respect and admiration.

Guru Purnima's uniqueness this year is that Sri Karunamayi Devi is performing the Atirudram to the large padukas Herself with Shiva naga mallika flowers and Guru puja for the wellbeing of all Her devotees. One would need millions of merits from many lifetimes to witness this puja. One should chant "Om Shivaya Gurave Namaha" and "Anbe Shivam" during the event.

To achieve universal peace, special pujas are being performed daily at Manidweepa Samsthanam including, Go-puja (cow puja), Sri Lalitambika Sri Chakra puja, Rudra abhishekam to Panchmukhi Shiva Linga, Sri Ganesha puja, Sri Subramanyeswara puja, Lord Hanuman puja, Maha Lakshmi puja, Maha Saraswati puja, Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Saligrama puja and Naivedyams are being offered every day.

In addition, Manidweepa Samsthanam has set up up several programs such as doing seva to Vedamata, several Aradhanas, daily yagnams, free food distribution and serving meals to priests.

During this time of COVID-19 pandemic, SMVA Trust is selflessly feeding thousands of migrating immigrant workers traveling from Bangalore to Hyderabad on a large scale and also taking up seva programs and doing special pujas for the benefit of people going through financial hardship. We are only able to accomplish this with your generosity, help and cooperation.

Wishing you all peace, happiness, health and an abundance of Amma's blessings.

Love you all.

Always in your service,

Manidweepa Samsthanam

Penisula, Andhra Pradesh, India.