



TATTVA DARSANA

Quarterly

IN THIS ISSUE

Editorial:

Hinduizing the Hindus	-- Sadhu Rangarajan	2
Sadhu Prof. V. Rangarajan's South Africa Visit 2014—Tributes and Messages		5
Sadhu's Dharma Prachar Yatra in South Africa—A brief Report		14
Strength in Unity (Article by Sadhu in THE POST)		23
Sadhuji's Return Visit to South Africa –Kashmira Nirghin		28
A Beggar Who Owns the World -- “HINDUISM TODAY”		32
Glimpses Of A Great Yogi--Part II-- Sadhu Prof. V. Rangarajan		35
News and Notes		46

Front Cover:

**Sadhu Rangarajan in front of Mahatma Gandhi's house
in Phoenix Settlement, Durban, South Africa**

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HINDUIZING THE HINDUS

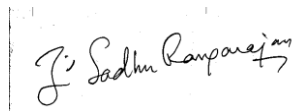
When this Sadhu received for the first time, in 1984, an invitation from Swami Sahajananda of Divine Life Society of South Africa, and another from Sri Ram Bharos and Pandit Nardev Vedalankar of South African Arya Samaj, to visit South Africa, to edit the “Yoga Lessons for Children” published on the occasion of Swami Sivananda Centenary, and the World Vedic Conference of Arya Samaj, respectively, this sadhu asked for the blessings of his *siksha guru*, Swami Chinmayananda and the latter commanded: “Go and Hinduize the Hindus!” On his successful return after a three months’ visit to South Africa and a month long visit to Mauritius and Reunion, he received a congratulatory message from Swami Chinmayananda: “I had many glowing tributes paid to you received by me in many letters from Reunion and Mauritius. I had a very clear picture of what you are accomplishing. We need such champions of Hinduism, who scream into the ears of the sleeping Hindus, reviving and revitalizing them in their hearty consciousness of their proud past. This alone can make them live dynamically and carve out for themselves a brilliant future which they so eminently deserve.” The next foreign visit of this sadhu took place at the time of World Hindu Conference inaugurated by Sri Nelson Mandela, President of the Republic of South Africa, at Chatsworth in 1985. Since then this Sadhu has made eleven more visits to South Africa, two to Kenya and one visit to Singapore and Nepal. He had the delightful experience that not only the Hindus settled abroad, but even people of other races and religions look to Bharatavarsha for spiritual solace and inspiration. The presence of white and black people from other religions in Sadhu’s discourses and inter-religious conferences give him a confidence and foresight of Bharatavarsha once again emerging as Loka Guru.

Hindu forces in the motherland are today surging forward to wipe out the indignity thrust on this Holy Land during the last eight hundred years of anti-Hindu rule by the Muslim aggressors and European colonialists who invaded the land and subjugated it and, after the attainment of Independence, by the power-hungry politicians who, in the name of secularism, appeased the Muslim and Christian progeny of those who were forcibly converted by the aliens into their religions, and

crushed the age-old values of spiritual nationalism of this land. However, the consolidation of the Hindu forces and re-establishment of Hindu Rashtra will be possible only when the Hindus are brought out of the Maya created by aliens and fell a victim to the belief that Hindus are not of one race or religion and are a conglomeration of various races and religious groups. This has divided the Hindu society into various linguistic and religious groups disowning the common Hindu heritage and unity. The myth of Aryan invasion of Dravidians planted by British historians to divide the country, the linguistic division of the provinces, and the growth of various religious groups based on caste and sampradayas striving to create their own political fronts dividing the Hindu society are the cancerous germs still eating into the vitals of the Hindu Nation. Unless these evil forces are wiped out all the efforts to project Mother Bharat as the Preceptor of the World will be a vain attempt.

Hinduism is not a religion. It is a way of life meant for the entire humanity--*maanava dharma*-- and for the whole world--*vishwa dharma*. People all over the world have started realizing this truth. However, there are forces within the country which constantly strive to prevent the unity of Hindus. A Hindu is one who adores and worships the Motherland stretching from the River Sind in the North up to the Indian Ocean in the south as the land of the land of his forefathers and Holy Land--*Aasindhu sindhu paryetaa yasya bhaarata bhoomikaa, pitru bhoo punyabhooschaiva sa vai Hinduriti smritah*. From this scriptural definition, it is clear that even the enlightened Muslims and Christians who consider different religions as pathways to one and the same Ultimate Reality and accept Mother India as a holy land and land of their forefathers are Hindus. However, the Muslim fundamentalist forces from outside the country are constantly striving to promote Islamic Jihad and terrorism in the country to wipe out the Hindu Nation. The Love Jihadis entice Hindu girls through internet and facebook and abduct them, convert them into Islam, rape them and throw them out into the streets. The Islamic terrorists lure our youth from the Islamic converts into terrorist groups like Lakshar-e-Toiba and Taliban to destroy the Hindu Nation. In these circumstances, the Hindus should stand united to protect the age-old culture, heritage and nationalism of this country. The stooges of Christian colonialists who are getting millions of dollars from abroad are constantly striving to convert the poor and downtrodden masses in the country and turn them against the

spirit of Hinduism and Hindu Nation to create a Christianistan in the country. The divisive forces within the Hindu society could be easily identified. The so-called secular politicians abhor Hindu values, hate Hindu religious festivals, but sit with Muslims and drink porridge on the occasion of Id and join Christians on the occasion of Christmas, all for the sake of the Muslim and Christian vote bank. They know that the Hindus are divided and their own caste, religious and linguistic groups alone cannot secure political power for them. Secondly there is a section of perverted Hindus who are brainwashed to believe that Hinduism is nothing but a conglomeration of stupid and superstitious beliefs and the real progressive society is the one that is permissive. They spend their lives in pubs, night clubs and promote lustful animal instincts through Valentine's Day, Kiss of Love and Kiss in the Street movements. They breed the growing instances of rape of girls and women, breaking of families and divorce and perversion of neglected children. The third force that is disrupting Hindu unity is the pseudo-gurus and religious leaders who want to keep the Hindu society divided and promote the interests of their own castes, sampradayas, religious groups and missions to feed their own urge for domination. Unless these evil forces are wiped out there can be no salvation for the Hindu society and Hindu Nation. The only way to achieve this is to inculcate in the heart of each and every Hindu the spirit of adoration of Motherland. They must consider Bharatamata as the Mother of all gods, goddesses, religions and spiritual masters and adore Her above all other deities of their personal worship--*Ishtar Devata*. More than hundred years ago, the patriot-monk, Swami Vivekananda, proclaimed: "For the next fifty years this alone shall be our keynote--this, our great Mother India. Let all other vain gods disappear for the time from our minds. This is the only god that is awake, our own race--'everywhere his hands, everywhere his feet, everywhere his ears, he covers everything.' All other gods are sleeping. What vain gods shall we go after and yet cannot worship this, we shall be able to worship all the other gods." If all the Hindus stand united in the adoration and worship of Bharatamata, our Motherland can in no time re-emerge as the Loka Guru and spread the message of Unity in Diversity and brotherhood of man-kind. The goal of *Vasudaiva Kuthumbakam*--the whole world as one family as envisaged by the great Vedic seers of our land could be achieved in our own life-time. *Vande Mataram!*



SADHU PROF. V. RANGARAJAN'S SOUTH AFRICA VISIT 2014

TRIBUTES AND MESSAGES

**Sri Ranjiv Nirghin, President, Midlands Hindu Society,
Pietermaritzburg, South Africa:**

Dear Sadhuji

**THANK YOU FOR TOURING SOUTH AFRICA AND
ADDRESSING US ON UNITY IN DIVERSITY DURING OUR 20TH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

The President, affiliates and members of Midlands Hindu Society and associated Hindu organisations are deeply indebted to you, Sadhu Professor Venugopala Rangarajan for having graced us by touring South Africa and addressing us on the broad theme of Unity in Diversity during our 20th Anniversary Celebrations from 6th August 2014 to 5th November 2014.

Midlands Hindu Society has a close relationship with Sadhuji who during the build up to the World Hindu Conference in 1995 inspired many Hindus and Hindu organisations to work together to foster Hindu Unity and spread the message of universal brotherhood of the whole world being one family. It was during Sadhuji's visits and lectures in the Midlands region of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, that many of our respected leaders saw the vision of transforming an organising committee into a formal Unity in Diversity organisation for Hindus and after the World Hindu Conference held in July 1995, Midlands Hindu Society was officially founded on the 17 of September 1995, with affiliations from Howick, Greytown, Richmond, Thornville and Pietermaritzburg.

We are blessed to have achieved such a strong bond of Unity in Diversity in the Midlands Region of KwaZulu-Natal, and we enjoy the support of several other International, National and Local Hindu

Organisations, broadly representing the different linguistic, sectarian, traditional and modern Hindu groupings representing almost every diverse thought in Hinduism.

Midlands Hindu Society is grateful that we were able to host Sadhuji at all our affiliate organisations in the Midlands Region as well as arrange for Sadhuji to address the broader South African community based in Durban and surrounding areas, as well as in Gauteng and Nationally via Newspapers, Radio and Television. We are in deed grateful to the Sri Ashwin Trikamjee, President of the South African Hindu Maha Sabha and his team; the Sarva Dharma Ashram, especially Swami Ramkripananda, Mataji and all their devotees; the Gauteng team of Rethen and Yoshni, Mr & Mrs Niven Soman, Yashika Singh, and the Kommal Family and the National Co-ordinator of the Sister Nivedita Academy, Kashmira Nirghin.

Sadhuji's impact during this tour is still reverberating in South Africa, with many requesting Sadhuji to come back and enlighten us further on the theme of Unity in Diversity, the Hanuman Chalisa, Bhagavat Gita, Thirukural, Ramayan, Durga Saptasati, Navaratri and other topics.

Many who have followed Sadhuji during his tour have echoed the same sentiments that "Sadhuji has such a vast knowledge of Hinduism that he is able to highlight every chosen path and how it is inter-related with other paths within the broader Hindu thought and philosophy that we are all ultimately seeking the same objective and that no one path is greater than the other and all these paths are not mutually exclusive despite their appearance they are all ultimately inclusive and all embracing."

Midlands Hindu Society is proud to have honoured Sadhuji by presenting him with a Life Time Achievement Award for spreading Unity in Diversity. This award was presented to Sadhuji by the KwaZulu-Natal Minister of Human Settlements and Public Works, Mr *Ravi Pillay, on our behalf, during our Msunduzi Diwali Festival Celebrations, in the presence of the Speaker of the Msunduzi Municipality, Cllr Babu Baijoo and the Mayor of the Msunduzi Municipality, Cllr Chris Ndlela, and in front of thousands of people.*

Midlands Hindu Society is proud to have hosted Sadhuji to initiate our 20th Anniversary Celebrations and to take the message of Unity in Diversity as encapsulated in our motto and spread it throughout our beautiful country South Africa. We believe that Sadhuji's tour was the perfect start to the 20th Anniversary Celebrations of Midlands Hindu Society and we look forward to hosting you in South Africa in the future.



The President, affiliates and members of Midlands Hindu Society and associated Hindu organisations send our heartfelt gratitude to Sadhu Professor Venugopala Rangarajan for all that you have done to enlighten us.

Yours in Seva

Advocate Ranjiv Nirghin
 President, Midlands Hindu Society

**Sri Ashwin Trikamjee, President, South African Hindu
 Maha Sabha:**

24 November 2014

The South African Hindu Maha Sabha has enjoyed a special relationship with Sadhuji.

Who can forget the late night visit by Sadhuji at the Durban Diwali Festival when Sadhuji was served with a deportation threat by the South African Government due to mischief making and viciousness of

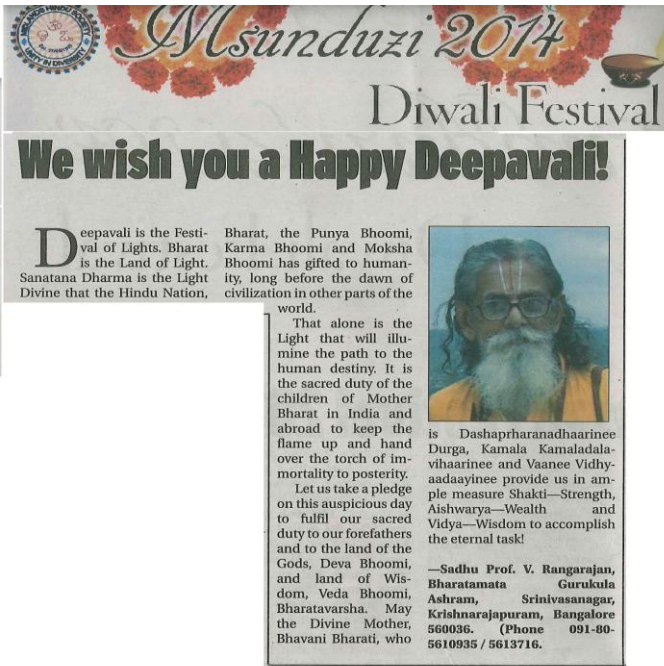
some individuals? Since that night our relationship has grown and today we enjoy not only do we share a close relationship but a camaraderie which is spiritual as well as philosophical.

We are always pleased to arrange Sadhuji's visa requirements to South Africa so that he is never ever subjected to the kind of anxiety and disrespect shown to him then.

The Sabha invited Sadhuji to officially open its brand new premises at the present headquarters in May 2005 and since then we are in regular contact with each other.

His unwavering commitment to the cause of Hindus in South Africa is acknowledged by us all. The regular satsangs and discourses throughout South Africa are highly appreciated and revered by all. May Sadhuji continue to be blessed with good health.

From the feet of the Divine Mother.
Ashwin Trikamjee




We wish you a Happy Deepavali!

Deepavali is the Festival of Lights. Bharat is the Land of Light. Sanatana Dharma is the Light Divine that the Hindu Nation, Bharat, the Punya Bhoomi, Karma Bhoomi and Moksha Bhoomi has gifted to humanity, long before the dawn of civilization in other parts of the world.

That alone is the Light that will illumine the path to the human destiny. It is the sacred duty of the children of Mother Bharat in India and abroad to keep the flame up and hand over the torch of immortality to posterity.

Let us take a pledge on this auspicious day to fulfil our sacred duty to our forefathers and to the land of the Gods, Deva Bhoomi, and land of Wisdom, Veda Bhoomi, Bharatavarsha. May the Divine Mother, Bhavani Bharati, who is Dashapriharanadhaarinee Durga, Kamala Kamaladala-vihaarinee and Vaanee Vidhyaadaayinee provide us in ample measure Shakti—Strength, Aishwarya—Wealth and Vidya—Wisdom to accomplish the eternal task!



—Sadhu Prof. V. Rangarajan,
Bharatmata Gurukula
Ashram, Srinivasanagar,
Krishnarajapuram, Bangalore
560036. (Phone 091-80-
5610935 / 5613716.

Swami Abhedananda, President, Chinmaya Mission, South Africa:

Pujya Swamiji, Hari Om! Thanks for your loving mail.

Saints like you move in this world only to manifest God residing in each heart. As in the spring season, flowers blossoms and happiness envelopes the place, similarly in your presence, joy and inspiration fill in all minds.

We the members of Chinmaya Mission of SA are grateful that inspite of your hectic schedule you came in the Ashram to bless us. Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayanandaji binds us and anyone whom Gurudev has loved is adorable for us.

May your love and blessings for us ever be there!

With humble Pranaams,

Abhedananda

Swami Muktananda, Anandashram, Kanhangad:

Blessed Atman,

Your loving email has been received.

Glad to know that you are back in India after the successful Dharma Prachara Yatra 2014. We are sure as always, this Yatra too would have been instrumental in inspiring innumerable devotees in their spiritual quest.

May the Lord's continued blessings be upon you for good health and long life so that you can carry on with HIS noble mission with all love and dedication.

Deepest love and best wishes.

Ever your Self
Swami Muktananda

Leanne Glanville, ISHTA Yoga Centre, Johannesburg:

It was at a Sunday Satsang in October 2014 where my mom first met Swamiji and immediately felt drawn to him. We were privileged enough to meet Swamiji twice more that week when he gave teachings to a small group of spiritual seekers.

I was so touched by Swamiji's warm, open and friendly manner. His teachings of Vedanta are simple, deep and profound. I am blessed to have met this incredibly wise, authentic and gentle guru. Thank you Swamiji from the bottom of my heart. I look forward to visiting you at your ashram in Bangalore. Namaste.

Love and light, Leanne

Sow. Yashika Singh, South African Broadcasting Corporation, Johannesburg:

Hari Aum Sadhuji,
Pranams at the Holy Feet

Thank you so much for your wonderful e-mail and for sharing the noble work that Sadhuji is doing for all devotees in SA. Sadhuji's visit has been deeply incredible and inspiring and the extensive level of programmes that Sadhu attended in SA has touched so many hearts and minds in the country.

We look forward to seeing Sadhuji again, hopefully next year during the World Hindu Conference.

Blessings, Yours in seva, Yashika

Dr. Cyril A. Hromnik, Historian/Researcher, Cape Town:

Dear Sadhu Rangarajan,

Thank you very much for the lengthy report on the multitude of your engagements and a variety of activities while in South Africa. Reading

it, I understood that your visit was very fruitful and extremely demanding on your stamina. But it is your intellectual and spiritual energy that enables you to do what would send others to the hospital. Considering the intensity of your program I understand that you were unable to pay a visit to the Cape and to the Karoo, where I would have loved to welcome you.

Now I know that you are 75, but with the energies of a spiritual man that will no doubt bring you again to South Africa.

Wishing you peace and spiritual happiness,

Dr. Cyril A. Hromnik

Acharya Vedananda, Spiritual Head, Sri Krishna Bhakti Vedanta Gurukulam, Tongaat, South Africa:

Jai Sri Krsna, blessings from all well wishers here in South Africa.

It is with immense gratitude that we forward this article for your forthcoming publication.

The Bhagavad Gita (Ch 3: 21) directs: “*yad yad acarati sresthas tat tad evetaro janah sa yat pramanam kurute lokas tad anuvartate*”; that what great persons do and what example they set via their exemplary acts; we common people should follow. This teaching was never more appropriate than when our dear Sadhu Prof Rangarajan visited South Africa recently.

With the many challenges that we as South Africans face and especially the criticisms levelled against the quackery, whims and fancies that many practice in the name of Hinduism; Sadhuji’s clear and precise message that Hinduism is a scientific and rational way of life was brilliant, enlightening and aptly timed.

The area of Tongaat held a series of discourses at The Vishwaroop Dharmashala (25 and 26th August 2014) and The Chinna Tirupati Venkateswara Devasthanam (27, 28, 29th and 31st August 2014). These discourses focused on the rational, logical wisdom that is found in the Vedas, Upanishads and Thirukural.

Commencing with the basics – that Hinduism is a way of life; that Hinduism is actually Sanatana dharma and that this way of life focuses on the holistic development of individuals, society and the world. Any practice that we may adopt, said Sadhuji, must promote this development in a sound, rational, logical method that is guided by Shastra.

By highlighting the antiquity of Sanatana dharma, that the Vedic wisdom has a history spanning tens of thousands of years and that this Sanatana dharma is the Mother of all religions raised questions in the minds of those present as to the relevance of this “ancient” civilisation, religion and way of life.

However these doubts were slashed asunder when sadhuji revealed the research at CERN and the fact that a huge Nataraja statue is at the entrance of this world renowned centre. The fact that particle and quantum physics is inspired and written about in the Vedic Shastra gave new found respect to Sanatana dharma. Even more intriguing was when sadhuji explained the dance of Nataraja as representing the “dance” of an atom. The energy in the protons, neutrons, electrons is the Shakti that we speak about. This energy gives rise to all matter and is now being called “The God” particle.

The Shree Krishna Bhaktivedanta Gurukulam was honoured to host sadhuji at a satsang on 30th August 2014. Sadhuji discoursed on bhakti, the types of bhakti and the types of devotees. We were reminded of this sloka in Bhagavad Gita (18:20) “*sarva-bhutesu yenaikam bhavam avyayam iksate avibhaktam vibhaktesu taj jnanam viddhi sattvikam*”, “That knowledge by which one undivided spiritual nature is seen in all existences, undivided in the divided, is knowledge in the mode of goodness.” Bhakti, stressed sadhuji, must eventually manifest as love for all creation – seeing, experiencing and acknowledging The Divinity in everything. Seeing the oneness in the diversity. Sadhuji illustrated wonderfully the two basic types of devotion by the mannerisms of the lion cub and a baby monkey. Some hold onto The Divine with all personal effort like the monkey baby latching onto its mother and some are helplessly in control of The Divine like the cub being completely at the mercy of the lioness. The evening culminated with darshan and supper.

In September a three day awareness campaign was hosted at the Durga Amman Temple in Belvedere, Tongaat from 22nd to 24th September 2014. Again sadhuji addressed the congregation (24th September, Heritage Day) about the fundamental, scientific, rational thought that forms the basics of Sanatana dharma. Dispelling the notion and tendency to differentiate between language, colour, ishtadevata, etc sadhuji compelled everyone to acknowledge that we are Hindus first and foremost. The teaching of 'vasudhaiva kuthumbhakam' links us all as one family of humanity, one family in God.

Jai Sri Krishna!
Vedananda



The Midlands Hindu Society has invited adhu Prof Y Rangarajan to South Africa to launch our 20th anniversary celebrations which will start on 17 September 2014 and end on 17 September 2015. As a build up to the celebrations Sadhuji will be visiting 11 of our affiliates and give a 6 day lecture on the Thirukkural and a 3 day lecture on Annam Chalisa. The public is invited to attend all the events listed below. For more information contact kashmirab@gmail.com or sherrymahabeer@gmail.com.



September Programme				
4	Thursday	07:00 PM	Gujerati Vedic Society	Radha Krishna Mandir, 165 Royston Road
5	Friday	07:00 PM	Gujerati Vedic Society	Radha Krishna Mandir, 165 Royston Road
7	Sunday	10.15 am	Saiva Silhantha Surgum	Veerappa Road, Northdale
8	Monday	11:00 AM	Home visit	
8	Monday	07:00 PM	Integral Yoga Society	
9	Tuesday	07:00 PM	Shri Vishnu Temple	Longmarket (Langalibalele) Street
10	Wednesday	07:00 PM	MHS Thirukkural	PMB Sanathan Ved Dharam Sabha, Bombay Road.
11	Thursday	07:00 PM	MHS Thirukkural	PMB Sanathan Ved Dharam Sabha, Bombay Road.
12	Friday	07:00 PM	MHS Thirukkural	PMB Sanathan Ved Dharam Sabha, Bombay Road.
13	Saturday	07:00 PM	MHS Thirukkural	PMB Sanathan Ved Dharam Sabha, Bombay Road.
14	Sunday	9:00 AM	Andhra Sabha	
14	Sunday	07:00 PM	MHS Thirukkural	PMB Sanathan Ved Dharam Sabha, Bombay Road.
15	Monday	07:00 PM	MHS Thirukkural	PMB Sanathan Ved Dharam Sabha, Bombay Road.

SADHU'S DHARMAPRACHARA YATRA IN SOUTH AFRICA—A BRIEF REPORT

Sadhu Prof. V. Rangarajan, Founder and Spiritual Head of Sri Bharatamata Mandir and Bharatamata Gurukula Ashram, Krishnarajapuram, Bangalore, returned to Bharat on Tuesday, November 4, 2014, after his three months' successful Dharma Prachara Yatra of South Africa from August 7 to November 3, 2014. He undertook the Yatra on the invitation of Sri Ranjiv Nirghin, Chairperson of Midlands Hindu Society, supported by Sri Ashwin Trikamjee, President of South African Hindu Maha Sabha. Smt. Kashmiri Nirghin, Convener of Sister Nivedita Academy of South Africa, Swami Ramakripananda of Sarva Dharma Ashram and Sow. Yashika Singh, Acting Head of Genre of Religion, SABC, chalked out the three month itinerary of Sadhu.

Sadhuji reached the shores of South Africa on his twelfth visit on Thursday, August 7, 2014, and he was received at O.R. Tambo Air Port, Johannesburg, by Sri Niven Soman. Sadhu took a connecting flight to Durban and he was received by Swami Loka Sangrahananda of Vedanta Ashram, Tongaat, and Smt. Ambi Indhran of Sarva Dharma Ashram, Chatsworth, at the King Shaka Airport, Durban. He was given a rousing reception by Swami Ramakripananda and devotees of the Sarva Dharma Ashram in the evening Satsang. On Friday morning, Sadhuji performed Abhisheka to the Divine Mothers



Lakshmi, Durga and Saraswati in the Ashram and a Gayatri Havan in the evening. He addressed the devotees and spoke on Varalakshmi Vrata. On Saturday morning he addressed the Hanuman Chalisa Satsang and on Sunday, Sravana Poonima, he performed Gayatri Havan and spoke on 'Mani, Mantra and Aushada'.

From Monday, August 11 to Saturday, August 16, Sadhuji gave a series of discourses on Srimad Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 2, in the Sarva Dharma Ashram. He also addressed a Teachers Meet in the Ashram on Thursday and spoke on 'Ideals of Education'. On August 15,

India's Independence Day, he spoke on 'Glory of Bharatavarsha' in the Ashram. On August 16, he also addressed a Cultural Programme of Westville School.

On Sunday, August 17, Sadhuji was interviewed by Smt. Shanti Shivjee of Hindvani Radio on the 'Significance of Krishna Ashthami'. On Tuesday, August 19, he addressed the Bharatamata Satsangh Samity presided by Swami Balasimha Bharati. Swami Ramakripananda and Mataji Amritamayi also attended the satsang. On Thursday, August 21, Sadhuji addressed the Redcliff Hindu Sabha and spoke on the 'Message of the Rishis'.

The Tongaat Hindu Unity Forum hosted a series of discourses by Sadhu Rangarajan in various venues in Tongaat from August 22 to 31. Three talks on the 'Logical and Scientific Basis of Hinduism' were given in Vedanta Ashram at Seatides from August 22 to 24. Swami Lokasangrahananda, President of the Ashram, welcomed the Sadhu. On August 23, in the morning Sadhu gave a talk on 'Power of Mantra' in Sarva Dharma Ashram. Sadhuji also participated in the Lord Ganesha Float Festival in Durban Hindu Temple on the same day and spoke on Unity of Hinduism. On 24th morning, Sadhuji drove to Pietermaritzburg and addressed the 90th Anniversary of Plessislaer Arya Samaj. On 25th and 26th, Sadhuji gave talks on Hindu Philosophy and Hindu Unity in Viswaroop Temple at Tongaat. From August 27 to 29, Sadhu's talks were at Chinna Tirupati Temple. He spoke on Bhakti for two days and on Vinayaga on third day. On 30th, Sadhu spoke on Hindu Dharma in Sri Krishna Bhakti Vedanta Gurukulam. On Sunday, August 31, he addressed Satsangs in Chinna Tirupati and Sarva Dharma Ashram, Chatsworth. Later, Sadhuji drove to Greytown. On September 1, Sadhuji did Bhoomi Pooja and Havan for Aheer's Warehouse and Food Project in Aheer's Shopping Complex. Sadhuji addressed a satsang in Vishnu Mandir, Greytown, on September 2, and spoke on Sanatana Dharma.

Sadhuji addressed a series of programmes in Pietermaritzburg from September 4 to 24. Sadhuji gave a talk on Ramayana in Gujarati Vedic Society on 4th. Next day, his talk was on Srimad Bhagavad Gita at the same venue. Sadhu spoke on Philosophy of Saivism in Saiva Sidhanta Sangam on 7th. Swami Vimokshananda, President of



Ramakrishna Centre of South Africa, visited Ranjiv Nirghin's house and had supper with Sadhu.

Sadhuji addressed Swami Sivananda Jayanti Celebrations in Integral Yoga Centre on 8th. Swami Nischalananda, President of the Centre, welcomed the

Sadhu. On 9th he spoke on Pitru Paksha in Sri Vishnu Mandir.

A series of discourses on Tirukkural was organized by Midland Hindu Society in Sanatana Veda Dharma Sabha Hall from September 10 to 15 which concluded with an interactive session in which Sadhuji answered questions on Tirukkural from devotees and it was filmed by African Lotus Productions. On 14th morning Sadhu also gave a talk on 'Vishnu and His Avataras' in the Andhra Sabha.

The 19th Anniversary of Midlands Hindu Society was celebrated in the Sanatan Veda Dharma Sabha Hall on Wednesday, September 17, and Sadhu Rangarajan, who made his visit to South Africa for participating in the Celebration, was guest of honour on the occasion. Swami Ramakripananda of Sarva Dharma Ashram, Swami Nischalananda of Integral Yoga Centre, Sri Dhanilal of Guru Rambharan's Vedanta Ashram, Sri Dhayaram Aheer of Vishnu Mandir and representatives of various organizations participated in the celebrations. On 18th September, Sadhuji addressed a gathering under the auspices of Copesville Hindu Society and Sai Satsang. He spoke on Hindu Unity.



From 19th to 21st September, Sadhu gave a series of talks on Hanuman Chalisa under the auspices of Midlands Hindu Society. On 21st morning he addressed the Plessislaer Arya Samaj and spoke on Hindu Renaissance and Swami Dayananda Saraswati. On 22nd, Sadhuji addressed the devotees of Siva Subramania Mariamman Temple and spoke on Mariamman. On 23rd, he addressed a satsang of devotees of Sanatana Veda Dharma Sabha. On 24th morning, Sadhuji drove to Tongaat and addressed the Hindu Heritage Celebration under the

auspices of Tongaat Hindu Unity Forum. Returning to Pietermaritzburg, in the evening, Sadhuji addressed a gathering at Pandit Bali Pandey's Satsang Group.

Sadhu had lunch with Swami Vimokshananda at the residence of Sunil and Avita, devotees of Sri Ramakrishna Centre, at Pietermaritzburg, on 25th. Sri Ranjiv Nirghin and family joined. Later Sadhuji drove to Sarva Dharma Ashram at Chatsworth.

Sadhuji gave a series of discourses on Durga Saptasati and Worship of the Divine Mother to mark the Navaratri Celebrations in Sarva Dharma Ashram from Thursday, September 25 to Friday, October 3, 2014, and taught "Durga Saptasati Prayers to the Divine Mother" to devotees. The South African Broadcasting Corporation's Channel III presented in its 'Saturday Sadhana Programme', a documentary on Sri Bharatamata Mandir and Akshaya Triteeya Celebrations 2014 held in



the Mandir at Bangalore, at 11-30 AM on Saturday, September 27. In the Afternoon, Sadhuji went to Durban Hindu Temple to address a gathering of representatives of various Hindu organizations to constitute the South African Chapter of World Hindu Foundation. Sadhu ji spoke on the origin of Vishwa Hindu Parishad in

1964 and called upon the Hindu leaders in South Africa to stand united just like they did at the time of the World Hindu Conference in South Africa, inaugurated by President of South Africa, H.E. Sri Nelson Mandela in 1995. On Sunday, 28th September, in the morning, Sadhuji addressed the devotees of Satya Sai Organization, at Sai Sudha. In the forenoon, he addressed a satsang at Sarva Dharma Ashram in which hundreds of black children also participated and Sadhuji presented a computer to a black child who wrote 3 million Ramnam likhit japa. In the evening he addressed a gathering of Bharatamata Satsang Samity. On Vijaya Dashami Day, October 3, a special Havan was performed by Sadhuji in the Ashram and the Sannyasa Day of Swami Ramkripananda was also celebrated. Sadhuji spoke on Sannyasa Dharma. On 3rd morning Sadhu met Smt. Ila Gandhi, Mahatma Gandhi's grand-daughter, at Phoenix Settlement at Durban.

Sadhuji flew to Johannesburg on Saturday, October 4, for a series of programmes in Gautang Province. Sri Rethan Naidoo received Sadhuji at Lanseria Airport. On Sunday, 5th October, in the morning he addressed a satsang at Adi Shankara Ashram, Lenasia, and Swami Sivashankarananda welcomed him. In the afternoon, he addressed a satsang of Satya Sai Organization. On Monday morning, a crew of SABC called on him at Yashika Singh's house and interviewed him for a Chat Show on Marriage Customs. In the evening, Sadhuji addressed a gathering at Shanti Kaya Meditation and Retreat Centre and spoke on Vedanta. A number of white devotees also evinced keen interest in the question and answer session that followed Sadhu's talk. On Tuesday, October 7, Sadhu spoke on Inter-Religious Harmony, in a live interview by Sri Ashraf Garda, on Radio SAfm, in the studios of SABC. In the evening, Sadhuji addressed Randburg Hindu Society and spoke on God and Evolution.

On Thursday, October 9, Sadhuji addressed the members of ISHTA School of Yoga & Health and spoke on Japa Yoga and Ramnam Taraka Mantra. A number of white devotees also attended. On Friday, October 10th morning, Sadhuji, accompanied by Sow. Yashika Singh



and Smt. Mala Soman, visited the Kara Heritage Village, and Dr. Mathole Motshekga, Chairman of the Kara Heritage Institute and Member of Parliament, received Sadhuji. Representatives of various African traditional religious groups and Christian religion had gathered for an inter-religious dialogue and Sadhu spoke about the Hindu

origin of African traditions. Dr. Mathole presented his scholarly works on African tradition to Sadhu and expressed the hope that intensive research could be done on the Indo-African connections of the remote past. In the afternoon, Sri Nandan Singh Bhaisora, Indian Consul, and his wife, Smt. Rashmi Bhaisora, called on Sadhu at Niven Soman's house and had lunch with Sadhu. Later, Sadhu took leave of all and drove to O.R. Tambo Airport from where he took a flight to Pietermaritzburg.

Msunduzi 2014 Diwali Festival was organized on a grand scale by Midlands Hindu Council on October 10, 11 and 12 at Protea Sports Grounds, Northdale, Pietermaritzburg. A grand and colourful float parade, in which decorated floats of various Hindu organizations, music bands, distinguished citizens, members of various sections of the Hindu community including a large number of women and children participated, started from City Hall, paraded through the main roads of the city, led by Sadhu Prof. V. Rangarajan, Mayor of Pietermaritzburg Mr. Chris Ndlela, Speaker Sri Babu Baiju and Ranjiv Nirghin, and reached Protea Sports Grounds where a number of stalls were set up by various organizations. There were a number of cultural programmes of dance and music by various groups. Sadhuji took a break and drove to Howick to address the Diwali Mela of Howick Hindu Cultural Association also. Later he returned to Protea Grounds and addressed the Diwali Mela in which Minister of Human Settlement, Sri Ravi Pillay, Speaker Sri Babu Baiju and Mayor Mr. Chris Ndlela also spoke. There was a grand fireworks show by India Fireworks in the night. On Sunday, 12th October, in the afternoon there was a massive public gathering in the Protea Grounds. A havan programme, in which hundreds of Hindu families participated with havan kundas in rows, was held. The public meeting was addressed by Dr. Satish Prakash of Arya Samaj, USA, and Sadhu Rangarajan. Sadhu stressed the need for Hindu unity. In the evening, there were cultural programmes and a live broadcast of interview of Sadhu by Smt. Veena Lutchman of Radio Lotus. On Tuesday, October 14, Sadhuji addressed a satsang in Luxminarayan Temple.

South African Hindu Maha Sabha presented FNB Durban Diwali Festival in Durban Drive in Site, Durban, from Friday, October 17 to Sunday, October 19. Hundreds of stalls put up by religious, cultural and business organizations embellished the ground. Grand cultural



programmes attracted thousands of people. On Saturday evening, Sadhu Rangarajan addressed a massive gathering in the presence of Sri Ashwin Trikamjee, President of SAHMS, and spoke on the Significance of Diwali and the Need for Hindu Unity.

On Sunday, October 19, Sadhuji drove to Pietermaritzburg and addressed a satsang in Guru Rambharan's Vedanta Ashram. Sri Dhanilal, President of the Ashram, received the Sadhu. After the satsang, Sadhu returned to Chatsworth. On Tuesday, October 21, he addressed a satsang in Merebank Radhakrishna Temple. On Wednesday, October 22, which happened to be the 75th birthday of the Sadhu, Bharatamata Satsang Samity under the Presidentship of Swami Balasimha Bharati celebrated both the birthday and Deepavali in a special satsang. On Thursday, October 23, Deepavali was celebrated in Sarva Dharma Ashram on a grand scale. Sadhuji performed a Havan and addressed a special satsang on the occasion in which more than 3000 people participated. Food hampers, provisions and fireworks were distributed to more than 2000 people including a large number of women and children belonging to poor and downtrodden black community. On Friday, October 24, Sadhuji, accompanied by Mataji Amritamayi of Sarva Dharma Ashram, visited Chinmaya Mission of South Africa at Chatsworth. He was given a reception with Poornakumbha. Sadhuji narrated his experiences with his mentor, Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda, to Swami Abhedananda, President, and members of the Mission who hosted Sadhu for a lunch.



To commemorate the 75th birthday of Sadhu Rangarajan, Sarva Dharma Ashram organized a grand Hindu Unity Day Celebration on Saturday, October 25. The children of the Ashram presented a dance programme. Swami Lokasangrahananda of Vedanta Ashram, Tongaat, Swami balasimha Bharati of Bharatamata Satsang Samity, Swami Nischalananda of Integral Yoga Centre, Pietermaritzburg, Swami Chaitanyananda of Sivananda Fellowship of South Africa, Sri Ranjiv Nirghin of Midlands Hindu Society, Dr. Ramdas, Former Chairperson of Greytown Hindu Unity Forum,



Sri Pravesh Hurdeen of World Hindu Foundation and Sri Roshan Kooblal paid rich tributes to Sadhuji and commended his efforts for Hindu Unity.

Replying to the tributes, Sadhuji narrated how he was inspired and moulded from his younger days by great spiritual and patriotic stalwarts like Paramapoojaneeya Sri Guruji Golwalkar, Swami Chinmayananda and Sri Eknath Ranade and initiated into spiritual life by H.H. Yogi Ramsuratkumar. He thanked the leaders and members



of various Hindu religious, spiritual and cultural organizations in South Africa who extended a cordial welcome to him and responded positively to his call for Hindu unity. The satsang was followed by a grand feast in which Sadhuji cut a cake and fed the smallest black child devotee of the Ashram, Akshaya.

Sadhuji, accompanied by Sri Ranjiv and Smt. Kashmiri, left for Pietermaritzburg after the function. On Sunday, October 26, Sadhuji addressed a gathering at Geeta Mandir in Pietermaritzburg. Later he returned to Sarva Dharma Ashram, Chatsworth. On Monday, October 27, Sadhuji gave a talk on Guru Stotra Part I at Sarva Dharma Ashram. He also conferred Hindu names, chosen according to the Nakshatra on the date of birth, to black children of the Ashram, and initiated them to Ramnam Mantra. On Tuesday, Sadhuji addressed the Isipingo Hindu Sabha. Smt. Veena Lutchman of Radio Lotus rendered “Harivaraasanam”—Ayyappa Song—which was taught to her by Sadhuji thirty years ago in his first visit to South Africa, and she sang other Bhajan songs also. On October 29, Wednesday, Sadhu gave his lecture on Guru Stotra Part II at Sarva Dharma Ashram.

The POST weekly journal dated October 29-November 2 carried a more than half page article of Sadhu Prof. V. Ramgarajan titled STRENGTH IN UNITY giving a clarion call to the Hindus to efface ego and come together. On Thursday, October 30, Sadhu gave a talk on ‘Hariharasutaashthakam’ in Sarva Dharma Ashram. On Friday, October 31, in the morning, Sri Selvam Munsamy of Blue Wizard

Productions, Johannesburg, took an interview of Sadhu on ‘Significance of Sri Ramanavami’ for SABC. On Saturday, November 1, Sadhuji addressed Satya Sai Burlington Group Satsang and had an interactive session with them. In the afternoon, Sadhuji called on Mother Gunalatchmi Moodley who hosted him in his first visit to South Africa in 1984-85. In the evening, Sadhuji addressed in Sarva Dharma Ashram a thanksgiving satsang of Ambi and Indharen who miraculously escaped in a car accident, and spoke on Guru’s Grace. On the morning of Sunday, November 2, Sadhuji solemnized the marriage of two couples, Rinesh & Yasmeen and Shaun & Priyanka,



devotees of Sarva Dharma Ashram in the Ashram prayer hall. Hundreds of devotees attended the marriage. In the afternoon, Sadhu Rangarajan was interviewed in a live broadcast by Smt. Veena Lutchman of Radio Lotus and he spoke on the Scientific and Rational Basis of Hinduism.

On Monday, November 3, 2014, Sadhu Rangarajan took leave of his spiritual family of Sarva Dharma Ashram and drove to King Shaka International Airport to catch his flight to O.R. Tambo Airport, Johannesburg and from there to Nairobi on way to Mumbai and Bangalore. Sadhuji’s proposed visit to Kenya from October 28 to November 9, 2014, had to be cancelled in view of Ebola threat.

A Compliment from an Enlightened Scholar of South Africa:

“With Compliments
 Sadhu Prof. V. Rangarajan
 The enlightened spirit of our time.
 Let your light shine on all of us.
 Mathole Kherofu Motshekga
 Khara Heritage Institute, Pretoria
 10-10-14”

Presenting a copy of his research work, “THE MUDJADJI DYNASTY, The Principles of Female Leadership in African Cosmology” to the Sadhu.

of Life—is *Maanava Dharma*—the Way of Life for the Entire Mankind.

All the major religions that have originated in India owe their source to Sanatana Dharma. Gautama Buddha is considered as an Avatara of Vishnu and Jayadeva, in his *Geeta Govinda* says that when Vedic rites and rituals were misinterpreted and misrepresented and consequently cruel practices like animal sacrifice arose, Vishnu took to the Avatara of Buddha to put an end to the suffering of poor and dumb creatures that were sacrificed. Dalai Lama, the great preceptor of Buddhism in the modern period, has emphatically declared that Buddhism is part and parcel of Hindu Dharma and he is proud to call himself a Hindu. He was one of the founders of the World Hindu Movement (Vishwa Hindu Parishad) in 1966.

Jains are proud inheritors of the lineage of Hindu sages. Rishabhadeva, the first Teertankara of Jainism, was one among the Vedic seers. The Nirvana day of the twenty-fourth and last Teertankara is observed on Deepavali Day. Padmavati is the Jain Mother Goddess.

When the universal and unifying force of *Sanatana Dharma* started declining, Guru Nanak (1469-1538) appeared on the scene to re-establish the truths proclaimed in the Vedas and Upanishads. The Oneness of the formless, nameless Ultimate Reality, hailed in hundreds of names and adored by people in countless forms, was stressed by the great teacher. He founded Sikhism which was a historical development of the Vaishnava Bhakti Movement that began in the South and introduced into the North by the great saint, Sri Ramanuja. It adopted a catholic and universal approach and we find all the names of God, as were current in those times in Asia, mentioned in the Sikh scripture, *Guru Granth Sahib*. The Hindu mythology and Upanishadic idioms have enriched the vocabulary of the scripture. Sri Kushwant Singh says, “Almost nine-tenths of *Granth Sahib* composed largely by Guru Arjan, is in fact Vedanta, and essence of all that you read in the Upanishads and the Gita.” Master Tara Singh and Giani Bhupinder Singhji were among those who started the World Hindu Movement in 1966.

The religious thoughts and movements that sprang up in the southern part of India also are deeply rooted in Vedic culture and heritage. Agastya is one of the Saptarshis who are extolled at many places in the Vedas and a revered Vedic sage and earliest Siddhar. He is also believed to be the author of Agastya Samhita. Siddhars were spiritual adepts who possessed the ashtha siddhis, or the eight supernatural powers. Sage Agastiyar is considered the guru of all Siddhars, and the Siddha medicine system is believed to have been handed over to him by Lord Muruga, son of the Hindu God Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvathi. Siddhars are the followers of Lord Shiva. Agastiyar is considered as the Father of Tamil literature and he compiled the first Tamil grammar called 'Agattiyam'. He specialized in language, alchemy, medicine and spirituality (yogam and gnanam). The story of the southern migration of the Velir from Dwaraka under the leadership of Agastya is narrated by Naccinarkkiniyar in his commentary on Tolkappiyam (payiram ; Porul 34). Agastya is regarded as the founder and patron saint of silambam and varmam -an ancient science of healing using varmam points for varied diseases and southern kalaripayitru. Tolkappiyam was written by Tolkappiyar, the son and disciple of Agastya. Tolkappiyanaar may have belonged to a grammatical tradition called "Aintiram", referring to the Aindra school of grammar, one of the eleven schools of grammar of Sanskrit, as mentioned in Ashthadhyayi .

Tirumoolar (originally known as Cuntaranātar) was a Tamil Shaivite mystic and writer, considered one of the sixty-three Nayanars and one of the 18 Siddhars. His main work, the *Tirumantiram* (also sometimes written *Tirumanthiram*, *Tirumandhiram*, etc.), which consists of over 3000 verses, forms a part of the key text of the Tamil Shaiva Siddhanta, the *Tirumurai*. The great Tamil saint, Tirumoolar, emphatically declares: "Except the Vedas, there is no authority for *dharma*." He adds that saints accepted the authority of the Vedas and following that they attained *moksha*. *Dharma* ultimately means discipline in all walks of life and the interpretation of the word *dharma* originates from the Vedas. In one place, the Vedas identify human beings with *dharma* – "*Manushyaa vai dharma*." The very conception of humanity is based on *dharma*, or discipline, for human life and civilization cannot exist without discipline. The Vedas declare that the very world civilization stands on *dharma* – "*Dharme sarvam pratishthitam*."

Sri C. Rajagopalachari, popularly known as Rajaji, in his commentary on *Tirukkural*, the most popular Tamil scripture authored by Saint Tiruvalluvar, says: “The Kural is in a sense a remarkable work. It is a masterpiece of brevity, and is in point alike of content and form without parallel. It consists of one thousand three hundred and thirty couplets, strung together to form three Books, dealing respectively with the first three *Purusharthas* (objects which govern men’s action) namely, *dharma* (duty), *artha* (wealth), and *kama* (enjoyment). The last of the *purusharthas*, namely *moksha* (liberation), according to the Hindu mind is the final beatific and timeless state of the enfranchised soul, and is not susceptible of approach through mere mental process or literary effort, hence the great saint-author preferred, so it would seem, not to treat it in Kural, but to be content with prescribing the attributes of a good life.”

Tirumuruga Kripananda Variar Swamigal, one of the greatest Shaivite scholars of the modern period, was among the founders of Vishwa Hindu Parishad and also the President of the Parishad in Tamilnadu.

Unlike Semitic religions, Hinduism does not believe in one exclusive and jealous God who casts into hell the worshippers of other forms. The concept of *Ishtha Devata* allows ample freedom for every Hindu to worship God not only in any name and form of his or her choice, but also in all names and forms seeing them all as different manifestations of that nameless and formless ultimate reality whom he or she adores and worships in one particular chosen form for the purpose of concentration. When a Hindu forgets this fundamental truth and blindly adores and worships God in one name and form to the exclusion of all other names and forms and believes that his or her path is the only valid or the superior one, he or she ceases to be a Hindu and adopts a blind and superstitious imitation of Semitic religions.

Secondly, we have to remember that our Gods and Goddesses are not supernatural beings to confer miraculous benefits to the devotees who blindly and superstitiously worship them, but they are ideals before mankind to follow and elevate itself from human realm to the divine realm. The *Maryadaa Purushottama*—the Ideal Man—Rama declares in the *Raamaayana*: "*Aatmaanam maanusham manye*

dasharataatmajam"—"Consider me as an ordinary man, the son of Dasharata." That is why, as Swami Chinmayananda has rightly pointed out, Valmiki put some black dots on the face of Rama to present Him as an ordinary mortal who elevated himself to Divine Heights. Our scriptures say, "*Shivo bhootvaa shivam yajet*"—"Worship Shiva by becoming Shiva". Whether it is Rama or Krishna or Ramakrishna or Shivananda, all are ideals to be followed by those who aspire for a nobler life, not idols to be worshipped in a shrine by those who aspire for miraculous material gains and mundane benefits in day to day life.

Hindus who accept these truths will not hesitate to break all narrow shells around them and join hands with fellow Hindus to whichever *sampradaaya*, cult, mission or math they may belong and stand together as Hindus first and Hindus last. Hindu unity is possible if and only if the Hindu spiritual leaders renounce their blind attachment to their own organizations and institutions and think themselves as representatives and leaders of the entire Hindu society. They must realize that their very strength is only in their unity and brotherhood with fellow spiritual leaders. It is time for the Hindus to go back to the *Panchatantra*, the ancient book of wisdom through fables, and read the story of the bulls which could chase away a tiger when they stood united, but got killed one after the other by the same tiger when disunity crept in them. Today, the fanatic and fundamentalist Semitic religions are systematically eating into the very core of Hindu society through forceful conversions and violent onslaughts. Those universal and eternal values which our forefathers wanted us to propagate throughout the world are denigrated and destroyed by these Semitic religions. Therefore it is the need of the hour that all Hindus and Hindu leaders and organizations come under one banner, effacing their own ego and ego-centric desires and aspirations, and stand united to fulfil the dream of our forefathers to make the world into one family—*vasudhaiva kutumbakam*.

Let all our endeavours make mankind worthy of being in the pinnacle of evolution to bring the Descent of the Divine Consciousness on this planet earth as Mahayogi Sri Aurobindo envisaged. *Vande Bhoomi Maataram*—Salutations to Mother Earth!

[POST, Durban, South Africa, October 29-November 2, 2014]

SADHUJI'S RETURN VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA 2014

Smt. Kashmira Nirghin

[National Co-ordinator, Sister Nivedita Academy, South Africa]

On behalf of the Sister Nivedita Academy, South Africa branch, we are very grateful to have hosted a great Sadhu, Sadhu Prof V Rangarajan, in South Africa from August to November 2014 on behalf of the Midlands Hindu Society based in Pietermaritzburg.

Sadhuji landed on the 6th August 2014 and was taken good care of by the Sarva Dharma Ashram during his stay there till the 31st August 2014. On the 1st September Sadhuji was picked up by an old friend, Mr Aheer from Greytown. As we are all aware Sadhuji has fond memories of Greytown and we always make it our duty to ensure Sadhuji visits this tiny town on each of his trips. After a relaxing stay in Greytown Sadhuji headed off to Pietermaritzburg to begin our Unity in Diversity programme as the build-up of the launch of the Midlands Hindu Society's 20th Anniversary celebrations.

Sadhuji was looked after and hosted by Mr Dan & Mrs Radha Nirghin during his stay in Pietermaritzburg. He began the first evening at the Gujarati Vedic Society on the 4th November 2014 and explained to the audience the significance of the Ramayana and its relevance to us today. This excellent topic was well received. Many thought it could not get better, but the talk on the next day, the 5th November at Gujarati Vedic Society was even better, it was based on the significance of the GITA and its relevance to society today. These excellent topics had given much guidance and helped answer many questions. Sadhuji addressed a large crowd at the Saiva Sitthanthum Sangham Temple on the 7 September 2014. The Integral Yoga Society hosted Sadhuji on the 8th September 2014. This organisation has hosted Sadhuji since Sadhuji first visited Pietermaritzburg and has always hosted Sadhuji since then.

The Sri Vishnu Temple in Pietermaritzburg, which is more than 100 years old hosted Sadhuji on the 9th September 2014 and the congregation listened carefully as Sadhuji awakened their consciousness and spoke proudly of the Unity that should exist in

Hinduism as well as the significance of Pitru Paksha. Midlands Hindu Society hosted a programme for six nights, on the Thirukkural and its relevance today. This was superbly explained, relevant stanza were chosen and explained by Sadhuji. The knowledge of the text and the well selected examples to explain the meaning of the text was well received by a large number of people and enjoyed by many.

On the 17 September 2014 Sadhu Prof V Rangarajan was the chief guest of the Midlands Hindu Society's (MHS) 20th Anniversary Celebrations launch at their Founders Day celebration, where he echoed the message of the organisation's motto "Unity in Diversity". Sadhuji plays a pivotal role in Midlands Hindu Society. With his guidance the MHS began in 1995 when Sadhuji visited Pietermaritzburg as a build up to the World Hindu Conference and after his inspirational address at the World Hindu Conference, he was invited again to visit the organisations in Pietermaritzburg.

Since 1995 Sadhuji has always made a visit to the Copesville and on the 18 September 2014 this was no different. Sadhuji was hosted by the Copesville Sai Group in association with the Copesville Hindu Association where Sadhuji's discourse was well received by an ever growing and sincerely humble congregation eager to learn.

The meaning and relevance of the Hanuman Chalisa was given as lectures by Sadhuji over three nights from 19 September to the 21 September 2014 on behalf of the Midlands Hindu Society. On the 21st, Plessislaer Arya Samaj, a 90 year old organisation, hosted Sadhuji who joined in their celebrations and their dedication to Hinduism. The oldest temples in Pietermaritzburg, the Sri Siva Soobramoniar and Marriammen Temple which are more than 120 years old also hosted Sadhuji and he was well received by many on the 22 September 2014. The PMB Sanathan Ved Dharam Sabha also enjoyed the splendid speech Sadhuji gave on the 23 September 2014.

Pundit Bali Panday and his congregation of devotees offered their Pada Namaskar and listened attentively as Sadhuji addressed them on the 24 September 2014. Sadhuji then returned to Sarva Sharma Ashram where he gave a nine day discourse on Navaratri. After worshipping the mother Sadhuji boarded a flight to Johannesburg to meet devotees and complete the Unity in Diversity drive. On the 4th October Rethan and

Yoshnee Naidoo fetched Sadhuji from the airport and welcomed Sadhuji home where other family members also met with Sadhuji. Yashika Singh from SABC together with Niven Soman hosted Sadhuji in Gauteng and took wonderful care of Sadhuji for the next 5 days. During this visit Sadhuji met with Teddy and Sheritha Kommal with whom Sadhuji has had a more than 20 year relationship. A visit from a mahatma rekindles all your beliefs and reassures you of your journey in Hinduism. Sadhuji is that light that shines before all and helps us remember our goals. Many old friends were very thankful to meet Sadhuji in Gauteng.

Sadhuji returned to Pietermaritzburg on the 10 October 2014 where he remained as the Chief Guest of the Midlands Hindu Society at their Msunduzi Diwali annual celebration. The youth program on the 10th was a success. On the 11th the 74 year old Sadhu, chose to march with the masses including the Mayor Cllr Chris Ndlela and the Speaker of the Municipality Cllr Babu Baijoo with the float parade, from the City Hall to the other end of Pietermaritzburg, Protea Grounds. That afternoon Sadhuji addressed the Howick Diwali Festival and later that evening interviews were held on Radio Hindvani and Sadhuji addressed a massive capacity crowd at the Midlands Hindu Society's Msunduzi Diwali Festival. On Sunday a universal Hawan was held and Sadhuji gave a powerful speech to the Midlands Hindu Society membership and the general public. That same Sunday evening Sadhuji was also interviewed and was a guest on the Bhakti Sangeet programme hosted by Veena Lutchman from Lotus FM, a national radio station based in Durban.

Sadhuji returned to Durban, and remained at Sarva Dharma Ashram to commence with their program on the 13 October 2014. On the 14th October the Luxmi Narayan Temple hosted Sadhuji. After a knowledgeable discourse many have approached Sadhuji to be their guru. The Merebank Woonathee Sabha hosted Sadhuji on the 21 October and the learned scholar spoke on the significance of Diwali with respect to today's society. The South African Hindu Maha Sabha, invited Sadhuji to their annual Diwali celebration on the 17th & 18th October 2014. On the 19th October 2014 morning Sadhuji addressed the Guru Rambaranji Ashram devotees in Pietermaritzburg, where Guru Dhanilal and his devotees have a long association with Sadhuji since the World Hindu Conference.

Sadhuji returned to Sarva Dharma Ashram to continue with their lectures and programs. The last talk in Pietermaritzburg was hosted by the Gita Mandir where Sadhuji gave a beautiful discourse on the Gita, Hinduism and the Vedas. Sadhuji celebrated his 74th Birthday with all at the Sarva Dharma Ashram on the 22 October 2014 and the Ashram hosted a celebration on the 25th October 2014 to address all leaders within Kwazulu Natal to rekindle the Unity and Diversity theme and kick start the planning of the 2015 World Hindu Conference.

With heavy hearts Sadhuji was accompanied by the Swami Ramkripananda and Mataji from the Sarva Dharam Ashram to the Durban airport as he departed South Africa to return home. Sadhuji's vast knowledge on all topics from Science to Philosophy makes him a walking talking encyclopaedia to all. Many of us have managed to fill our palms with all the information given by this great Sadhu, who holds the world in his palms. It would take us many life times to absorb and learn what his humble soul knows and shares with us today. We all are eternally grateful for Sadhuji's presence and devotion to Hinduism.

THE BHAGAVAD GITA—A UNIVERSAL SCRIPTURE

Anti-national forces and political opportunists who bank on the minority vote bank in India have raised hue and cry against the statement of Smt. Sudhma Swaraj, Union Minister of India, that Bhagavad Gita will be declared as National Scripture. The great patriots and revolutionaries in India's freedom struggle and national leaders like Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi and Acharya Vinobha Bhave have already made Bhagavad Gita a national scripture. The Bhagavad Gita trial in Russia against the Russian edition of *Bhagavad Gita As It Is* was initiated in June 2011 by the state prosecutor's office in Tomsk, Russia, on charges of religious extremism. This Sadhu's write up titled 'The Bhagavad Gita-- A Universal Scripture', translated into Russian, was also presented by ISKON of Moscow in the court in defence of Gita. The court rejected the demand of Christian missionaries to ban the Gita and accepted the contention that it is a Universal Scripture. The article was published as editorial of TATTVA DARSANA, October-December 2011.

—Sadhu Rangarajan

A BEGGAR WHO OWNS THE WORLD

He chain smokes, eats out of a cracked coconut shell, wields a giant palm-leaf fan and beds on store verandas, in temple compounds or beneath the starry sky. But Yogi Ramsuratkumar is no vagrant. He holds degrees from three of India's greatest "universities" – Sri Aurobindo, Ramana Maharshi and Sri Ramdas. But at 71, the student is now a teacher himself, and his "students" range from Tamil savants to simple servants. They come from as far away as Arizona, USA, for a few golden moments. His reaching is simple and obscures a lifetime of inner study: "Feel the Presence of the Father within and all about you and the Divine guidance in all your acts. God is not far away; He is here, right where you are."

His haunt is the town of Tiruvannamalai, at the foot of Arunachala Hill, South India, where legend says Siva appeared as a column of fiery light. He wakes to crow cacophonies or the hungry whines of stray dogs that come to him for alms – and get them. Devotees seek him out from early dawn to late night. Invariably, he curtly asks them why they come to him and repeats, "I am a beggar. What do I have to give you?" They insist on staying. He laughs, enjoying their invincible faith, and in his laugh, blessings commence.

But seeing him is not guaranteed. Nowadays, you have to get invited through a little dilapidated iron gate outside the simple room he occupies. For first timers it's more imposing than the four-story temple entrance tower down the street. But just when it seems he's not in – or you fear you are not worthy enough – he appears. He may stand there with his odd-shaped, thatched fan in one hand and wave the other as though etherically pushing away whatever burden you secretly brought, then smile and send you away. Or he may invite you in.

Author Ma Navarathnam and husband Thiru had such fortune and made these notes: "Under the Punnai tree, amidst heaps of newspaper bundles, dried twigs, faded leaves and rotten refuse, we met him for the first time. He is playing with his fingers as if rolling the rosary and his lips whispering "Om Sri Ram Jai Ram Jai Jai Ram". We begin to sense a great wave of joy in his presence and realize the luminous Reality touching our consciousness. The yogi laughs, jokes, enjoys his smoking

and in his own joyous freedom enables us to free ourselves from the grip of desires, demands, fears, stress and weakness.”

Though two-way discussion is rare, teenager Kumari Nivedita one day innocently hit a sensitive nerve when she doubted his beggar’s identity. “So you don’t believe I’m a beggar!” he challenged. “If you say so,” she quickly demurred. “Then what do you think of me?” “I think you are a great yogi,” she said flatly. “What do you mean by a yogi?” he asked. “You are not affected by pleasure and pain, praise and condemnation...” she quoted from the **Gita**. “But this stone here is also like that. Is it a yogi?” he demanded. “You are not a stone; the stone will break when it is hit with a hammer,” she insisted. “So will my leg,” he replied. “No,” she argued, “You are not the body; therefore you will not be affected”. “But how do you know I am such a yogi?” he baited. “You told Dr. Radhakrishnan that whosoever thought of you in whatsoever manner, you appeared to them like that. I think of you as a great yogi and therefore you appear to me as a great yogi.” He gave up and laughed.

The Turning Point: Death of a Bird

Yogi Ramsuratkumar was born in 1918 on the banks of the Ganges near Benares. As a boy he befriended the area’s colourful sadhus, sages and mendicants, spending his every free moment – and many nights – with them before the dhuni fire, spellbound by their wondrous tales of Gods and yogic visions. In the daytime he would lead them to his home and feed them.

One day when fetching water, the rope of his pail flung loose and killed a small bird perched inside the well. He felt crushed. He carried the lifeless creature down to the Ganges, performed a final ritual, floated it out on the river and, as tears flowed down his cheeks, swore that compassion would be his lifelong guide.

It appears he received a good college education but it failed to interest him. He gravitated back to his old sadhu friends on the banks of the Ganges. One night one of them told him about two South Indian saints – Sri Aurobindo and Ramana Maharishi. The young God-seeker set off at once, found them and secured profound awakenings during this period. Then in 1950, while moving high in the snow-clad Himalayas,

he heard that his two teachers had died. He immediately charged back down south to the ashram of a third, and living, great soul, Ramdas. He had twice before reached the steps of Ramdas' ashram and prematurely left. Now he was determined not to lose another "golden opportunity of keeping company with the great master." Ramdas received him, initiated him into the great Ram mantra and after some time, sent him off on mission with secret blessings. For seven years he wandered India, performing one sadhana – seeing the within and without illumined by the same light. In 1959 he arrived in Tiruvannamalai, the same place where his master Ramana Maharishi had meditated for decades.

Aggressive Hinduism

Yogi Ramsuratkumar has no organization but his voice echoes loudly in the pages of **Tattva Darsana** journal published by Professor Rangarajan, founder of Sister Nivedita Academy and the yogi's only initiated disciple. The Academy's ambitious Yogi Ramsuratkumar Youth Wing often gets the yogi's jovial scolding: "Our real work is not to produce engineers and computer scientists – our goal is higher. If man depends on the computer, the mind will deteriorate."

Hinduism Today, via Professor Rangarajan, was able to catch the Yogi for a few candid thoughts. He quickly warned: "Aping false values which do not fit into the Indian environment" is Hinduism's biggest challenge today. Resonating tradition, he asserted, "Humility, selflessness and respect for others in the discharge of duties is the highest spiritual quality, and children – raised properly, physically and mentally – are any culture's greatest asset." Though his skin is wrinkled and hair is white, this yogi has fire in his eyes and when he launches into "The need for the day is 'Aggressive Hinduism'", you realize this is not a beggar begging; this is a king giving orders.

Courtesy: HINDUISM TODAY, Hawaii

[TATTVA DARSANA, August 90-January 91, Vol 7, Nos 3 & 4]

This beggar learnt at the feet of Swami Ramdas the Divine Name of Rama, and beg, beg all of you not to forget the name Rama. Whatever you do, wherever you are, be like Anjaneya Maruti thinking of Rama and doing your actions in this world.—**H.H. Yogi Ramsuratkumar**



GLIMPSES OF A GREAT YOGI
Part II— The *Deekshaa* Guru
as Seen by the *Shishya*

Sadhu Prof. V. Rangarajan

Chapter 15

***“Hinduism Today”* Interview of Yogi Ramsuratkumar**

Immediately after the grand Jayanti of my Master, Yogi Ramsuratkumar on December 1, 1989, this sadhu sent to HINDUISM TODAY, on December 8, 1989, a reply to their letter eliciting answers to a questionnaire addressed to my Master, along with a write up of this sadhu containing Bhagavan’s reply to the questions. The letter containing the questionnaire and the reply and write up of this sadhu

were already read out to Bhagavan on our last visit on November 20, 1989, and Bhagavan's approval obtained.

Letter from "Hinduism Today":

Om Sivamayam

HINDUISM TODAY
Editorial Offices
Post Box 157
Hanamaulu, Hawaii 96715* USA
Phone: (808) 822-7032
Fax: (808) 822-4351

Saturday, September 30, 1989

To: Prof. V. Rangarajan
Sister Nivedita Academy
Triplicane, Madras 600 005
INDIA

RE: Yogi Ramsuratkumar

Vanakkam, Prof. Rangarajan:

Prostrations to the Lotus Feet of Maha Ganapati!

We've read with interest your story on His Holiness, Yogi Ramsuratkumar, in the November 1988 issue of *Tattva Darsana*. Interestingly, we also received another report from Mrs. Navaratnam of Sri Lanka on her encounter with Yogiji during a stay at Arunachalam. We would like to do a story on Yogi for HINDUISM TODAY. Please send us a copy of your book, *Glimpses of a Great Yogi....*

In addition to your book and the information contained in the issue of *Tattva Darsana*, we would appreciate your interviewing Yogi on our behalf.... Here are the questions we would like asked:

1. What is His Holiness's advice to Hindus living in India?
2. What is His Holiness's advice to Hindus living outside of India?
3. What is the biggest problem facing Hindus today, and what will be the biggest challenge in the 1990's?

4. How can we encourage more Hindus to become vegetarians?
5. What is the greatest spiritual quality a person may possess?
6. What have been His Holiness's greatest challenge and your greatest reward in your spiritual work?
7. What has been His Holiness's greatest disappointment?
8. Can His Holiness say anything about His early life, what brought His Holiness to His present path?
9. Can His Holiness share some of your deep mystical experience?
10. What sages have most influenced His Holiness's life?
11. What is the benefit of pilgrimage to Arunachalam?
12. What is His Holiness's sampradaya? Chosen Deity?
13. What recommendations does His Holiness have for raising children?
14. What is the value of temple worship?

Professor, you might include some testimony from other devotees of Yogiji or those who have met him about his effect on their lives.

Please include an address for H.H. Yogi Ramsuratkumar.

Finally, we need four or five good photographs of Yogiji. The one used on the card that says "HH Sri Yogi Ramsuratkumar, the God Child" is very good, if we can get an original. The printed card has too many red tones to reproduce properly again.

We greatly appreciate your assistance with this interview. Great Sages such as Yogi are too few in our world. We want our readers to know about him.

Yours in service to dharma,

HINDUISM TODAY

(Sd./- Rev. Swami Arumugam Katir)
Managing Editor."

Sadhu Rangarajan's Reply:

"8-12-1989

Rev. Swami Arumugam Katir
Managing Editor
HINDUISM TODAY
Post Office Box 157,

Hanamaulu, Hawaii 96715, USA

Revered Swamiji,

Vande Mataram! Aum Namō Bhagavate Yogi Ramsuratkumaraya!
Aum Sri Ram Jai Ram Jai Jai Ram! Aum Mahaganapataye Namah! My
humble salutations and adorations to Parama Poojya Swami
Sivayasubramaniam, your good self, and all the revered swamijis there!

This sadhu profusely thanks you for your kind letter dated September
30, 1989. Due to preoccupation with the arrangements for the 71st
Jayanti of my Master, Yogi Ramsuratkumar, which was celebrated on a
grand scale in Madras and other places on December 1, 1989, we could
not send you an immediate reply. I sincerely apologize for the
inordinate delay.

This sadhu is immensely pleased to note that you have been impressed
by my article on my Master in TATTVA DARSANA. I thank you very
much for requesting me to send a special write up on my Divine Master
for HINDUISM TODAY. I have great pleasure in sending you the
article with the blessings of my Master to HINDUISM TODAY and to
all its readers. We are enclosing herewith some photographs of my
Master along with the write up. Hope these will find your approval and
be published in your esteemed journal.

We have great pleasure in sending you by separate Air Mail Book Post
the following materials:

1. GLIMPSES OF A GREAT YOGI by Sadhu Prof. V. Rangarajan
2. YOGI RAMSURATKUMAR The Godchild Tiruvannamalai by
Truman Caylor Wadlington
3. EXPERIANCES WITH YOGI RAMSURATKUMAR by Haragopal
Sepuri
4. TATTVA DARSANA Issues Vol.5, No.1 to 4 and Vol.6, No. 1 to 3
5. Bulletins of HINDU VOICE INTERNATIONAL in connection with
the Jayanti of Yogi Ramsuratkumar.

Lee Lozowick of Hohm, Arizona, has sent to you a copy of
TAWAGOTO.

Kindly acknowledge the receipt of these.

We thank once again your noble self and HINDUISM TODAY for the great and yeoman service that you are rendering to the cause of Hindu thought and culture by introducing to the spiritual seekers, great masters who are silently creating a spiritual revolution in the world to elevate humanity into Divinity. Please do write to us whenever you require our humble services to your sacred cause.

With humble Pranams to you and all other acharyas there,
Yours in the service of the Divine,
(Sd./- Sadhu Prof. V. Rangarajan)
Encl: a/a”

The Write Up on Yogi Ramsuratkumar:

YOGI RAMSURATKUMAR
The Divine Light of Tiruvannamalai

--Sadhu Prof. V. Rangarajan

“If there is any land on this earth that can lay claim to be the blessed **Punya Bhoomi**, to be the land to which souls on this earth must come to account for Karma, the land to which every soul that is wending its way Godward must come to attain its home, the land where humanity has attained the highest towards gentleness, towards generosity, towards purity, towards calmness, above all, the land of introspection and spirituality—it is India”, says Swami Vivekananda, the Patriot Monk of India. Since times immemorial, this land has been accepted as the chosen land of Gods and Goddesses to incarnate in human form to lead the souls in evolution from human to divine realms. Rightly this land came to be known as **Bharatavarsha**, the Land of Light. Innumerable are the saints and sages who have trodden on this sacred soil from Vedic times to the modern period and this land consequently has come to be known as **Ratnagrabha**—whose womb has carried priceless gems of Brahma Rishis and Raja Rishis,

In the lineage of the great sages and seers of this holy land, we have today in our midst H.H. Yogi Ramsuratkumar Maharaj, the Godchild of Tiruvannamalai. This great Yogi had the rare privilege of being

moulded by three great spiritual giants of the modern period—Mahayogi Sri Aurobindo, Maharshi Ramana and Swami Ramdas. As the Yogi Himself has said, “Most men wouldn’t like to say they had three fathers, but this beggar has three fathers. There was much work done on this beggar. Aurobindo started, Ramana Maharshi did a little and Ramdas finished.” Sri Aurobindo gave him the **Jnana** to seek the Truth, Sri Ramana lead Him in the path of **Tapas** and ultimately Sri Ramdas gave Him the **Bhakti** to soar into the realm of Divine Ecstasy.

Aruna is Sun, a mass of energy, in constant motion and **achala** is mountain, that which never moves. Arunachala is the wonderful conception of the combination of the kinetic and potential aspects of Energy – the Shakti and the Shiva – the Consciousness Force and the Brahman or the changeless ultimate Reality. **Arunachala**, one of the greatest **Jyotirlinga Kshetra** or the temple of Shiva in the form of Infinite Light, is the abode of great **siddhas** or self-realized masters and adepts. Today this place is sanctified by the presence of the holiest of the holy men in this pilgrim centre, who is none other than Yogi Ramsuratkumar.

Yogi Ramsuratkumar never claims himself to be a **Jnani, Yogi** or a God-man. He calls himself a beggar and true to his claim, he is always seen in his not so clean rags wrapped around his shoulders, the unkempt beard, a rustic turban, a couple of palm leaf fans tied together and held along with a coconut begging bowl in one hand and the fingers in the other hand rotating an unseen garland of beads to the tune of Ramanam on his lips. The way in which he walks, talks and meets people and responds to their approaches, all make him appear awe-inspiring to his devotees and a little eccentric to those who do not bother to know about him.

The Yogi, resembling the Bhishma Pitamaha of the Mahabharata times, is also a child of Mother Ganga. Born in a village near Banaras on the banks of Ganga, Ramsuratkumar grew up in rustic surroundings imbued with the intense spirit of devotion to his religion and culture and inspired by the noblest sentiments of patriotism which was in its ascendance thanks to the intense nationalist wave that had arisen at the time of his childhood. The young boy had a fascination for the company of sages and saints who could be seen in abundance in and around the holy city of Varanasi. An apparently trifling incident revealed to him the ephemeral nature of the worldly existence. One day, when the boy

was drawing water from a village well, the loose end of his rope was flung in the opposite direction. It hit a bird perched on the wall of the well. The bird at once fell life-less. The young boy, overwhelmed by remorsefulness, gave a solemn burial to the winged creature on the banks of River Ganges. From that moment, restlessness gripped his heart and he started searching for the Truth of Existence. His constant company with sadhus and sannyasis during the days of vacations in his school and college was a solace and inspiration to Him. Yet, his unquenchable thirst impelled him to leave his hearth and home to seek a Master who could guide him in spiritual life. In 1947, one night the young aspirant revealed to one of the Mahatmas on the banks of River Ganges his wish to be in the presence of Mahayogi Sri Aurobindo, the renowned patriot-sage who was at that time living in exile in Pondicherry.

Ramsuratkumar arrived at Aurobindo Ashram in Pondicherry in November 1947. In the living presence of the great saint of Pondicherry, the young aspirant did receive the spiritual enlightenment. Yet he needed someone who would personally guide him in his sadhana. Mahayogi Aurobindo, being completely withdrawn from all activities and living in complete isolation, could not provide the personal care that the young aspirant needed. Ramsuratkumar remembered the mention of another great saint by the old sadhu in Benaras to whom he had confided his intention to leave for the south. That saint was Maharshi Ramana of Arunachala.

Ramsuratkumar soon reached the abode of Maharishi Ramana. The closer proximity of the saint did give him the needed guidance for his **tapas** and **sadhana**. Yet the time had not yet come for the young aspirant to lose his identity in total self-realization. He had to pass through the portals of **Bhakti Yoga** before reaching the zenith of **Jnana**. Destiny therefore guided him to another great saint, Swami Ramdas of Anandashram, at Kanhangad, in North Kerala.

Unlike Sri Aurobindo and Maharshi Ramana, Swami Ramdas did not attract the young aspirant at once. Ramsuratkumar returned to Kashi soon. But in 1948, he again visited the abodes of the three masters. It was during this period that Maharshi Ramana's piercing gaze fell on the young Ramsuratkumar and transformed his life. From now onwards, Ramsuratkumar's life was one anchored on severe penance and

ceaseless self-enquiry. In the same year, Ramsuratkumar once again paid a visit to the Ashram of Swami Ramdas. This time also, some inexplicable force prevented him from getting a rapport with the master. Ramsuratkumar left the south and once again wandered in the north, travelling up to the Himalayas. It was when he was in the snow-clad mountain, in 1950, that he came to know about the **Mahasamadhi** of his two great preceptors – Mahayogi Sri Aurobindo and Maharshi Ramana. He felt deep within his heart that he missed golden opportunities in life. He would not miss yet another opportunity and therefore he rushed back to Kanhangad. This time Swami Ramdas looked entirely a different person. Ramsuratkumar realized that “Ramdas is this beggar’s Father”. It was during this third visit that Ramsuratkumar’s greatest moment of life came. He was given initiation into the great mantra, “**Aum Sri Ram Jai Ram Jai Jai Ram**”. The master commanded the disciple to go and sit in a place and change the **mantra** for all the twenty four hours of the day. Ramsuratkumar remained in a state of ecstatic God-consciousness for several days. This most significant event occurred in 1952.

Even as Ramakrishna did not want young Narendra to remain totally immersed in **Nirvikalpa Samadhi**, so also Swami Ramdas willed Ramsuratkumar to go into the world of action and face the chaos there to mould himself into His instrument to guide the destiny of thousands of souls in the world seeking spiritual realization. Ramdas asked Ramsuratkumar to leave the Ashram. When the latter was about to do so, the master asked him where he would go. The disciple replied, “To Tiruvannamalai”. But the ways of the Divine are inscrutable. It took seven years of wandering in the garb of a penniless beggar, for Ramsuratkumar to reach Tiruvannamalai from Kanhangad. He traversed the length and breadth of the country and ultimately reached Tiruvannamalai in the spring of 1959 and settled down at the foot of the great Arunachala Hill.

It was not an easy going life for the young recluse who took his final refuge in Arunachaleswara. Staying under a tree – Alexandrian land – near the railway station, sometimes in the precincts of the Arunachaleswara temple, sometimes in a cremation ground and yet some other times in a temple mandapa, Yogi Ramsuratkumar was open to the vagaries of nature. His garb of the beggar attracted the curiosity of urchins and anti-social elements who gave him troubles not in small

measure. With bundles of newspapers carried in a basket, with cigarette on his lips, with palm-leaf fan and coconut shell in his hand, sometimes a dirty turban on his head wound by flower garlands, he appeared a figure of fun for the common folk.

But his close association with Sri Gnanananda Giri Swami of Tirukkoilur could not conceal the great spiritual giant in him from the vision of the devotees of the Swami. Some of the spiritual seekers from the East as well as the West, frequenting the Ramanashramam in Tiruvannamalai, were also capable of discerning the identity of the saint hiding in the garb of a dirty beggar. Soon renowned scholars, poets, industrialists, businessmen, high officials and men of eminence from various walks of life started approaching him for spiritual guidance and all his denials of any saintliness in him and his claim of a beggar were of no avail.

Yogi Ramsuratkumar was drawn to the limelight when scholars started writing on him. The renowned Tamil savants, Sri Ki. Va. Jagannathan, Sri Te.Po. Meenakshisundaranar and Sri Periyaswami Thooran burst into songs and poems at his very sight. Truman Caylor Wadlington, a Theosophist from America, was drawn to him and he wrote a biography – **“Yogi Ramsuratkumar The Godchild Tiruvannamalai”**, which drew many western spiritual seekers to Yogi Ramsuratkumar. Hilda Charlton, Lee Lozowick, Arthur Hillcoat and many others have poured out their feelings of devotion and reverence to him in their writings.

This writer was guided to the great Master by the benign grace of Mother Mayee of Kanyakumari, a great mystic who used to live like a mad beggar woman, always surrounded by some forty or fifty dogs and wandering at Kanyakumari, the feet of Mother India constantly washed by three great oceans. It was the infinite grace and unbounded compassion of his Master that enabled this writer to author his Master’s biography – **“The Glimpses of a Great Yogi”** – which has received a spontaneous welcome from the devotees and spiritual aspirants in the East and the West. The Master’s generous heart opened up to accept this humble servant and initiate him into the order of Sadhus, at the Banyan Tree Cave at the Arunachala Hills where Swami Ramdas had sat and meditated. This new birth of this writer happened on the auspicious day of the Jayanti of Swami Ramdas on April 26, 1988.

Again it is the limitless grace of the Master that this sadhu has been entrusted with the responsibility of organizing a World Movement for Ramnam for completing the target of chanting of 15,500 crores of Ramanam Taraka Mantra, “**Aum Sir Ram Jai Ram Jai Jai Ram**” – a yagna for world peace started by Poojya Mataji Krishnabai of Anandashram, Kanhangad – a mission very dear to the Master’s heart.

The Master’s message and mission can be summed up in his replies to the questions that HINDUISM TODAY has posed before Him:-

Q: What is His Holiness’s advice to Hindus living in India?

A: Hindus living in India should be proud of their nation and culture. They have to live up to the principles of **dharm**a as taught in the scriptures. Do **Ramanama Japa** as a kind of spiritual and social service.

Q: What is His Holiness’s advice to Hindus living outside of India?

A: Do your duty without losing your cultural identity. Chant **Ramanama** to develop peace around you.

Q: What is the biggest problem facing Hindus today, and what will be the biggest challenge in the 1990’s?

A: Aping of false values which do not fit into the Indian environment.

Q: How can we encourage more Hindus to become vegetarians?

A: This question has no relevance to any particular religion. Education and publicity are the proper means for spreading vegetarianism. Vegetarianism is good for health in order to prolong the life span of an individual. Vegetarianism provides the necessary biological condition for temperance and develops a sense of respect for life in any form.

Q: What is the greatest spiritual quality a person may possess?

A: Humility and respect for others in the discharge of our duties without selfishness.

Q: What has been His Holiness’s greatest challenge and your greatest reward in your spiritual work?

A: World peace and inculcation of spiritual values in all walks of life.

Q: What has been His Holiness’s greatest disappointment?

A: Adharma

Q: Can His Holiness say anything about His early life, what brought His Holiness to His present path?

A: Compassion over a dying bird was a turning point which was followed by exposure to the Sadhus along the banks of the Ganges.

Q: Can His Holiness share some of your deep mystical experience?

A: Mystical experience is shared when the other member reaches the necessary maturity. There is no declaration about sharing experiences, for sharing itself is an experience at the spiritual realm.

Q: What sages have most influenced His Holiness's life?

A: Sri Aurobindo, Bhagavan Ramana Maharshi and Swami Ramdas directly. Indirect influence—all sages through Kabirdas, Surdas, Tulsidas, Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Swami Vivekananda and the Divine Mother Saradamani Devi.

Q: What is the benefit of pilgrimage to Arunachalam?

A: This is to be experienced and not something sold across the counter in Arunachalam railway station or any place.

Q: What is His Holiness's sampradaya? Chosen Deity?

A: There is no sampradaya for one who is out of everything. Shiva, Rama, Krishna are the chosen deities for the Kali Yuga.

Q: What recommendations does His Holiness have for raising children?

A: Children are the best assets for any culture if they are raised properly both at the mental and physical levels.

Q: What is the value of temple worship?

A: Prepares the mind to understand the oneness of the microcosm (the human body-mind complex) and the Macrocosm. The Indian temple is the treasure house of art, social interactionism and spiritual values.

MY FATHER has given an assurance to this Dirty Sinner that in this Holy Land always some Great Masters will exist. He will protect the people, look after them, nicely. He will see this land, Holy Land, flourishing all the time in every respect.

—H.H. Yogi Ramsuratkumar

NEWS AND NOTES

Samanvaya Onam Feast

Samanvaya, organization of Swayamsevaks of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh settled in Bangalore, organized a grand Onam feast on Sunday, November 23, 2014, at Gangadharaiah Kalyana Mantapam in Jalahalli, Bangalore.

Union Law Minister, Sri Sadananda Gowda, Sri Rameshan Nair, Poet and Lyricist of Kerala, Sri Radhakrishnan, General Secretary of Bharatiya Janata Party, Kerala, Prof. K.I. Vasu, Patron of Samanvaya, Sri Muniraju, MLA, Sadhu Prof. V. Rangarajan, Founder of Sri



Bharatama Mandir, Bangalore and other dignitaries addressed the gathering. Speaking on the occasion, Sadhu Rangarajan exhorted the Hindu brethren to renounce their narrow identities like a member of a sect, sampradaya or linguistic group and consider themselves as the children of the Divine Mother Bharatamata and adore and worship Her as the Supreme Goddess. He recalled the poem that he learnt in school and recited in his childhood welcoming Mahabali on the occasion of Onam, hailing that his rule was one of truthfulness, honesty and human brotherhood. Sadhuji said, according to the prediction of saints and Mahatmas like Sri Aurobindo, such a golden age will come again in our land in the twenty-first century.

There was a grand Onam feast and colourful dances and entertainments by children on the occasion.

Get-together of Swayamsevaks from Tamilnadu in Bangalore

Swayamsevaks of RSS from Tamilnadu, settled in Bangalore had a grand family get-together at Abhalashramam in Basavangudi, on Sunday, November 23, 2014. The swayamsevaks introduced themselves and their family members and narrated their experiences in the Sangh family. Addressing the gathering, Sadhu Prof.V. Rangarajan, Founder of Sri Bharatamatra Mandir, Bangalore, narrated

in detail his experiences in his close association with Paramapoojaneeya Sri Guruji Golwalkar, former Sarsanghchalak of RSS, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, President of Bharatiya Jan Sangh, Sri Eknath Ranade, Founder of Vivekananda Rock Memorial at Kanyakumari and other stalwarts in the RSS organization and pointed out that Sangh was a single family and the leaders always treated Swayamsevaks as their own family members. He explained how he was inspired by the message of Sri Aurobindo that Mother Bharat was not a mere geographical territory, but the manifestation of Mahashakti and must be adored and worshipped as Bhavanibharati. It was to translate the vision into reality that the Bharatamata Mandir in Bangalore was founded by him and consecrated by HH Visvesha Tirtha of Udipi Pejavar Mutt in the presence of Sri H.V. Seshadri, former Sarkaryavah of RSS in December 2004. He also explained that the feeling that all Hindus are children of Bharatabhavani was instilled into the heart of Hindus in South Africa, Kenya and other countries which he had visited and called upon every Hindu family to consecrate the picture or idol of Bharatamata in their shrines at home.



Sadhuji in Sanjaynagar Basti

Sadhu Rangarajan visited Sanjaynagar basti of poor and downtrodden people in Peenya on Sunday, November 30, 2014. He was accompanied by dharmacharyas Sri Guru Bhat, Sri Udayagiri and volunteers of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. He was received in every house including those of Muslims and Christians with padapooja and he lighted lamps and blessed the families. Addressing them in the precincts of Mariamman temple, he exhorted them to consider themselves children of Bharatamata first and foremost.

Sri Bharatamata Mandir Tenth Anniversary & Yogi Ramsuratkumar Jayanti

The Tenth Anniversary of Sri Bharatamata Mandir and Jayanti of Yogi Ramsuratkumar, the *siksha guru* of Sadhu Prof. V. Rangarajan,

were celebrated in a befitting manner in Sri Bharatamata Gurukula Ashram art Kithaganur, Krishnarajapuram, Bangalore, on Sunday, December 7, 2014.

There were homa and abhisheka and Alankara to the Divine Mother Sri Bharatamata, as usual, in the morning from 8-00 AM to 12-00 noon. A public function was held in Sri Guruji Golwalkar Hindu Resource Centre Hall of the Ashram in the evening at 5-00 PM. Sri Aravind Limbavali, MLA, former Education Minister of Karnataka, was the Chief Guest of honour on the occasion. Sri Jayaram, President

of Kithaganur Panchayat, presided over the function which was also addressed by Sri Shyam Lala of Achala Siddha, Tiruvannamalai. The function began with the prayer song rendered by Smt. Latha Nagarajan. Sri Anandamoorthy welcomed the guests on behalf of the Mandir. Sri Jayaram spoke about the significance of the mandir



and assured all cooperation from the Panchayat. Sri Shyam Lala spoke on the greatness of the saints and spiritual savants who have made Tiruvannamalai their abode and about Yogi Ramsuratkumar. Sadhu Rangarajan presented in detail the origin of the temple from the idea of Mahayogi Sri Aurobindo who wanted setting up of Sri Bhavani Mandir and the dream of the great patriot-sannyasi, Sri Subramania Sivam and about the efforts to unite all Hindus inside the country and abroad as one family of children of Mother Bharat. Sri Aravind Limbavali spoke on the inspiration and guidance of Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar and Param Poojaneeya Sri Guruji Golwalkar in uniting the Hindu society and enkindling the spirit of patriotism among the people. He also said that the Bharatiya Janata Party will be organizing all over Karnataka the worship of Sri Bharatamata on the auspicious birth day of the patriot monk, Swami Vivekananda. The function concluded with mangala aarati and Prasad distribution.

Edited, printed and published by Sadhu Prof. V. Rangarajan, Founder Trustee, Sister Nivedita Academy, Sri Bharati Mandir, Srinivasanagar, Krishnarajapuram, Bangalore 560 036. Printed at Venkateswara Graphics, Bangalore 560 018