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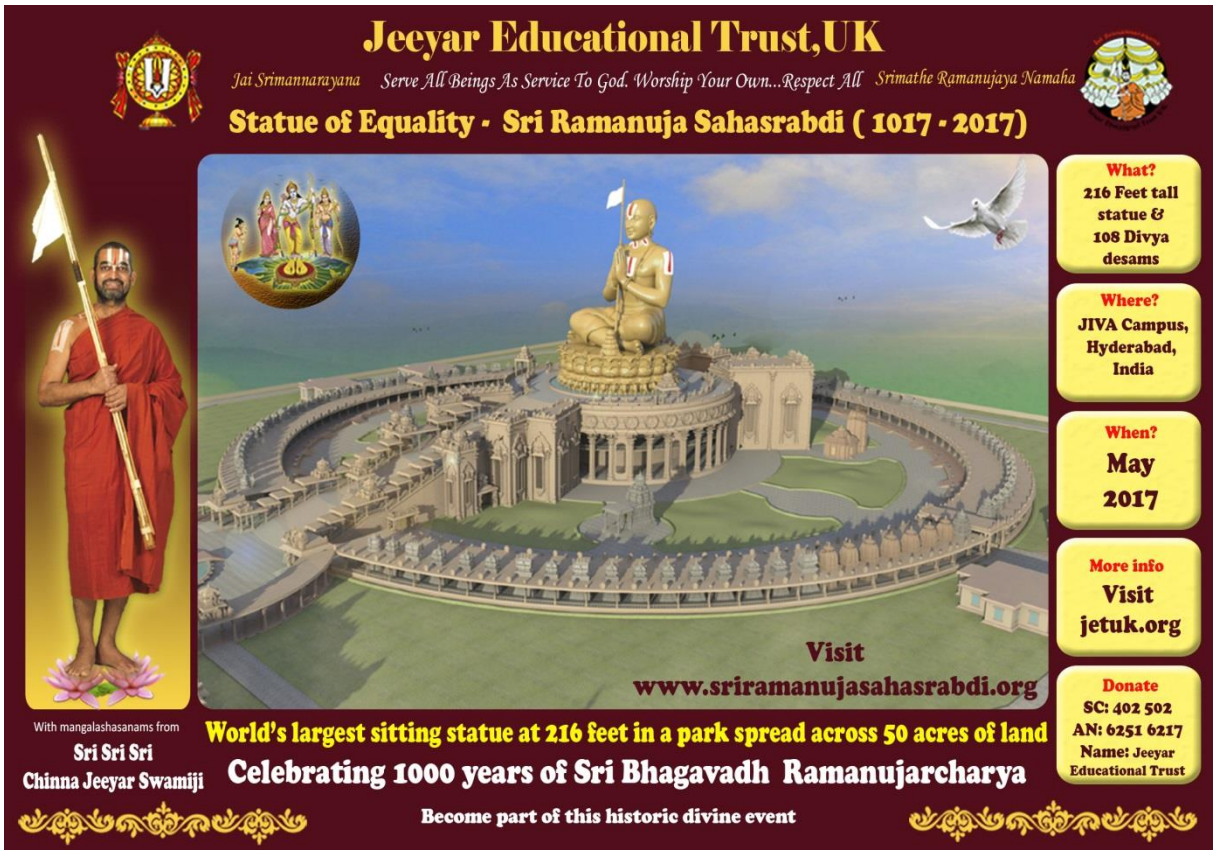
|| Jai Srimannarayana ||



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Dhanurma:sa Vratham – The Story behind Thiruppa:vai

Few people try to realize God. We call them saints and Rushis. God chooses a few as His devotees. We call them A:lwa:rs. The word A:lwa:r means a guardian even to God.

About 5000 years ago, there lived an A:lwa:r in Sri: Villiputtu:r. His name was Vishnu Chittha. He was titled as Periya:lwa:r because of his great devotion to Lord. Periya means big. He used to prepare and offer Thulasi garlands to Lord Vatapatrasa:yi, every day.
One day, as usual, he went to the garden. While picking up the Thulasi leaves, he found a beautiful baby girl there. The surprised Vishnu Chittha looked around, but found no one. He took the baby home and started calling her Go:da, which means 'A nice garland'. Vishnu Chittha cherished Go:da as his own daughter with love and care.

Go:da grew up with the pious activities of Vishnu Chittha - listening to the stories of Sri: Krushna, singing songs on Lord Na:ra:yana, preparing the garlands to offer to Vatapatrasa:yi etc. Go:da was fascinated by the stories of Krushna and Go:pikas.

She was about seven years old. Go:da wanted to marry Lord Rangana:tha, who is none other than Sri Krushna. Vishnu Chittha keeping the garland ready in baskets, used to attend his garden work till the temple bells rang. Meanwhile, Go:da used to wear them to check whether she was good enough for Lord. Then, she used to put them back in the basket. Without knowing, Vishnu Chittha was offering the garlands to the Lord at the temple. This went on for a while.

One day, Vishnu Chittha found a strand of hair in the garland. He was so agitated and called Go:da. Go:da told him that she was wearing them every day to see if she was acceptable to Lord. Father told her that we should not offer the used ones to Lord. Go:da told him that she did not know and would never do that again. That day, Vishnu Chittha did not offer the garlands to Lord.

That night, Lord appeared to Vishnu Chittha in the dream and asked, "Father-in-law!, why didn't you give me the garlands today?" Vishnu Chittha explained what happened. Then Lord said that He liked to have only those garlands worn by Go:da, and disappeared.

Then he realized that Go:da was not an ordinary human girl. She must be none other than our compassionate mother Lakshmi, who took the form of a human being to bless us. He called her 'A:nda:l', the lady savior. Since the Lord ordered for the garlands worn by Go:da, she was called "A:muktha Ma:lyada", one who gave worn garlands to God. In Tamil language, she is called "Su:di Koduttha Na:chhiya:r".

Go:da inquired father about how to reach Lord. Vishnu Chittha explained how Gopikas did the Ka:thya:yani Vratha to gain Lord Krushna in Dwa:para Yuga. Then, Go:da started imagining that she was a Gopika living in Nandago:kulam. All her friends were Go:pikas. The Vatapathrasa:yi temple in Sri Villiputthu:r became the house of Lord Krushna.

The month Ma:rgasi:rsha promotes spirituality among the people. According to Solar calendar, this period becomes Dhanurma:sam, starting from Dec 16th. Go:da de:vi chose this month as appropriate to fulfill her divine desire. She imitated the Ka:thaya:yani Vratha of Go:pikas, for one month.

Each day, A:nda:l composed one song and submitted at the Lotus feet of the Lord. Thus, she offered thirty songs in the form of a wonderful garland to Lord. These thirty Tamil pa:surams are called "Thiruppa:vai".

At the end of the Vratham, Sri: Rangana:tha appeared to Vishnu Chittha and ordered him to give A:nda:l in marriage. Lord sent a palanquin to bring Go:da De:vi. Vallabhara:ya, the king of Madurai, was the disciple of Vishnu Chittha. Having known the message of Lord Rangana:tha from his guru, he brought Go:da De:vi to Sri Rangam with Royal protocol. The wedding was performed in the temple with all the splendors. After the wedding, Go:da was taken into the sanctum along with the deity. Suddenly, she disappeared there.

Vishnu Chittha was very sad and pleaded before Lord Ranana:tha for Go:da. Lord spoke through the priests, consoled him and said, "Oh my beloved father-in-law! Don't worry. Go:da and I will be arriving to your home on Garuda by the time you reach there. We will be there forever with you." Even today, the Lord is present in Sri: Villiputtu:r and worshipped as "A:ndal Ranga Manna:r". This is referred to as Sri A:nda:l temple today.

The Thiruppa:vai is considered to be the essence of all the Ve:das, in which mother A:nda:l teaches us the goal of our life. The day Go:da married Lord Rangana:tha became popular as Bho:gi. It means the day on which Go:da enjoyed the Divine bliss. We celebrate Go:da's wedding every year concluding the Dhanurma:sam. Next day becomes Sankra:nthi, the festival of prosperity and reverence to the Nature.

In addition to Thiruppa:vai, Go:da devi composed another scripture called Na:chhiya:r Thirumozhi with 143 pa:surams in it.

Thiruppa:vai

Neelaa thunga sthana giri thadi padi suptha mudhbodhya krishnam
Paaraarthyam svam sruthi satha siras sidhdham adhyaa phayanthee|
Svochchishtaayaam sraji nigalitham yaabalaathkruthya bungthe
Godhaa thasyay nama idamidham bhooya evaasthu bhooya: ||

Anna vayalpudhuvai aandaal arangarku
Pannu thiruppaavai palpadhiyam, innisaiyaal
Paadikkodutthaal narpaamaalai, poomaalai
Soodi koduthaali chollu.

Soodi koduththa sudar kodiye tholpaavai,
Paadi arulavalla palvalaiyaay,! naadi nee
Vengadavarku ennai vidhi enra vimmaatham
Naanm kadavaa vanname nalku.

- **Pa:suram-1**

ma:rgalith thingal madi nirainda nanna:la:l
ni:ra:dap po:duvi:r po:dumino: ne:rizhaiyi:r
si:rmalgum a:yappa:di selvachchiru mi:rga:l
ku:rve:l kodunthozhilan nandago:pan kumaran
e:ra:randa kanni yaso:dai ilam singam
ka:rme:nichchengal kadir madiyam po:l mugaththa:n
na:ra:yanane: namakke: parai tharuva:n
pa:ro:r pugazhap padind e:lo:r emba:va:i

- **Pa:suram-2**

vayyaththu va:l vi:rga:l na:mum nampa:vaikku
seyyum kirisaigal ke:li:ro: ! pa:rkadalil
paiyaththu yinra paramanadi pa:di
neyyunno:m pa:lunno:m na:tka:le: ni:ra:di
maiyittezhu do:m malarittu na:mudiyo:m
seyya:dana seyyo:m thi:kkuralaich chenro:do:m
iyyamum pichchayum a:ndanayum kaika:tti
vuyyuma:renni yugande:lo:remba:va:i

- **Pa:suram-3**

o:ngi ulagalanda uththaman pe:rpa:di
na:ngal nampa:vaikku ccha:tti ni:ra:dina:l
thi:nginri na:della:m thingal mumma:rip peydu
o:nguperum sennelu:du kayalugala
pu:nguvalaip po:dil porivandu kanpaduppa
the:nga:de: pukkirundu si:rthamulai paththi va:nga
kudam niraikkum vallal perum pasukkal
ni:nga:da selvam niraindu e:lo:remba:va:i

- **Pa:suram-4**

a:zhi malai kanna: onru ni: kaikarave:l
a:zhiyul pukku mugundu kodu a:rthe:ri
u:zhi mudalvan uruvambo:l mey karuththu
pa:zhi andho:ludai parpana:ban kaiyyil
a:zhipo:l minni valamburipo:l ninradirindu
tha:zha:de: sa:rngamudaiththach saramalai po:l
va:zha ulaginil peydida:y - na:ngalum
ma:rgazhi ni:ra:da magizhindu e:lo:remba:va:i

- **Pa:suram-5**

ma:yanai mannu vadamadurai maindanai
ththu:ya peruni:r yamunaith thuraivanai
a:yar kulaththinil tho:nrum manivilakkai
tha:yaikkudal vilakkam seyda da:mo:daranai
thu:yo:ma:y vandu na:m thu:malar thu:viththozhudu
va:yina:lpa:di manaththina:l sindikka
po:yappizhaiyum pugudaruva: ninranavum
thi:yinil thu:sa:gum seppe:lo:remba:va:i

- **Pa:suram-6**

pullum silambina ka:n, pullarayin koyilil
vellai velisangin pe:raravam ke:ttilayo:
pilla:y yezhundira:y, pe:y mulai nanjundu
kallachchagadam kalakkazhiyak ka:lochchi
vellaththaravil thuyulamaranda viththinai
ullaththukkondu munivargalum yo:gigalum
mellavezhundu ariyenra pe:raravam
ullam pugundu kulirinde:elo:remba:va:i

- **Pa:suram-7**

ki:su ki:senru engum a:naich cha:ththan kalandu,
pe:sina pe:chcharavam ke:ttilayo: pe:yp penne: !
ka:sum pirappum kalakalappa kaipe:rthu,
va:sanarum kuzhala:yich chiyar, maththina:l
o:saip paduththath thairaravam ke:ttilayo:
na:yagap penbilla:yi ! na:ra:yanan mu:rthy,
ke:savanaip pa:davum ni: ke:tte: kidaththiyo:
the:samudaya:y ! thirave:lo:remba:va:y

- **Pa:suram-8**

ki:zh va:nam vellendu yerumai siruvi:du
me:yva:n parandana ka:n mikkulla pillaikalum
po:va:n po:ginra:raip po:ga:mal ka:ththu unnai
kku:vuva:n vandu ninro:m, ko:du kalamudaya
pa:va:y ! ezhundira:y pa:di parai kondu
ma:va:y pilanda:nai mallarai ma:ttiya
de:va:di de:vanaich chenruna:m se:viththa:l
a:va:venra:ra:yndu arule:lo:remba:va:i

- **Pa:suram-9**

thu:mani ma:daththuch chuththum vilakkeriya
thu:pam kamazhath thuyilanai me:l kan valarum
ma:ma:n magale ! manikkadavam tha:l thirava:y
ma:mi:r ! avalai yezhuppi:ro:, unmagalda:n,
u:maiyo: ? anrich chevido:, anandalo: ?
e:map perunthuyil mandirappatta:lo: ?
ma:ma:yan ma:davan vaigundan enrenru
na:mam palavum navinre:lo:remba:va:i

- **Pa:suram-10**

no:ththuch chuvarkkam puguginra ammana:y
ma:ththamum tha:ra:ro: va:sal thirava:da:r
na:ththa ththuzha:y mudi na:ra:yanan, namma:l
po:ththap parai tharum punniyana:l, pandoruna:l,
ku:ththaththin va:y vi:zhnda kumbakarananum,
tho:ththum unakke: perunthuyil tha:n thanda:no:
a:ththa anandaludaiya:y ! arungalame: !
the:ththama:y vandu thirave:lo:remba:va:y

- **Pa:suram-11**

kattrukkaravai kanangal palakarandu
seththa:r thiralazhiyach chenru seruchcheyyum,
kuththamonrilla:da ko:valar dam porkodiye: !
puththaraval gul punamayile: ! po:dara:y
suththaththu tho:zhima:r ella:rum vandu, nin
muththam pukundu mukil vannan pe:rpa:da
siththa:de: pe:sa:de: selvap penda:tti, ni: !
eththukkurangum porul e:lo:remba:va:i

- **Pa:suram-12**

kanaiththilam kaththerumai kanrukkirangi
ninaiththu mulaivazhiye: ninru pa:l so:ra
nanaiththillam se:ra:kkum narchchelvan thanga:i
pani ththalai vi:zha nin va:sal kadai paththi ,
sinaththina:l thennilangai kko:ma:nai cheththa
manaththu kkiniya:nai pa:davum ni: va:i thirava:i!
ini ththan ezhundira:i! i:denna pe:rurakkam
anaiththillaththa:rum arinde:lo:r emba:va:i

- **Pa:suram-13**

pullinva:y ki:nda:naip polla:varakkanai
killik kalainda:naik ki:rthimai pa:dippo:i
pillaikalella:rum pa:vaikkalam pukka:r
velli ezhundu viya:zham urangiththu
pullum silumbinaka:n po:darikkannina:y
kullak kulirakudaindu ni:ra:da:de:
pallikkidaththiyo: pa:va:y ni:nanna:la:l
kallam thavirndu kalande:lo:remba:va:y

- **Pa:suram-14**

ungal puzhaikkadaith tho:ttaththu va:viyul
sengazhu ni:r va:y nekizhindu a:mbalva:y ku:mbinaka:n
sengal podikku:rai venbal thavath thavar
thangal thirukko:yil sangiduva:n po:ginra:r,
engalai munnam ezhuppuva:n va:y pe:sum,
nanga:y ! yezhundira:y ! na:na:da:y na:vudaya:y !
samgodu sakkaram e:ndum thadakkaiyan,
pangayak kanna:naip pa:de:lo:remba:va:y

- **Pa:suram-15**

elle: ! ilamkiliye: ! innam urangudiyo:,
sillenrazhai ye:nmin nangaimi:r ! po:darukinre:n,
vallai unkatturaikal pande:yun va:yarithum
valli:rgal ni:ngalai na:ne:da: na:yiduga:
ollai ni: po:da:y ! unakkenna ve:rudayai
ella:rum po:nda:ro: ? po:nda:r po:ndennikko:l
valla:nai konra:nai ma:ththa:rai ma:ththazhikka
valla:nai, ma:yanaip pa:de:lo:remba:va:y ||

- **Pa:suram-16**

na:yagana:y ninra nandago:panudaya
ko:yil ka:ppa:ne: !, kodiththo:nrum tho:rana
va:sal ka:ppa:ne: !, manikkadavam tha:l thirava:y
a:yar sirumiyaro:mukku, arai parai
ma:yan manivannan nennale: va:y ne:r nda:n
thu:yo:ma:y vando:m thuyilezhap pa:duva:n,
va:ya:l munnamunnam ma:ththa:de: amma: ! ni:,
ne:sanilaik kadavam ni:kke:lo:remba:va:y

- **Pa:suram-17**

  ambarame: ! thanni:re: ! so:re: ! aramseyyum,
  emberuma:n ! nandago:pa:la: ! ezhundira:y,
  kombana:rkella:m kozhunde: ! kulavilakke: !
  emberuma:tti ! yaso:da:y ! arivura:y,
  ambara mu:daraththu o:ngiyulakalanda,
  umbarko:ma:ne: ! uranga:du ezhundira:y
  sempor kazhaladich chelva: ! balade:va: !
  umbiyum ni:yum urange:lo:remba:va:y

- **Pa:suram-18**

  undu madagaliththan o:da:da tho:l valiyan
  nandago:pa:lan marumagale: ! nappinna:y !
  kandam kamazhum kuzhali: kadai thirava:y
  vandu engum ko:zhi yazhaiththana ka:n, ma:davip
  pandal me:l palka:l kuyilinangal ku:vinaka:n
  panda:r virali ! vunmaiththunan pe:r pa:da,
  sentha:maraik kaiya:l si:ra:rvalai yolippa
  vandu thirava:y magizhinde:lo:remba:va:y

- **Pa:suram-19**

  kuththu vilakke:riyak ko:ttukka:l kattinme:l
  meththenra panchasayanaththin me:le:ri,
  koththalar pu:nkuzhal nappinnai kongai me:l,
  vaiththuk kidanda malar ma:r pa: ! va:y thirava:y
  maiththanan kannina:y ! ni: unmana:lanai
  eththanai po:dum thuyilezha votta:y ka:n
  eththanai e:lum piriva:ththagilla:ya:l,
  thaththuvamenru thagav e:lo:remba:va:y

- **Pa:suram-20**

  muppaththu mu:var amararku mun senru,
  kappam thavirkum kaliye: ! thuyilezha:y
  seppamudaiya:y ! thiraludaiya:y ! seththarku
  veppam kodukkum vimala: ! thuyilezha:y,
  seppenna menmulai sevva:y, sirumarungul,
  nappinnai nanga:y ! thiruve: thuyilezha:y,
  ukkamum thattoliyum thandunmana:lanai,
  ippo:de: yemmai ni:ra:tte:lo:remba:va:i

- **Pa:suram-21**

  e:ththa kalangal ethirpongi mi:dalippa,
  maththa:de: pa:l soriyum vallam perum pasukkal,
  a:ththap padaiththa:n magane:! arivura:y
  u:ththamudaiya:y periya:y ! ulaginil
  tho:ththama:y ninra sudare: ! thuyilezha:y
  maththa:r unakku valitholaindu un va:sarkan,
  a:ththa:du vandu unnadi paniyuma:po:le:
  po:ththiya:m vando:m pugazhndu e:lo:remba:va:y

- **Pa:suram-22**
  angan ma: jna:nalaththarasar, abima:na
  bangama:y vandu nin pallik kattil ki:zhe:
  sangamiruppa:r po:l vandu thalaip peydo:m,
  kingini va:y chcheyda tha:marai pu:ppo:le:
  sengan sirichchiride: yemme:l vizhiya:vo:
  thingalum a:diththiyanum ezhunda:rpo:l,
  anganirandum kondu engal me:l no:kkudiye:l,
  engal me:rccha:pam izhindu e:lo:remba:va:y

- **Pa:suram-23**

  ma:ri malai muzhanjil mannikkidand irangum
  si:riya singam arivithuth thi:vizhiththu
  ve:rimayir pongaveppa:dum pe:rndudari,
  mu:ri nimirndu muzhangip purappattu
  po:daruma:po:le: ni: pu:vai pu:vanna: vun
  ko:yil ninringane: po:ndarulik, ko:ppudaiya
  si:riya singa:sanaththirundu, ya:m vanda
  ka:riyam a:ra:yndarul e:lo:remba:va:i

- **Pa:suram-24**

  anrivvulam alanda:i adi po:ththi,
  senranguth then ilangai seththa:i thiral po:ththi
  ponrach chagadam udaiththa:y ! pukazh po:ththi
  kanru kunila: verinda:y ! kazhal po:ththi
  kunru kudaiya veduththa:y! gunam po:ththi
  venrupagai kedukkum nin kaiyil ve:l po:ththi
  enrenrun se:vagame: ye:ththi parai kolva:n
  inru ya:m vando:m irange:lo:remba:va:i

- **Pa:suram-25**

  oruththi magana:y ppirandu, o:riravil
  oruththi magana:y oliththu valara
  ththarikkila:na:giththa:n thi:ngu ninainda
  karuththaip pizhaippiththu kanjan vayiththil
  neruppenna nenra neduma:le:! unnai
  aruththiththu vando:m parai tharudiya:kil,
  thiruththakka selvamum se:vagamum ya:mba:di,
  varuththamum thi:rndu magizhinde:lo:remba:va:y

- **Pa:suram-26**

  ma:le: ! mani vanna:! ma:rgazhi ni:ra:duva:n
  me:laiya:r seyvanagal ve:nduvana
  ke:ttiye:l, jna:laththai yella:m nadunga muralvana
  pa:lanna vannaththu vun pa:nchajanniyame:,
  po:lvana sangamgal po:yappa:dudai yanave:
  sa:lap perum paraiye: palla:ndisaippa:re:
  ko:la vilakke: kodiye: vitha:name:
  a:linilaya:y ! arul e:lo:remba:va:y

- **Pa:suram-27**

  ku:da:rai vellumsi:r go:vinda: ! undannai
  ppa:di paraikondu ya:m peru samma:nam,
  na:du pugazhum parisina:l nanra:ga,
  su:dagame: tho:lvalaiye: tho:de: sevippu:ve:
  pa:dagame: yenranaiya palkalanum ya:manivo:m
  a:dai yuduppo:m athanpinne: pa:l so:ru
  mu:da ney peydu muzhangai vazhi va:ra
  ku:di irundu kulir nde:lo:remba:va:i

- **Pa:suram-28**

  karavaigal pin senru ka:nam se:rundunbo:m
  arivonrum illa:tha va:ykkulaththu, unthannai
  ppiravi perundanai punniyam ya:mudaiyo:m,
  kurai vonrum illa:da go:vinda: ! undanno:du
  urave:l namakku ingozhikka vozhiya:du
  ariya:da pillaigalo:m anbina:l, undannai
  siru pe:razhaiththanavum si:ri arula:de:
  iraiva: ni: tha:ra:y parai ye:lo:remba:va:y

- **Pa:suram-29**

  siththum siruka:le: vandunnaich che:viththu, vun
  poththa:marai yadiye: po:ththum porul ke:la:y
  peththam meyththunnam kulaththil pirandu, ni:
  kuththe:val engalaik kolla:mal po:ga:du
  eththai parai kolva:n anruga:n go:vinda:
  eththaikkum e:zhe:zh piravikkum, undanno:du
  uththo:me:ya:vo:m unakke: na:m a:tcheyvo:m,
  maththainam ka:mangal ma:ththe:lo:remba:va:i

- **Pa:suram-30**

  vangakkadal kadainda ma:davanaik ke:savanai
  thingal thirumugaththuch che:yizhaiya:r senrirainji
  angapparai konda va:rthai, anipuduvai
  paingamala thanderiyal pattarpira:n ko:dai sonna
  sangaththamil ma:lai muppadum thappa:me:
  ingu ipparisuraippa:r i:rirandu ma:lvaraiththo:l
  sengan thirumugaththuch chelvaththiruma:la:l
  engum thiruvarul peththu imburuvaremba:va:i