

Glories of Lord Varadaraja - Part 9

Date: March 8, 2019

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled "Glories of Lord Varadaraja". By causeless mercy of Lord we heard yet another sweet pastime of the Lord which we would like to share with all of you. From July 1, Lord Athivaradar has been showering His mercy by rising out of the Ananta-saras pond and showing His merciful darshan to all. Lakhs of people crowd the small town of Kanchipuram to take a glimpse of their dearest Varadar - who has His own pastime of giving darshan once in 40 years for 48 days. Sometimes it takes just 20 minutes for people to have Lord's darshan - whereas there are many occasions when people stand for more than 13 hours - just to have a moment's glance of the Lord. And there are yet others - who in spite of standing in the queue for many hours could not have a very satisfying darshan - due to heavy crowd etc. One devotee said, "***I couldn't have Lord's darshan properly - but am sure that Lord would have seen us.***" So Lord Varada has His own way of giving darshan as per His desire. Sometimes He gives very less darshan - just to increase our hankering to see Him again and again.

People from different parts of India as well as the world have been coming to see Lord Varadar. To streamline the process - the Govt authorities has made arrangements - separate queues for senior citizens, wheel chair facility for elders, VIPs, VVIPs. Those who go by VIP Queues are allowed to have closer darshan of the Lord. We heard a sweet pastime of how Lord Athivaradar showered His mercy on two tribal children.

Ever since this transcendental darshan began - the parents of these tribal children have been selling out pictures of Lord to the visiting public in the streets of Kanchipuram. The brothers (aged 9 and 7) who used to accompany their parents daily were wondering how is that so many people are coming to see this Lord. They decided that some day they must also go inside the temple and have darshan. On July 31st - the last day of *shayana darshan* - there was heavy rush even in VIP queue. Not knowing anything about the rules of VIP Queue etc, these 2 innocent children some how got into this queue and went inside the temple - But they were later caught by police official - who found out that they don't have VIP ticket and so sent them out. With tears in their eyes, the children came out of the temple. Seeing them crying, one devotee approached them and when they expressed their disappointment of not being able to have darshan, the devotee took him to yet another police official, who kindly allowed the children in **VVIP Queue**. *So by transcendental arrangement of Lord Varadaraja they had much more closer darshan. The children ran with joy towards the Lord. With raised hands they chanted the Holy Names - "Govinda" and took out 10 Rupee note from their pocket and offered it as dakshina to the Lord with great love.*

So the nice lesson we can learn from these transcendental darshan is that bhakti is unconditional. It doesn't matter if one is rich, poor, literate, illiterate, from aristocratic family or tribal family - Lord is Supreme Father of all. And by His inconceivable causeless mercy He chooses to give His darshan according to the level of surrender and eagerness of the individual soul. His Divine Grace very nicely says in one of his lectures on Nectar of Devotion - *"Laulyam means just like we become very much greedy in achieving some success or receiving something sometimes. We become mad. That is required. Laulyam eka mulyam. To achieve Krishna consciousness perfectly, this ecstatic eagerness or greediness, to serve Krishna, that is the only price to achieve success in devotional service. That is the only price. Not money, not anything. Not prestige, not good parentage, not beauty—nothing. Simply this ecstatic, intense desire, "How I shall get Krishna?" Then you'll get Krishna. He'll take you."*

Lord Athivaradar ki Jai ! Srila Prabhupada ki Jai ! Srila Gurudev ki Jai.

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much,

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,|

Sudarshana devi dasi.

Glories of Lord Varadaraja - Part 1

Date: July 7, 2019

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

By now many of us would have heard about the glorious rising of **Lord Athivaradar** in the temple town of Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu which is also known as Vrindavan of South. In yesterday's offering titled, "The Glory of Bharatavarsha", we were seeing how demigods also hanker for taking birth in Bhuloka and when we hear all these glorious appearances of Lord and His many sweet pastimes with His devotees, we can only appreciate how the words of Bhagavatam are 100% true.

Once Lord Brahmaji desired to see the caturbhuja form of Lord Vishnu and performed severe penances. At that time he heard a divine voice instructing him to do 100 Ashwamedha sacrifices. When Brahmaji was wondering how to do 100 Ashwamedha yajna, the all merciful Lord instructed Brahmaji to perform 1 Ashwamedha yajna in Kanchipuram and that will be considered to be equal to 100. So Brahmaji decided to perform the sacrifice in Kanchi. But by divine arrangement, his consort, Goddess Saraswathi could not come on time to perform the sacrifice along with him.

Out of eagerness to have darshan of the Lord and in order to perform the yajna on time Brahmaji began to do the sacrifice with Goddess Gayathri. Not pleased with this decision, Goddess Saraswathi tried to stop the yajna by transforming herself into a fast flowing river - Vegavathi. At that time Lord Vishnu in order to protect the yajna done by Brahmaji appeared in shayana pose across the river. Lord's appearance pacified the anger of Mother Saraswathi and She withdrew her plans of obstructing the yajna. Thereafter yajna was successfully completed. And Lord Vishnu appeared from the sacrificial fire. By His merciful darshan, He not only pleased Brahmaji, but He also blessed all the devatas present there with whatever boons (*varam*) they requested and so the Lord is glorified as Lord *Varadaraja* - **King of all Benedictions**.

Some of the nice things which we can observe in this pastime is the sincere desire of Lord Brahmaji to have Lord's darshan, the austere penances he underwent for the same and devotion and the loving reciprocation of Lord to His dear devotee. Right from instructing Brahmaji to do the sacrifice, helping him to choose the place where he could do sacrifice and later protecting the successful completion of the yajna, Lord helped Brahmaji in every step. This reminds us of the verse 3.9.38 of Srimad Bhagavatam wherein Lord says to Brahmaji

*yac cakarthaanga mat stotram / mat kathaabyudhayaankitam
yad vaa tapasi te nishthaa / sa esha mad anugrahaah*

"O Brahma, the prayers that you have chanted praising the glories of My transcendental activities, the penances you have undertaken to understand Me, and your firm faith in Me—all these are to be considered My causeless mercy."

In his short and sublime purport to above verse His Divine Grace very nicely says, "***When a living entity desires to serve the Lord in transcendental loving service, the Lord helps the devotee in so many ways as the caitya-guru, or the spiritual master within, and thus the devotee can perform many wonderful activities beyond material estimation. By the mercy of the Lord even a layman can compose prayers of the highest spiritual perfection. Such spiritual perfection is not limited by material qualifications but is developed by dint of one's sincere endeavor to render transcendental service. Voluntary endeavor is the only qualification for spiritual perfection. Material acquisitions of wealth or education are not considered.***"

Many a times we start some service with lot of enthusiasm - but influenced by lower modes and our anarthas we lose the fire or eagerness to serve. But the above pastime of Lord Brahmaji shows us how if we remained fixed in our goal to serve the Supreme Lord and hold on to His lotus feet, then we will not be baffled by the obstacles that keep coming in our way. Lord who is glorified as "***Samanjas***" - **Lord of all opportunities** - not only gives us service, but also mercifully gives the strength to carry on - if we sincerely seek His help.

Krishna willing we shall continue to meditate on Lord's glories in the subsequent offerings.

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much,
Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,
Sudarshana devi dasi.

Glories of Lord Varadaraja - Part 2

Date: July 8, 2019

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled "Glories of Lord Varadaraja" wherein we saw how Lord Varadaraja appeared from the sacrificial fire during the Ashwamedha yajna conducted by Lord Brahmaji in Kanchipuram.

Brahmaji was very pleased to see the beautiful form of Lord, His four arms decorated with shanka, cakra, gada and padma. In Bhagavad-Gita Chapter 11 verse 46 we find that even Arjuna, after seeing the Universal form of the Lord longed to see the transcendental form of

Lord with four hands.

*kiritinam gadinam cakra hastam / icchaami tvaam drashtum aham tathaiva
tenaiva rupena catur bhujena / sahasro baaho bhava vishva murte*

"O universal form, O thousand-armed Lord, I wish to see You in Your four-armed form, with helmeted head and with club, wheel, conch and lotus flower in Your hands. I long to see You in that form."

And the Lord after showing His universal form as well as His *caturbhuj*a form and two handed form tells Arjuna that all these darshans are (*su-durdarsham*) very very rare and difficult to behold. He says that even the demigods are ever seeking the opportunity to see this form, which is so dear. Krishna also clarifies that neither by studying the Vedas, nor by performing sacrifices, nor by charity, nor by pious activities, nor by severe penances can one see Him. But when He is pleased with the devotees, Lord reveals Himself to them.

The pastime of Brahmaji performing Ashwamedha yajna in Kanchipuram took place in Satyuga. Brahmaji - out of compassion for all living entities in the material world, wished that everyone in the forthcoming yugas also be blessed with His beautiful darshan and Lord Varadaraja in Kanchipuram. So Brahmaji instructed the celestial architect Vishwakarma to carve Deity of Lord using Fig tree (known as Athi maram) And since then Lord Athivaradar was worshiped as presiding Deity in Kanchipuram until 16th century. During the Mughal attacks, the invaders plundered and destroyed so many temples and monuments in India. With a sincere desire to protect the Deity the chief priests of the Kanchipuram temple decided to secretly immerse Him under the waters in the sacred pushkarani (temple pond) called as Ananda Sarovar. Only the priest's family knew the exact place. For nearly 40 long years, the temple had no murthies in the grabhagraha and no pooja was being performed in the temple. The chief priests under whose authority the hiding of Deity took place, passed away. Their two sons, after more than 40 years, tried vigorously to bring the Deities back to the temple, to start the pooja again.

Unable to find the Athi Varadha, the authorities decided bring another Deity called Devaraja Swami from a nearby temple. Since He resembled Athi Varadharajar He was installed as presiding Deity and the regular pooja started. In 1709 - by divine arrangement Lord revealed His presence, when for some reason the water in the Ananta Sarovar was completely taken out. The temple authorities decided to worship the Lord for 48 days and then again keep Him immersed in Ananda Sarovar. Though these are some of the external reasons which we hear about Lord's appearance - by grace of Sri Guru, Srila Prabhupada and Lord Sri Krishna we can realise that Lord appears and disappears from our vision by His sweet will. He reveals Himself to His pure devotees and by the mercy of pure devotees, Lord mercifully shows His darshan to all conditioned souls - just to please His devotees. So whenever we take darshan of Lord, we must always be grateful and thankful to mercy and compassion of our spiritual master, Srila Prabhupada and Lord Brahmaji.

Krishna willing we shall continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj in the subsequent

offering.

Thank you very much,
Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,
Sudarshana devi dasi

Glories of Lord Varadaraja - Part 3

Date: July 9, 2019

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled "Glories of Lord Varadaraja" wherein we saw how

1. Lord Varadaraja appeared from the sacrificial fire during the Ashwamedha yajna conducted by Lord Brahmaji in Kanchipuram.
2. By mercy of Brahmaji Lord Athivarada agreed to give darshan to all and later by His sweet will decided to give darshan once in 40 years.

Now we shall continue further.

So ever since the Lord revealed His presence in Ananda Sarovar, He has been giving His transcendental *darshan* to all devotees once in 40 years, so that conditioned souls like us can see the Lord at least once in our lifetime. Lakhs of people from all over the world come to have this transcendental *darshan* - which is indeed a treat to our eyes and mind. Srila Prabhupada explains the meaning of the word *darshan* as "meeting" in Srimad Bhagavatam verse 1.8.25. So when we take darshan of the Lord, not only are we seeing Him, but He is also casting His loving glance upon us. In the Brahmavimohana lila when Lord Brahma after stealing away the calves and gopas of Krishna, returns to Vrindavan he could see that all the calves and gopas were still playing with Krishna. When he was perplexed, all the gopas and calves turned to Vishnu forms and thus made Brahmaji realise his mistake. In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 10.13.50 Sukadev Goswami while describing the beauty of the Vishnu forms says

*candrikaa-vishada-smeraih / saarunaapaanga-veekshitaih
svakaarthaanaam iva rajah / sattvaabhyaam srasht-paalakaah*

"Those Vishnu forms, by Their pure smiling, which resembled the increasing light of the moon, and by the sidelong glances of Their reddish eyes, created and protected the desires of Their own devotees, as if by the modes of passion and goodness."

Srila Prabhupada very nicely mentions in the purport to the above verse, "*The word svakaarthaanaam refers to great desires. As mentioned in this verse, the glance of Lord Vishnu creates the desires of the devotees. A pure devotee, however, has no desires . Therefore Sanatana Gosvami comments that because the desires of devotees whose attention is fixed on Krishna have already been fulfilled, the Lord's sidelong glances create variegated desires in relation to Krishna and devotional service. In the material world, desire is a product of rajo-guna and tamo-guna, but desire in the spiritual world gives rise to a variety of everlasting transcendental service. Thus the word svakaarthaanaam refers to eagerness to serve Krishna.*"

So by His loving glance and smiling face, Lord not only creates the desire to serve Him, but He also protects that desire. In other words, He not only gives the inspiration, but also encourages the devotees engaged in His transcendental service. Our prayers to Srila Gurudeva and Srila Prabhupada to always remain in the loving glance of His Lordship and never be rejected by Him.

Krishna willing we shall continue to hear more glories of Lord in subsequent offering.

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much,

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,
Sudarshana devi dasi

Glories of Lord Varadaraja - Part 4

Date: July 10, 2019

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled "Glories of Lord Varadaraja" wherein we saw how

1. Lord Varadaraja appeared from the sacrificial fire during the Ashwamedha yajna conducted by Lord Brahmaji in Kanchipuram.
2. By mercy of Brahmaji Lord Athivarada agreed to give darshan to all and later by His sweet will decided to give darshan once in 40 years.
3. When we take darshan of the Lord, by His glance He gives us inspiration to serve and by His smile He nourishes and protects our desires to serve.

Now we shall see further.

Few days ago, when Lord Athivaradar was taken out of temple pond after 40 years on June 28 2019, His transcendental body was covered with green algae. And the algae were all very fragrant. So just like how Lord's body is spiritual - *saccidaananada vigraha* - full of eternity, knowledge and bliss - so is the body of the Deity. The Lord mercifully descends in the archa-vigraha form to accept service from His dear devotees. The Lord being "*aatma-raama*" is not in need of any of our service. But out of His causeless mercy on conditioned souls, just to give us an opportunity to purify our existence, Lord appears in deity form. Krishna's names, forms, leela are all non-different from Him. So anything which comes in touch with Supreme Lord becomes transcendental. Those who are devotees can very easily appreciate the transcendental nature of Deity. For those who don't believe in Lord's form - it is not possible for them to accept/understand/appreciate this truth. Such people with poor fund of knowledge decry the greatness of the Deity and keep doubting the transcendental nature. Therefore they remain always disturbed both in this life and next. Deity may be made of wood, stone or any metal. But as soon as Lord enters the archa form - it no longer remains material. Normal human body would stink when submerged in water even for few days. But Deity is transcendental.

In this regard Srila Prabhupada very nicely mentions in the purport to verse 5.17.14 "*Vishvanatha Cakravarti Thakura informs us that the demigods worship the Supreme Lord in His various Deity forms (arcaa-vigraha) because except in the spiritual world, the Supreme Personality of Godhead cannot be directly worshiped in person. In the material world, the Lord is always worshiped as the arcaa-vigraha, or Deity in the temple. There is no difference between the arcaa-vigraha and the original person, and therefore those who are engaged in worshiping the Deity in the temple in full opulence, even on this planet, should be understood to be directly in touch with the Supreme Personality of Godhead without a doubt. As enjoined in the shastra, arcye vishnau shilaa-dhir gurushu nara-matih: "No one should treat the Deity in the temple as stone or metal, nor should one think that the spiritual master is an ordinary human being." One should strictly follow this shastric injunction and worship the Deity, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, without offenses. The spiritual master is the direct representative of the Lord, and no one should consider him an ordinary human being. By avoiding offenses against the Deity and the spiritual master, one can advance in spiritual life, or Krishna consciousness.*"

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much,
Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,
Sudarshana devi dasi

Glories of Lord Varadaraja - Part 5

Date: July 11, 2019

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled "**Glories of Lord Varadaraja**" wherein we were meditating on the glorious rising of Lord Athi Varadar in Kanchipuram. Now we shall see try to meditate on few of the pastime of Lord Varadaraja with His dear devotees.

Srila Kanchipurna who is also known as Thirukacchhi nambigal is disciple of Srila Yamunacharya and was engaged in doing chamara (fan) service and garland service for Lord Varadaraja. The relationship between Lord Varadaraja and Kanchipurna was very intimate. Lord Vardaraja used to discuss so many subject matters with Kanchipurna. Realising his great devotion, the people of Kanchi used to request Kanchipurna to clarify some of their doubts with the Lord. Kanchipurna used to talk to Lord on their behalf and pass on the response given by Lord Vardar.

Once after finishing his morning seva when Kanchipurna was leaving the temple it started raining very heavily. He was worried whether he will miss the evening seva because of the rains. At that time Lord Varadaraja came in disguise of an elderly Vaishnava with umbrella and offered to drop him at his home. Once they reached home, the elderly Vaishnava told that he would stay with him till evening and then they both can return to the temple. Kanchipurna felt very relieved and thanked him for helping in serving the Lord. In the evening when they both entered the temple, the priests looked very disturbed. When Kanchipurna enquired the reason, they said that Lord Varadaraja is missing and the altar (sanctum sanctorum) is empty. Hearing this Kanchipurna rushed to the altar and to his surprise he saw the Deity happily standing there. When he called the priests, they also rushed to the altar and were pleasantly surprised to see the Lord. Everyone rejoiced to see the Lord again in the altar.

When they wanted to share this good news with the elderly Vaishnava - they could not find him. When the priests later began their service to the Deity, they noticed that Lord's transcendental body was fully drenched with rain water. At that time everyone realised that it was Lord's sweet pastime with His dear devotee Kanchipurna.

In his wonderful purport to verse Srimad Bhagavatam verse 3.16.7, His Divine Grace very nicely says, "***The relationship between the Lord and His devotee is transcendently beautiful. As the devotee thinks that it is due to being a devotee of the Lord that he is elevated in all good qualities, so the Lord also thinks that it is because of His devotion to the servitor that all His transcendental glories have increased. In other words, as the devotee is always anxious to render service to the Lord, so the Lord is ever anxious to render service to the devotee..... The Lord cannot tolerate any inconvenience on the part of the devotee. He is therefore famous as bhakta-vatsala.***"

Devotees always want to serve the Lord and don't want to be served by Him. But Lord loves His devotees so much that He grabs every opportunity to serve His devotee - however menial be that service. Lord lovingly volunteered to become chariot driver of Arjuna in the battlefield of Kurukshetra, He lifted the Govardhana hill as umbrella for Vrajavasis when Indra sent the Samvartaka clouds and now in this pastime we find Lord happily holding umbrella for Kanchipurna. After this pastime people began to glorify the Lord Varadaraja as "***Kudai piditha Perumal***" - "Lord who holds umbrella".

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much,

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,
Sudarshana devi dasi

Glories of Lord Varadaraja - Part 6

Date: July 12, 2019

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled "**Glories of Lord Varadaraja**" wherein we were meditating on the glorious rising of Lord Athi Varadar in Kanchipuram and the pastimes with His dear devotees. Now we shall see try to meditate few more.

Sripada Ramanuja acharya, incarnation of Lord Anantasesh is very dear to Lord Varadaraja. In Kanchipuram he served the Lord by drawing water from the temple well and carrying it to the altar. Lord Anantasesh is glorifying the Lord for millions of years using His millions of hoods. But since Lord is unlimited, His glories are also unlimited. So when He descended in this world as Ramanuja acharya - He continued this eternal service in this world as well.

He used to very nicely glorify the Lord everyday . When he begins to speak Krishna-katha, not only did the people who were listening to the katha were immersed in pools of ectstasy, but Lord Varadaraja was also very very pleased. Once unable to remain within the altar (sanctum sanctorum) the Deity of Lord Varadaraja began to come out towards the outside hall where Ramanjuar was doing Krishna-katha. The two Deities of Jaya and Vijaya at the entrance stopped the Lord and asked Him what He was upto? Lord Varadar replied that He loved to see and hear what Sripada Ramanujar was speaking and so He had come out. Jaya and Vijaya said, "If the devotees listening to the katha, notice that Deity is coming out, then all their attention would be turned to You and there will be interruption in Krishna katha spoken by Ramanujar. Do You want it that way?" Lord Varadar responded, "No, no. I don't want Ramanujar's speech to be interrupted. So let Me go back to the altar and hear from there."

This pastime also reminds us of how Lord Krishna, Lord Balaram and Subhadra Ma also became ecstatic when they happened to hear the childhood pastimes of Krishna from Rohini and Yashoda and they manifested the forms of Sri Sri Jagannath Baladev and Subhadra. Our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami very often quotes this shloka from shastras

*naaham tishtaami vaikunthe / yoginaam hridayeshu vaa
tatra tishthaami naarada / yatra gaayanti mad-bhaktaah*

"My dear Narada, actually I do not reside in My abode, Vaikuntha, nor do I reside within the hearts of the yogis, but I reside in that place where My pure devotees chant My holy name and discuss My form, pastimes and qualities."

Lord is Bhagavata priya and the above pastime shows His transcendental love for pure Bhagavatas. He is fond of both the book Bhagavatam as well as person Bhagavatam. And He is always present whenever and wherever devotees meet an glorify Him. May we always engage ourselves in Krishna katha so that Lord loves to stay in our hearts and life always.

Krishna willing we shall continue to meditate more on Lord Varadaraja's glories in the subsequent offering.

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much,

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Sudarshana devi dasi

Glories of Lord Varadaraja - Part 7

Date: July 13, 2019

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled "**Glories of Lord Varadaraja**" wherein we were meditating on the glorious rising of Lord Athi Varadar in Kanchipuram and the pastimes with His dear devotees. Now we shall see try to meditate few more.

When Srila Yamunacharya, the guru of Sripada Ramanuja acharya first visited Kanchipuram, he prayed to Lord Varadaraja that after his departure, Sripada Ramanuja acharya should carry on the legacy of Sri Vaishnavism. His disciples knew this and were eager to take Sripada Ramanujar to Srirangam. But they were also aware that Lord Varadaraja was also very attached to Ramanujar and would not allow him to leave Kanchipuram. So they decided to send a devotee by name Thiruaranga Perumal araiyar. Sri Thiruaranga Perumal, in his melodious voice glorified the Lord. Pleased with him Lord asked him what he wanted. When he informed that he wanted to take Ramanujar to Srirangam, Lord politely refused by saying - "***Please ask any other boon***". ***Such is the love of Lord for His dear devotees.*** In Srimad Bhagavatam verse 9.4.68 Lord says,

*saadhavo hrdayam mahyam / saadhunaam hrdayam tv aham
mad-anyat te na jaananti / naaham tebhyo manaag api*

"The pure devotee is always within the core of My heart, and I am always in the heart of the pure devotee. My devotees do not know anything else but Me, and I do not know anyone else but them."

When Thiruaranga Perumal earnestly requested that they were very much in need of association and guidance of Sripada Ramanuja acarya, the Lord agreed and Ramanujar also obediently left for Srirangam. Even after going there, Lord Varadaraja always His dearmost Deity. Once when there was an argument between Ramanujar and advaita philosopher for nearly 17 days, Ramanujar prayed to Lord Varadaraja to help him establish the power of devotional service. Lord Varadaraja appeared in his dream and told him not to worry and that everything would be taken care in the morning. And the very next day, when the advaiti saw Sripada Ramanujar, he could notice the effulgence from his transcendental body and immediately surrendered to him and became his disciple.

After the departure of Sripada Yamaunacharya to Vaikuntha, whenever Ramanujar had some doubts, he requested Kanchipurna to ask them to Lord Varadaraja and got them clarified. Infact Lord Varadaraja personally instructed him to go and take shelter of Sripada

Mahapurna. Ramanujar also took to sannyasa order in the presence of Lord Varadaraja. So we find that for those who are completely surrendered to Him and don't know anything else other than Him, the Lord is equally eager and anxious to help them in every step.

Krishna willing we shall try to meditate on some more glorious pastimes of Lord Varadaraja with his dear devotees in the subsequent offering.

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much,

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Sudarshana devi dasi

Glories of Lord Varadaraja - Part 8

Date: July 14, 2019

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled "Glories of Lord Varadaraja" wherein we were meditating on the glorious rising of Lord Athi Varadar in Kanchipuram and the pastimes with His dear devotees. Now we shall see try to meditate few more.

Kuresh or Kurathaazhvaar is a dear devotee of Lord Varadaraja. He is dear disciple of Sripada Ramanujar. He is known for his Guru-bhakti. Once there lived a Shaivite king in Kanchi who could not tolerate the growing popularity of Ramanujar and his disciples. So he made a plot to kill Ramanuja by inviting him for a discussion. Knowing the evil plans, Kuresh requested Sripada Ramanujar to go to Melkottai and he went to meet the king. In the assembly of that Chola king, there was a minister by name Naalooraan who made lot of false complaints against Kuresh to the king. So the king declared that he would pluck out his eyes, if he failed to accept the philosophy of impersonalism. Kuresh blinded himself with a sharp instrument saying that after seeing such a personality as king, there was no longer any use for his eyes. After this incident, the king contracted severe illness because of the offence done to pure devotee like Kuresh and he passed away. Later when Ramanujar returned to Srirangam, Kuresh met him. Pained to see the loving sacrifice done by his dear disciple, Ramanujar urged him to talk to Lord Varadaraja, requesting him to give back his eyesight.

As instructed Kuresh went to meet Lord Varadaraja. But instead of asking for eyesight, he asked for the following boons.

1. To liberate all those who were connected with him, to Vaikuntha at the end of their lives.
2. To grant entrance to Vaikuntha even to the sinner Naalooran who poisoned the minds of king of Kanchi against them.

Though Lord eagerly waited for Kuresh to ask for his eyesight, he did not ask anything for himself. Sripada Ramanujar became very ecstatic saying that Vaikuntha was guaranteed for him, as he was also connected to Kuresh, being his spiritual master. Such is sign of humility of that exalted Guru. Later he again insisted Kuresh that he should ask Lord for restoring his eyesight. So this time Kuresh requested Lord Varadaraja - "***Please bestow me with eyesight just to see You and my spiritual master. I do not wish to see anything material.***" Pleased with his request, Lord Varadaraja bestowed him with whatever he asked.

yasya prasada bhagavat prasado yasya aprasada na gati kutopi. - "**If one pleases guru then one pleases Krishna. When one does not please his guru, even if one can make all wonderful grand arrangements but Krishna will never be pleased.**" Lord is very pleased when one serves His devotees nicely. Infact Lord Varadaraja even instructed Kanchipurna that although he was his dear devotee, since he had not yet served a pure devotee, he would not be able to come to Vaikuntha after this birth. Upon hearing this Kanchipurna immediately engaged himself in menial service to pure devotees and won the Lord's love.

So from the life of all these wonderful acaryas we can understand that simplest way to please the Lord is by serving His devotees. May we always remember this and try to serve the devotees of the Lord to the best of our capacity. The glories of Lord Vardaraja and His devotees are unlimited. Krishna willing as and when we get to hear more pastimes, we shall try to offer them.

Hare Krishna.

Thank you very much,

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Sudarshana devi dasi

Glories of Lord Varadaraja - Part 10

Date: August 10, 2019

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

This is in continuation of the previous offering titled - "**Glories of Lord Varadaraja**" wherein we were meditating on some of the sweet pastimes performed by Lord Varadaraja in Kanchipuram.

In yesterday's offering we were discussing about how when we don't realise the transcendental form of the Lord, then we will feel the service as *galagraha*. But to those who lovingly serve the Lord, He mercifully speaks with them, walks with them, serves them by holding umbrella to protect them from rains and many more. Even now - all those who took darshan of the Lord share how each of their darshan is a great miracle. If anyone sincerely desires to see the Lord - He somehow or the other makes it possible - in spite of heavy rush, heavy rains etc. Such is His causeless mercy.

Today we shall share the sweet pastime of Lord Varadaraja with the British general Robert Clive. During the British rule in India, the Britishers not caring for the sanctity of temples did all sorts of atrocities. So during the period when Robert Clive was in India, he used to place all the army - within the premises of the temple. So horses, elephants, soldiers and Robert Clive were all staying within the temple premises with all their weapons, on their way to wage war with Nawab of Arcot. Out of fear, the temple authorities could not make him realise that Lord's home should not be misused in this manner. At that time Lord Varadaraja enacted a pastime. As a result, including Robert Clive - the elephants, horses, the soldiers all began to suffer due to constipation - They were neither able to pass urine or stool. When Clive was suffering due to stomach pain and was becoming very doubtful about how could he even participate in the Arcot war - the priests in temple took that opportunity to make him realise the offence of misusing the temple premises. They told Clive that if He surrenders to Lord Varadaraja, repents for his mistake and renders heartfelt prayers, then he would be alright. Robert Clive agreed and sought forgiveness to the Deity. The priests offered him the tulasi water offered to the Lord and immediately after honouring that he became alright and moved out of the temple.

From the pages of history we know that Clive in fact defeated the Nawab of Arcot and was returning with lot of wealth. On the way back when he was crossing Kanchipuram, the famous festival of Garuda sevai was happening in the streets of Kanchi - wherein the utsav deities of the Lord comes out in procession seated on Garuda. Seeing the army of Robert Clive approaching, the priests stopped the chariot. When there was some delay in Robert Clive to come and take darshan, the priest said, "Why does this British General not come soon? How long will my Lord wait in this hot sun? Will Lord not feel scorched?" When this message reached the ears of Clive, he commented - "After all He is just a Deity. Is it going to sweat for Him?" As he uttered these words, the devotee took a small piece of cloth - climbed the chariot, wiped the Lord's transcendental face and then squeezed out the cloth. To the surprise of Clive - the transcendental sweat from the Deity's face poured out of that cloth like

a river. Realising the greatness of Lord Varadaraja and his mistake, Robert Clive immediately bowed down before the Deity and offered a special expensive jewellery called "*Makara kandi*" with love and devotion. Till date whenever the Lord comes out in Garuda seva, He wears the *Makara kandi* which is famously called as "Clive Jewellery".

All glories to Lord Varadaraja who showers His mercy on all.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev

Sudarshana devi dasi.