

Nallavai Ketpom – 6

Which book describes the qualities of Bhagavan?

Scriptures like Shruti, Smriti, PurAnAs, ItihAsAs and all other shAstrAs describes EmperumAn as AkhilAnDa kOTi brahmANDa nAyakan, SrimaN nArayanan. The most admired qualities (Thiru kalYaNa guNangaL) of Bhagavan are Satyam, jJNAnam, Anantam, Saundaryam, SaushIlyam, Saulabhyam and LAvaNyam. Maharishis, Munis and AchAryAs are involved in these qualities and have experienced them. Elders opine that more than Bhagavan, His nAmA is considered very high and that nAmA itself saves everyone. Many histories are there to justify this. We come to know the glories of RAma nAmA through AnjanEyA. RAma nAmA is more powerful than RAma Himself.

If we look for a book which describes the divine names and qualities of Bhagavan, it is the book “**Vishnu SahasranAmA**” that tells all the qualities of Bhagavan to the full extent. Amongst all avatArs, RAma and KrishnA are the two important avatArs and pUrnAvatArs. We come across the glories of these two avatArs in this stOtra book. It also describes the history of RAma that brought back even the dead to life.

परद्धिः परमस्पष्टस्तुष्टः पुष्टः शुभेक्षणः

As visible to everyone, RAma descend to earth in human form, exhibits His good qualities to everyone thereby doing good to all. Due to His appearance and qualities He remains favourite in everyone’s heart. “**மனத்துக்கு இனியான்**” says AndAL. What kind of a person is RAma?. He is dharma swarUpi. **रामो विग्रहवान् धर्मः** : and the one who possess such qualities like vIra, dhIra and parAkrama.

रामो विरामो विरतो मार्गो नेयो नयोऽनयः ।

वीरः शक्तिमतां श्रेष्ठो धर्मो धर्मविदुत्तमः

RAma does good to everyone, is Heroic, shows the right path and also He is the one who creates fear in enemies. All these are mentioned in Vishnu SahasranAmA itself.

वैकुण्ठः पुरुषः प्राणः प्राणदः प्रणवः पृथुः ।

हिरण्यगर्भः शत्रुघ्नो व्याप्तो वायुरधोक्षजः ॥

He will always have His devotees with Him, not let them go away and also purifies them. He is ‘life’ to all jIvAtmAs and worshipped by everyone. He is a treasure (vaithamA nidhi PerumAL). He is the one who destroys all enemies and shows affection to all devotees without any differentiation. If any harm is done to bhaktAs, He rushes like a wind to save them. He is like a sea of elixir. Like this, Vishnu SahasranAmA says about the qualities of RAma. That is, He attracts devotees with His appearance and has the quality of making them happy. The speciality of RAmaAvatAr is, He reveals Himself as a human. But while leaving for Vaikuntam, whoever wished to join, He took them all with Him. He took everyone/everything in the universe.

AzhvAr experiences this as “puRpa mudhalA pullerumbAdi oNRiNRiyE”
“naRpAlukku uyttnan”. This way RAmA’s glories and qualities are said in this book.

We also come across the glories of KrishnAvatAr in the same Vishnu SaharanAmA.

वसुरेता वसुप्रदः Krishna in divine and splendid form is born to Devaki and VasudEvA. He gives Himself to Devaki and VasudEvA. **वसुप्रदो वासुदेवः** VasudevA gives his child VAsudEvA to NandagOpA. Even in childhood days, Krishna does many pastimes. He is a life support for all jIvAtmAs. To saints, He is like their relative. To Him, PAndavAs and YAdavAs are like His breath. Having both PAndavAs and YAdavAs in His Army, He brings glory to YadavAs. For saints, He is their asylum. He plays in the banks of river YamunA and also purifies it. Vishnu SaharanAmA says,

सद्गतिः सत्कृतिः सत्ता सद्भूतिः सत्परायणः
शूरसेनो यदुश्रेष्ठः सन्निवासः सुयामुनः

Since KrishnA has All the kalyAna guNangaL, He is the residing place for all the qualities. In spite of having countless qualities, the reason for calling Him as ‘BhagavAn’ is because of the six qualities which are jJNAnam, Balam, Aishvaryam, Vriyam, Shakti, TEjas. Because of this, He is called “षट्गुण्यपरिपूर्णन्”. Rishis doing tapas in the forest, meditate on these qualities. The qualities mentioned in Vishnu SaharanAmA are the ones which are meditated upon and mentioned by different Rishis. ऋषिभिः परिगीतानि तानि वक्ष्यामि.

Bhishma PitAmahA preached YudhishtirA all those qualities (ThirukalyANa guNangaL) and divine names of the Lord stated by Rishis and that is nothing but “Vishnu SahasranAmA”.

To be continued.....

Transcription by Smt Vasanthi Sampath