

Nallavai Ketpom – 9

The duty to be performed to attain liberation or mOkshA

In this episode, we are going to look into the job that has to be done to attain liberation. Only if our bad deeds or sins are gone/removed, we get liberated. How are they removed? Only through bhakti says BhaktisArar who is known as Thirumazhisai AzhvAr. To do bhakti, one has to do a job or follow some practices and I will tell what I have been doing, says AzhvAr.

தொழில் எனக்குத் தொல்லைமால்(nAnmugan Thiruvandadi--85)

VALi is the leader of vAnarAs(monkey warriors) and VALi and SugrIvA are brothers. Due to VALi's valorous arrogance, he was defeated by Lord RAmA by a single arrow. That bow-wielder Lord's holy name RAmA is with me and singing and praising that holy name is my job, says AzhvAr.

வாழ்த்துகவாய் காண்க கண் கேட்கசெவி(nAnmugan Thiruvandadi--11)

We have five senses and we should put to use all these senses to the service of the Lord alone. That is, mouth should praise the Lord and do nAma sankeerthanam, eyes should see Him, ears should listen to His divine stories and past times, hands should offer flowers, and with folded hands we should bow down at His feet. ShAstrA also says,

विचित्रदेहसम्बन्धिभिर् ईश्वराय
निवेदितुं पूर्वमेव कृतं ब्रह्मणा ।
हस्तपादादिसंवितं शरीरम्
भक्त्या समर्प्य शरणं प्रपद्ये ॥

Like this, all the senses are meant only to do service to EmperumAn and if all the senses are used for some other purpose, then EmperumAn will not protect us.

AzhvAr also asks us to read Srimad Bhagavad GIItA.

சேயன் அணியன் சிறியன்(nAnmugan Thiruvandadi--71)

That day when Lord KrishnA preached ArjunA in the battlefield of MahAbhAratA, He teaches him about karma, jnAna and bhakti yoga(Bhagavad GIItA) and made him to surrender. This knowledge is the true knowledge or knowledge of ultimate reality. So, if we read Bhagavad GIItA, we get true knowledge. He is the one who gives us mOksham and to attain that, we should not go to hell.

நாராயணன் என்னையாளி நரகத்துச்

சேராமல் காக்கும் திருமால்(nAnmugan Thiruvandadi--14)

NArAyanan is the one who protects us from going to hell. So, we should always sing the glory of that NArAyanan. “सततं कीर्तयन्ते माम्” says KrishnA in GIItA.

AzhvAr says,

மலையாமை மேல்வைத்து வாசுகியைச்சுற்றி(nAnmugan Thiruvandadi--49)

To avoid going to hell and attain mOksham, we should keep singing His holy names, speak about His divine qualities and past times. If we keep doing nAma sankIrthanam by singing the names NArayanA, RAmA, KrishnA, VAsudEvA, DAmOdarA, PundarIkAkshA and GOvindA, all our sins are removed. Even if we think of these holy names, our sins are washed out. There is no difference between the Lord and His nAmA says AzhvAr.

Once there was a competition between SatyabamA and Rukmini to prove their bhakti towards KrishnA by making KrishnA sit on one side of the weighing balance (tulAbhAram) and placing their offering on the other side. First, Satyabama began piling all her treasures one by one like gold, jewels, ornaments etc., on the other side. Despite Her immense wealth, scale never balanced. Then, Rukmini with pure devotion in Her heart, quietly placed a single tulsi leaf on the scale by telling the holy name ‘KrishnArpanamastu’ KrishnA. Instantly the balance tipped equating KrishnA’s weight.

வேதம் நான்கினும் மெய் பொருள் ஆவது நாதன் நாமம்(vEdam nAnginum meyporul Avadu nAdan nAmam). Since Rukmini placed the tulsi leaf by uttering the holy name KrishnA and as KrishnA and His nAmA are same, the scale balanced.

At GOkulam, GOpikAs carry curd, milk, butter and ghee pots in a basket and sell these things. One of the GOpikA’s while selling these, instead of calling out ordinary names like “won’t you buy curd?, won’t you buy milk?”, she calls out “ won’t you buy MAdhavA?, won’t you buy GOvindA?, won’t you buy KrishnA?” and like “do you want MAdhavA?, do you want GOvindA?, do you want KrishnA?”. Everybody looked at her thinking ‘what type of sale is this! It sounds new’.

विक्रेतु कामकला गोपकन्या
मुरारिपादारचितचित्तवृत्तेः ।
मोहोपशक्ताः प्रददत्यदिकं
आवोचिरे कृष्ण यदवो माधव ॥

As she was sitting at home looking crazy, thinking of KrishnA all the time, not eating and sleeping(मुरारि पाद अर्चित चित्त वृद्धिः), her mother gives the basket with the pots and sends her out to sell, with the thought that she may come out of this madness to some extent. As the GopikA’s mind is full of KrishnA, she did not bother to check what is inside and also did not ask her mother and hence while selling, she calls out “won’t you buy MAdhavA?, won’t you buy GOvindA?, won’t you buy KrishnA?”. This is like nAma sankIrthanam.

Like this GOpikA, we should not feel shy in calling out the holy names aloud. In front of others, not bothering about what they would think, we should chant the name “KrishnA” loudly without feeling ashamed. We will not get anything if we feel shy. When an attempt was made to undrape her sarI, Draupadi in her helplessness, without feeling shy, raised both her hands and called upon Lord’s names.. YadavA, KrishnA, AchyutA, DwAraKa, GOvindA, PundarIkAkshA very loudly and immediately KrishnA protected her by giving the garment endlessly. AzhvAr says வைகுந்தம் ஈப்பாயும் எவ்வயிர்க்கும் நீ . That is, NArAyanan is the one who will protect all jIvAtmAs if we say His holy names itself.

So, what should be our job?. Our job is to chant His holy names and if we do that, then NArAyanan will protect us says AzhvAr in தொழில் எனக்குத் தொல்லைமால் (nAnmugan Thiruvandadi--85). Chanting of holy names will prevent us from going to hell and guide us to the path of mOksham. So, we should recite Srimad Bhagavad Gita and Vishnu SahasranAmam. If not, chant His holy names alone and if we continue to do that, all our sins are removed and we get mOksham automatically.

So, the only job that take us to mOksham is nAma sankIrthanam.

To be continued.....

Transcription by Smt Vasanthi Sampath