

Srirangam rAjagopura nirmANa kaimkaryam

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SrI:

Srirangam rAjagopura nirmANa kaimkaryam

(HH 44th paTTam, Mukkur SrImad's Azhagiyasingar's
aruL mozhigaL as appeared in SrI nrsimha Priya Magazine)



Translated in to English by
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॥ श्रीः ॥

HH 44th paTTam SrImad Azhagiyasingar's aruL mozhigal



Srirangam divyadampati-s serti utsavam

Note: The month and the year noted below at the start of each aruL mozhigal is the month/year of the SrI Nrsimha PriyA issue in which the aruL mozhigal were published.



VaikAci/May 1979

The start of the upper floor construction kaimkaryam of the Srirangam southern Rajagopuram:

श्रीरङ्गानथदिव्याज्ञाप्रेरितोऽहं शुभे दिने।
राजगोपुरसंपूर्तिं कर्तुमिच्छामि तन्मनाः ॥
सर्वे भवन्तः शिष्याश्च सुहृदश्च मनस्विनः।
अनुकूलाश्च दातारो भवेयुरिति वेद्म्यहम् ॥

SrIranganatha divyAj~nA prerito'ham Subhe dine |
rAjagopurasampUrtim kartumicchAmi tanmanAH ||
sarve bhavantaH SishyASca suhrdaSca manasvinaH |
anukUIASca dAtAro bhaveyuriti vedmyaham ||

Through the unique anugraha balam of the forty three SrImad Azhagiyasingars of SrI Ahobila maTham, who preceded me in this important position, I am blessed to hold the AcArya sthAnam and performing the duties of samASrayaNam, bharanyAsam, kAlakshepams et al within the limits of my ability. All of the people know that I am an eighty five year old man. At this advanced age, SrI Ranganathan has entered in to my mind (antaH pravishTaH SAstA) and is commanding me all the time with out interruption.

Sri Ranganathan says: "I am reclining on my bed of Adi Seshan and looking towards the southern direction and seeing the VibhIshaNa rAjyam of LankA. This is well known to all. It is also known widely that the last of my gopuram was built up to forty six feet from ground and then closed on top. Further, it will make me proud if a highly decorated eleven floor gopuram similar to the one built at the land of my dharma patni, Andal were to be built here at Srirangam.

"I have been reminding you to engage in this kaimkaryam for the past four years. You have constructed the Rajagopuram for SrI Lakshmi Narasimhan at SrI Ahobilam. You know, I am reclining inside the silver maNDapam. You should not cheat Me by displaying partiality. Quickly construct the upper floors of the southern Rajagopuram for Me. I will enter in to the minds of the government officials and the

Temple administrators quickly and command them to give the orders and assist you. Please do not worry about this matter anymore". Lord Ranganathan has been reminding me more frequently for two to three months about the start of this kaimkaryam at Srirangam. Now, SrI Lakshmi Nrsimhan has joined with SrI Ranganathan and commanding me to initiate this Rajagopuram construction. Aware of my lack of strength to undertake this gigantic kaimkaryam, I have appealed to Them many times. SrI Ranganathan encouraged me with the assurances that I should start this activity and complete it.

I keep asking SrI Ranganathan as to why He did not show interest in this kaimkaryam and let so much time elapse.

The Lord said that He has been waiting for me and firmly commanded me not to waste anymore time and to commence the tasks. I made the effort and the Lord made the effort fruitful. The order from the Government also arrived. I paid to the devasthanam, one lakh Rupees for the construction.

The officials of the devasthanam estimated that it will cost about twenty lakhs of rupees to complete the construction. This news has been published by the daily newspapers. After reading the newspapers, I was frightened slightly. The Lord dispelled my fears and said: "Do not worry over the needed funds. deSo viSalaH prabhavobhyanatAH". This land is vast and there are many wealthy ones. They will come forward with great interest to support the construction of the different stories of the unfinished gopuram. In a very quick time, you will complete the construction of all the floors without any worry". It appeared to me, it was the Lord's resolute command.

I thought further. If I start this kaimkaryam while every thing looks favorable and abandon it without completion, lakhs of people will clap their hands and laugh at me. That will result in the diminution in the glory of SrI maTham as well. I have to complete however this task is difficult.

My mind was not in favor of asking SrI maTham Sishyas or well wishers for assembling the needed funds to build the Rajagopuram. Knowing my frame of mind in this matter, many distinguished Sishyas suggested that I need not seek the funds from all others. They wanted to take part in this kaimkaryam and have the sambandham with it. They wished to gain the puNyam through their involvement. They pressed me to accept the funds from them and add it to the

accumulated funds that are to be raised in response to the Lord's command and make them the blessed ones.

When I look at the eagerness and enthusiasm of the SishyAs, it appears that it is possible to complete the kaimkaryam without any expense to SrI maTham. I decided that the infinite mercy of the Lord to guide me to take whatever shape the kaimkaryam takes to reach the finish line. I made up my mind to get to Srirangam before the end of Chittirai month, consult with the temple authorities and the engineers on the construction schedule and begin the actual construction by the month of VaikAsi. I made plans to take five lakhs of rupees with me in addition to one lakhs of rupees paid earlier as advance.

At this stage, I did not want to accept any additional money from others independent of the amount of donations offered. I have made up my mind to accept fresh funds offered by would be participants only after completion of the construction of two of the eleven floors to be built. I made this firm plan to accept funds given joyously and without restraints by all at the time of construction of the third story. Commanded by the divine will of the Srirangam dampatis, I will accept the offered funds and add them to the Gopuram construction funds.

If I were to ascend to SrI VaikuNTham prior to completion of the kaimkaryam, those who succeed to this sthAnam would complete this kaimkaryam.

Just as SishyAs with or without means complete the Subha kAryams in their houses just like marriage of their children, they can give a minimum of one hundred rupees to my successor with the firm belief that the gopura kaimkaryam will be completed easily by my successor. If the merciful glances of SrI LakshmI Narasimhan fall on me and I assemble enough funds to complete the construction, I will set it aside for the next maThadipati to use in case I reach VaikuNTham before the start of this kaimkaryam. My successor will joyously complete the kaimkaryam. Come what may, the commenced kaimkaryam will be competed.

There are AstikAs with full faith and utter trust in SrImad Azhagiyasingar, who believe that this kaimkaryam can be fully supported by them and stand by to receive the command from SrImad Azhagiyasingar to join. When I determine that I can not complete the construction all by myself and if SrI LakshmI Narasimhan asks me to invite those willing and capable AstikAs, I will readily ask them. As per

the current plans and estimates on the needed funds, it appears that we can have adequate funds to get started without troubling anyone.

Some of the SishyAs with substantive means might be unhappy with me for not involving them in consultations over drawing the plans for the construction of the gopuram. There are some important reasons for not consulting them.

This group of wealthy and capable SishyAs are already supporting joyously the many SrI maTham kaimkaryams with lakhs and lakhs of rupees. I did not want to add these expenses to their significant supports. This is the principal reason behind my decision. When they reflect on this point, I believe firmly that they will not be angry with me.

There are also those, who are laughing at me and saying that I am engaged in talking about this kaimkaryam just to amuse myself.

Now, they have read in the newspapers that I have given the one lakh of rupees as building fees to the temple administrators and they are somewhat satisfied and have written to me expressing their happiness.

I have not entered into this activity for gaining fame. Further, I have the least interest in increasing the wealth of SrI MaTham through these initiatives. I never had the thought in my mind of spending the wealth of the Sri MaTham for this kaimkaryam.

I have commenced these Gopura nirmAnam activities with the firm command of Lord Ranganathan. May "svasmai svaprItaye svayameva kArayati" turn quickly in to the aruL mozhi of "svasmai svaprItaye svayameva kAritavAn". My prayers to the Lord is to bless me with that anugraham.

I firmly believe that all those, who have affection for me would pray to SrI Ranganathan to bless me with this subham.

Subhamastu

Ani/June 1979

This SiddhArta year is one of our important years in the cycle of sixty years. Why so? It is because this is the year in which the first Azhagiyasingar of SrI Ahobila MaTham, SrImad Adi vaN SaThakopay atIndra MahA deSikan was born, reigned, performed ArAdhanam for

SrI Lakshmi Narasimhan and engaged in divya deSa sancAram following the command of the Lord for protecting those who sought refuge under His sacred feet and completed many renovation and maNDapa/Gopura nirmANams at various divya deSams. This SiddhArthi is the year, when the 600th birth anniversary of the Azhagiyasingar is completed, when PuraTTaci KeTTai is in ascendance. Therefore, this year is superior to all years. We have no doubt about this.

There are many auspicious events are happening in this SiddArtha year, from the month of Chittirai. The most auspicious event of them all is the start of the construction of the upper stories of the southern Rajagopuram to the height of fifteen stories with a sacred vow to complete this task and to have consecration done to glorify the divya deSam of Srirangam.



The South gopuram as it was till the 1970-s when the construction of the upper levels began

The Subham of all Subhams in this year is then the completion of the southern Rajaopuram of Srirangam and its consecration. The happening of this samprokshaNam in the 600th year of birth of the first Jeeyar of SrI maTham and its celebration are due to the anugrahams of SrI Ranganathan and SrI Lakshmi Narasimhan. This is clear as the

fruit in one's hand (karatala Amalakam). Every component of this kaimkaryam is now falling in place spontaneously.

There is no doubt in my mind about this celebration of the six hundredth birth anniversary being conducted in many divya deSams, cities and SrI grAmams (villages). I wish to say some thing in this context.

The human beings born on this earth, be they male or female, should study their own native tongue and also learn the administrative language of the Government for the protection of their families. They should earn money in righteous ways. They should set aside a portion of their earnings for dharma rakshaNam. From that portion of the earnings, they should support the dharma kAryams, which would bless them with travel in the right path leading to the supreme goal of life, moksham. They should not choose anything arbitrarily as dharma and pursue it for satgati. They should only follow the dharma that have been accepted by the SAstrAs for the best of results. When those kaimkaryams are performed, then they will lift us out of the samsAric sorrows. We can reach the good lokams.

It is not fair to write often about what is well known to you. When we study the subject of dharma in the SAstrAs, we come across many kaimkaryams that are easy to perform and are important. Some of these are - the distribution of food (anna dAnam), lighting of lamps at the temples, the samarpaNam of tuLasI for ArAdhanam, the offering of flowers and sandal paste. SAstrAs have also identified the construction of walls and PushkaraNis at the temples as recommended karmAs to engage in.

In the most sacred of lokams, SrI VaikuNTham, there are many millions of walls and gopurams. Similarly, at Srirangam known as BhUloka VaikuNTham, there are many prAkArams/ramparts, walls and gopurams. There is no doubt about the fortunate ones coming to Srirangam and enjoying the beauty of the walls, and gopurams and worshipping Lord Ranganatha reclining on His bed of Adi Seshan. I have no doubt that such blessed people getting overwhelmed with joy by that experience.

At this divya deSam known as BhUloka VaikuNTham celebrated by the AzhvArs and AcAryAs, there are four gopurams that have not been completed. They stand unfinished. One of them known as "rAyar Gopuram is in the south. This is known to all. I have this uncontrollable desire to build this moTTai gopuram up with fifteen

stories and consecrate it. For fulfilling that deep desire, I have taken number of initiatives. After getting the permission of the government, consulting with the elders of this kshetram, I have advanced the kaimkaryam to the stage of erecting scaffolds around the Rayar gopuram and planted the muhUrta stambham. About 50 lakhs of rupees is needed to complete the construction of the gopuram.

You will agree that the gift of one rupee by each of the fifty lakhs of bhaktAs, who are thinking about supporting dAnams and dharma kAryams, will make it very easy to complete this Gopura nirmANa kaimkaryam. There is no doubt about this for the success in achieving the needed funds through the samarpaNams of two rupees each by twenty five lakhs of bhaktAs. Please do not consider this proposal as a light hearted banter. This is an easy route to achieve the assembly of the needed funds. Many righteous people have expressed their keen desire to give lakhs and lakhs of rupees for the gopuram construction. In the front of such mahAns is SrImad Tirukudantai Andavan, who enthusiastically supports this kaimkaryam. Sri R. Ramanuja Iyengar of Bombay (Mumbai) is standing by and has offered to donate as many lakhs as is needed for the building of the southern gopuram.

Advocate Sri N.G. Sri KrishNa Iyengar of Thiruvallikkeni has agreed to cover the cost for building one story of the gopuram. Sri Parasara Iyengar, advocate at the Supreme Court and the son of Thiruvallikkeni Sri Kesava Iyengar have agreed to support the costs for the construction of one story. PerukavAzhntAn Sri Srinivasa Iyengar is ready to support the expenses for the construction of one story of the gopuram. Advocate, Komal Srirama Iyengar has expressed now his keen interest to participate and support this kaimkaryam in a big way. I do not know how many stories he wants to support.

Meanwhile, PeriyavAL of KamakoTi pITham, Sri Chandrasekarendra SarasvatikaL, who is very fond of me from my pUrvASramam days, has taken a keen interest in the Srirangam Gopura kaimkaryam and has indicated his interest in contacting Tiruppati and other devasthAnams to help as much as possible. He has also commanded his sisHyAs to provide generous support. In addition to all these enthusiastic pledges, many righteous ones have promised to send funds at the level of thousand rupees. At this time, the son of one of the SisHyAs from Mumbai has sent a cheque for 5,000 rupees. Many Reddiyars and Mudaliyars have expressed their keen interest in taking part in this kaimkaryam. I am fully supportive of deflecting the funds reserved by the AstikAs for the six hundredth avatAra dinam of Adi

VaN SaThakopa Jeeyar to the gopura nirmAna kaimkaryam at Srirangam.

I am fully hopeful that three floors of gopuram will be built by the time of this PuraTTAsi KeTTai. I invite you to visit Srirangam for the TirukkeTTai nakshatram celebrations and at the same time enjoy the darSana saubhAgyam of the gopuram and become objects of the merciful glances of SrI Ranganathan. Please do not misunderstand my writing (aruL mozhigaL) as one way of raising the needed funds. No one can stop the support given to the gopura kaimkaryam. Such support is made possible by the puNyams accumulated in previous janmams and those puNyams are ready to bear fruits and therefore they can not be stopped. Whatever may be the situation, it is my firm belief that the gopuram will be completely built and ask you all to offer your prayers to BhagavAn to bless this kaimkaryam onward to the stage of completion.

Those who participate in this gopura kaimkaryam with total faith and those who persuade others to take part through their own appeals will be blessed to have the karuNA kaTAKsham of the Lord fall on them and enjoy all pleasures of life and through the AcArya kaTAKsham will complete the anushThAnam of SaraNAgati and enter SrI VaikuNTham at the end of their earthly lives (கொடியணி நெடுமதிள் கோபுரம் குறுகினர் - koDiyaNi neDumatiL gOpuram kuRukinar). At this Supreme Abode of the Lord, they will see the shining flags with the images of PakshirAja (Garudan) on the walls, gopurams and ramparts. They will now enjoy total bliss from the sevA of the Parama Purushan sitting on the simhAsanam/throne of Adi Seshan at the tirumAmAmaNi maNDapam looking like Lord Ranganathan. The engagement in blemishless, eternal kaimkaryams to Paramapada nAthan will let them enjoy the parama purushArtham of moksha Sukham at SrI VaikuNTham.

One distinguished upanyAsakar has written to me that he will raise up to five lakhs of rupees through his pravacanams/upanyAsams. His letter has been published in this issue of SrI nrsimha PriyA along with the acceptance SrImukham from me. I request all AstikAs to attend the scholar's upanyAsams on Kamba Ramayanam and provide help in assembling the funds for completion of the Raya gopura kaimkaryam.

Subhamastu

ADi/July 1979

In this Kali yugam, this SiddhArti year, VaikAci month is special because this human birth has become fulfilled from here on. Do you wish to know why? It is because the work for the completion of construction of the upper portion of the southern gopuram of SrI Ranganayaki sameta SrI Ranganatha has been realized. At the bhUloka VaikuNTham of Srirangam, the southern gopuram construction is the top most puNya kaimkaryam. We are pleasing the sacred mind of SrI Ranganathan through progress with this kaimkaryam.

We can therefore say safely, "अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्" (adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam). Our birth has thus become fruitful and we are gaining the purpose of our janmam/birth.

Please think deeply. From the time of SrImad Adi VaN SaThakopa yatIndra mahA deSikan to the time of HH, the 43rd paTTam, SrI VaN SaThakopa SrI Veeraraghava SaThakopa yatIndra mahA deSikan, the Rajagopuram at Ahobila kshetram remained unfinished. Now, it has been completed with four tiers. SrI Lakshmi Nrusimhan is very pleased with the completion of this kaimkaryam. He has cast His merciful glances on all those involved with the construction of that gopuram and has blessed them to enjoy all the bhogams.

Similarly, the southern gopuram at Srirangam gained the nick name of "moTTai gopuram" since it was left uncompleted. The upper portion of the gopuram was closed and there was no construction above that first tier. Lord Ranganatha thought about the moTTai gopuram that stayed unfinished for a period over thousand years and willed that the time has come now for the completion of the moTTai gopuram. He ordered me to start the upward construction above the first tier on the sixth day of the VaikAci month with all the AstikAs. In response to the Lord's niyamanam, all temple authorities, bhaktAs belonging to all sampradhAyams and all matams joined together and celebrated the reconstruction commencement utsavam on the sixth day of VaikAci.

SrI Ranganathan remembered the bhaktAs linked enthusiastically to the gopura kaimkaryam through their mind, speech and body and showered all of them with His anugraham and included others, who would join this kaimkaryam later. If we are interested to know as to who are those that will gain more puNyam are the ones, who would

have the links to the completion of this noble kaimkaryam. The matters described here are all true.

You won't rest quiet until you know how I arrived at this conclusion. I will share the information with you all. Please listen and enjoy and get interested in the ongoing gopura kaimkaryam. There was no end to the worries I had during the beginning of the month of VaikAci. Those bundle of worries shrunk little by little and I am free today from them. The reason for the worries arising from the huge sum estimated for the completion of the entire kaimkaryam. The sum suggested was fifty two lakhs of rupees and it was a huge amount. The worries were about how to assemble this much funds, How would the gopura kaimkaryam reach its pUrti without having that much funds on hand? It did not appear hopeful to raise such a large sum of money. The worries centered around these three items.

At this time, it appeared like that Lord Ranganathan did an upadeSam to me as updates for me. His update was, "Do you recognize that there are many rivers in this BhU maNDalam. You have seen the huge flood in them. Did all of those flood waters come down in one swoop? You know that big flood originated from drop by drop of water in the rain-laden clouds. Similar to these clouds, there are millions of righteous ones in this world. This may not be known to you. I do however know them all. Just as I commanded the clouds to pour down the rain, I am going to enter in to the minds of the righteous ones and command them to the outpouring of the wealth necessary for the building of My Southern Rajagopuram at Srirangam. Please therefore do not worry even if you might need millions of rupees for reaching pUrti of the kaimkaryam. After listening to this assurances given by the Lord, all my worries flew away.

There is no limit to my joy now. I wrote in the previous aruL mozhigaL that many mahAns agreed to support the kaimkaryam in response to the command of the Lord. I have not written personally to any one for support until this day. AstikAs learnt about this kaimkaryam from daily News papers and send their samarpaNams by cheque, Money orders. Some sent amounts much beyond their capabilities as commanded by the Lord. Mumbai (Chembur) Sri Sampath sent five thousand rupees. From Tiruppati, Bhudheri ArAvamudhan sent five thousand rupees. Salem Sri S. Vijayam sent four thousand rupees and through his persuasion, Salem Sri K.V. Radhakrishnan Chettiyar sent two thousand five hundred rupees. Like this every day, AstikAs are sending at the level of 1,000, 100, 50 , 20, 10, 5, one rupee as well as 50 PaisA. They do not wait for all the 52 lakhs of righteous ones to join in the

kaimkaryam. When I see this level of enthusiasm of the AstikAs, I get very encouraged. We have not printed all the receipt books . When they arrive, the receipts will be sent to every one of the supporters. When one looks at the progress in the assembly of funds, Sri Ranganathan's krupA is clearly evident.

There is no one on this earth who is lower than me. It is clear. It is not obvious to me why the Lord used me as a vyAjam (pretext) to perform the gopura kaimkaryam. Perhaps, He chose me because I am His son and decided to use me to complete the kaimkaryam that was forgotten as it were for centuries.

You may ask as why I am the chosen son of the Lord. I will respond with the answer that my father is SrI Ranganathan and my mother is Smt. Ranganayaki. My mother was married to my father at the age of four. My father was thirteen at that time and was a Vedavit. I am the first of his five sons. Since I am the son of SrI Ranganathan and Smt. Ranganayaki, the Lord of Srirangam decided to consider me as His son and wished to fulfill His desire to get the gopura kaimkaryam completed by me and has asked others to assist me. This thought makes me very happy.

Further,

दाता न दापयति दापयिता न दत्ते

यो दानदापनपरो मधुरं न वक्ति।

dAtA na dApayati, dApayitA na datte,

yo dAnadApanaparo madhuraM na vakti |

This Slokam states there are many in this world, who perform dharmic kAryams. Some give yatA sakti and send the yAcakar away with an anjali. If we ask them to recommend others to participate through vAk sahAyam, they will decline and state that they are not used to ask others. Some others will not even give a PaisA. Few others will not give but will persuade others to take part. If we ask them as why they do not take part, they will respond with the statement to consider half of what he helped to collect should be identified as his own contribution. There will however be a select few, who not only gives but also recommends others and realizes additional participation. We should falsify the proverb that there is only one among many who will give and succeed in persuading others to take part as well. In the

case of the Gopura nirmANa kaimkaryam, all should participate and request dear family members and friends to take part and be the objects of Lord Ranganathan's mercy laden glances.

Subhamastu

AvaNi/August 1979

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

यद्गोपुरस्य संपूर्तिं कर्तुमिच्छामि रङ्गिणः ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

yadgopurasya sampUrtim kartumicchAmi rangiNaH ||

Deeply immersed only in thoughts about the Rajagopura kaimkaryam, I am not able to write about any other subject under the category of AruL MozhigaL. The scaffolds have been built now around the four sides of the rAyagopuram aka Rajagopuram. Before constructing the first story, its floor has to be leveled and the uneven surface have to be leveled out. The officers have determined that it will cost nine lakhs of rupees to accomplish this task. The needed material like gravel and cement are being purchased now.

The pipes have been laid out to pump up the water from ground level. Each pipe costs about six thousand rupees. The construction of the scaffolds needed ninety thousand rupees. A lift costing twenty five thousand rupees has been purchased for lifting construction material up and down to various floors.

The joy is increasing as funds are being spent to purchase material for the gopuram construction. The reason for this increased joy is the unfailing arrival of support funds every day at the level of 5,000, 4,000, 2,500, 2,000, 1,000, 500 rupees by cheques and Money orders. Our joy is enhanced due to Lord Ranganathan's anugraham in the flow of funds so that the ongoing work is not interrupted.

Further, the vidvAns like Thirukkallam SvAmi and PerukkAranai SvAmi interested in the kaimkaryam have receipt books now to acknowledge the offerings. It appears that each of them will collect more than one

lakhs of rupees from their networks of BhAgavatAs. Additional well wishers are also active in assembling additional funds.

Salem, SrimAn S. Vijayaraghavacharya SvAmi himself has sent in 20,000 rupees on behalf of his family and friends. The actual construction work starts from the first day of AvaNi month. The AstikAs at Srirangam are very much looking forward to the start of the construction with joy.

One important matter - Even if we live the Veda prAyam of one hundred years and keep looking at the beauty of the growing pile of earned money every day, we know that we can not take even one paisa with us, when we leave this body. The diamond jewelry worn by men and women ear ornaments are removed before the flames take over the bodies. The costly saris and dhotis are removed at home already.

Even if one has millions of money, it happens that the fight between the brothers ends up in borrowing money even for the first day expenses related to the cremation. We see these happenings all around. At times when we are awake or sleeping, the thieves steal our property cleverly. Fire at times burns down the bundles of paper money. Whatever the situation may be, the money earned by us is of no use to us after our final moments.

Therefore, we conclude that there is only one way to take our earned money with us. That path familiar to you all is to convert the earned wealth into other "materials" and take it along in readily transportable form. What are these "other materials"? These are the puNyams accumulated through many kinds of kaimkaryams approved by the SAstrAs. Those accumulated fortunes in the form of bundles of puNyams can be taken with us at the time of leaving this body. Wherever the jeevan travels to places such as Brahma lokam or Indra lokam or Siva lokam, the jeevan can experience the sukham there in direct proportion to their magnitudes and expend them.

If we use the earned money here for the sole purpose of growing Bhagavad preeti through the performance of many dharma kAryams, the puNyams accumulated there from leads to the anushThAnam of prapatti/bharanyAsam with its six angams through one's AcArya or directly (svanishTha) and prepares the way for the jeevan to travel to SrI VaikuNTham. The transformation of the worldly wealth in to easily transportable puNyams after the body falls down takes us to appropriate lokams like svargam and lets the jeevan enjoy

the bhogams that are proportionate to the amount of puNyams brought along with them. All of the matters referred to so far are succinctly summed up in the following Slokam:

अर्थाः गृहे निवर्तन्ते श्मशाने मित्रबान्दवाः।

सुकृतं दुष्कृतं चैव गच्छन्तमनुगच्छति ॥

arthAH grhe nivartante

SmaSAne mitrabAndavAH |

sukrtam dushkrtam

ca eva jacchantam anugacchati ||

If one uses his hard earned money for kAryams that are not approved by the SAstrAs, that jeevan accumulates bundles of sins instead of puNyams. The puNyams and pApams alone accompany a departing jeevan. If the jeevan does not accumulate puNyams during his earthly journey while being in an embodied form and collects money without eating, that money does not come with the jeevan during the final journey. It stays in his house. The friends and the relatives will accompany the corpse up to the cremation ground and return home thereafter. No one can come along with that departing jeevan. Therefore, SAstra declares that we should convert the accumulated puNyams in readily transportable form for the final journey.

Further, even if we keep watching vigilantly, the earned wealth gets away leaving us in tears. Agni BhagavAn destroys relentlessly. The government takes it away through taxes. The unscrupulous sons spend it all. The diseases and their treatments destroy huge sums of money. Further, we also see the incompetent sons not skilled in business management start new companies and destroy the family wealth assembled assiduously by the previous generations and struggle to pay the accumulated debts arising from the failed businesses.

Therefore, the money earned here should be useful here and there as well. dharma will stand up and protect. Be they poor or rich, they can engage in small or big kaimkaryams yathA sakti. If they can not engage directly, they can at least help those, who are performing such kaimkaryams. The noble ones who are familiar with dharma SAstrAs take part joyously in the ongoing Gopura nirmANa kaimkaryams at

Srirangam and participate directly or indirectly and send their samarpaNams. Others are thinking about the ways in which they can help and how much to pledge. You may ask me about how I know these things. It is because, Lord Ranganathan brings these matters before my mind periodically.

One amusing thing - An elderly gentleman came from Mysore. I thought he was going to ask for money to buy his return ticket to his home. I asked him as to when he is returning home. He did not respond to me. Tears were falling from his eyes. I told him not to worry and promised to give him his train fare. Now the elderly man responded and said that he has the return fare and continued shedding tears. I asked him what else was troubling him. He said that he learned from Sri Nrusimha PriyA about the ongoing gopura kaimkaryam and his inability to take part in it. The Lord reminded me of one way to take part and said - "You have one daughter. Your son in law is earning. He is taking care of your the boarding and lodging. Please spend what you can from the amount of 3,000 rupees that you have saved for yourself. I followed the niyamanam of the Lord and took some money out of my emergency savings as a loan and came here. I am ashamed to give so little. The elderly man presented his samarpaNam hidden under the flowers that he had brought in front of all the others.

After hearing all these, I was moved and felt sad. I had number of thoughts racing in my mind. I asked the visitor whether the Lord commanded him to pursue this route and also asked him as to how much he wanted to offer as samarpaNam. He replied that it is just a very little amount (kincit). It was ten hundred rupees notes and one rupee note adding up to a samarpaNam of 1,001 Rupees. I was stunned for a period of five minutes. I asked the sannidhi staff to give a receipt for rupees one thousand and one. The elderly man did not want to take a receipt and wanted to remain anonymous. I pressed him to take the receipt. The visitor took it and placed it over his head with respect.

Lord acts in such ways to have His wish related to the construction of His gopuram completed. He enters in to the mind of righteous ones and helps them with ways to take an active part. Please do not think that all these writings are for accumulating money. Even if I do not write, the righteous ones will not stop sending in their samarpaNams. One old lady, who could hardly walk arrived at the ASramam. She was hesitant to express what was on her mind. She said that she wanted to take part in the kaimkaryam. I said that I will accept whatever she

offers. She asked me as alms (yAcakam) for five rupees since she had no money. I gave the five rupees to her. She accepted this money and then said that she would like that sum to be linked to the kaimkaryam. I was overwhelmed with what had happened. The glory of the old lady taking part in the Lord's kaimkaryam through yAcakam moved me tremendously.

I estimate that the gopura kaimkaryam will be completed with in an year. I pray to Lord Ranganathan to get this grand consecration utsavam (samprokshaNam) and make His devotees very happy.

Subhamastu

PuraTTAci/September 1979

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

यद्गोपुरस्य संपूर्तिं कर्तुमिच्छामि रङ्गिणः ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

yadgopurasya sampUrtim kartumicchAmi rangiNaH ||

There is one matter that all should be aware of. Sriranga kshetram is the most exalted among the kshetrams. On the southern side at Srirangam, is a big unfinished gopuram known as Rayargopuram. This gopuram is built entirely of granite. It is closed at the top at a height of 46 feet.

This incomplete gopuram is also known as "moTTai gopuram" or "Rayagopuram". The top of the incomplete/moTTai gopuram is uneven with bumps and pot holes (uneven surface). Its length from east to west is 165 feet. From south to north, it is 96 feet width. The granite foundation on all the four sides of this incomplete rectangular structure is 14 feet deep. Only after the reinforcement of this foundation, the first story can be built on top of it. The scaffolds have been constructed for this purpose. The lift is ready for transport of material up and down as construction proceeds. The availability of the steady supply of water has been taken care of. After leveling out uneven surfaces with bumps and pot holes in the roof of the incomplete structure, the first of the fifteen stories is going to be built. I think the work on the first story will be completed by aippaci fifteenth.

All the 15 stories will be built with bricks, cement and lime. All the tall gopurams of Tamil Nadu have been built with bricks above the entrance/portal level. On top of the 46 feet high granite base, the southern gopuram will rise to an elevation of 185 feet housing 15 stories with red bricks, cement and lime as per the structural engineers. The current granite foundation can support only the load of the planned structure with 15 stories. It is my hope that you all will respond affirmatively to this plan.

I am relying solely and firmly on SrI Ranganathan for the anticipated expenses for this gopura kaimkaryam. Those whose mind He enters and commands to support joyously join and provide the funds. When the Lord decides that the money of some should not be associated with His gopura kaimkaryam, He makes them loose interest in joining this noble kaimkaryam.

At the time of my writing this aruL mozhigaL, a check for Rupees 1,001 from SrimAn R. Gopalaswamy Iyengar arrived. Many cheques were received for the value of 5,000 Rupees from SrimAn Thirukkallam NarasimharaghavachAr SvAmi. Through Money Orders, received small amount totaling 250 Rupees. Thus through the anugraham of Lord Ranganatha, 6,250 Rupees have been assembled. This has made me very happy.

My big joy is that the construction tasks are proceeding without interruptions. I have total trust at the Lord's sacred feet alone to complete the full kaimkaryam without any obstruction (vignam).

The income-expenditure situation can be comfortably managed if those who have pledged and those who are thinking about supporting can send their samarpaNams quickly.

All the others should think about this matter. The way to reflect on this matter should be along these lines: Is there any difference between the one who makes a samarpaNam and the one who elects not to? Is the supporter a fool and the one who does not take part a clever One? No, this is not correct to think like that. The appropriate way to assess is that the Lord has blessed one with wealth to spend it on auspicious kaimkaryams approved by the SAstrAs. Performance of dAnam and dharmam yathA Sakti is the correct route. "அறம் செய விரும்பு" (desire to do dAnam) said the old lady (AuvaiyAr). If there are fruits to be gained by mere desire to engage in dharmam and dAnam, please

consider the huge saubhAgyams to be gained by the execution of such wishes in to reality.

One asks: SAstrAs say that one who has performed SaraNAgati should not seek any phalan other than moksham during the rest of his life. In this context, how can one reconcile the gaining any phalans other than moksham arising from the gopura kaimkaryam?

For such questioners, the answer should be on the following lines: For gaining what phalan does one protect his parents during the post-prapatti period? For what purpose does one take care of his family after prapatti? After bharanyAsam, how does one explain the desire for union with his wedded wife (Patni sambandham) instead of moksha sukham? After mokshArtha SaraNAgati, how does one account for the desire for accumulating wealth? How does one justify the purpose of growth in personal wealth? One can ask the reason for the men or women adorning jewelry or gold laced clothes after the anushThAnam of prapatti? How does one rationalize the acts of consuming the nourishing foods like milk, ghee, curds after SaraNagati? What phalans do they anticipate to gain? For the benefit of the prapannan who asks such questions, one can succinctly state that in the utara krutyam (post-prapatti) stage, phalan can only arise from the performance of puNya kAryams. They will understand then.

Is it appropriate to seek such answers for clarification? The proper answer is that all auspicious activities should be recognized and identified to grow the pleasure of the Lord (bhagavad preeti). When the goal is to enhance the joy of sarveSvaran, then there would be no conflict in the performance of kaimkaryams solely for the purpose of pleasing Him. There will be no discord, when one prefaces the Bhagavad kaimkaryams with the words, "bhagavad prItiyartham". The SaraNAgatan would not encounter any Virodam with the performance of SAstra approved kaimkaryams. Yes, it is important to answer the above questions and pay individual attention. I will address them on another occasion.

Lord of Srirangam responded to my doubts and resolved the conflicts and doubts in my mind and thereby generated joy. I felt comfortable over the thought that many righteous people would join the gopura kaimkaryam with joy and support it to their utmost. It appeared then to me that for some reasons, their cooperation might diminish. Before any fear can take hold, Sri Ranganathan said in such a way that touched my mind: "Do not fear! If such people hesitate and back off, I will ensure that thousands of righteous ones come forward and

support this kaimkaryam for Me. He also demonstrated through specific acts, the proof for His sankalpam. My enthusiasm grew more. All of You reading these aruL mozhigaLs in Sri Nrusimha PriyA should support this gopura kaimkaryam sincerely and should also explain these matters to a group of at least ten people and ask them to take part. They should follow the directives of Andal, "ஐயமும் பிச்சையும் ஆந்தனையும் கை காட்டி" (aiyyamum picaiyum Antanaiyum kATTI), and become the objects of Her mercy. If all of you display sustained interest, we can experience the joy of offering the praNAMams to the top (Sikaram) on the gopuram.

I am very happy to know that SrImad Thirukkudantai Andavan has spoken with great joy to Bangalore SisHyAs about supporting the Gopura kaimkaryam.

Subhamastu

aippaci/October 1979

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

यद्गोपुरस्य संपूर्तिं कर्तुमिच्छामि रङ्गिणः ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

yadgopurasya sampUrtim kartumicchAmi rangiNaH ||

लोकास्समस्तास्सुखिनो भवन्तु

lokaAs-samastAs-sukhino bhavantu

In this world, the people who perform dharma kAryams work all of their days for the total well being and happiness of the others and pray for a good life for them free of violence to others and thus earn limitless puNyams. As a result of those accumulated puNyams, they reach auspicious lokams and enjoy themselves. We should only feel happy over them instead of ever feeling sorry for their absence amidst us. The sorrow over their loss will arise often. There is no doubt about our elders experiencing the bliss through their life at Sri VaikuNTham through the power of their AcArya KaTAksham. When indeed should we miss their presence amidst us? We miss those occasions when they

counseled and corrected us and the multitude of times in which they prayed to BhagavAn for our kshemam. Therefore, we should not sorrow over these happy souls performing nitya Kaimkaryam at SrI VaikuNTham.

We did not begin this gopura Kaimkaryam with the thought of joining the assembly of those fortunate ones, who engaged in kaimkaryams at Srirangam and received Lord Ranganathan's karuNA kaTAKshams. Even when we reflected for a long time on the motive for us engaging in the Gopura kaimkaryam, we could not find an answer. Lord Ranganathan might know!

I do not have the fear about completing this gigantic kaimkaryam like this one that have been done before by the wealthy kings. What is there to fear? Am I going to carry the bricks ? Am I going to construct the buildings like a stone mason? No.

The blessed laborers toil joyously under the direction of those, who have accumulated a lot of puNyams. When we see the laborers carrying out their tasks under the hot sun, we feel sad. They get good wages and we are happy. Bundles of puNyam accumulate for them without their awareness. I am filled with joy over this thought. I can not describe adequately the superiority of the laborers toiling for Lord Ranganatha over the many who are pursuing meaningless activities and spend crores of rupees chasing those materialistic pursuits. If we write up all these activities and the puNyams accumulated from those kaimkaryams, the boon-granting devatAs alone can quantify them and make a comparative evaluation between those who do bhagavad kaimkaryams and the others who stay away from such puNyam granting kAryams. The puNyasAlis get the most enjoyable phalans here and in the other world. Those who pursue worthless activities end up in the whirlpool of samsAram and are born again and again. With the help of SAstrAs, one can understand the proportionate rewards. Those who accumulate puNyams get most enjoyable boons and the others get the opposite kind.

Some say that those, who make samarpaNams to the Gopura kaimkaryam, do it to please me. What I say to these critics is this: Your opinions are not correct. It is SrI Ranganathan, who enters the minds of such devotees and commands them to participate.

Listen to this: There was a sAttAta Mudaliyar, who presented 25,000 Rupees for the Gopura kaimkaryam and mentioned that it was his first installment. Do you think that this BhAgavatar made the samarpaNam

to please me? No, he offered it to the Lord through me. Please think about it.

Many heads of maThams have taken a lot of interest in the gopura kaimkaryam. They do it to please the Lord and not to make me happy.

From Kolar, a mAdhva lady sent 1,000 Rupees through her son. For whom did she make this samarpaNam?

A precious gems merchant sent 500 Rupees through his assistant. What is the relationship between this merchant and myself? None.

A merchant dealing with building materials contributed a lorry full of gravels to go with the cement and lime. He gave it away free.

Three fourth of the participants have made the samarpaNams to please Lord Ranganatha and possibly myself. If there are any participants who donated to please me, they should add: "SrIranganathaH priyatAm" to their samarpaNams. They should make the samarpaNam exclusively for the pleasure of the Lord.

Some people from Germany informed that they wish to visit and to see the on going Gopuram construction. I have no worry about funds now. Some how, the samarpaNams keep coming. My physical strength is coming back due to Lord Ranganathan's anugraham. The attitudes of the Temple adhikAris and government officials continues to be good. There are positive changes in these areas. I am confident that you will all pray to Lord Ranganatha for kaimkarya pUrTi soon.

Subhamastu!

kArtigai/November 1979

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

यद्गोपुरस्य संपूर्तिं कर्तुमिच्छामि रङ्गिणः ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

yadgopurasya sampUrTim kartumicchAmi rangiNaH ||

At Srirangam, the exposed portions on the top of the moTTai gopuram have been covered now with high quality granite. All the four sides of

the open portal have also been covered with gravel and concrete up to a height of 18 feet. All around the 18 feet, the entire area will be reinforced with steel rods and covered. That itself would be like an individual floor that would be huge in size. After this construction, the first floor of the new superstructure will take shape. This phase of the work is expected to be completed by the month of Thai.

SrImad Tirukudantai Andavan has decided to support the construction of the second floor. This will conclude happily. All should pray to Bhagavan for the quick completion of the rest of the floors to lead us up to the celebration of the samprokshaNam. The receipts for Rs. 25, 10, 5, 4, 2 one and half, one rupees as well as for 1,000 rupees have been issued. There are 100 receipts in each of these books. Devotees have donated 1,75,000 rupees thus far through small donations. All this has been used for gopura kaimkaryam related expenses.

Fifty receipts valued at 50 rupees each have also been given. The acknowledgement of samarpaNams of Rupees 100 and 50 has been completed. Lord Ranganathan has entered the minds of righteous ones (dharmishTars) and encourages them to support this major Kaimkaryam. This way, there is no difficulty with the assembly of needed funds. The enthusiasm of the Commissioner is increasing.

Even children gave 2 or 5 rupees and pressed the receipts to their eyes. It is amusing to see their devotion. SrI Ranganathan has commanded me to begin this noble Kaimkaryam and is enjoying the scene sportingly. All the others are in an amused mood waiting for the completion of this kaimkaryam. DevatAs are in an anticipatory mood and are holding flower baskets to shower the flowers on the samprokshaNam day. All of us should shower gold for the kaimkaryam. You should not worry as to where you are going to find the samarpaNam funds. If you pray to SrI Ranganayaki, She is ready to bless you with limitless funds. Please do not worry.

The highest among the dharmams is the completion of the building of the Gopuram for the Lord of Srirangam. The one born as a human being should know about his svaroopam (intrinsic nature). They should know about the intrinsic nature of Brahma, Rudran and Indran et al. They should know how the other devatAs attained their exalted status and who blessed them to gain their status. They should know about the glories of that Supreme One behind all these leelAs. They should know where they acquire pApams and puNyams respectively. They should be conversant as to which puNyam is the loftiest of them all yielding the highest returns. They should know precisely which of

these acquired puNyams will land them at SrI VaikuNTham to be near the Lord and enjoy the sukhams equivalent to that enjoyed by their Lord. These matters are important to know about.

Many of these significant matters are not easy to comprehend with our own reflections. We have to understand them with the help of the SAstrAs. We can not read up on the SAstrAs and learn these subtle points. We should learn them through the anugraham of a sadAcArya, who himself has learnt them from competent scholars.

We may not be able to distinguish between the sins and puNyams. Our own studies and reflections might make us think that some puNyams look like pApams. Therefore, studies under Vedic and dharma SAstra scholars alone can teach how to differentiate between them. The upadeSams from the sadAcAryAs belonging to noble AcArya paramparA are key to our clear understanding of these important matters. We recognize from such studies that there are simple puNyams and lofty puNyams. One way to acquire this j~nAnam is to know about the power of different yAgAs and Yaj~nAs. The uttama dharmam is to perform these yAgAs and not to desire the fruits of such efforts and place the fruits of such karmAs at the sacred feet of the Lord and declare such an arpaNam is to please the Lord. While performing these yAgAs, we come across instructions to make the offerings to the different devatAs such as Yama, VaruNa, vAyu and others. When we conduct these yAgAs aimed at the individual devatAs, we should remember the Supreme Lord inside them and direct our offerings to Him alone. We should make the sankalpam that the specific yAgA is being aimed at the antaryAmi Brahman. SAstrAs declare that such offerings aimed at the Lord inside the different devatAs is extremely pleased by such samarpaNams and grows His preeti for us. Such offerings transform in to the category of the mahA puNyams. Many conduct dhAnam of cows with the Bhagavat preeti in mind. Some light lamps at the temple having the same intent. Some circumambulate. All of these kaimkaryams are solely aimed at cultivating Bhagavad preeti. If so, you may ask whether the Lord would grant them moksham? The answer is, the Lord will definitely grant them moksham.

If that were to be so, why should we perform SaraNagati? "prapanna danyeshAm na diSati mukundo nijapadam" thus declares SvAmi DeSikan. nija padam is recognized as His Supreme Abode of Sri VaikuNTham. You may ask: If He gives moksham for sAmAnyA puNyams, how can we reconcile it with SvAmi DeSikan's statement about moksha Sukham is reserved only for the SaraNagatans?

This question is an appropriate question. I will respond. Please listen. Conductance of yAgAs and yaj~nAs are aimed at gaining specific fruits. They yield short stays to enjoy the bhogams available at svarga lokam and others. These bhogams will cease after a short period of time. When one offers the samarpaNam with the antaryAmi Brahman inside the devatAs, then one reaps endless phalans. This is approved by the SAstrAs.

How does it happen? When one does yAgAs and offers the havis with the indweller of the devatAs, BhagavAn stops the growth of tamo and rajo guNams and lets the sattva guNam grow. As a result, the desire for insignificant phalans is arrested and the desire for blemishless and eternal joy linked to moksham increases. The wish to perform mokshArtha SaraNAgati grows by leaps and bounds. Thereafter, the mumukshu (the one who desires moksham) performs SaraNAgati through AcArya anugraham. The pleased BhagavAn grants the Jeevan moksham. Think about it! How did the buddhi reach the stage of performing SaraNAgati for gaining moksham? It came from performing yaj~nams with the sAtvika tyAgam of "svasmai svaprItaye svayameva kArayati". The conductance of sadkAryams yields moksham when they are done for the Lord's pleasure and not for alpa phalans. Lord's preeti yields moksham.

Therefore, one gains lasting phalan when one has other phalans in mind while helping with the Gopura kaimkaryam. When one supports it without seeking other phalans and prefaces his samarpaNam with the invocation of Lord Acyutan's preeti (acyutaH priyatAm), then the Lord grants him moksham and makes the kartA (doer) happy. Please make use of this auspicious opportunity. You will receive the most auspicious results.

Subhamastu

thai/January 1980

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

यद्गोपुरस्य संपूर्तिं संपूर्त्यै यत्नवान् रङ्गिणोऽहम्॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

yadgopurasya sampUrtyai yatnavAn rangiNohyam ||

One surprising vishayam - As I started to compose this aruL mozhi, the thought occurred in my mind that I should write about how far we have come along with respect to Gopuram building tasks. I started writing. At that moment, the SrI kAryam SvAmi of Kanchi SrI KamakoTi pIThAdhipati, SrImAn Krishnamoorthy Iyer arrived with a smile on his face. I welcomed him. He looked at me and asked "SvAmi seems to be worried. What is the matter?". I responded, "the Raya gopuram should be completed soon. Funds have not come speedily from those who have pledged. He mentioned immediately that our Kanchi KamakoTi SvAmigaL has asked me to make a samarpaNam of a check (cheque) for one lakh Rupees as samarpaNam and presented that check and he presented that check. I looked at SrI kAryam SvAmi with joy and said , "I am very happy. With this support of one lakhs of Rupees, we can complete the foundation on the roof of the mottai gopuram and proceed thereafter with the construction of the first floor (first nilai)".

I have deposited four lakhs of rupees for that task. With those funds, the construction first story will be completed. Arrangements have been made to receive fifteen lakhs of Rupees from number of locations. I am very happy that the foundation on the roof of the moTTai gopuram to support the upper stories could be completed. This makes me very happy. The upper foundation for the gopuram can be constructed now and I consider that all the work completed so far has been by SrI Kanchi KamakoTi pIThAdhipati. SrI kAryam SvAmi and SrI ChilUr Sundararajan, who accompanied him commented that SrI Kanchi pIThAdhipati thought that way too and more funds will be arriving from them to complete the construction of the entire first story. Those who were listening to this conversation praised highly the generosity of the Kanchi AcAryA.

I wish to state some thing. It is not my intention to collect any money beyond what is needed for the gopura kaimkaryam. If AstikAs interested to delay their transmittal of funds, I can not assure them about the linking of their samarpaNams in the kaimkaryam. Those who respond quickly will be sure of acquiring the gopura kaimkaryam related puNyam. SrI KamakoTi pIThAdhipati has drawn our attention to the fact that the gopura kaimkaryam is superior to all other divine kaimkaryams in one of His SrImukhams. That SrImukham is published in this issue of SrI Nrusimha PriyA. I hope that you will enjoy reading this SrImukham. Through KamakoTi AcArya's dissemination of this information and His contacts with the governments, from what we have learnt, he hopes to raise lakhs and lakhs of rupees for

constructing as many stories of the gopuram at Srirangam as possible. During the fourth or the fifth day of the upcoming thai month, plans are to invite the experts in gopuram construction to plan the building of the first story on top of the mottai gopuram. Advance has been given for the purchase of ten lakhs red bricks. The Temple officials have placed an order for the purchase of 5,000 bags of cement at control prices.

As I was writing this article, advocate Parthasarathy Iyengar from Devakottai, a great Astikar, visited and pledged with joy to raise at least 1,50,000 rupees. This action on the advocate's part attests to what I said about the value of pledging earlier to gain puNyam.

In the afternoon, around 3:00 pm, I took the delegation from Kanchi KamakoTi pITHam to show what has been constructed so far. The foundations on the east and the north side of the gopuram have been completed. The western side is nearing completion. After that, we have to take care of sections on the southern side. The water is being pumped up to the sites through pipes. The machine for mixing gravel is functioning. The work of construction is being supervised by volunteers coming to the temple and SrI MaTham. The bricks are being briskly lifted up by the machine. The sand is also brought up to action sites. One visitor gave 101 rupees. Two days ago, some one took photos of the ongoing work. They showed it to me. I looked at them. MadurAntakam Sri VeeraraghavachAyar SvAmi was also in those photos. He had come two days ago to look at the ongoing construction work. He spent two hours with me then. The photo was taken at that time.

The SrI kAryam of SrI KamakoTi MaTham, the agent from Thiruvanaikkaval Sankara MaTham and other places shared my briefings on construction. Suddenly I remembered the two steps placed on the gopuram steps. I wanted to show that to the visitors. I was wonder struck at the laborers working so briskly. I thought about the magnitude of the puNyam that they were accumulating through their kaimkaryams. One small framed girl was working so intensively. She was faster than the big men laborers. I wondered what might be the reason for her briskness. Then, I realized it is the Lord's kaimkaryam that propels her. The building of the steps for climbing to get a good view was completed. I began to climb down happily. The distinguished visitors from KamakoTi MaTham took leave and departed. Tomorrow is VaikuNTha ekAdaSI. There was a throng of devotees going to the sannidhis inside. The visitors look at the ongoing work and the scaffolds and were having anjali mudra on their hands as

if they were praying to Sri Ranganathan. I returned to the ASramam thinking that the work will continue tomorrow like today. At the ASramam, there were many waiting to give their samarpaNams. Work has to continue.

Please do not worry about how the needed funds are going to arrive. One can take from the family savings managed by our elders. One can perform this kaimkaryam from that dharmam. One can also use the hard earned money from one's work. One can also borrow money and return it later to take part in the kaimkaryam like they do for conducting a marriage or Subha kAryam in the family. You can also raise money through appeals and through friendly persuasion of dharmishTars. One can share this way the puNyam of the donor. Whichever way you take part in this Bhagavad kaimkaryam, you can feel fulfilled for having born as a human being. One should never do any kaimkaryam with ego.

Those who have performed SaraNAGati should not engage in this kaimkaryam believing that their participation will help their SaraNAGati. Even an iota of such thought should not be associated while doing this kaimkaryam. One should utter "bhagavad prItYartham" and have that sAtvika tyAgam always in mind. If one does like that, even some sins acquired consciously will be destroyed and the engagement in this kaimkaryam will be like performing a prAyaScittam (an act of repentance). Those kinds of pApams will be destroyed.

Those who have performed SaraNAGati should not ever have the phalans arising from performance of these dharma kAryams in mind, while engaging in such karmAs. Therefore, one and all should keep the preeti of SrI Ranganatha in mind, while doing these Gopura kaimkaryams.

Subhamastu

Maci/February 1980

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

यद्रङ्गिगोपुरस्याद्य संपूर्तिं प्रार्थयाम्यहम्॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

yadrangigopurasyAdya sampUrtim prAryAmyaham ||

I will explain the deeper meanings of this Slokam now.

adya me saphalam janma - My birth has borne auspicious phalans (fruits) now.

When I sought the sacred feet of HH, the 41st paTTam SrImad Azhagiyasingar, SrI LakshmiInrsimha SaThakopa yatIndra mahA deSikan as a SaraNAgatan, my life became fulfilled at that moment. Is it not the gaining of moksham, the supreme fruit of the birth in the samsAra maNDalam? You may ask whether the gaining of moksham is the only phalan linked to one's birth here. Yes, it is the phalan. This supreme phalan is the principal one and stays as the loftiest phalan. All the other sukham, we enjoy are insignificant ones. They do not last. They will be mixed with difficulties. We know this from our own experiences; the ones we enjoy at svargam are also trivial. They will also decay. If we understand this truism, there will then be none who would not wish to reach SrI VaikuNTham. There are no doubts about this matter.

Let us reflect further on this truth. All what we see with our eyes such as animals, dogs, foxes, snakes, scorpions and others are sentient beings. Is there any differences between the above sentient/ jeevAtmAs? This has to be understood first. With the study of the SAstrAs under the sadAcAryan's guidance, we recognize that all the jeevAtmAs are of the same svabhAvam.

If you want to know further, please ask and I will describe. There are no objects that are smaller than the jeevans. They are that small. The jeevans do not experience death or destruction. They are like BhagavAn, who is eternal and existing always with them. The jeevans will not be part of the created vastus. They will not join with the perishable objects. According to their own unique set of pApams and puNyams that accompany them, they are born with the body of a human being or an animal or bird or take on the bodies of the devAs. The differentiation as a man or a woman is restricted to the physical body alone. The jeevans inside are not different from one another. An insect, worm or mosquito does not show any difference in the indwelling jeevan. Once again, it is in the body that the distinction between man and woman is discerned. Lord Sri Krishna has explained these doctrines to Arjuna very well in gItopanishad.

Let us reflect further on this subject. There are no differences among the jeevans dwelling inside the physical bodies. At the body level

alone, be it human body or those as animals, are the differences as males and females or as dogs and foxes. How did these differences come to be with the embodied jeevans? The answer given by the SAstrAs is that they arise from the pApams and puNyams acquired by the jeevans during their embodied states. After arriving at this level of j~nĀnam, we have to think more deeply.

We are now born as human beings. AtmA has no death and is not destroyed ever. It is only the body that we call ours, the bodies associated with the Jeevans that undergo death. Have all of us understood this truism? We can differentiate at the body level alone and can not say that the bodies unlike the jeevans live forever. The jeevan that leaves the body certainly experiences birth and another janmam.

The next janmam according to the SAstrAs will depend on the puNyams and pApams accumulated in this birth. If the jeevan has accumulated huge puNyams, the jeevan will be born as a human being. If the jeevan has accumulated a lot of sins in this birth, then he will be born as an animal/jantu with the body of a dog, pig, fox or donkey according to the SAstrAs. After learning this much, we have to focus further on an important matter (viz.,) "what type of birth will we experience next? Will the jeevan take the body of a human or as an animal ? How do we go about seeking answer to this question. We can take a piece of paper and list as far as we can remember, all the puNyams that we have accumulated up to now. We should list all the pApams in a similar manner. At the end of this exercise, we can tally up the items and find that the list of puNyams is very much smaller than the enlisted pApams. We will also find that compiling this list of sins would not be completed even after many days of work.

We will find that that we have committed many kinds of pApams and have tried to cheat even BhagavAn as we cheated the human beings. We will come across many distasteful things that we have done . We will come to reflect on the words of the AzhvArs - "பாவமே செய்து பாவிയാனேன்" (pAvamE ceytu pAviyAnEn) and will be sorrow-stricken. We will worry about our possible births as a dog or as a donkey or as a pig or camel. We will think about the other births that we might take. We can not however find out what kind of birth that will end up with. If we were to be born as an animal, how can we comprehend BhagavAn and reach an auspicious end (sadgati)?

As humans, we differ from the animals in that we can comprehend BhagavAn in this janmam and cognize the sorrows of life, the alpa sukham and the death of this body. Those who arrive at this stage of knowledge do not desire rebirth in this samsAric world. If we experience these many sorrows in the human condition, what can we forecast about the severe sorrows experienced by the jeevans embodied in the animal form. We are seeing all around us daily their sufferings.

Therefore, we should fear rebirths in this world again and engage in activities that will eliminate such reentries here. We should feel sorrowful and worry about when the next birth will arrive and feel depressed about the possibility of wasting this life as well just like the crores of wasted janmams until now. We should fret about our lack of control about choosing the type of next birth and what to do about it.

To get rid of this sorrow, we should seek the help of the elders, prostrate before them and ask for upadeSams on what we should do now to avoid the next birth here. They would have mercy on you and might say, "yes , it is some thing to worry about. We do not know what kind of future birth/janmam, we will get. It will be difficult to predict . You do have this janmam. It won't stay forever the same way. It will perish one day for sure. Your body is not the same as it was during your youthful days. Look at this old man. You will become feeble and infirm like him one day. Look around and count how many have died . You are also destined to die one day".

We can not forecast when death will happen although we know this body will perish and surely die. How can we prevent future births to suffer from the cycles of repeated births and deaths. The Lord has said "mAm upetya punarjanma na vidyate". If you reach Me at SrI VaikuNTham through proper anushThAnam, you will never return to this BhUlokam or any other lokams except my Supreme Abode. The Supreme One has revealed the routes by which to travel to reach Him. What steps should we take then? He has said already in His carama Slokam -"mAmekam SaraNam vraja, aham tvA sarvapApebhyo mokshayishyAmi mA SucaH" (Seek Me alone for refuge. I will release you from all sins. Grieve not). The learned ones will point out this way. When we seek BhagavAn alone as our ultimate refuge, we can attain Mukti/release from the bonds of births and deaths.

I learnt about these truths from the elders and felt worried. I sought my AcAryan and performed SaraNAgati to Sri Lakshminrsimhan through him. I received the Lord's grace and on that day, my life's

supreme goal was reached. I observed ukthi nishThA (repeating the words of self-surrender as instructed by my AcAryan) accompanied with the prayer - "At the end of this janmam, Oh Lord, please bless me with moksham". The Lord responded positively with His anugraham. Because of that unfailing anugraham, in spite of living this long, my life became "saphalam" today.

"yat" means because and refers to the cause for saphalam that arose from the act of building the famous Raya Gopuram (rangi gopurasya adya) that stayed incomplete for hundreds of years. The thirteen floors on the top of the southern portal from foundation with thirteen stories is being constructed with the niyamanam of Lord Ranganathan. The fruits of living this long for so many years has been realized now. The Lord gave first His command to me to build His incomplete gopuram and since then has made sure that I would not change my mind; if He continues to bless me to complete this kaimkaryam dear to Him, the purpose of staying on this earth for this long will make this stay in His BhUloka VaikuNTham a fruitful one (saphalam). I am confident that He will extend His anugraha balam by fulfilling my prayers and am meditating on His sacred feet always for that boon of kaimkarya poorti to make my life a fulfilled one (adya jIvitam sujIvitam). SrI Ranganayaki has granted me freedom from fear (abhayam) and has continued to assure me that She will make it happen .

Every one should get involved in the Gopura kaimkaryam for Lord Ranganathan.

Subhamastu

Panguni/March 1980

Invitation for Srirangam rAjagopura kaimkaryam

The Ahobila MaTham SrImad Azhagiyasingar's request to dharmaseelAs after his blessings is: "I am 86 years old now. At this advanced stage of my life, Lord Ranganathan has entered my mind and has commanded me to initiate the long-stalled kaimkaryam of completing the super structure on the moTTai Gopuram at His divya deSam. He said, "I have waited long and have chosen now yourself to transform the incomplete Raaya gopuram at my divya deSam of Srirangam and add 13 more stories on top of the section left incomplete and bring the kaimkaryam to the stage of pUrti. After the passage of hundreds of years, I have selected you to complete this

task. Did you not complete the main gopuram at Ahobila kshetram? Similar to that kaimkaryam, you should now undertake and complete the kaimkaryam at Srirangam. You do not need to worry about the expenses. Beginning this kaimkaryam by you is enough for Me! I will enter in to the minds of the AstikAs and ask them to provide the needed funds." Thus, the Lord got me connected to this kaimkaryam. All of you know now that I went ahead after receiving the command from the Lord and got the permission from the Commissioner and with the cooperation of the Temple officers, the kaimkaryam has been started.

At the beginning of this kaimkaryam, SrImad Thirukkudantai Andavan opted to cover the costs for building one story of the new structure. Advocate ParAsara Iyengar, Sri N.G. Krishna Iyengar and PerugavAzhnthAn Sri R. Srinivasa Iyengar have each agreed to support the expenses for the construction of one story. At the inauguration festivities, each of them volunteered to pledge without any pressures from any one. It must be the result of the niyamanam of Lord Ranganathan. After that, my fear sprinted away to unknown places. From that time on, the support funds kept arriving. A Check for one lakh of rupees has been received from KamakoTi MaTham pIThAdhipati as the first installment for the kaimkaryam. His SrImukham encouraging me not to worry also has been received. The Lord has entered the minds of Tirumala devastAnam officers and has encouraged them to send much more than we anticipated. One wealthy devotee, who promised to raise funds from Indian expatriates has now become the Finance Minister for the Central Government with the anugraham of the Lord of Srirangam. That has made me happy. People whom I do not know are sending thousands of rupees.

Most probably, the foundation over the roof of the incomplete portal roof will be completed in fifteen days. That will be followed by the building of the individual stories/nilais. The whole construction would be completed quickly. The Temple officials estimate the cost of the complete construction would be around 52 lakhs of rupees. When one considers today's cost of labor and materials, we anticipate the cost to overrun. We should not stay tardy saying that Lord Ranganathan would take care and speak VedAntam. Lord Ranganathan reminds me often that we should ask the AstikAs without hesitation and that they will respond joyously. That is why I ask the righteous people to take part in the Gopura kaimkaryam. I suggest that they support this Gopura kaimkaryam like they do for the other kaimkaryams of interest to them. I beseech them to bequeath funds directly and to encourage their friends and relatives to take part and help to reach the poorti

stage and be the recipients of the divya anugraham of SrI Ranganayaki sameta Sri Ranganathan and become the beneficiaries of vast amounts of aiSvayam. I request their participation following the command of Lord Ranganathan. I hope that you all will fulfill the deep desires of my heart.

SrI SaThakopaSrIH

Chittirai/April 1980

When one has the sevA of the Lord during the visits to sannidhis or at the utsavam times and enjoys it from His sacred feet to the crown, it is believed that all the sins disappear. Thinking in this manner, please have the darSanam of the Lord this way and attain sadgati.

Similarly, taking part in dharma kAryams will chase away the fear about Yama, the lord of death. The praise rendered to those help with the gopura kaimkaryam, the mere act of seeing them, the mentioning of their names, the visit to their homes will drive away our sins. If that were to be so, you can imagine how much puNyam can one acquire by helping the Gopura kaimkaryam with a samarpaNam. SrI Ranganathan should bless with His anugraham.

जिह्वे कीर्तय धार्मिकान् गुरुतरं श्रीगोपुरं स्मारयेः
पाणिद्वन्द्व समर्पितार्थमनघं संप्राप्य शुद्धो भव।
दातृन् लोकय गोपुराय धनिनां गच्छाद्वियुग्मालयं
श्रीरङ्गेश्वरगोपुरस्य निधये मूर्धन्नमाधोक्षजम्॥

jihve kIrtaya dhArmikAn gurutaram SrIgopuram smArayeH
pANidvandva samarpitArthamanagham samprApya Suddho
bhava |
dAtrUn lokaya gopurAya dhaninAm gacchAnghri yugmAlayam
SrIrangeSvara gopurasya nidhaye mUrdhan namAdhokshajam ||

I recite this Slokam in this manner every day. You can also recite this Slokam and gain supreme kshemam.

Subham

VaikAci/May 1980

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

यद्रोपुरस्य कैङ्कर्ये नियुक्तोऽस्मि महात्मभिः ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

yadgopurasya kainkarye niyukto'smi mahAtmabhiH ||

It is well known that the construction of the Southern Gopuram, the largest among other prAkArams, is proceeding well with the niyamanam of Lord Ranganathan. The incomplete section above this mottai gopuram is being built. The unevenness on the surface of the foundation over the gopuram entry portal as well as the damaged areas over the centuries have been evened out. The foundation over that leveled space has been completed. The floors of Gopuram will rise now over this new and strong foundation.

We have commenced the construction of the first floor. The plan by the Temple officials is to build it to a height of 22 feet. They need ten lakhs of bricks for this stage of construction. The cost of these big bricks - chamber bricks- is one rupee for an unit of four. The cost for bricks come to 2,50,000 rupees. We have to buy cement for Rs. Two lakhs. The cost for sand is forty thousand rupees. The water supply for the construction building would be over 10,000 rupees. It will take three months to complete the construction of the first floor. Every day 200 laborers work on this first level of the new Southern Gopuram. The expenses for this labor force and the supervisors are estimated to be around more than two lakhs of rupees. Even if we save here and there, the total cost estimate is a minimum of six lakhs of rupees. This amount is readily available with Sri Ranganathan's grace. We have no worry what so ever in this matter. Every day just after four in the evening, I visit the construction site and see the people at work with great joy and I write about these experiences for the benefit of others, who could not see this scene in person.

There are so many great ones (mahAns), who have pledged to participate. Sri Kanchi KamakoTi pIThадhipati with great enthusiasm in person and through newspapers is appealing for this kaimkaryam.

Kanchi PrativAdi Bhayankaram Annangaracharyar SvAmi has sent a Srimukham stating that he wakes up with the prayer below at each dawn wishing early completion of this kaimkaryam:

वेदान्तदेशिकमुनीन्द्रपदारविन्दं ध्यात्वा प्रभातसमयेऽनुदिनं च याचे।
श्रीरङ्गराज निजगोपुरकैङ्करीं त्वं क्षिप्रं प्रपूरयितुमुत्सुखमानसः स्याः ॥

vedAntadeSikamunIndra padAravindam dhyAtvA
prabhAtasamaye anudinam ca yAcE |
SrIrangarAja nijagopurakaimkarIm tvam
kshipram prapUrayitamutsukhamAnasaH syAH ||

aDiyEn meditates on the lotus feet of SrImad VedAnta deSika yatIndra mahA deSikan daily at suprabhAtam and pray for the speedy completion of the gopura kaimkaryam by him and stay enthusiastic.

I am fully confident that Sri Ranganathan will respond positively to the prayers of Kanchi SvAmi and am free of worries and stay joyous. If you all feel similar to Kanchi SvAmi and pray to Lord Ranganathan, this massive kaimkaryam will be completed quickly and will free me from any worries.

I wish to observe that the arrival of funds from those pledgees will help to deflect them towards the construction of the first floor itself. Some noble devotees wonder why I have not asked them for samarpaNams to this kaimkaryam. I am not sure of their circumstances and commitments and it is for these reasons, I have not contacted them. Their dravyam is considered like they are in my hand as it were. Their samarpaNams will come to me. There is no worry about this.

Those who wish to contribute should present their samarpaNams right away. Our minds have a tendency to change. Before their minds change, they should make their samarpaNams. Those righteous ones, who wish to contribute should join together in groups and discuss their potential samarpaNams. They can also think about it themselves individually and decide.

We have earned so much in our lives. How much have we spent over our trivial pursuits? How much remains? You will find that the amount spent for good kaimkaryams would not exceed five percent.

Even the great ones say that they have ended up poor by working for the others. If that is their experience, We can conclude that we would not have become rich by working for the jeevan inside. Even at this stage, we can control our minds, restrict the expenditures for unnecessary material things, save that sum and give it to the Gopura kaimkaryam and worship that Gopuram. If you ask me which gopuram we should worship, I will say it would be the one with tall ramparts (koDiyaNi neDu matiL gOpuram) at SrI VaikuNTham.

Srirangam is considered bhUloka VaikuNTham and it is also adorned therefore with many flags and ramparts and we should complete the Srirangam Southern gopuram.

If we pass our request on to the King of Lanka, SrI VibheeshaNan, he will give us what all we need for the Sri Gopura SamprokshaNa kaimkaryam. I am no longer worried.

I have the confidence that if the LankAdhipathi Vibheeshanan is informed, he will take care to cover all the expenses for the gopura samprokshaNam. There is no worry.

Just as SrI Vibheeshanan came to Ayodhya and took care of all the expenses for the coronation ceremony of Sri Rama, and similar to Sri Krishna BhagavAn sent the needed funds for the aSvamedha yAgam, Sri Vibheeshanan will definitely take care of the expenses and conduct the samprokshaNa mahotsavam.

Subham

Ani/June 1980

adyaiva sudinam ca me! Through the krupA of Srirangam SrI Ranganayaki sameta SrI Ranganatha, the foundation for the upper roof of the rAya gopuram for the first floor has been completed. I will write about the expenses for this section of the kaimkaryam in this aruL mozhigaL.

Currently, the construction of the first story has risen twelve feet. The plan is to have the structure with 21 feet. Seeing even this 12 feet

structure gives us great joy. When it is built up to its full height of 21 feet of the first floor, it will be a bliss to see that growth. Righteous ones have been making samarpaNams over and above their sakti. Therefore, I have no worries.

There is no one, who does not become joyous at the sight of the rising Gopuram. One who came to see the gopuram was shedding copious tears. I asked him why he is crying. He replied and said that his sorrow is over his inability to contribute to this important kaimkaryam.

I asked him as to how much he wanted to give. He mentioned that a samarpaNam of at least 500 rupees would make him happy and lamented over his inability. There was a Reddiyar near by who was watching this scene. The Reddiyar comforted the despondent person and gave 500 Rupees to him. The happy man gave that sum to me with joy.

I asked the Reddiyar as to why he gave him the money. He answered that he gave the desired funds to remove the sorrow and sense of helplessness of the devotee. The happy person said that he is free of sorrow and those funds now have reached the Gopura kaimkaryam.

The managers have appointed a new stone mason (sthapati) for building the first level. I think that this stage of construction will be completed before the cAturmAsya sankalpam in Adi month. Advance has been given for the purchase of bricks, cement, steel rods and sand. The funds needed have all been placed in the bank account. So there is no worry.

SrImad Thirukkudantai Andavan has expressed his interest to cover all expenses for the second floor. Therefore, there are no concerns about the coverage for the second floor. Sri Kanchi KamakoTi pITHAdhipati is on sancAram in the northern region and we are hearing that he is speaking to SishyAs and asking them to participate in the gopura kaimkaryam enthusiastically. This makes me very happy.

SrI Ranganathan has assured me that the gopuram will be built and the samprokshaNam will be conducted grandly and thereafter it appears that the Lord will take me (SrImad Azhagiyasingar) to Sri VaikuNTham. I pray to BhagavAn to bless the devotees to come in huge assemblies and enjoy the gopura samprokshaNa kaimkaryam in the spirit of "lokaH samastAH sukhino bhavantu".

Subhamastu

Ani/June 1980

The details on the materials purchased & other expenses for the upper foundation:

VishvakshenAradhanam, anuj~nA et al	... Rs.	450.00
Deposit with the devasthAnam	... Rs.	1,00,000.00
Flowers, sandal wood and fruits etc.	... Rs.	15.00
For 1,10,666 bricks	... Rs.	22,147.00
For large size gravel, 292 lorries } and 41 lorries for smaller gravels } (for total of 333 lorries) }	... Rs.	4,906.00
For 5631 bags of cement	... Rs.	1,74,186.00
For 369 lorries for sand	... Rs.	16,075.00
For Steel rods	... Rs.	50,474.00

Net Total including for other materials and other expenses	... Rs.	8,25,903,41
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ADi/July 1980

The kaimkaryam is proceeding briskly. The name "moTTai Gopuram" (Raya Gopuram) has receded in to history. Half of the first 21 foot floor has been finished. It makes one more and more happy to see it. Many devotees are climbing the stairs and seeing the gopuram taking shape. They send samarpaNams according to their capabilities after returning home.

Kanchi KamakoTi pITHAdhipati has sent in one lakhs of Rupees at a critical time. Calcutta Setji sent another one lakh of Rupees

Thirukkudantai SrImad Andavan has left 50,000 Rupees for the construction of the second floor. He is pledging to cover the total cost of building the second floor. When the construction starts, I would return these funds to be added to the total funds. I have kept those funds separately.

I am not sure as to how much support will be arriving from Tiruppati devasthAnam and other places. AstikAs are sending samarpaNams from Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and other places. If all have steadfast

faith, we will have more than adequate funds for completion of the kaimkaryam.

SrImAn N.G Krishna Iyengar has agreed to help build the third floor, whatever the cost may be. Similarly, PerugavAzhntAn Srinivasa Iyengar has pledged for the building of the fourth floor. SrI Parasara Iyengar (Solicitor General of India), the son of SrI Kesava Iyengar has committed to cover the expenses for the fifth floor.

The VaiSyA Astikars of Chennai have sent word through a friend that they plan to build another floor at their expense. A Muslim devotee, Haji S. Muhamathujohn at 97, Pavazhakkra Street, Chennai has sent 1,000 Rupees through SrI Vaduvur C. Srinivasan (Assistant Commissioner of Income Taxes, Salem). He has promised to send more later.

I am reminded of "yasmin mlecchepi vardate tasmai deyam tato grAhyam sa ca puJyo yathA hi aham". The bhakti of that Muslim devotee moves me to recall "bhaktirashTavidhA", the vAkyam of the Lord.

Please listen carefully about the puNyams acquired by those who help in building the gopuram. If one takes another to the sannidhi of SrI Ranganathan in the sanctum sanctorum, his sins will be removed just as those of the other. He will attain sadgati as indicated by the Slokam below:

ApITHAt mauLiparyantam paSyataH purushottamam |
pAtakAni ASu naSyanti kim punastUpapAtakam ||

If one enjoys the beauty of SrI Ranganathan with the mind instead of directly, he attains all mangaLams. Therefore, it is considered that the meditation and the mental perception of SrI Ranganatha is superior to seeing Him through our physical eyes (mAmsa cakshus). When the southern gopuram is built up to the planned 226 feet height and is seen by the devotees, they are reminded of the Lord reclining inside on Adi Seshan. At that time, the Lord makes their lives fulfilled. Whichever caste the devotees belong, they will not fail to remember Lord Ranganathan.

PrahlAdan said - "prabhAva esha sAMAnyah yasya yasya acyuto hrdis". One is freed from big calamities and enjoy kshemam.

Therefore, when one helps as much as they could and have the seva of SrI Ranganathan in their minds, then they are blessed with sadgati, our samarpaNams get used in auspicious karmAs. There is no doubt about this.

It would be enough if you drop in the gopuram safe box hundi one aNA every day, that should be sufficient. As I was writing these lines, the son of Salem Srinivasacharyar, arrived and gave 1,000 Rupees. I remembered his 2,000 Rupees samarpaNam at the beginning of the kaimkaryam. I asked him about the significance of the new samarpaNam. He explained that he has vowed to give 1,000 Rupees for each story. The first samarpaNam was for the foundation and the most recent one was for the construction of the first story. I was very happy about this.

It is not possible to write adequately about the glories of the Gopura darSanam. It is not beyond your awareness. I am hoping that you will mention this on going kaimkaryam to friends and relatives and ask them to support this kaimkaryam. I have included the names of the mahAns, who have contributed to the gopuram building kaimkaryam until July 2, 1980.

Among these, most importantly, the largest amount are the one lakhs of Rupees presented by Kanchi KamakoTi pIThAdhipati and an equal amount given by Calcutta Setji.

Subham

List of donors

	Rupees
1. AsthAna VidvAn TirukkaLLam NarasimharaghavAchryaAr	88,916.00
2. Auditor Kittu SvAmi, Trichy	31,505.00
3. Komal Advocate Sri Rama Iyengar	4,053.00
4. S.Vijayaraghavachariyar	71,088.00
5. Rangacchar, Hyderabad, KAsikoDA	16,750.00
6. VaduvUr NarasimhAchAiyar, ArAdhakar	4,861.00
7. ThayyAr Kannan, Sannidhi ParicArakar	10,505.00
8. Trichy Krishnaswami Reddiyar	15,000.00
9. Rajamani	1,261.00
10. L.Seshadri, Kuricchi	3,750.00
11. N.G. Krsihnan Iyengar SvAmi	20,158.00
12.Coimbatore vAdyAr Krishnan	4,000.00

13.Sotiyampakkam Rangaswamy, MadapaLLI Kaimkaryam	37,969.00
14. AdanUr Raghavan	3,625.00
15. Royapetta Ranganathan, Chennai	30,141.00
16. Calcutta RangachAr's son,Raghavachariyar	6,021.00
Net Total received including from 74 other donors	5,01,658.00

AvaNi/August 1980

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

यद्गोपुरस्य संवृद्धिं पश्यन् हृष्यामि रङ्गिणः ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |
yadgopurasya samvrddhim hrshyAmi rangiNaH ||

I am writing this aruL mozhi to make you aware of a happy situation that has made me happy. Thirukkudantai Andavan saw the rising southern gopuram and declared joyously that the first floor work might be completed before the start of sankalpam this year. I will help with the commencement of the second floor right away. Even if the sankalpa sthalam will be Thirukkudantai, I will travel to Srirangam to take part. Since Gopura kaimkaryam is important, it is fine to interrupt the sankalpam observance for this purpose. There will be no dosham. Whatever it costs to build the second floor, it does not matter. I will take care of all expenses. I will buy the sand, cement and steel wires. He gave the advances for the bricks and returned to Thirukkudanthai for the start of the sankalpam.

The owner of the Hindu Newspaper has sent 10,000 rupees through Thirukkallam AsthAna VidvAn. Bombay resident Sri P.N. Krishnamachari is working on raising funds for the third floor through the Setjis there.

The ladies arrive and say that they tell their husbands and friends as well as other relatives about the families getting even loans to celebrate marriages and other Subha kAryams. Similar to that, we

should even borrow and make the samarpaNam. The puNyam for building will not return again. When we talk like this, the bandhus and friends think about the Gopuram and people working there and the eighty five year old SrImad Azhagiyasingar watching this scene with a smile not minding the stress on him. He is assembling the funds for construction without let. We should also make appropriate samarpaNams. We should not delay. Saying thus, they arrive with whatever funds that they could assemble and present them to me.

One devotee had a dream in which SrI LakshmiRsimhan appeared and commanded him not to sleep. My ArAdhakan is suffering. Assemble from all the others whom you know more than what you normally can and send that for the gopura kaimkaryam. That devotee arrived here and took the book of receipts and is sending the assembled funds. During those times, he writes that he is like the squirrel at the time of building the Setu bandhanam.

The purpose of writing all such matters is not to raise the funds for building the Gopuram. I am not the collector of funds. For this kaimkaryam for SrI Ranganayika sameta SrI Ranganathan and the One who incarnated from the pillar are those who assemble the needed dravyam. I spend what they send with closed eyes. SrImAns keep sending at the command of the Lord. As a friend of these SrImAns, I keep spending.

The work is proceeding briskly. On the day of completion of the Vidvad sadas this year, the day of my tirunakshatram, AvaNi Hastam, I am planning to have the honorariums/sambhAvanais for the attending VidvAns on the first floor and follow it up with the celebration of the commencement of the construction of the second floor of the gopuram right there in presence of the Temple authorities. PantakkAl muhUrta utsavam are being planned on that day. I am pleased to share these plans with you all. Those who could attend and enjoy will accumulate puNyams. The Lord says:

"विचित्रा देहसम्पत्तिरीश्वराय निवेदितुम् - vicitrA dehasampattiH ISvarAya niveditum".

This means, BhagavAn blesses us with this beautiful body. Its principal purpose is to use it for kaimkaryams related to ISvaran. We should therefore use it for Bhagavad vishayam.

Thus, one can use all of our limbs in the body, worship the Lord and receive His anugrahams. Similarly, we can use all auspicious aiSvaryaM that we earn through the SarIram (body) for Bhagavad kaimkaryams, acquire puNyams and enjoy the sukham in all the worlds.

Similarly using the mind, speech and the body, we can place the AtmA at the lotus feet of our Lord and perform bharanyAsam, the jeevan will reach the eternal, indestructible, bliss-filled SrI VaikuNTham and enjoy the incomparable sukham there like the nitya sUris and mukta jeevans there in a limitless manner and gain freedom from entering the Karma bhUmi ever again. We can also engage in the South Gopura kaimkaryam in all manners, observe prapatti and ascend to the beautiful SrI vaikuNTham and enjoy the bliss there. There is no need to write about this to those who are aware of such saubhAgyams. All the others should make an effort and become objects of Bhagavad kaTAKsham.

Subham

aippaci/October 1980

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

श्रीरङ्गिगोपुरे सौधं प्रथमं दृष्ट वाहनम्॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

yadrangigopure saudham drshTa vAhanam ||

One important development: The first floor (nilai) of the Southern gopuram (Rayar gopuram) will be completed within fifteen days. The required materials have been received and stored and are ready for deployment.

The commitment by SrImad Thirukkudantai Andavan to accept all the responsibilities to build the second floor has been announced in SrI Ranganatha pAduka, the monthly magazine of SrImad Andavan ASramam and is thus well known to all devotees. Therefore, I have no worries about it.



The First Floor constructed – October 1980

More than two hundred people work on this kaimkaryam. When I see this scene, I am reminded of some thoughts relating to SrI VaikuNTham. At this Supreme Abode of the Lord, there are many gopurams. They are timeless and eternal. They are blemishless and therefore there are no opportunities for the residents to construct new gopurams or repair those that show sign of age. The VaikuNTha vAsis do not have the time to enjoy the beauty of these beautiful gopurams. To satisfy these latest wishes, it appears to me that the eternally liberated ones/nityasUris and the recently liberated ones/muktAs might have taken the role of men and ladies and have arrived at Srirangam to engage in the construction of the Gopuram at the BhUloka VaikuNTham of Srirangam as per the command of Lord Ranganathan. They also appear as sEvyars, who are worthy of our salutations. It is the accumulated puNyams from all their previous births that is making it possible for them to engage in this mahA kaimkaryam.

The righteous ones are sending their samarpaNams and also are collecting funds from others and forwarding them to Srirangam. The Aradhakar at Bombay Ahobila MaTham has collected and sent 30,000 Rupees so far. Many have promised. We do not know when those pledges will be fulfilled. It will follow the divine commands of the Lord. I have no further worries on this subject.

kArtigai/November 1980

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं सुजीवितम्।

यद्रङ्गिणो गोपुरस्य सौधमेकं प्रपूरितम् ॥ ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam sujIvitam |

yadrangiNo gopurasya saudhamegham prapuritam ||

You might have seen and read the News Papers coverage of the recent utsavam conducted for the start of the construction of the second floor for the gopuram made possible by the support of SrImad Thirukkudantai Andavan. It appears that in three months time the construction of the second nilai would be surely completed. Responsible officials are taking care of this stage of construction. During the next three months, we have to focus on the assembly of funds for the third floor. It is not clear to me whether the ones, who pledged earlier have the same zeal now. It will make me very happy if they come through. We have to be ready any way for all eventualities.

I was indeed a poor man, a beggar. Through the blessings of the Lord, I became the head of Ahobila MaTham. This is not a lie. It may not be appropriate to hold this position and ask SishyAs and abhimAnis to request support for the Gopura kaimkaryam through soliciting. It does not go well with the position and its own responsibilities. Therefore, I accept gladly what you present for a dharma kAryam.

Some AstikAs question as to whether it is justified to ask the same person, who gave once before. Can You milk the same cow, which has been milked already? Can you drain the water from the well that has been pumped out already? I ask them this question as my response. No one will buy a cow every day, they will milk for months the cow that yields the milk. No one will dig a well daily. They will draw/pump out water for many years from the same well that was already dug. PerumAL gives what one asks and therefore, devotees ask Him again and again. Remembering this, please give joyously. Lord Ranganathan resides in every one's mind/heart. We all know that we can not bundle up our wealth and take it with us. Please therefore generously. Bundle up all the puNyams earned by you and you can take it with you. Please counsel your relatives and friends. As a last option, I ask my beloved ones at least a thousand rupees for the gopura Kaimkaryam. Please collect from your contacts, wherever they might be. Complete the

kaimkaryam that has been started. You can be sure of the merciful glances of Sri Ranganathan and SrI LaksmIinrsimhan fall on you. The effect of those glances will last forever. As a last point, please do not stop those who come forward to support joyously the gopura kaimkaryam. Even such people can aspire for some puNyam through that abstaining. You can learn about this from the elders. This act will let you enjoy delectable things here and set your mind towards the performance of SaraNAgati. That mind set will protect you. Please do not loose this golden opportunity.

We have spent eight and a quarter lakhs of Rupees for the foundation and an additional fifteen lakhs for completion of the construction of the first floor. We have raised approximately sixteen lakhs of Rupees so far and put that sum to use. Please read about this and be happy.

Subhamastu

Margazhi/December 1980

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

श्रीरङ्गगोपुरस्यास्य द्वितीयं सौधमीक्षतः ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

yadranga gopurasya dvitIyam saudhamIkshataH ||

The start of the construction of the second floor makes me feel as though this task has already been completed. I don't think that I have even the half of the enthusiasm that SrImad Andavan has. SrImad Andavan believes that the second floor related work will be completed before the end of Maci month.

The close SishyAs of SrImad Andavan climb the steps and hasten the workers. People say that SrImad Andavan has vowed not to take any other kaimkaryam until this is completed. I am very happy to hear about this determination. Lorries of TVS company are plying in and out.

Soon we have to start the third floor of the gopuram. Eight lakhs of Rupees would be needed to complete this construction. I wonder which righteous person is going to help generously to complete this task of

building the third level? In to whose mind, SrI Ranganathan is going to enter to take charge of this task? It is not clear now. He says that He will not reveal the identity of this fortunate person prematurely.

I have however committed a mistake at this time. That mistake is, not requesting Kanchipuram SrI PrativAdi Bhayankaram MahA VidvAn and senior AcAryan, Sri u. vE. Annangaracharya SvAmi to complete one of the floors of the Rajagopuram through those, who are linked to him as SishyAs. I hope that SrI Annangaracharya SvAmi will not mind my lapse to ask him and still will take part with enthusiasm and joy to complete this kaimkaryam. I am writing about this with the permission and command of Sri Ranganathan.

The money being used to spend on the Gopura kaimkaryam is ours. We hear through news papers about the industrial giants, actors and the actresses, whose hidden funds acquired through their hard works are taken over by the government and feel sad about these developments. If a portion of these funds had been used in a timely manner for Gopura kaimkaryams in a timely manner, the Lord of Srirangam would have felt happy. I only regret their missing the opportunity to make the Lord happy. Even now, it is not too late. Please give to Sri Ranganathan. You can live happily thereafter.

There is no compulsion that the would-be-participants should give their support funds to me. They can come forth and help in building the rest of the floors directly. They can also support through the people, whom they trust. It will be great if all the thirteen floors get constructed somehow.

As I was writing these lines, it appeared as though SrI Ranganathan was inviting my attention to one matter. He seemed to be saying, "Oh deluded AcArya! Will I ever abandon anyone, who has placed trust in Me? Do You think that you are the one, who is constructing this Gopuram? Please abandon this thought. Before My devotee, Andavan completes the second floor, I will invite many righteous ones to compete with each other to join in this kaimkaryam. Do You think that you are building these floors of gopuram? Do you not recall that you are building this gopuram for Me? The righteous ones spend their earnings to build these floors of the gopuram to enable even the mighty sinners to have the gopura darSanam and there by destroy their sins and transform themselves in to puNyAsAlis. They enjoy many saubhAgyams as a result and let their children and grandchildren enjoy the benefits from these accumulated puNyams. Please do not worry anymore about how the future funds are going to

be assembled. That seemed to be the command of the Lord of Srirangam.

People are talking about substantive funds arriving for the Kaimkaryam from Tiruppati. Some are raising my hopes about five lakhs of Rupees being sent from the AstikAs of Bombay for the Gopuram construction. KamakoTi pITHAdhipati has given one lakh Rupees as advance for building one more nilai that is expected to cost six lakhs of Rupees. The rest of the support funds may be expected soon.

I have no intention to seek any funds from any other head of MaThams. If they wish to give, I am very happy to accept. If there are no successors to enjoy your wealth after you pass away, please do not let that go to waste. Please give it to Lord Ranganatha's gopura Kaimkaryam. This is not new information to you all.

The VidvAns who give TiruppAvai upanyAsam during the month of Margazhi, can give half of their income. Those who are bruhaspatis can offer a small portion of their earnings. Those who are interested in construction of the gopuram can contribute according to their mite. They can become blessed. After waking from a dream of having bundles of gold, can we take even one Paisa linked to that dream. Similarly, the money accumulated in one janmam can not be carried over to the present janmam or moved for use in future births. We do not remember how much we accumulated in the previous birth. For a few, what he earned in this birth does not even get spent during this Janmam. In a single night, it gets stolen by a thief. He may lose it all in a horse race thinking that he is going to win crores of Rupees. All the wealth evaporate.

I have heard a story that you might have heard. It happened in Bombay. A girl developed a special insight in to recalling what happened to her after she reached the age of twelve. She had a total recall of those memories. She remembered having saved ten lakhs of Rupees in the previous birth. In that janmam, her name as a man was Kalyanaraman. She (Kalyanaraman) had two sons. "She" had saved the ten lakhs of Rupees and with that money bought as gold and Silver coins, saved them and placed them in pots and buried the pots in the walls of the house. The two boys did not know about this wealth hidden in their house. When Kalyanaraman janmam was over, he was born as a woman in the next birth/janmam. Now with the power of total recall of what happened in the previous janmam, she called by name her two sons and told them - "I was your father thirteen years

ago. You are both doing all the pitru kAryams faithfully. At my birth place, my parents are dead. I recall very well what happened in my previous birth. I can recall that you were my sons. In this janmam, we are not at all related. This house is mine. I struggled hard to build this house. I am now twelve years old. I do not have anyone, who will spend money on efforts to get me married. You both should help me". She was sorrow stricken.

The two boys got frightened on hearing these words of this girl. They shouted and screamed. The curious people assembled and the police also arrived. They threatened the girl and investigated. She was not afraid to answer. The police asked for some evidence. She said, "This is my elder son. I branded him above his knees for doing some thing bad". The assembled people saw the branding and were surprised. They did not believe her fully. The girl would not leave the house. The police pushed her out. Two days later, she returned and wanted to live with her sons from previous birth. In spite of her desperate appeals, the boys chased her away. From then on, she begged for food and led a difficult life. Even if the girl knew about the wealth from the previous birth, it was useless in the current birth. Therefore, please give with joy to the gopuram building. Use your wealth for satkArams. Please use your wealth in this manner. You will gain limitless phalans.

Subhamastu

thai/January 1981

It is very important for us to help those who perform Gopura kaimkaryam to the best of our ability. The first floor has been completed now at Srirangam. SrImad Andavan's boundless encouragement is helping to build the second nilai. The cement and brick are brought in to meet all the needs. The second nilai will have a height of seventeen and half feet. Ten out of the total height has been constructed. It will have 180 feet length and 90 feet breadth. The second nilai might be completed by Panguni uttiram.

The third floor has to be built now. I do not know about who is going to come forward like SrImad Andavan. For this, Sri Ranganathan is not causing me any worries. SamarpaNams keep coming in from His devotees. My courage is growing.

I am praying always to my AcAryAs for the blessings of Lord SrIman Narayanan, who dwells inside and outside all vastus, to tilt the minds

of devotees towards the Gopura kaimkaryam, support it beyond their sakti, complete the kaimkaryam for SrIman Narayanan. May that SrIman Narayanan staying joyously inside and outside the gopuram create joy among the scholars, simple folks, AstikAs as well as nAstikAs, participants in the kaimkaryam and to those who offer their mere praNAmaMs to the Gopuram. May the Lord gladden their hearts and make them feel joyous!

Panguni/March 1981

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं सुजीवितम्।

श्रीरङ्गनगरे सौधं द्वितीयं पश्यतो हरेः ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam sujIvitam |

SrIranganagare saudham dvitIyam paSyato hareH ||

Now, by the sankalpam of SrIranganAyika sameta SrIranganatha happily reclining on the bed of Adi Seshan, and by the paripUrNa anugraham of SrIlakshmiNrsimhan on the golden dola (swing) constructed with navaratnams, it is widely known by everyone about the building of the second level by SrImad Andavan. All believe that the construction of the second floor will be completed by Panugni Pushyam, the avatAra dinam of SrImad Andavan. Approximately, ten lakhs of Rupees would be spent on this nilai. SrImad Andavan climbs the gopuram to see the work in progress. After the conclusion of the second floor, the activities would start with the construction of the third nilai.

Thiruvallikeni advocate, SrI N.G. Krishna Iyengar has agreed to build the third floor. This is known to all. We should not however leave SvAmi alone in his efforts. It might take 8 lakhs of Rupees for the third nilai also. If we all join together to raise 5 lakhs Rupees, it will be helpful to SrImAn Krishna Iyengar.

There was at one time a rumor that Kanchi KamakoTi pITham, SrI Sankara bhagavad pAdAl might undertake the building of the third floor as well. If that were to happen, I think SrImAn Krishna Iyengar will concede. Sri Sankaracharya SvAmigal has left with me a sum of one lakhs of Rupees for the third floor. I am planning to return those

reserved funds to him even if some of it might have been spent towards the construction of the first nilai. That is the justifiable and right thing to do.

In this gopura kaimkaryam, it is not clear as to who has done which puNyam and taken part. Only the Lord of Srirangam knows. He alone can appear in their minds and persuade them to join in. The wealth acquired through good deeds are blessed by BhagavAn. Even if the wealth is created by our elders, one should use it according to the upadeSams from Upanishads like "dharmam cara". It should be used in dharma kAryams. The proverb is "aRam ceya virumpu". It says that there are phalans even for wishing to engage in dharma kaimkaryams. I have started however this gopura kaimkaryam following the command of the Lord. It is proceeding well happily. Poor laborers toil and for two years they will have adequate food through work at the Gopuram project. We will need at least one crore of Rupees for samprokshaNam after the gopuram is fully constructed. Even in this Kali Yugam, there are so many righteousness minded dharmishTars. Even each of them give one rupee, the tasks will be completed. There is no doubt about it.

You are saying that there are crores of dharmAtmAs. You may ask as how do you know about this. I will tell as how I know. Please listen. There are so many lottery ticket sales companies. We are reading about them in the papers. The purchaser spends one rupee per ticket. The companies say the first prize is 30 lakhs rupees. Crores of people buy these one Rupee tickets enriching the Lottery companies by crores of Rupees. On the selected days, they shuffle and pick the winning ticket and distribute the funds as promised. The essence of this operation is: The buyer of the one rupee ticket for the Gopura Kaimkaryam has righteous thoughts. He hopes that ticket wins and helps the kaimkaryam. If he does not win, he has lost only one Rupee. The one who wins must have acquired a lot of puNYams. If he does not win, he has a different kind of prize as well (viz.,) the merciful kaTAKsham of the Lord falling on him. That is the best prize.

Please do not buy a ticket for more than one Rupee. If some one buys tickets for ten rupees, it is their choice. This is when you do some thing and make others pay. Be happy with those, who give. Please give a loan for those who would like to contribute to this dharma kAryam. Please do not charge them interest for such loans. You can give me loans from 100 to 10,000 Rupees. I would return it promptly within 3 years for lending me the funds for use in gopura kaimkaryam from future samarpaNams.

The interest for such a loan is the anugraham of SrI Lakshmi Narasimhan. I have released receipt for this type of loans. There are only 100 Rupees ticket in these books. You can receive the receipts as well for whatever amount you want to lend to me. Some say that it is a deceptive way. Are they going to lend to Azhagiyasingar and expect to have it paid back by him? My thoughts are not deceptive. With firm intention to return the loan, I have started this proposal. There is no stealthy thought here. I have started this project to complete this gopura kaimkaryam by any means. Helpers have taken 40 receipt books. Slowly, money is coming in. If all devotees faithfully support this kaimkaryam, they will receive the anugraham of Sri Ranganathan and the cool glances of Sri Lakshmi Narasimhan. I have full faith in the participants becoming blessed by the Lord and enjoying bliss. Please fulfill my hopes.

Subhamastu

Chittirai/April 1981

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं सुजीवितम्।

गोपुरे रङ्गिणः पूर्तिं द्रष्टुमिच्छामि सर्वदा ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam sujIvitam |

gopure rangiNaH pUrtim drashTumicchAmi sarvada ||

Today I gained a big thing. I could not sit quiet without sharing this gain. You may ask what that gain is. Even those who hear about this gain would be happy. All of you know that Thirukkudantai Andavan is building the second nilai. There is no doubt that it will be completed by the 20th of Chittirai month.

Do not we need to build immediately the 3rd floor? Oh Ranganatha! Oh LakshmiNarasimha! Are you testing me now? Is it fair? When I was praying to them about which dharmishTar's mind that they are going to enter in to, this gain happened.

Both SrI Ranganathan and Malolan decided that SrI Kanchi KamakoTi Jagatguru, PeriyAvAl, Chandrasekhara Sarasvati and the new Sankaracharyar, SrI Jayendra Sarasvati will give a hand to me and complete the construction of the third nilai. As I was deeply thinking about the MahAn to help, the message from Kanchi MaThAdhipati arrived stating that his MaTham will undertake the responsibility of

completing the third floor and asked me to send a list of the needed expenses for it.

We had sent Sothiyampakkam Seshadri SvAmi, our ArAdhakar at Bombay MaTham to Kanchi to meet the Sankara MaThAdhipati. We learnt about this news at that time. We got the estimate from the sthapati.

Is it not a major gain? What else is bigger than this gain? It is firm that Kanchi MaTham is going to build the 3rd floor of the gopuram at Srirangam. I plan to return the one lakh of Rupees held in reserve with me earlier for building the third floor of the gopuram, whether the MaThAdhipati asks for it or not.

Just as our honorable Chief Minister helps our suffering poor during this drought, it appears that Kanchi KamakoTi pIThAdhipati wishes to remove the sufferings of 200 laborers working at the gopuram building site at the expense of Rupees ten lakhs.

The Hindu Endowment Religious Board Minister, honorable SrI Rama Veerappan has spoken most favorably about Srirangam Rajagopuram. You might have read about this in the papers.

SrI Rama Veerappan has commented that I have not asked for funds from the government. That is true. Since these matters have been released in the daily papers, the Kanchi MaThAdhipatis are beginning to help. The position of the other heads of MaThams will become clear with the passage of time.

Only SrI Ranganathan knows about dharmishTars, who have more bundles of money than MaThAdhipatis and who will come forward to help with the gopura kaimkaryam. I have no doubt that the black or blue or green money would transform itself in to white after being linked to Gopura kaimkaryam.

Is the money dropped in to the Tiruppati Hundi black or white? Similarly, whatever color the money has, will yield unlimited phalans once it enters in to the box of the MaTham Jeeyar sitting in front of the daSAvatAra sannidhi at Srirangam.

Buy lottery ticket for the Gopura kaimkaryam. If you win, please send half of the prize money to gopuram construction. Some have done this way. Some have sent the lottery ticket itself to Sri MaTham.

Gopuram is not built for fame. It is for all to gain puNyam by others, who worship it and gain Bhagavad anugraham. Work done in the gopura kaimkaryam will not only provide a livelihood but will also help build up puNyams. Besides puNyam, fame also will accompany it.

Subhamastu

VaikAci/May 1981

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं सुजीवितम्।

गोपुरस्य विमानान्तं हृदा पश्यामि रङ्गिणः ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam sujIvitam |

gopurasya vimAnAntam hrdA paSyAmi rangiNaH ||

I learnt about an important matter at this stage of my life now. If you are familiar with the subject, please understand what I am saying and be happy, if it is correct.

In this Kali Yugam, all the auspicious activities recommended by the SAstrAs do not turn out alright. adharmAs will dominate the scene. It will be rare to see people choosing the auspicious ways. The wailings and cries of the sinners at naraka lokams would be loud and will grow in intensity. These are the statements about the blemishes of Kali Yugam by the critics. These views are not entirely correct.

In previous yugams, Hiranyan, Ravanaan, SiSupalan, JarAsandhan and other kings treated their subjects cruelly. They proclaimed that the subjects should not think about BhagavAn even by mind. They insisted that the subjects should not recite the mantrams associated with the Lord. They treated the people who praised BhagavAn violently and tortured them.

In this present Kali Yugam, such things do not happen. The current rulers do not follow this path. They have no plans to engage in such activities of tormenting their subjects. It is in this Kali Yugam, big dharma kaimkaryams take place. The officials of the government are most helpful. They renovate ancient temples and protect them. They make sure that the worships at the temples and MaThams are carried out properly.

The government helps those, who are engaged in Vedic studies. They pay salaries to the teachers in the learning centers teaching the VedAs. One can deduce from their names that the ministers do not practice nAstika vAdam consciously. One does not need any witnesses for this.

Following the command of Lord Ranganathan, I started building Rajagopuram with 13 floors. The Lord of Srirangam got completed the first nilai. He has entered the mind of Thirukkudantai Andavan to build the second floor. Srimad Andavan completed the construction of the second floor and is very happy. The second floor has turned out to be beautiful.

Now Aranganagarappan has advised me "Do not worry about the building of the third nilai. Please appeal to the pIThAdhipati of KamakoTi MaTham established by SrI Sankarabhagavad pAdAL, who composed SrI LakshmiInrsimha KarAvalampa stotram. Please also appeal to the two MahAns, who have given you abhayam from your pUrvASramam days. I will enter in to the minds of these mahAns and command them to say yes to your appeal".

I followed the command of the Lord and appealed. They have acceded to my request to build the third floor and asked me to send the construction details and sent officials from their MaTham.

The Kanchi periyavAl has picked Wednesday, the seventh day of VaikAsi, when anusha Nakshatram is in ascendance for starting the construction of the third nilai. It has been mentioned that these mahAns plan to support the floors beyond the third nilai. The viSesha vaidika, laukika Prabhus belonging to the Sankara MaTham seem to be very pleased with these developments.

Further, many other MaThAdhipatis have taken interest in supporting the kaimkaryam and have written to us. After things firm up, I will update you through the next Sri Nrusimha PriyA issue. The expatriates living abroad are sending dollars directly. There wont be sufficient paper to write about all these Sraddha based supports from many sources.

During this Kali Yugam, many MaThAdhipatis are instructing their SishyAs on what is right (hitam) for them and setting them on righteous paths. There are not many men or women, who are uneducated regarding these matters. They have a clear awareness of the auspicious and inauspicious deeds. They all have the thought f

dharma. They do dAna-dharmams as Andal pointed out - "ambaramE taNNIyE cORE aRam ceYtal". In this drought season, they have the desire to assist the suffering poor through the gopura kaimkaryam and grow their puNYams. Daily, the money orders, checks keep arriving for the kaimkaryam. That in turn makes us happy.

There is one question that is asked by some: "What is the point of doing all these dAna-dharmams? GitAcAryan has already declared that the jeevan can not enter SrI VaikuNTham even with the punya earned by countless gopuram constructions and limitless dAnams. So, why would one bother to do these kaimkaryams?". This is a legitimate question. Let me answer this question. Why should one perform these dAna-dharmams even though they won't land one in VaikuNTham? Please listen: We are born in this Bhumi. Should not we stay comfortably as long as possible here? dAna-dharmams are to gain those phalans. Children will be born to the childless. The life span will increase. Both here on earth and in other lokams like Svargam, many kinds of bhogams, good health, growth of crops, well being of cows, growth of wealth etc., happen. These are described in the SAstrAs already.

Further, performance of puNya kAryams produces discriminative intelligence, which in turn yields knowledge about the AtmA and the Lord of that AtmA, the ParamAtmA. Then the jeevan learns about the abode of the ParamAtmA, SrI VaikuNTham. He learns about those, who live there. He learns at this stage from AcAryAs about the bliss inherent through the residence at SrI VaikuNTham and develops a keen desire to attain residence there. All of these j~nAnam is acquired by the puNYams gained through the dAna dharmAs. He performs SaraNagati and gains moksham. He travels to SrI VaikuNTham. There, he enjoys nitya (eternal) and niravadya (blemishless) kaimkaryams to the Lord, SrI ParamapadanAthana and enjoys the top most bliss. Therefore, please help with happiness for the Gopura kaimkaryam as much as possible and gain kshemam and all the phalans in this and the other worlds.

Subhamsatu

ADi/July 1981

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

यद्रङ्गिगोपुरे सौधं तृतीयं पश्यतश्शुभम्॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |
yadrangigopure saudham trtIyam paSyataH Subham ||

With the samarpaNam of about 12 lakhs of rupees by SrImad Tirukkudantai Andavan, the second tier of the Rajagopuram on the South entrance of the temple of SrI RanganAtha was successfully completed. This happy news might have reached all either through newspapers or through direct report from people who have seen the construction in person.



Second Floor Completed – July 1981

Now everyone must also be aware of the welcome news that the AcAryA-s of SrI Kanchi KamakoTi pItham have come forward to construct the third tier of the Rajagopuram on the South Entrance.

So far one third of the third tier has been constructed. There is no doubt that this floor will be completed before the end of the month of AvaNi. We are strengthened by the funds being sent by Jagadguru SrI Sankaracharya svAmigal towards this effort.

Also they have recommended the kaimkaryam to many other heads of Mutts and businessmen. They are intent on seeing this kaimkaryam through to fruition and performing the samprokshaNam.

Though Srirangam has many decorative features, once the Rajagopuram is constructed, it is going to be the most outstanding jewel of the SrI Ranga kshetram. The entire State of Tamilnadu is going to celebrate because of this gopuram. This is going to spread the glory of the Indian sub-continent far and wide. SAstrA-s emphasize that everyone involved in such gopuram construction kaimkaryam will become abundantly prosperous by the grace of the divya dampatis. Experience testifies to the veracity of this statement. This is also by my personal observation.

Let me tell you about how one can get involved with the gopura kaimkaryam. One way would be to humbly pray to each one's preferred deity that the Srirangam Rajagopuram kaimkaryam should be completed expeditiously. Another way would be to contribute whatever amount one can towards the construction of the gopuram. A third way would be to encourage affluent people to make donations towards the kaimkaryam. A fourth way would be to approach even those people who may not be inclined to give any money and somehow convince them of the benefits of involving themselves in the kaimkaryam and motivate them to make a donation. The fifth way is to abstain from discouraging people who are willing to give funds from making a gift. To donate materials in kind like brick, cement, steel rods etc is the sixth way. To praise the kaimkaryam of people who have so far donated to the construction is the seventh way. To come in person and enjoy watching the construction of the gopuram is the eighth way. To help with the construction by at least carrying one brick to the construction site is the ninth way. The tenth way is to not be in any manner envious of the building of the Rajagopuram. You can learn of any number of such ways to make a contribution yourselves. Choosing any one of the abovementioned options will destroy our sins and sever the association with Naraka loka.

An association with BhagavAn in any form leads one to become a bhAgavata. As per the Slokam "na khalu bhAgavatA yamavishayam gacchanti" (the devotees of the Lord do not ever go the realm of Yama) the link to Naraka loka is destroyed.

We will be blessed with access to heavenly regions. Performing the gopura kaimkaryam with no other desire than the wish to please BhagavAn would result in the development of good thoughts and association with qualified AcAryAs, thereby leading to the performance of SaraNagati to BhagavAn. This will help one to enjoy the Eternal Bliss of service to SrIman Narayanan at SrI VaikuNTham. Helping with the gopura kaimkaryam will destroy the cycles of births and deaths,

promote good health and grant immense happiness in the here and now. I write only what is said in the SAstrA-s. You can get clarifications from great vidvAns. Please offer your contribution with the prayer "acyutaH prIyatAm". Do not ask about how much you have to give. Donate as much as possible for building the gopuram. If you do not have immediate cash at hand, your wife will help you. Consult with her about the same. She is a manifestation (amSam) of SrI MahAlakshmi.

Subhamastu

AvaNi/August 1981

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

यद्रङ्गिगोपुरे सौधं तृतीयं पश्यतश्शुभम्॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

yadrangigopure saudham trtIyam paSyataH Subham ||

Oh, distinguished people! The gopuram in Srirangam is coming up very well. The third tier sponsored by Kanchi SrI KamakoTi pITHadhipatis is going to be completed very soon. It is learnt that the fourth tier is also being sponsored by them.

I am hearing from people that the Kanchi AcAryA-s are also enthusiastic about helping with funds for all the thirteen levels of the gopuram. This is very encouraging. There is no doubt whatsoever that all those who witness the gopuram once it is completed will also enjoy the vision of the gopuram in SrI VaikuNTham as well.

You might ask if there is a gopuram in SrI VaikuNTham?Scholars have averred that "koDiyaNi neDumatiL gOpuram kuRukinar". So, there is no doubt about the presence of a gopuram there!

SrI Ranganathan has blessed us with wealth. We are going to take just a portion of the wealth given by Him and contribute it towards His gopuram. Once we make that small offering, SrI RanganAthan will bestow abundant riches on us again.

Some people will be blessed immediately. For some others HE will bless them after a little passage of time! Yet others who have helped, will be blessed with progeny, with wealth and happiness. Some may be blessed in their next life while a few others will receive their blessings in SrI VaikuNTham.

One day an old lady, who works as a daily laborer in this gopuram, gave me one rupee and 10 paise, while I was supervising the construction work atop the gopuram. I asked her the reason for giving this amount. She replied - "Just felt like making a humble contribution towards the gopuram construction. So, I gave!" Next day, all the other laborers gave one, two, half and quarter of rupees, to the extent that they could afford given their economic status. The collection came up to one hundred and fifty rupees! Is not it a well-known fact that tiny drops of water make a mighty ocean!

You can send cheque or cash to aDiyEn. Else you can send it to the SrI Sankaracharya MaTham. Everything will be credited to SrI Ranga gopura kaimkaryam. Cement has now become available. So the work is progressing swiftly. The Tamilnadu government officials are also very keen to help. SrImAn Anjaiya is going to visit in person and provide required help for the construction efforts. We are all going to celebrate the speedy completion of the kaimkaryam.

On the seventh day of AvaNi month, SrI MAIola Vidvat sadas is going to commence at the Sriranga daSAvatAra sannidhi. All VidvAns are requested to grace the occasion and enthusiastically participate in the proceedings. All devout people should attend these sadas and enjoy the involved debates and discourses on VedAnta during this event.

Even those who profess atheism are welcome to enjoy the debates during the sadas, thereby transforming themselves into spiritual adherents. All VidvAns and GaNapADis be they smarthAs, VaishNavAs or mAdhvAs, must all surely come and join the festivities. Many upanyAsa-s are also scheduled during this celebration.

If vidvAns can memorize and recite at least one complete adhikaraNa (section) of SrIbhAshya, it would be wonderful. If they can recite the entire sUtra-s then they will be awarded with higher honors. If they can recite complete Sloka-s (verses) of SrImad RahasyatrayasAra, then a special award will be given.

As I am writing this I received through a third party, two cheques for six thousand rupees from a gentleman by name SrI Achyuthan Gopi

and a cash remittance of three thousand rupees from another gentleman by name SrI Ram. One of them is from MalayAla deSam and another is a Sindhi.

Subhamastu

PuraTTAci/September 1981

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

यद्रङ्गिगोपुरे सौधं तृतीयं पश्यतश्शुभम्॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

yadrangigopure saudham trtIyam paSyataH Subham ||

By the blessings of SrI LakshmiInrsimhan, the MAIola Vidvat sadas was conducted in a very grand manner. Tirukkudantai SrImad Andavan graced the congregation with his presence almost daily. He raised valid objections to arguments put forth by VidvAn-s during the sadas and when the VidvAn-s replied to his queries in defense of their stand, he heartily enjoyed those as well. His august presence made the congregation very lively and exuberant. It delighted the hearts of all in attendance.

Thus, the sadas was conducted successfully without any disruption. Those who were unable to participate in person, have had their sambhAvana (award) sent to them separately. Many VidvAn-s commented that they learnt many wonderous things at this year's sadas. All the VidvAn-s got to see the gopuram and were filled with joy.

The third level of the gopuram that is being constructed under the auspices of SrI Kanchi KamakoTi pITHAdhipati-s is now three-fourth completed. Even at this stage, it looks very beautiful. The architects (sthapati-s) are confident that this tier will be finished by the fifteenth of PuraTTAci month. We are all going to be overjoyed when that happens! The third tier appears to reflect the noble minds of the AcAryA-s who are helping with its construction.

SrImAn Anjaiya is going to visit Srirangam soon. After inspecting the gopuram, he is going to participate in the gopura kaimkaryam through

Tiruppati devasthAnam. Various maThAdhipati-s (religious heads) are also pledging to contribute as much as possible in completing the remaining ten levels. Only those who hasten to assist in this kaimkaryam will have the good fortune of being part of this.

The administration has made it possible to easily procure cement and bricks etc. Once enough funds are available, the gopuram will be constructed fully. I hope that all of you have read the recent issue of Ananda Vikatan.

aippaci/October 1981

Everyone has received with joy the news of the completion of the first two stages of the Rajagopuram. It is common knowledge now that the third level is being constructed with the help of funds from SrI Sankaracharya svAmigal, the pITHadhipati-s of SrI Kanchi KamakoTi maTham. This stage will now be readied by the thirtieth of PuraTTAci month. The third tier has turned out to be as splendid as the hearts of the great AcAryA-s of SrI Kanchi maTham. All those who have seen the gopuram in person are ecstatic about it.

An auspicious date has been chosen in the first week of aippaci month to begin work on the fourth stage of the gopuram. Many good people have offered to help with the construction, but I am not sure as to who will be the fortunate one to take up this kaimkaryam. We are commencing the work for the fourth level at the command of SrI LakshmiInrsimhan. We will hand over the work to the great soul who accepts the call to help with this effort, whoever he/she maybe. We pray to SrI Ranganathan and SrI LakshmiInrsimhan to shower Their benevolence on those who wish to undertake this kaimkaryam.

Subhamastu

Kartigai/November 1981

The construction of the third tier of Srirangam Rajagopuram is now complete with the help of SrI Kanchi KamakoTi pITHadhipati-s. Now the building of the fourth level has started. It is estimated to cost about seven lakhs of rupees to construct this tier. To complete this portion, if seven lakh fortunate people contributed one rupee each as they would if they purchased a lottery ticket, then the funds required can easily be assembled. Similarly, everyone contributing one rupee

per tier for the remaining nine levels, would lead to quick accumulation of funds and completion of the entire project. Please contribute one rupee each and receive the undiluted blessings of SrI Ranganathan. The time is ripe for this.



Third tier constructed – October 1981

Subhamastu

Margazhi/December 1981

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवतश्च सुजीवितम्।

तृतीयं रङ्गिणस्सौधं गोपुरे पूर्णमीक्षतः ॥

adye me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam|

trtIyam rangiNaH saudham gopure pUrNamIkShataH||

Happy news! SrImAn Anjaiya, the Governor of the State of Andhrapradesh, is coming to Srirangam on the Fourteenth of December. He is going to participate in the inaugural function for the construction of the fourth stage of the Rajagopuram. I received this news through a telegram. We are eagerly awaiting his visit.

You can learn of all the details in the Thai month edition of the SrI Nrsimhapriya magazine. The third level was completed on the twelfth day of Kartikai month. It looks very beautiful. The devotees are repeatedly visiting the site and enjoying the vista. This tier has been constructed as per the wishes of SrI Kanchi KamakoTi AcAryA-s.

The fourth stage will be finished by the end of the month of Panguni. SrImAn Anjaiya himself will help with the construction of the fifth level through Tiruppati devasthAnam. There is no need to doubt this. I will update you later on further information about who will sponsor the remaining tiers. SrI Ranganathan is fully increasing my strength and confidence!

If devotees keep sending funds, we can easily use that as advance payments towards expenses and hasten the construction. This will result in the accumulation of blessings from SrI Ranganathan.

One important consequence of building this Rajagopuram is that the poor people who are daily laborers are benefitting from this work. Also, because they are involved in a gopura kaimkaryam which is a sacred effort, good fortune will accrue for them and they will reach lofty worlds at the end of their lives.

For those who give money towards the gopuram construction, good fortune will keep multiplying even if they do not seek it. They will be blessed with many worthy offspring. SrI Ranganathan will shower them with much more wealth than what they give for the gopuram construction.

When you see the gopuram, Lord SrI Ranganathan will enter into your heart. HE will destroy your sins. He will channel your mind towards Him. HE will bestow you will all auspiciousness!

There is none who do not contemplate about Bhagavan. "Do nAstikA-s (atheists) also think of BhagavAn?" you might ask. Yes, they are the ones who are constantly pondering over BhagavAn. Every time they decry BhagavAn and deny the existence of God or Celestial beings, they think about Him - a lot!

When an atheist views the upcoming Sriranga gopuram, SrI Ranganathan, Who resides in this temple in the reclining posture on SrI AdiSeshan instantaneously appears like a lighting inside his/her mind.

Immediately, the atheist thinks "I keep ranting that there is no God; but how can such a grand gopuram be constructed if there was no God? Henceforth, I should not even for a joke, utter words that deny God!". They decide to become a part of this huge effort. These words are verily the truth. You can examine your own heart to check the veracity of this.

श्रीरङ्गे गोपुरे दृष्ट्वा रङ्गनाथं स्मरन्ति ये।

पापाद्विमुक्तास्सर्वे ते भुञ्जते चाखिलं फलम्॥

SrIrange gopuram drshTvA ranganaAtham smaranti ye|

pApAt vimuktaAH sarve te bhunjate cAkhilam phalam ||

Subhamastu

thai/January 1982

The beautiful third tier of Srirangam Rajagopuram is complete. It has been ten days since the start of the construction of the fourth tier. About three feet of work has been accomplished. The entire level will be finished by the twentieth day of Panguni month.

Subhamastu

Maci/February 1982

One welcome news!

I have absolute confidence that SrI Ranganathan's gopuram will be completed pretty soon. It is common knowledge that as soon as the first level was finished SrImad Tirukkudantai Andavan came forward to sponsor the expenses related to the building of the second stage and gave around eleven lakhs of rupees towards the same.

After this the people rejoiced again when SrI Kanchi KamakoTi maThAdhipati AcAryA-s took up the responsibility for constructing the third tier of the gopuram and graciously fulfilled their pledge with a gift of around nine lakhs and seventy thousand rupees. It also has come to my knowledge that the AcAryA-s have requested various good-hearted

people to donate towards the construction of few other levels of the gopuram.

The task of building the fourth level has been taken up by the Chief Minister of Andhrapradesh, SrImAn Anjaiya. During the inauguration of the work on the fourth level, SrImAn Anjaiya had also pledged to take care of the fifth level. With the availability of two lakhs of rupees previously given by Tiruppati DevasthAnam, the labor activities for the fourth level has now begun and one-fourth of the work has been finished so far. I am hoping that the sponsors will send in their pledges quickly for finalizing the work on the fourth and fifth stages.

SrIman G.K. DevarAjulu, the proprietor of M/S Lakshmi Mills, Coimbatore has agreed to support the building of the sixth tier. Experts are of the opinion that by the end of the year 1983, the Rajagopuram project with its thirteen tiers will be concluded. Words cannot express the extent of pleasure that is engendered by this affirmation.

Some MaThAdhipati-s (heads of religious organizations) are feeling hesitant to even visit the site to have a look at the gopuram. Probably they are afraid that SrI Ranganathan might involve them as well in the construction of the gopuram!

There is only one burden that I have as I take the lead in this kaimkaryam. That is, I am having to borrow upfront to get the kaimkaryam going. Of course, the funds are backfilled by others who are pledging. But because I am spearheading the effort, I have now borrowed over ten lakhs of rupees. Of course, this loan will soon be paid off.

SrI R. Ramanujam Iyengar had come for a visit from Bombay (Mumbai). He was very happy with the progress of the three tiers at the site. His words, "Do not be excessively worried about anything. Perumal will fulfill everything" was understood by me to mean that whatever balance remained after others have paid, SrI Ramanujam Iyengar will take care of that! This was very encouraging. I am of the hope that he will be sending in the funds pretty soon. He is one of those honorable people who keep their words.

There are many small jobs that are pending. So, I am praying to Perumal to enable you all to find happiness and good fortune through your small cash contributions to help with these pending jobs. These gifts can be as minimum as the count of the fingers on your two hands

(ten rupees per person). A thousand people sending in ten rupees per person will realize the target.

Please come and enjoy the sight of the gopuram in person. Those who listen to the progress of pious efforts, those who witness the devoted endeavors of good people, those who motivate others to perform good deeds, those who discharge sacred duties, those who do not obstruct righteous work and those who do not denounce devotees are all equally blessed by SrI RanganAyika sameta SrI Ranganathan. Please have complete faith that the divya dampatis will protect one and all.

Subhamastu

Panguni/March 1982

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

यद्रङ्गिगोपुरे सौधं तृतीयं पश्यतो मम ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

yadrangigopure saudham trtIyam paSyato mama ||

Oh, fortunate beings! Harken to this! Everyone is aware of the fact that SrImAn Anjaiya participated in the inaugural function at the start of the fourth level of the Rajagopuram. Everyone must also have learnt that an amount of nine lakhs of rupees has been sanctioned towards this kaimkaryam as published in the newspapers. I had subtracted an amount of two lakhs of rupees from the said amount. This was previously presented by Tiruppati DevasthAnam. So, a balance of seven lakhs of rupees was pending receipt. Out of these seven lakhs, on 4th March 1982, a cheque from the officials of Tiruppati DevasthAnam for three lakhs of rupees was received. Immediately on receiving this cheque, I sent them an acknowledgement of receipt. One third of the fourth floor has been built. This will be completed by the end of Panguni month. I hope that the officers of Tiruppati DevasthAnam will help complete the construction of the fifth tier of the gopuram as well. It is a well-known fact that SrI Srinivasa Perumal will not abandon those who have faith in Him.

Chittirai/April 1982

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

यन्नृसिंहपदद्वन्द्वपरिचयो करोम्यहम्॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam|

yannrsimhapadadvandva paricayo karomyaham||

The Srirangam Rajagopura kaimkaryam is going on. If the four lakhs of rupees from Tiruppati is received soon, the completion of the fourth level of the gopuram will proceed smoothly. Not sure what SrI Srinivasan's thoughts are regarding this!

I am invigorated by the news of the limitless efforts undertaken by the Senior AcArya of SrI Kanchi KamakoTi Mutt for the successful completion of the gopura kaimkaryam.

If the six lakhs of rupees that was borrowed upfront could be paid off, then the unnecessary payments towards interest can be avoided. BhagavAn should prompt the people who owe payment to hasten the process. The fourth tier will get constructed within a month. Who then will be blessed with the good fortune of getting the fifth level completed? Till now, I am unaware of who it would be! Only SrI Ranganathan should appoint the correct person.

VaikAsi/May 1982

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं सुजीवितम्।

यस्मात् श्रीपंचमं सौधं स्वारब्धं रङ्गिगोपुरे॥

adye me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam|

yasmAt SrIpancamam saudham svArabdhham rangigopure||

Since construction on the gopuram for SrI Ranganatha was begun, the responsibility for building the first floor was taken up by SrI Ahobila Mutt. It is well known that the construction of the second floor was accomplished with the support of SrImad Tirukkudantai Andavan. The

third tier was completed at an expense of nine lakhs sixty-seven thousand five hundred rupees that was pledged by SrI Kanchi KamakoTi pITHAdhipati-s. The structure looks beautiful.

Under the sponsorship of Tiruppati DevasthAnam, the fourth level was begun and is now at the stage of completion. The total expense towards this is nine lakhs of rupees. So far, the DevasthAnam has only given five Lakhs of rupees. When will SrI Srinivasan instruct the DevasthAnam people to remit the balance of funds that was pledged by them? I do not know!

Preparations are under way for the commencement of the construction of the fifth floor. Most probably, the fifth level would be completed by SrImad Andavan himself, I hope. The fifth floor will be constructed before the end of AvaNi month.

Ani/June 1982

The fourth tier of Srirangam Rajagopuram will be completed before the cAturmAsya sankalpam. Everyone can see it and enjoy. A person encounters various expenses for their family during their lives. If each person could consider the remittances towards the Rajagopuram kaimkaryam as being similar to one such family expense and send in at the least an amount of one hundred rupees, the gopuram could be built quickly. SrImad Tirukkudantai Andavan is expecting a word from a Sishya, who is a generous donor. The communication seems to convey the message "Do not worry about this". I feel that I will be relieved of all my worries once SrI Kanchi KamakoTi pITHAdhipati-s come for a visit to Trichy. Many AstikA-s have sent lottery tickets that they purchased to be used for the gopuram! How SrI Ranganatha is going to get His wish fulfilled? I do not know. The Lord will never advertise His intentions beforehand. He will reign in one's ego and thereby achieve the results He wishes. Everyone should take part in this gopura kaimkaryam. Apart from making contributions themselves, they should also encourage other benevolent people to donate. If everyone takes a keen interest to participate, we can construct even one thousand gopurams!

Subhamastu

ADi/July 1982

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

तुरियं पश्यतः पूर्णं सौधं श्रीरङ्गगोपुरे ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam|

turIyam paShyataH pUrNam saudham SrIrangagopure||



Fourth Tier constructed – July 1982

Once every year SrI VibheeshanAzhvar visits Srirangam, the bhUloka vaikuNTham, to worship SrI Ranganathan. When he comes, he enters through the South Tower called as Rayar Gopuram, which receives the benevolent glances of SrI Ranganathan as He looks towards SrI Lanka. So, on every visit SrI VibheeshaNa wonders if someone would complete the construction of the unfinished moTTai gopuram.

When VibheeshaNan pays obeisance to SrI Ranganathan, he expresses his thoughts to the Lord. In response SrI Ranganathan has the habit

of saying, "Do not worry! A person will come. I will appoint him. This person is someone who is unperturbed by praise or insults and who is equanimous about happiness and sadness. With the help of charitable persons, this man will somehow complete the construction of the thirteen levels of the gopuram as well as a vimAnam with thirteen kalaSa-s on top of the tiers". This reply by the Lord immensely pleases VibheeshaNan every time.

So to fulfill the promise made to VibhIshaNan, the Lord somehow has cast a spell in me and has made me a fitting instrument for His kaimkaryam. He has energized me. With total faith in Him, aDiyEn too took up this kaimkaryam. Everyone consented to the proposal. With help from many pious donors I was able to successfully complete the first floor at an expense of twenty-five lakhs of rupees.

As commanded by SrI Ranganathan, Tirukkudantai SrImad Andavan helped with the completion of the second floor at the expense of eleven lakhs of rupees. This is common knowledge. Following the advise of Kanchi KamakoTi maThadhipati, SrI Jayendra Sarasvati svAmikal, helped complete the third floor at an expense of nine lakhs and seventy-five thousand rupees. This too is a well-known fact by everyone.

By the niyamanam (order) of Tiruppati SrI Srinivasan, the officials of Tiruppati DevasthAnam and administrative staff of Andhra Government have helped construct the fourth floor at an expense of nine lakhs of rupees. This got completed on the thirtieth day of Ani month in dundubhi year. KamakoTi pITHAdhipati SrI Jayendra Sarasvati svAmikal paid a personal visit on the first day of July in 1982 and was filled with joy as he looked at the third tier built from the funds given by the Kanchi Mutt. He presided over the ceremony to start the fifth tier. The work has now begun on the fifth floor.

The work is progressing in full swing. We have begun the construction with the support of SrImad Andavan. This will require eight lakhs of rupees to complete. SrImad Andavan has asked me to not worry. So aDiyEn is not troubled about this.

acyutaH prIyatAm

AvaNi/August 1982

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

शङ्करार्यं यतीन्द्रेण प्रारब्धं सौधमीक्षितः ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam|

SankarArya yatIndreNa prArabdham saudhamIkshitaH ||

O generous people! Take note! The fifth tier of the Srirangam south gopuram, the foundation for which was started with auspicious music and the Vedic benediction of SrI Kanchi KamakoTi pITHAdhipati SrI Jayendra Sarasvati svAmikal, is being built at a rapid pace. This gopuram is very close to the heart of SrI Ranganathan. The hasta mahAtmiyam (greatness) of the Kanchi AcArya must be the reason for the successful construction. Everyone must be made aware of the intense efforts by Putu PeriyavA to get the Government of Mysore to help with the fifth tier. This has given me relief from worries about the lack of sponsors for the same. The happiness aDiyEn feels is immeasurable.

Generally, we observe in this world that a person spends about twenty thousand, thirty or fifty thousand rupees according to their financial capacity towards their daughter's marriage. If such people considered the building of SrI Ranganathan's gopuram as being similar to getting their daughter married and spared one thousand rupees for the gopuram construction by limiting one of the many unnecessary expenses that goes into performing a marriage and instead spent that amount on the celebration of the gopuram, the building would be completed very quickly.

In a similar vein, people should save a portion of the funds that they spend towards various family functions and celebrations and give that portion for the gopuram construction. This good deed will be an apt vehicle for living a great life both in the here and hereafter. Purchasing veshTi-s and saris for lower prices and sending the funds saved by such purchases towards building the gopuram will elevate every family to great heights.

If the budget is to purchase a jewel for twenty thousand rupees, then one can decide to buy a different ornament for nineteen thousand and then donate the thousand rupees thus saved towards the gopuram. This will bring stability to one's life.

I need not explain about the ways to make money to the Merchants! If they can spare one and a half paise for every rupee they make as profit and send in the cash saved once every month, it would be more than enough.

Oh, those amongst us who are regular movie goers! Listen to my words! One day a month, abstain from going to the cinemas and contribute the money thus saved to the gopuram kaimkaryam. The gopuram will rise! This will be an enchanting vision to behold!

Those who are involved in the purchase and selling of real estate give payments to brokers who are engaged in this business. Such people can think of their donations towards SrI Ranganathan's gopuram as being a similar payment and help in the construction! They will be blessed with all auspiciousness.

SrI u.vE. MahAvidvan Madurantakam Veeraraghavachariyar svAmi generously gave one thousand rupees from the grant of five thousand rupees that was awarded to him by the Central Government. Despite my repeated refusal to accept this, he insisted on donating the money saying, "This is the time for me to give this contribution". He gave the money with a happy heart. The observation he made on this occasion, was quite interesting. He said, "If I took this money back home due to Azhagiyasingar's insistence, then my wife who requested me to hand over this cash for the kaimkaryam, will not be pleased and will shun me. Hence I have to make this samarpaNam of thousand rupees here and now and receive the phala mantrAkshatai to take home to her". Thus saying, he refused to take back the thousand rupees. I received the funds from him with great hesitation.

The fifth floor will be completed before Deepavali. Everyone will be able to witness this and rejoice.

SrI MAIola Vidvat sadas has commenced and is progressing well. All the scholars are attending. On the first day of the sadas, the conference was begun at daSAvatAra sannidhi itself after abhigamana ArAdhana (the morning rituals at SrI maTham) and was concluded at eleven in the morning. The same day at 2:00 p.m, the afternoon session was held in the beautiful first floor of the gopuram, that was recently constructed. This wonderful session was graced by all vidvAns and concluded at 5:30 pm. It can be safely said that even nityasUris and mukta jIvan-s in SrI VaikuNTtham would not have felt the delight experienced by everyone present during this occasion. At this event, about one hundred and fifty people (men and women laborers) who

were involved in the construction of the gopuram were presented with vastram-s as commanded by SrI Ranganathan. The supervisors who oversee the construction were also honored with vastram-s. Everyone felt blessed.

There are many who feel that they too can take part in the gopura kaimkaryam to the extent that they can afford. They are just waiting to be asked. Since I do not know in which city or district they live, nor their addresses or the sect to which they belong, I am unable to send individual appeal to each and every one of them. Hence I urge those readers who subscribe to SrI NrsimhapriyA magazine to make the appeal on my behalf, to all the good-hearted people that they know and encourage them to make donations towards this kaimkaryam. This will earn all of them great blessings.

I am of the view that there are no nAstikA-s (non-believers) in this world! When someone says, "I have an opinion/a principle", are they not believers (AstikA-s)? If someone hopes to win an election by securing a large number of votes so that they can do some good for the citizens, are they not AstikA-s? If someone wants to live a comfortable life and also provide comfort to those close to them, are they not AstikA-s? Those who believe in religion, are they not AstikA-s irrespective of the religious tradition they follow? That is why I urge that the appeal for the gopura kaimkaryam be made to all the believers (AstikA-s)!

VedAntin-s can be called as nAstikA-s too! How? If one asked advaitins, they say that nothing except Brahman exists! While the dvaitA-s say that there is no body-soul connection between Brahman (who is the ParamAtma) and jIvAtma. If one enquired of the followers of SrI Ramanuja, "nAsadasIt, nosadasIt tathanIm" – which means that during Pralaya, there was nothing that was real (sat) and there was nothing that was unreal (asat). These people keep saying, "there is nothing, there is nothing". But do we call them as nAstikA-s for this reason? Do we not continue to call them as AstikA-s?

Similarly just because someone says that 'there are no castes, no religion, no God or Divine entities', we cannot call them as nAstikA-s. Calling those people who have names of Gods like Ramasvami, Karunanidhi, Ganapati etc., as nAstikA-s would be incorrect. There are no true non-believers in this world; everyone is a believer (AstikA). So, each should according to their convenience help in constructing this gopuram for the Lord. If people contributed to the temple gopuram knowing that the funds help to provide for many impoverished

families, the gopuram will be built swiftly. Everyone will be able to enjoy heavenly bliss!

Subhamastu

PuraTTaci/September 1982

सफलं जन्म सर्वेषां पश्यतां सौधमुत्तमम् ।

शृण्वतां पंचमं पुण्यं ददतां च धनं मुदा ॥

saphalam janma sarveshAm paSyatAm saudhamuttamam|

SrNvatAm pancamam puNyam dadatAm ca dhanam mudA||

Oh great souls! If one thinks about things, it becomes evident that we are not the doers of anything. If BhagavAn enjoins us to do something, then there is nothing that we cannot do. But when noble souls wish in their hearts to perform an act, then BhagavAn will make that wish come true. When SrI Kanchi KamakoTi pIThAdhipati, Jagadguru AcArya came to Srirangam to pray to SrI Ranganathan, the AcArya looked at the South gopuram and told the devotees gathered nearby that, "If this gopuram is built to completion, then Srirangam will indeed be fit to be called as BhUloka VaikuNTham." This reflected the thought "Subhena manasA dyAtam". I came to know of this good news. Resolving to grant this heartfelt wish of this great soul, SrI Ranganathan chose a humble person like aDiyEn to become the ArAdhaka of SrI LakshmInrsimhan as the forty-fourth pontiff of SrI Ahobila Mutt and commanded aDiyEn to construct a smaller gopuram at SrI Ahobilam. After that, SrI Ranganathan appointed me to construct this exalted gopuram at His own place of Srirangam. Now there is rapid growth in the building of the fifth tier which was begun on an auspicious day with the blessings of SrI Kanchii KamakoTi pIThAdhipati SrI Jayendra Sarasvati (Putu PeriyavA). It is common knowledge that various ministers and philanthropists have been specifically invited to participate in the kaimkaryam and engaged to fund the building of the fifth floor. I heard that a donor named SrImAn Gundu Rao, honorable Chief Minister of Mysore (Karnataka) State has pledged to take care of the construction of the fifth floor of the gopuram on behalf of their government. The full funding for the fifth tier will be definitely made available. Three-fourth of this floor is now finished. Generous minded people are lending enough as loan to make

this possible. They have also promised to help complete the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth tiers. The entire gopuram will be built soon. It will be a delight to all. Feeling embarrassed to keep on repeatedly asking for financial help to complete this kaimkaryam.

aippaci/October 1982

सफलं जन्म सर्वेषां पश्यतां सौधमुत्तमम् ।

शृण्वतां पंचमं पुण्यं ददतां च धनं मुदा ।।

saphalam janma sarveshAm paSyatAm saudhamuttamamI

SrNvatAm pancamam puNyam dadatAm ca dhanam mudAII

Oh good people! Everyone knows about the South Gopura kaimkaryam that is ongoing at Srirangam. Many keep sending funds by cash, cheque or money orders to the extent manageable by each. Some are donating even beyond what is possible for them. The fifth tier will be completed by DeepAvali. There is no doubt about it.

SrI Kanchi KamakoTi pIThAdhipati who is presently at camp in North India, is continuing to urge people who are visiting him to donate lakhs of rupees towards the construction of the gopuram. Those devotees who have met the AcArya are also taking his words to their heart and are trying their best to comply with his request. I hope that the balance amount of rupees six lakhs that remains to be received for the third and fourth level construction of the gopuram, will also be at hand soon.

I have also made the initial payment towards the fifth tier and have begun the construction. Not sure as to which benevolent person will be chosen by SrI Ranganathan to finance this portion of the construction. But my enthusiasm is not lessened by this. Every day I climb the gopuram to inspect the work underway, and looking at all that is being done, I feel like I do not know who I am! Those who see me in this place also say that they do not understand who I am!

People who have come forward to help with the construction of the next levels of the gopuram are happy and eager to start the

commencement celebrations for the same. I think I can name the sponsor who is going to help with funds for the construction of the sixth floor of the gopuram. This person is the one who has constructed the AshTalakshmi Temple and has received the blessings of Sri Lakshmi.

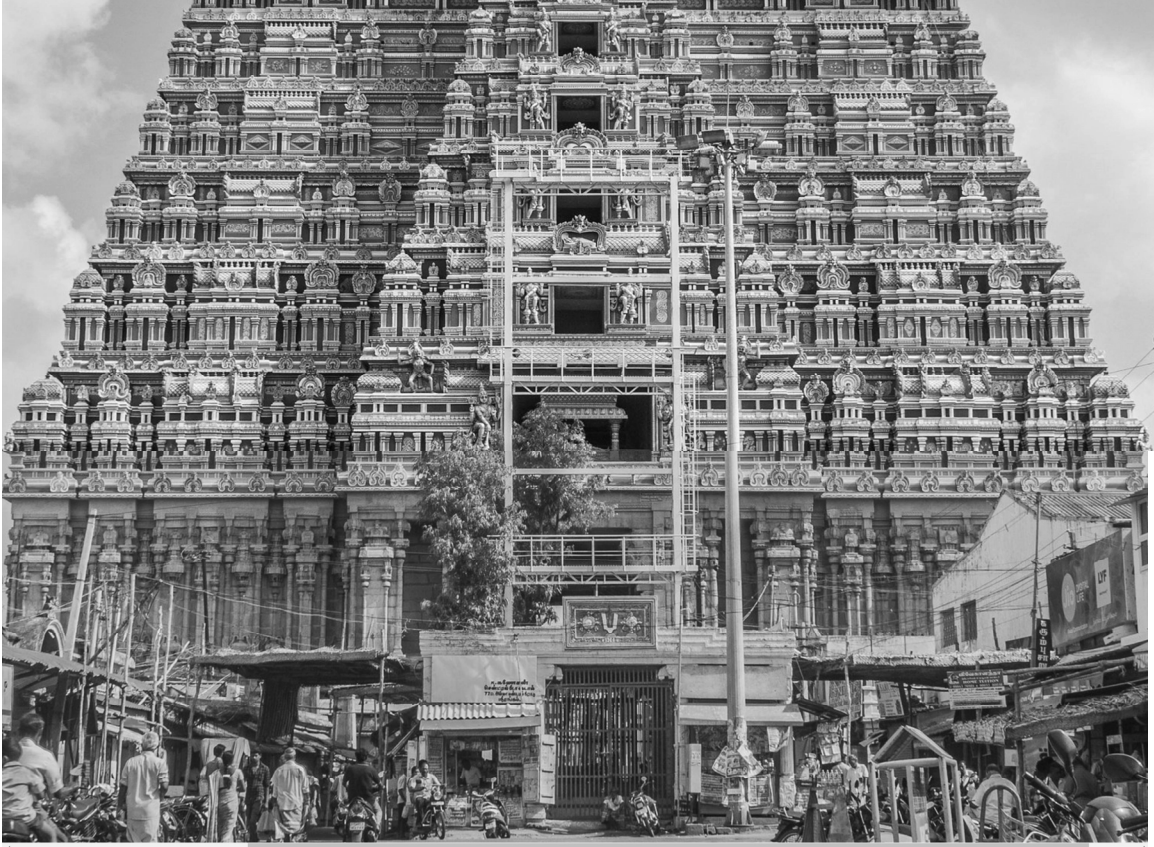
Kartigai/November 1982

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

गोपुरे रङ्गिणस्त्वद्य पंचमं सौधमीक्षितः ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

gopure rangiNastvadya pancamam saudhamIkshitaH ||



Fifth tier completed – November 1982

The construction of the fifth level of the South gopuram is complete. The entire expense for this has been underwritten by the honorable Chief Minister of Mysore (Karnataka), SriMAn Gundu Rao, at the

request of SrI Kanci KamakoTi pITHAdhipati-s. The honorable Chief Minister has issued the necessary orders for the same to his administrative officers. There is nothing to worry about the fifth tier any longer. The great AcArya-s have also instructed several other devotees to help with the sixth level of the structure. Those devotees have also agreed to do the needful. The foundation laying ceremony will be conducted after the donors' arrival and thereafter I will update further about the kaimkaryam in the next magazine. I think that there is nothing to worry about from now on. Astika-s are taking a keen interest in the kaimkaryam. There is good cash flow every day. All the minor expenses are well taken care of, without much stress.

Margazhi/Decenber 1982

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

यन्नृसिंहपदाम्भोजपरिचर्यां करोम्यहम् ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

yannrsimhapadAmbhojaparicaryaAm karomi aham||

SrImAn Gundu Rao, the Chief Minister of Karnataka state has helped to complete the fifth floor of the gopuram as advised by SrI Kanci KamakoTi pITHAdhipati-s. The AcAryA-s of SrI Kanchi Mutt have also enjoined SrImAn Ilayaraja to help with the construction of the sixth level and he has been donating lakhs and lakhs of rupees towards the same. It appears that SrImAn Anjaiya is interested to sponsor the seventh tier of the gopuram.

Subhamastu

thai/January 1983

The sixth tier of the Rajagopuram is rising every day. This was sponsored by SrIman Ilayaraja.

Subhamastu

Maci/February 1983

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

यन्नृसिंहपदद्वन्द्वपरिचर्यां करोम्यहम्॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

yannrsimhapadadvandvaparicaryAm karomi aham ||

Sponsored by SrImAn Ilayaraja, the sixth floor of SrI Ranganatha gopuram is likely to be completed by the month of Panguni. The work is progressing at a rapid pace. Many pious minded people are competing with each other to sponsor the remaining levels of the gopuram. This will easily get completed.

Since the pITHAdhipati-s of SrI Kanchi Kamakoti mutt (from their camp in North India) are helping immensely by engaging many donors to get involved with the kaimkaryam, I am free of worries. This is a welcome news. I pray to SrI Ranganathan to let this trend continue.

Panguni/March 1983

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

यन्नृसिंहपदद्वन्द्वपरिचर्यां करोम्यहम्॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

yannrsimhapadadvandvaparicaryAm karomi aham ||

At present the sixth floor of the South Rajagopuram at Srirangam is three-fourth finished. It will be fully built by the end of the Panguni month. There is no doubt about this. For the construction of this tier, SrImAn Ilayaraja has given four lakhs and fifty thousand (4,50,000) rupees so far and continues to transfer funds whenever required. There has been no trouble. The work is speeding up.

The good souls of Trichy-Srirangam have decided to sponsor the seventh tier and are actively trying to collect the necessary funds.

Officials and lawyers in every court are happily involved in collecting the funds that are being voluntarily given by donors. School teachers and students (boys and girls) are also enthusiastically helping with assembling the cash.



Sixth tier completed – March 1983

The Commissioner of the Municipality and other officials are also engaged in this effort. There is no limit to the interest evinced by the shop keepers! It looks like they would construct the entire seventh tier all by themselves! An amount of six lakhs of rupees would be enough to finish the building of this floor. But by the looks of it, the funds collected would enjoy a surplus. With prayers to SrI Ranganathan to bless everyone with all auspiciousness.

Chittirai/April 1983

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

यन्नृसिंहपदद्वन्द्वपरिचर्यां करोम्यहम्॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

yannrsimhapadadvandvaparicaryAm karomi aham ||

The sixth level of the South gopuram at Srirangam was completed at the end of Panguni month. SIimAn Ilayaraja helped with uninterrupted supply of funds whenever required for the expenses incurred. I will update the total amount involved in the next month issue of SrI Nrsimha Priya. At the behest of the fortunate residents of Trichy-Srirangam, Minister SrImAn Rama Veerappan graced the commencement ceremony for the seventh tier of the gopuram. He is a good person. There is little doubt that the seventh level will get completed within Chittirai, Vaikaci or Ani months. The people of Trichy-Srirangam are not only enthusiastically donating more than they can afford to, but they are also motivating others to do the same.

Each and every one – officers, merchants, wealthy individuals, poor people – is happily looking forward to completing the construction of this tier of the gopuram. I pray to SrI RanganAyika sameta SrI Ranganatha to continue to bless these people.

VaikAci/May 1983

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

यद्रङ्गिगोपुरे सौधं प्रेक्षेऽहं सप्तमं मुदा॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

yadrangigopure saudham prekshe'ham saptamam mudA||

SrI Ranganathan reclining on Adishesan, got the sixth tier of the South gopuram of His beloved Srirangam constructed through SrImAn

Ilayaraja. The finished structure looks very beautiful. Those who have viewed the gopuram thus far are enchanted by its appearance.

One fourth of the work involved in the seventh tier is finished. It will be completed by the end of the month of Ani. It is SrI Ranganathan's wish to have the seventh level built by the pious people of Trichy-Srirangam. He enters into each person's mind and encourages them to contribute more and more. Some people are making their donations to aDiyEn too. I am going to use all the funds for building the seventh level.

SrImAn u.vE. Hitler Thirumalacharyar has been chosen by SrI Ranganathan to support the construction of the eighth tier. This great soul has been involved in many kaimkaryams in Srirangam temple. aDiyen prays to SrI RanganAyika sameta SrI Ranganatha to bless all these individuals with abundance of wealth and happiness.

A note – There could be many reasons for a person to make a donation. You may be giving the amount out of the joy in your heart, due to compulsion from others, as an opportunity to boast about yourself, after listening to others and realizing the nobility of offering funds towards the construction, or by borrowing from others. There could be people who might have abstained from discouraging others who wanted to make a donation. There could yet be those who are filled with regret that they are unable to participate in this kaimkaryam. SrI Ranganathan will bless each and every one with appropriate boons.

Those who hear about this, who behold the gopuram, who encourage others to take part in the kaimkaryam, who believe that this is indeed a worthy cause to make contributions to – SrI Ranganathan considers all of these people as being very dear to Him. This can be seen from the following Sloka:

dharmah Srto vA drshTo vA smrto vA gati to(a)pi vA |
anumodito vA rAjendra! punAti purusham sadA ||

The hearts of those involved in this kaimkaryam get purified. They have an increased interest to learn more about the Lord. They wish to do good deeds as they are captivated by the accounts of pious people who have attained exalted positions in life by the blessings of the Lord. Their wishes lead them to perform virtuous acts. This makes them reach great heights.

When performing these types of kaimkaryams, people should avoid seeking specific boons but instead offer whatever they could as a humble token exclusively for the enjoyment of the Lord. Such meritorious acts will create the desire in people's minds to reach SrIvaikuNTham. Then these people will follow the instructions of their respective AcAryAs by which they will end up performing good deeds. Such deeds will fetch them good fortune.

Subham

AnI/June 1983

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

यन्नृसिंहपदद्वन्द्वपरिचर्यां करोम्यहम्॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

yannrsimhapadadvandvaparicaryAm karomi aham ||

The seventh tier of the South gopuram at Srirangam will be completed by the thirtieth day of Ani month. The expense towards this is being taken care of by the eminent people of Trichy-Srirangam, who have formed a committee for the collection of funds.

At the right moment, SrI Jayendra Sarasvati svAmi of SrI Kanchi Mutt sent three lakhs of rupees as a portion of the outstanding amount pledged towards the construction of the third tier of the gopuram. This was a fortuitous receipt of funds. Now I am worry free. Kanchi svAmikal have also ordered for the quick disbursement of the balance funds pledged for the fourth and fifth levels. So, these too will come in soon.

SrImAn Ilayaraja will also be sending in by the end of this month, the balance payment due from him. There is no doubt about it. A year from today, all the thirteen levels of the gopuram as well as the VimAna will be completely built. Everyone can see it and celebrate.

Subhamastu

ADi/July 1983

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

यन्नृसिंहपदद्वन्द्वपरिचर्यां करोम्यहम्॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

yannrsimhapadadvandvaparicaryAm karomi aham ||



Seventh tier completed – July 1983

A great feast for AstikAs! The remarkable seventh floor of the South gopuram of SrI Ranganatha temple at Srirangam has been successfully completed. Hearing this would be nectar in the ears of AstikAs! Seeing it in person would be a feast for their eyes! An auspicious start has also been made in this month of Ani itself, for the building of the eighth floor. This will be completed by the 30th of AvaNi month. This eighth level of the gopuram brings to mind the eight lettered mantra (ashTAKsharam) presided over by SrIman Narayana

Himself! Can there be any doubt that those who worship these eight tiers will be blessed with the benevolent glances of SrIman Narayana?

The dazzling form of the five levels of the gopuram that remains to be built can already be visualized! All who have seen the structure so far are commenting that it indeed is complete already! The required funds will come through! Everyone feels very confident now. The directive from SrI Kanchi KamakoTi AcAryAs are prompting people to remit their pledged amounts quickly.

The advance payment of rupees twenty lakhs (Rs.20,00,000) is yet to be received. That too will come in quickly by the grace of SrI Ranganathan. The seventh-floor expenses have been compensated only up to two lakhs of rupees. People are predicting that that amount too will soon be at hand. I believe that this prediction will come true.

AvaNi/August 1983

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

श्रीरङ्गगोपुरे त्वद्य वीक्षतः सौधमष्टमम्॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam|

SrIrangagopure tvadya vIkshataH saudhamashTamam||

It is now confirmed that the eighth floor of the Srirangam South gopuram will be constructed with the sponsorship of Srirangam SrImAn Hitler Thirumalacharyar svAmi. As an initial offering he has handed over a collection of rupees one lakh, assembled from donations by AstikAs. As of today, half of the eighth tier is complete. The remaining portion will be finished in another twenty days. There is no doubt about it. There is a requirement of about five and a half lakhs of rupees for this phase of the construction. SrI Thirumalacharyar has pledged to personally contribute the balance that remains after the collections are tallied in. I hope that people will generously donate so that he is spared from excessive financial burden.

Here is an observation – There are 108 temples that have been eulogized by AzhvAr-s. These temples and places are called as Tiruppati-s.

Of these, there is a temple in SrIvaikuNTham that has innumerable ramparts and towers (gopurams). In that temple, SrIman Narayanan is seated on AdiSeshan and has SrI devi, BhUmadevi and NIla devi at His side. He adorns resplendent jewels and wears a dazzling crown made of many diamonds. He carries the Disc (Cakram) and the Conch (Sankham) in His hands and is dressed in yellow garments of rich silk. Thus does this blue-hued Supreme Lord appear to nityasUris such as Anantan, Garudan, Vishvaksena et al as well as to the mukta jIvan-s who have arrived at SrIvaikuNTham as a result of their bhakti or by performing prapatti.

On this earth, the temple for SrI Ranganathan at Srirangam is the only one that is similar to the temple at SrIvaikuNTham. It is a known fact that there is no other temple that has seven prakArA-s like those found in Srirangam. In this temple, SrI Ranganathan is reclining on the bed of AdiSeshan. His sacred feet are extended towards the East. He rests His head in the West. He faces the South where His merciful glances are always falling on Vibeeshanan who is in Lanka. Everyone knows that even though He always looks towards the South direction, the unfinished gopuram (moTTai gopuram) in the South somehow escaped His attention for a long while. Now having resolved to make the moTTai gopuram a worthy rival to the resplendent gopuram at SrIvaikuNTham, SrI Ranganathan has entered into the hearts of Astika-s and is motivating them to perform this magnificent kaimkaryam. The eighth tier of this tower will be completed in the month of AvaNi when the Hastam star is in ascendance. Those who get to see the gopuram at the completion of this tier, will get the benefits of having chanted the ashTAKshara mantram, no doubt! Use this opportunity to hasten your good fortune!

எட்டும் இரண்டும் அறியாத எம்மை இவை அறிவித்து
எட்டவொண்ணாத இடம் தரும் எங்கள் மாதவனார்
முட்ட வினைத்திரள் மாள முயன்றிடும் அஞ்சல் என்றார்
கட்டவிற்ப வாசகத்தால் கலங்கா நிலை பெற்றனமே.

eTTum iraNDum aRiyAta emmai ivai aRivittu
eTTavoNNata iDam tarum engkaL mAdavanAr
muTTa vinaittiraL mALa muyanRiDum ancal enRAR
kaTTavizh vAcakattAl kalangka nilai peRRaname

This is a Sloka from one of the SrI sUktis of SvAmi DeSikan. From time immemorial, we are immersed in the ocean of samsAra. We suffer from lack of knowledge about right and wrong. Due to some good deeds done in the past, the Lord grants us the boon of association with a virtuous AcArya. The Lord then directs the AcArya to instruct us on the rahasyatryam - ashTAKsharam, dvayam and carama Slokam. This blesses us with faultless knowledge.

We are not even intelligent enough to understand that eight plus two is ten. Such being the case, how can we ever learn ashTAKsharam, dvayam and carama Slokam? Only by the grace of God do we get to find a noble AcAryan who would guide us in the righteous path. Thus, the Lord imparts us the knowledge of the rahasyatrayam with its meanings and develops the discriminating intellect in us thereby helping us to perform SaraNAGati at His Sacred Feet. He is the only one capable of granting the boon of Moksha, which is unattainable by worshipping anyone else. As per the statement "mokshamicchet janArdanAt", MahAvishNu is the only one qualified to grant Moksha. Thus, SrI Madhavan confers Paramapada, which no one else can give and which place is not attainable by those who do not understand Him. He is eager to destroy the multitude of sins that we have accumulated since time immemorial. In the carama Slokam from Gitopanishad, He promises thus, "You, who have surrendered to Me need not fear anything, nor need you feel sad." Hence, we need not feel troubled by anything. The great AcArya, SvAmi DeSikan says that since the Lord is standing by ever ready to take on Himself the burden of our sins and bless us with all kinds of auspiciousness, there is no cause for us to feel worried at all!

Seeing the eighth floor of the tower reminded me of this pAsuram (verse). SrI Ranganathan has appointed aDiyEn to build the thirteen tiers. When this kaimkaryam started, I did wonder as to how this could ever be accomplished? But SrI Ranganathan has been constantly fortifying my faith and confidence in Him. Now aDiyEn feels unreservedly optimistic about the kaimkaryam. Once the eighth level got built, the conviction has grown multifold that the rest of the tiers will also reach completion as rapidly as the levels below did! There is no hesitation or uncertainty now. Those who get to see this completed section will also feel confident that SrI Ranganathan will see to it that all the floors of His gopuram are built through SrI Azhagiyasingar.

Eight plus two is ten. Take this addition again. Eight = ashTAKsharam, Two = dvayam, and third is carama Slokam – in all, three mantra-s. So, now the addition becomes $10 + 3 = 13$. For a

person who was ignorant of how to even begin the construction, He taught aDiyEn the ways of building the grand structure with thirteen tiers. This is a unique kaimkaryam, neither contemplated by others nor achievable by mere human effort. None of the reigning monarchs or Heads of religious organizations of past ages had ever thought of building this edifice. SrI Ranganatha along with SrI RanganAcciyAr has conferred this blessing on me. When there is a huge task to accomplish, the likelihood of many obstructions arising on the way is only to be expected. But like cotton caught in fire, these hurdles are destroyed quickly. He provides the ways and means to cross every stumbling block in the path of the kaimkaryam. aDiyEn does not fear the outcome, because He has blessed aDiyEn thus, "You, who feels anxious because of your involvement in this enormous task and wonder how you will be able to manage this! Do not be scared! Stay in Srirangam as you perform this kaimkaryam and you will see that it bears fruit soon". I am strengthened by His delightful statement, "atraiva SrIrange sukham Asva".

All of you celebrate the eighth tier which will be finished in the month of Avani. Those who come to see it, and those who have supported the construction of this and other floors of the gopuram will gain fame and fortune in every corner of this world, as said in, "ashTadikkhyAtatAm ca". These people will be blessed with all good fortunes as mentioned in, "eTTu mAmalar, eN siddhi, eN bhakti, eTTu yOgAngam, eN celvam, eTTu mAguNam, eTTeTTeNum kalai, eTTiratam mElatavum eTTinarE". Go forth with unshakable faith! May SrI RanganAyika and SrI Ranganatha bless you always!

Subhamastu

PuraTTAci/September 1983

अद्याहं सफलोद्योगः यद्रङ्गपतिगोपुरे।

अष्टमं सौधमापूर््यानन्तरोपक्रमः कृतः ॥

adyAham saphalodyogaH ydrangapatigopure |

ashTamam saudhamApUryAnantaropakramaH krtah ||

This year too the MAIola Vidvat Sadas was successfully conducted due to the blessings of SrI LakshmInrsimhan. Renowned scholars from

various places graced the conference. Many wonderful topics were discussed by them, thereby enhancing the charm of the sadas. Many trained Vedic experts also participated.



Eighth tier constructed – August 1983

Now eight levels of the Srirangam Rajagopuram are completely built. On 24th day of AvaNi Month itself, the inauguration ceremony for the ninth floor was conducted. This tier will get completed in another two months. The work is progressing at a rapid pace. A very devout person has come forward to pay the full cost of construction by himself. Hence, this can be counted as having been built already.

Then four levels of structure alone are left for construction. Each tier will take approximately two months to finish. So, by AvaNi month next year we can all enjoy the divine sight of the completely built gopuram. Also, everyone can participate in the consecration ceremony (Rajagopura mahA samprokshaNam) and feel contented.

It can be said that the worries that were plaguing my mind have all now vanished! I have no doubt that SrI Ranganathan Who has so far

helped to finish the first eight levels and commence the ninth floor work, will also take care of getting the remaining portions of the gopuram completed without much complication.

Reflecting on all the different ways in which SrI Ranganathan has come to my aid to carry on with this great kaimkaryam, I am overwhelmed with joy, awe and tears of gratitude. He has helped in so many ways of which I mention just two instances here:

One day, an aged person approached me. He placed one thousand and forty rupees on a wooden tray and prostrated. There were ten hundred-rupee notes and four ten-rupee notes in the tray. I asked him the reason for giving the forty rupees over the thousand he has made available. He replied, "Four months ago I had kept aside a sum of one thousand rupees to give to the gopuram kaimkaryam. Then suddenly I had a change of mind and decided not to send the money. Four months have passed away in between. Then last night an elderly person appeared in my dreams and asked, "Why have you not yet sent the thousand rupees towards the gopuram construction? Who did you think that money belongs to? Is it not Mine? Take the cash immediately to SrI Azhagiyasingar SvAmi and when you make the payment do not forget to add ten rupees per month as interest for non-payment earlier and include the additional forty rupees as well in your contribution!". So, as soon as I woke up today morning I rushed here! As planned earlier I have paid one thousand rupees and also included the forty rupees as interest for the intervening four months." So, who do you think that Elderly Person was? Can you guess? It was none other than SrI Ranganathan!

At another time, a young boy from a poor family belonging to mAdhva sampradAya came to see me. He gave one thousand rupees and said that his mother had asked him to hand over the samarpaNam. I asked, "Your family suffers from poverty, so how did you come by this huge amount? Why are you giving this to the kaimkaryam?". The boy replied, "It is many years since my father passed away. When alive, he sold some property of his and deposited an amount of four thousand rupees in the bank. My mother has never touched that money and is somehow managing to take care of us with great difficulty. Last night it seems my father appeared in my mother's dream and said, "Take thousand rupees from the bank and give it for the gopura kaimkaryam. You will not suffer because of this!". So in the morning, my mother handed me this cash and asked me to give it to you".

Most of you will be able to easily understand that the person doing all this is SrI Ranganathan Himself! For those fortunate few who are chosen by Him, He appears in person to engage them in kaimkaryAs. There have been many more such incredible incidents during this kaimkaryam.

These happenings assure me that the efforts taken by us to fulfill the kaimkaryam commanded by SrI Ranganathan meets with His approval and will succeed.

Subhamastu

aippaci/October 1983

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

श्रीरङ्गगोपुरे सौधं नवमं पश्यतोऽधुना ॥

adya me saphalam jIvitam ca sujIvutam |
Srirangagopure saudham navamam paSyato'dhunA ||

Oh people, listen with joy! Every one of you may know of the person who protected Draupati when she was abandoned by all. Similarly, after completing the first eight tiers of the gopuram with the help of many good-hearted people, I faced disappointment when the person whom I had expected to cover the cost of building the ninth floor suddenly withdrew their support. But suddenly my beloved Sishya came to the rescue. He bears the same name as Lord Kannan who provided the sari to Draupati. This Sishya offered lakhs and lakhs of rupees and delivered relief from worries, making me very happy. The ninth level is three-fourth finished now and will be fully done by Deepavali. This is confirmed. N.R. Kannan is donating the entire amount of rupees four lakhs that is to be used for building the ninth tier. Since Krishnan is taking care of the ninth level, SrI Ramachandran has pledged to provide for the tenth tier and has already handed over an amount of four lakhs of rupees that he has collected so far for this. So, there are no worries. Another of aDiyEn's dear Sishya-s who has the absolute blessings of SrI AshTalakshmi has sent word that he will support the construction of the eleventh tier. The privilege to construct the remaining levels are now under competition! Not sure who the fortunate one will be. Hopefully, the tower will be built within the next six months. The work on painting, patchwork, installation of idols etc., will have to be started after that.

Again, who will have the good fortune to support these kaimkaryam-s, we will only know in future!

Question – People ask, “Will constructing a temple tower grant Liberation (Moksha)?”. I would like to ask them in return, “A person learns all the four Veda-s in their entirety. Will he attain Moksha? A person observes ekAdaSI fast till his last breath. Will he attain Moksha? A person gives vast sums of money to charity. Will he attain Moksha? A person performs every type of yagna that there is. Will he attain Moksha?

A person till the time of his death, is truthful, does not covet other women, ingests only good food, performs japa-tapa-s without let, resolves to follow all the prescribed rituals (snAna, sandhyAvandana etc). Will such a person attain Moksha? Will a person who takes bath daily in River Cauvery, attain Moksha? Will he attain Moksha if he bathes in River Ganges, in the vast Setu or in the holy waters of Pushkar?

A lady who has never strayed from her husband, will she attain Moksha? A person who is an arcakA and always engaged in the worship of the Lord, will he attain Moksha?” In similar vein I presented several other noble and pious endeavors and asked whether people performing these would attain Moksha or not? In answer the people who initially raised the question said, “Yes, all of these people mentioned will indeed attain Moksha”. I countered with “How does that happen?”

वेदाक्षराणि यावन्ति पठितानि द्विजादिभिः।

तावन्ति हरिनामानि कीर्तितानि न संशयः ॥

vedAksharANi yAvanti paThitAni dvijAdibhiH |
tAvanti harinAmAni kIrtitAni na samSayaH ||

Thus the phalan is stated.

यानि कानि च पापानि ब्रह्महत्यादिकानि च ।

तानि सर्वाणि नश्यन्ति कृते तु हरिवासरे ॥

yAni kAni ca pApAni brahmahatyAdikAni ca |
tAni sarvANi naSyanti krte tu harivAsare ||

The people who raised the questions earlier quoted the above verses and said, "The good people listed by you will attain Moksha as affirmed by the SlokAs mentioned above."

I answered thus –

नाहं वेदैर्न तपसा न दानेन न चेज्यया।
शक्य एवंविधो द्रष्टुं दृष्टवानसि मां यथा ॥
भक्त्या त्वनन्यया शक्यः अहं एवंविधोऽर्जुन।
ज्ञातुं द्रष्टुं च तत्त्वेन प्रवेष्टुं च परन्तप ॥

nAham vedairna tapasA na dAnena na cejyayA|
Sakya evamvido drashTum drushTavAnasi mAm yathA||
baktyA tvananyayA SakyaH aham evamvido'rjuna|
jAtum drashTum ca tatvena praveshtum ca parantapa||

In the above Slokam, has Bhagavan not said that there will be no Moksham?". I asked again! They said that they could not understand anything.

Elderly scholars will be able to explain this in a simpler way so that everyone can understand. If they do not, then people who attended the Dolai utsavam in which I gave an upanyAsam, will be able to clarify this point as well as answer your question.

पश्यन्ति गोपुरं पूर्णं रङ्गनाथस्य ये नराः।
पापान्मुक्ताः प्रपत्त्या ते गच्छन्ति हरिमन्दिरम्॥
द्वाराद् दृष्ट्वा गोपुरं तु बद्धाञ्जलिपुटा नराः ।
गच्छन्त्येव हरिं भक्त्या वैकुण्ठं धाम शाश्वतम् ॥

paSyanti gopuram pUrNaM ranganAthasya ye narAH|
pApAnmuktAH prapattyA te gacchanti harimandiram||
dvArAd drshTvA gopuram tu baddhAnjalipuTA narAH |
gacchantyeva harim bhaktyA vaikuNTham dhAma
SASvatam ||

This Sloka can be used to answer those who question the benefits of building a gopuram.

Subhamastu

Kartigai/November 1983

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

गोपुरे नवमस्यात्र पूर्तिं सौधस्य पश्यतः ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam|
gopure navamasyAtra pUrtim saudhasya paSyataH ||

On the 26th day in the month of aippaci (12th November 1983) the ninth tier of the South gopuram was successfully completed. This tier looks as beautiful as the heart of my dear Sishya who donated four Lakhs of rupees for this kaimkaryam. The construction of the tenth floor will also be completed soon.

At the request of the Senior (PeriavAL) AcArya of SrI Kanchi KamakoTi pITham, a Sishya of this AcArya has enthusiastically taken up the kaimkaryam for the tenth level. The initial ceremony (ankUrarpaNam) for starting the kaimkaryam was performed at 10:00 AM on 14th November 1983 (Monday). The foundation stone was laid by the Governor of the State of Kerala, SrI P. Ramachandran. The ceremony was also attended by Minister for Hindu Religious Endowment Board, SrI Rama Veerappan, the Minister for Mid-day Meals, SrI Soundararajan, the District Collector, the Commissioner of the Hindu Religious Endowment Board and SrI Mukkur DevanAthan, the Special Counsel to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.



Ninth tier completed – November 1983

Margazhi/December 1983

अद्य मे सफलं जन्मजीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

यद्रङ्गि गोपुरे पूर्णं दशमं सौधमीक्षितः ॥

adya me saphalam jIvitam janma ca sujIvitam|

yadrangi gopure pUrNam daSamam saudhamIkshataH||

The tenth tier of South gopuram of SrI Ranganthan at Srirangam will be completed in this Margazhi month. It is shaping up nicely and all who have seen it have expressed their happiness. My beloved Sishya, SrIman Mukkur Srinivasan, who is the dharmakatha for the AshTalakshmi temple at Chennai, has already handed over three lakhs of rupees towards the eleventh tier. He has also promised to cover

other expenses that might come up later during the construction. He has made this possible by assembling funds obtained from charitable individuals.



Tenth tier completed – December 1983

There is talk even now that a gopuram as huge as this cannot be found anywhere else on this Earth. What would people say when all the thirteen levels are completed and the VimAnam is also installed atop the tower? I have no idea! There is a three-way competition going on now for the construction of the twelfth tier. Who will be the chosen one and how will they be chosen? There is no clue. SrImAn M.G.R., who is the founder of the Nutrition and Mid-Day Meals scheme, is eagerly awaiting the opportunity to build the thirteenth floor and the VimAnam above it and establish the greatness of Tamilnadu. Very soon everything will be successfully completed. By the grace of SrI Ranganatha everyone will find greater prosperity in their lives, no doubt.

thai/January 1984

अद्य में सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम् ।

पश्यताम्येकादशं सौधं श्रीरङ्गगोपुरेऽधुना ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

paSyatAmyekAdaSam saudham SrIrangagopure'dhunA ||

SrI LakshmI sameta SrI Ranganathan and SrI Lakshminrsimhan have made it possible through their blessings to build the gopuram up to the tenth level without any complication.

Beyond this, the eleventh floor begun on the 15th of this Margazhi month is now half done. An amount of three and half lakhs of rupees (including labor costs) is required to complete this level. SrImAn Mukkur Srinivasavaradan, known as PaTTaNNa, has already forwarded the cash for the same. So, this will now easily be constructed by the end of Thai month. It has been proposed to organize on the same day both the concluding ceremony for this tier and the inauguration function for the twelfth tier.

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh SrImAn N.T. Rama Rao will be the Chief guest on this occasion and he will be bringing a few other dignitaries with him. We should all participate in this and rejoice. Most probably before the end of Ani month, the twelfth and thirteenth floors will also be completely built. After that the VimAnam will be installed within another month and half. The time for all to celebrate is quite near. After this, only plaster work all around the gopuram remains. After that, the consecration ceremony (samprokshaNam) has to be done. Whoever takes part in this kaimkaryam, I pray that they be blessed with SrI Ranganathan's merciful glance.

Maci/February 1984

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम् ।

एकादशं तु संपूर्णं गोपुरे सौधमीक्षितुः ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

ekAdaSam tu sampUrNam gopure saudhamIkshituH ||

In the Thai month, the eleventh tier of the South Gopuram was successfully constructed. The entire cost of rupees three lakhs for this section was borne by Mukkur SrImAn PaTTaNNa, alias Srinivasa Varadhacharyar. The completed tier looks very beautiful and delights the hearts of people who have come to see it. The foundation work for the next level – twelfth – has also begun. It will get completed by the end of Panguni month. No doubt whatsoever!



Eleventh tier completed – Jan 1984

Panguni/March 1984

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितम् च सुजीवितम् ।

श्रीरङ्गनगरे दिव्ये गोपुरे पश्यतो मम ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |
SrIanganagare divyE gopuram paSyato mama ||

All of you know that the eleventh tier of the South tower at SrI RanganAtha Temple at Srirangam was built with the funds sponsored by the dharmakarthas of SrI AshTalakshmi temple, Mukkur SrI Srinivasavaradacharyar alias PaTTaNna. SrI B.A. Rangachariyar, a philanthropist from Chennai-Shenoynagar and a Sishya of SrImad PauNDarIkapuram Andavan ASramam, has now volunteered to contribute out of his own funds, the cost of construction for the entire twelfth tier. This level is already half complete now. The rest will be finished by the 15th of Panguni month. Everyone can enjoy this view to their heart's content. The construction of the thirteenth level along with the VimAna is going to be taken care of by the Government of Tamil Nadu. All of this are enacted by SrI RanganAtha for His own enjoyment!

An observation – We are incapable of doing good deeds. And we are also incapable of doing evil deeds. Only if we are blessed by the Lord can we perform blemishless acts. If we perform our prescribed duties conscientiously, Bhagavan grants us a good station in life and gives us opportunities to perform noble deeds. He also later creates the desire in us to attain Moksha. Then the jivAtma performs SaraNAgati under an AcAryan and reaches Paramapadam. We cannot achieve anything without the Lord's benevolence.

Similarly, SrI Ranganathan has caused many fortunate souls to get involved in this gopura kaimkaryam so that they may prosper. He has accepted the contributions that they have made and accomplished His goal of seeing the South gopuram built to completion without any trouble. Now, the plaster work must be carried out throughout the gopuram. Cement only is required for this. Not sure as to who will be His choice for executing this kaimkaryam? He will milk the cows that have already been milked or he will milk fresh cows! Since there is a heavy competition amongst good people to sponsor the kaimkaryam, it is better to hasten to be the first. The time is at hand for everyone to cheer!

Subham

Chittirai/April 1984

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम् ।

यद्रङ्गिगोपुरे सौधं पश्यतस्तु त्रयोदशम् ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

Yat rangigopure saudham paSyatastu trayodaSam ||



Twelfth tier completed – January 1984

By the blessings of SrI Ranganathan the twelve tiers of the South gopuram are now fully constructed. Work on the thirteenth tier began on the amAvasya day in this month of Panguni and everything is progressing expeditiously. This final floor will be finished by the 20th day of Chittrai month. The Government of Tamilnadu has assumed the responsibility to build the thirteenth tier and the VimAnam above as

well as the plaster work for the entire structure. So, there is nothing to worry about anymore. The gopuram will be seen in its entirety during the AvaNi month sadas.

The VimAnam will sport thirteen beautifully placed kalaSam-s. The kalaSam-s are being made by a dear Sishya of Srirangam Thirukkudantai SrImad Andavan. This Sishya is from Kumbakonam and is carrying out the commandments of SrImad Andavan. These kalaSam-s too will be ready soon. SrI Ranganthan along with SrI Ranganayaki is moving this kaimkaryam forward without any obstacles. He regularly prompts people to participate in the Sriranga gopura kaimkaryam, thereby ensuring a steady flow of funds. I feel energized. Now everyone is ecstatic over the gopuram. People from all corners of the world are enquiring through mail as to when the samprokshaNam is going to be held?

Subhamastu

VaikAci/May 1984

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम् ।

श्रीरङ्गगोपुरे पूणे विमानं पश्यतः शुभम् ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

SrIrangagopure pUrNam paSyataH Subham ||

On this 20th day of Chittirai Month in the RakthAkshi year, the building of the thirteenth tier of Sriranga gopuram has been completed. The installation of the VimAnam above has now begun. Everyone is enthused to continue the work on the gopuram. The VimAnam will see completion by the 15th day of AvaNi month. The Government of Tamilnadu has pledged to complete the construction of the thirteenth tier and the VimAnam. I am sure that these will be built well as intended by the Government. Once this is done, the plaster work will begin. Looks like it can be finished within six months. The samprokshaNam could happen by the next Thai month. If people came forward to donate a little bit more the pending plaster work can be taken care of quickly and we can all feel happy.

Subhamastu



Thirteenth tier completed - April 1984

Ani/June 1984

अद्य में सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम् ।

श्रीरङ्गगोपुरेत्वर्थं विमानं वीक्ष्य तुष्यतः ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

SrIrangagopure tvarttham vimAnam vIkshya tushyataH ||

I am writing this to bring good tidings to all! The thirteen levels of the South gopuram dear to SrI Ranganatha are now complete. The VimAnam construction above the top most tier is now half finished. This will be completed before the 25th day of the Ani month. The kaimkaryam is moving at a rapid pace. The patch work will start as soon as the VimAna construction is completed. If charitable people can

sponsor five bags of cement each, the job will be quickly finished. Many Astika-s are ready to sponsor the cost of the labor for this job, so people have to hurry to avail the opportunity.

The people from the Government of Tamil Nadu are also quite keen on participation. Once the money sanctioned by them is made available, I will inform the exact amount received, through the magazine. Please be patient, the funds will come through.

Subhamastu

ADi/July 1984

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

यद्रङ्गनगरे पूर्णं गोपुरं सम्यगीक्षितुः ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

yad ranganagare pUrNam gopuram samyagIkshituH ||

SrI Ranganatha fulfilled His wish of building the thirteen storied South Gopuram with VimAnam. I am overjoyed as I behold it! They have now begun the installation of the KalaSam-s on top of the VimAnam. In another six months the plaster job also will get completed.

Devotees are sending abundant funds towards the purchase of cement bags for the plaster work. So far there is enough cash collected for buying thousand bags of cement. People who are keen on doing good can make use of this opportunity and earn some credits in their spiritual account.

Just as I was writing this, a devotee asked me smilingly, "Is it enough to send money for cement bags alone? What about the samprokshaNam? That function will cost at least three lakhs of rupees!". I answered, "If the devotees are informed at the time of the function, each one will sponsor one day of tadIyArAdhanam. Yet others will take care of the expenses towards sambhAvanA. No need to worry." Hearing this, the devotee felt comforted.

All are invited to attend the tirunakshatra celebrations and enjoy the sight of the gopuram in person.

Subhamastu

AvaNi/August 1984

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम् ।

श्रीरङ्गे गोपुरं पूर्णं पश्यामि धनदैस्सह ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

SrIrange gopuram pUrNam paSyAmi dhanadaissaha ||

A welcome and happy news to all - The Rajagopuram at Srirangam is now complete as per the wishes of SrI Ranganathan. Every resident of this divya deSam is overjoyed whenever they see the gopuram or hear about it.

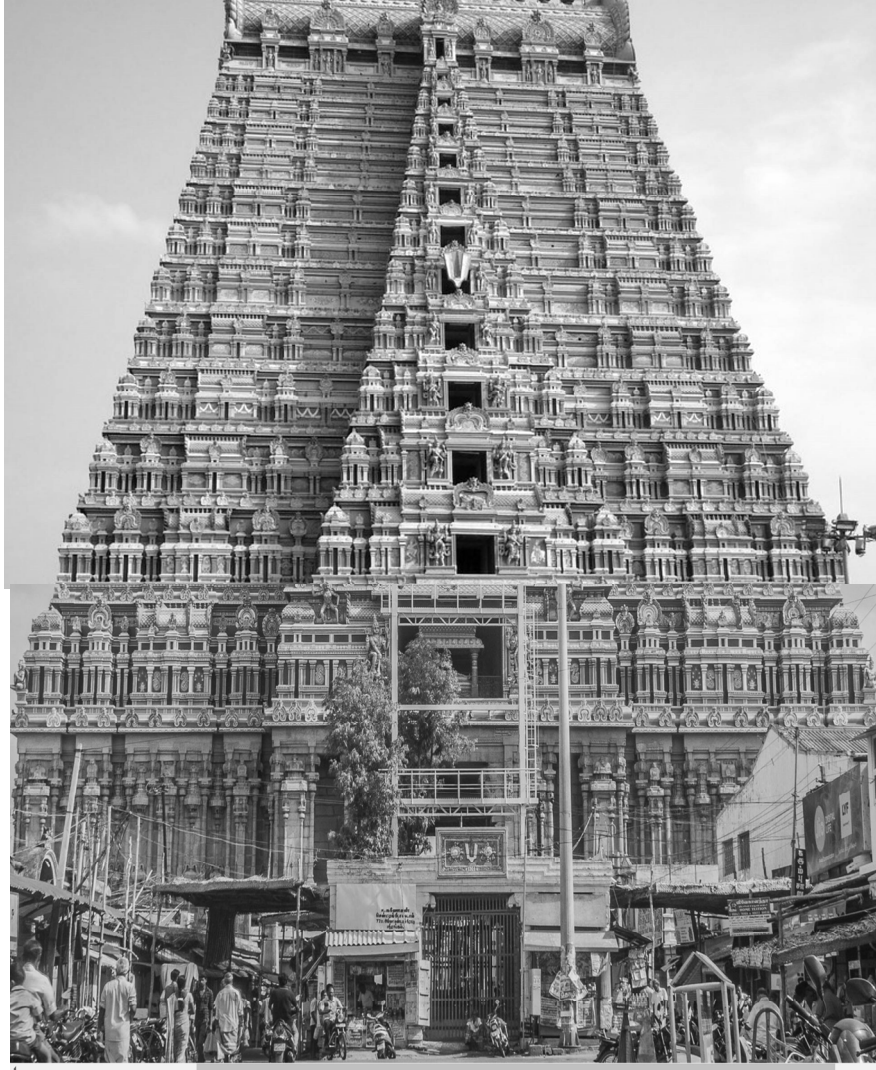
The KalaSam-s made of copper have to be gold-plated and placed on the gopuram. All thirteen kalaSam-s must be gold plated. The cost of doing this for each kalaSam comes to about three lakhs of rupees. The coppersmith SrImAn Chettiyar who is casting the KalaSam-s, has promised to cover the cost of gold-plating of one kalaSam. Thirukkudantai SrImad Andavan has express his willingness for one KalaSam. I have volunteered to sponsor the gold-plating of two kalaSam-s on behalf of SrI Ahobila Mutt. The Commissioner of Srirangam Municipality has agreed to take care of the plating for one kalaSam by collecting funds from Astika-s. SrI Sampath svAmi of Kumbakonam, a Sishya of SrImad Andavan svAmi, has agreed to take care of the plating for one kalaSam through collection of funds too. Attorney General SrI K. Parasaran, the son of SrImAn u. vE. Kesava Iyengar, has agreed to sponsor for one kalaSam. SrI Ranganatha has assured me that more generous minded people will come forward to complete the gold plating for the remaining kalaSam-s. I feel confident too. As if to affirm this, there is a steady stream of Money Orders, pouring in. I am not aware of who the fortunate people are, who will be part of this kaimkaryam, but if you pay a visit to Srirangam and see the gopuram in person, you will be so wonderstruck that you would want to donate in the thousands and the lakhs!

This gopuram is not an individual achievement by me. This is all SrI Ranganathan's doing - svasmai svaprItye svayameva kAritavAn!

The Administrators from the Government of Tamilnadu, who had pledged an amount of seven lakhs of rupees for the thirteenth tier and

the VimAnam, have disbursed the entire amount in a single draft!
Hoping that they would step in to provide additional help later too

Subhamastu



Thirteen finished levels and vimANam

PuraTTAci/September 1984

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम् ।

यद्रङ्गनगरे दिव्यं गोपुरं पश्यतो मम ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |
yat ranganaagare divyam gopuram paSyato mama ||

It is a heartening news that the Rajagopuram in Srirangam has been successfully built! Thirteen KalaSam-s have to be installed. So far only ten kalaSam-s have been readied. The coppersmith has promised to prepare the remaining three by the month of Kartikai. After that the kalaSam-s have to be brought from Kumbakonam to Srirangam. They can be installed only after they are gold-plated. Eight individuals have sponsored for eight kalaSam-s till now. The plaster work with cement on the gopuram is proceeding well. It will wind down soon. I am of the opinion that the samprokshaNam can be held in the next AvaNi Month. What SrI Ranganathan has decided in His mind, aDiyEn does not know. Some of the people are directly donating cement bags. There are Money Orders for one rupee and two rupees. In this way, there is a daily receipt of over two hundred rupees. Many are making donations in person too. There was a person, who unexpectedly gave ten thousand rupees. What is this, aDiyEn asked. He replied, "Only today SrI Ranganathan created the urge in me to take part in the kaimkaryam." Another person gave one sovereign gold and requested that it be used for gold plating the kalaSam. One more person volunteered to fund the plating of one kalaSam. But he forbade me from revealing his name. He said, "Please note it as a gift to Srirangam SrI Ranganathan". Such are the amazing ways in which the funds are being received here. Pretty soon the gopuram will be completely ready for samprokshaNam and bring elation to everyone's hearts.

Subhamastu

aippaci/October 1984

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम् ।
विमानसहितं पूर्णं श्रीरङ्गे पश्यतोऽधुना ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |
vimAnasahitam pUrNam SrIrange paSyato'dhunA||

Everyone who has seen the South Rajagopuram are feeling ecstatic. The thirteen levels and the VimAnam have all been completed now.



Gopuram with VimAnam and simha lalATam

Two lion sculptures (simha laATam) each ten feet tall have been added to the VimAnam in the East and West directions. On the 15th of this aippaci month they are going to install the thirteen kalaSam-s. Then the plastering work remains. Many have sent in donations for the cement bags. The total number of visitors to see the gopuram cannot be counted. Those who glimpse the gopuram are moved to tears. They stand before it with folded hand in total awe. The samprokshaNam can be performed in the next AvaNi month.

This being the case, SrI Ranganatha has entered into the hearts of SrImAn Veerappan, the Hindu Religious Endowments Board Minister and SrImAn Soundararajan, another Minister and has moved them to initiate the kaimkaryam of constructing the incomplete North gopuram. The required efforts are going on now. On the 10th or 12th of aippaci Month, the foundation stone is going to be laid for the start of the kaimkaryam. This gopuram will have seven tiers. The expenses for the first tier is being sponsored by our SrI Ahobila Mutt. SrImad Andavan is taking care of the construction of the second tier. I hope that many AstikA-s would come forward to help in that kaimkaryam as well. The architects (sthapati-s) are of the opinion that the whole gopuram would cost anywhere between fifteen and twenty-five lakhs to build. I can only wonder at the mysterious ways of SrI Ranganathan! Many AstikA-s are contributing funds with the firm belief that the only money that's worth its' value is that which is given for such noble kaimkaryam-s!

Subhamastu

Kartigai/November 1984

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

यद्रङ्गनगरे दिव्यं गोपुरं पश्यतो मम ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

yadranganagare divyam gopuram paSyato mama ||

Those who glimpse the Rajagopuram of Srirangam are filled with joy in their hearts. The two lion sculptures facing East and West have been fixed on to the VimAnam. Only the addition of the kalaSam-s now remain. For unforeseen reasons this could not be finished in aippaci month. But they will be fixed before the end of Kartikai month. The plaster work continues in hectic speed. Devotees are continuing to

send donations with good cheer. Mostly by the month of AvaNi the samprokshaNam could be conducted.

Also, similar to the South gopuram, there is now an effort underway to build a smaller gopuram at the North entrance. The foundation stone has already been laid for this. At SrI Ranganathan's command, this kaimkaryam has now started. About twenty lakhs of rupees is required for this kaimkaryam. So far five lakhs of rupees has been collected.

It has been decided that the North gopuram will be 65 feet long in the East to West direction and 50 feet wide in the North-South direction. It will have seven tiers and seven kalaSam-s. The plan is to finish this gopuram too by AvaNi and perform the samprokshaNam for it by that time.

I intend to conduct the next Malola Vidvat SabhA during the samprokshaNa time. Praying to SrI LakshmiInrsimhan to make this happen.

वेदान्तविज्ञानसुनिश्चितार्थाः

श्रीभाष्यगीतार्थरहस्यसारान्।

संतुष्टचित्ताः विमृशन्ति यत्र

सभा सतां तां प्रणमामि मूर्ध्ना ॥

vedAntavij~nAnasuniScitArthAH

SrIbhAshya gItArtha rahasyasArAn |

santushTacittAH vimrSanti yatra

sabhA satAm tAm praNamaami mUrdhnA ||

Subhamastu

Margazhi/December 1984

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

यद्रङ्गनगरे रम्यं गोपुरं पश्यतो मम ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |
yadranganagare ramyam gopuram paSyato mama ||

I am extremely delighted to write this. The South gopuram of SrI Ranganathan is now fully finished. The plaster work on the inner areas of the gopuram are now three-fourth finished. The plaster work on the external areas of the VimAna is also now completed. They have started the plastering of the external areas of the thirteenth tier. By the end of the Margazhi month, all the thirteen kalaSam-s will be fully installed. With the sankalpam of BhagavAn, I am planning to conduct the samprokshaNam in the AvaNi month of next year when Hastam star is in ascendance.

We are going to start building the North gopuram also. Once again people are donating with great enthusiasm. There is a requirement of fifteen lakhs of rupees. There is a way to assemble this amount. If there are people out there who have not participated in the South gopuram kaimkaryam, they can avail this opportunity and send small donations. If those who have previously helped with the Rajagopuram kaimkaryam also volunteer to send additional funds for the North gopuram then the question of "How do we complete the North gopuram?" will not arise at all! Someone could ask why the North gopuram must be built at all? I do not know how to answer such a question. I can only direct these people to SrI Ranganathan. Please ask Him! Only with the help of SrI Ranganayaki tAyAr can this North tower be built. The residents of Srirangam will never say that there is no God. The moment they see the gopuram, they immediately think only of SrI Ranganathan. At that very instant the effects of their past misdeeds are all washed away. Their thoughts become pure. They feel the urge to contribute to the gopuram kaimkaryam. Wishing to give five rupees they reach into their pockets, but somehow when they draw their hands out, they find fifteen rupees in their hands. Concluding that that is what SrI Ranganathan expects of them, that it is His command, they donate the entire fifteen rupees without second thoughts. Many such amazing things are happening every day. Pages will not be enough to recount every one of them.

I do not know how much money will be required for the samprokshaNam. But there is this feeling that someone is uttering the words, "Do not worry!" aDiyEn is unable to write anything beyond this. lokAH samastAH sukhino bhavantu.

श्रीरङ्गे गोपुरं दृष्ट्वा रङ्गनाथपदाम्बुजम् ।

स्मृत्वा पापात् प्रमुच्यन्ते नरास्सर्वे शुभाश्रयाः ॥

SrIrange gopuram drshTvA ranganaAthapadAmbujam |

smrtvA pApAt pramucyante naraAH sarve SubhASrayAH ||

Subhamastu

thai/January 1985

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

यद्रङ्गनगरे रम्ये रमते मे मनस्सदा ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

yadranganagare ramye ramate me manaH sadA ||

I am very happy. I think the plaster work for the gopuram will get completed in another three months. The funds for this part of the kaimkaryam continues to come.

The kalaSam-s related work is also proceeding rapidly. The devotees who visit the gopuram are not agreeable to installing the kalaSam-s as is. They insist on having the kalaSam-s gold-plated prior to placing them atop the VimAnam. SrImad Tirukkudantai Andavan who gave the funds to cover the construction of the entire second tier of the gopuram, has come forward again with an offering of three lakhs of rupees towards the coating of the kalaSam-s with gold layers. I have decided to take care of the cost for two kalaSam-s on behalf of SrImad Ahobila maTham. SrI Ramacandran, auditor from Salem is sponsoring the gold-plating of one kalaSam. SrImAn Chettiyar who is casting the thirteen kalaSam-s and donating all of them for the kaimkaryam, is also sponsoring the gilding of one of the kalaSam with gold foil. The residents of Srirangam have come forward to collectively sponsor the layering of one kalaSam. At this time as to how many of the kalaSam-s will be taken up for gold-plating by the Government of Tamilnadu. Those in the know say that at least two kalaSam-s will be sponsored by the Government. If more devotees take part in it, this kaimkaryam can be completed easily. I am writing about this in SrI Nrsimhapriya so

that no one should feel at a later date that they have missed an opportunity to take part in the kaimkaryam. If one assists in this gold-foil kaimkaryam for the kalaSam-s, then they will be blessed with a wonderful life for as long as they are in this Earth and will thereafter enjoy the greatest bliss in SrIvaikuNTham which is filled with gold.

Subhamastu

Panguni/March 1985

pAvana kalaSa praveSam

(The coming of the sacred kalaSam-s)

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम् ।

यदीक्षे कलशान् प्राप्तान् गोपुरार्थं त्रयोदश ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

yadIkshe kalaSAn prAptAn gopurArte trayodaSa ||



It was already announced that SrI S.R.G. Ranganathan Chettiyar is sponsoring the thirteen kalaSam-s for SrI Ranganatha Rajagopuram.

At about 6:00 A.M, Sunday the 10th of March 1985, the kalaSam-s began their journey from Kumbakonam through Thanjavur-Trichy route and arrived at Srirangam around 4:30 AM on Monday the 11th of March 1985, delighting the hearts of the devotees enroute. The kalaSam-s were received at the entrance of the temple with all honors such as garlands, Vedic chants etc. Then the kalaSam-s were taken on procession through the Uttara and Chitra veedhis (streets)

accompanied by Vedic scholars chanting Veda mantrams and a large

assembly of musicians playing various musical instruments. Then the kalaSam-s were brought to the sanctum sanctorum of SrI Ranganathan.

All those present at the time felt that their eyes were blessed by the sight of these sacred kalaSam-s. Those who failed to witness this rare sight, felt deprived as stated by TirumangaiyAzhvAr in his pAsuram, "kaNNalla kaNDAmE".

The gopuram adds beauty to a Temple. KalaSam-s enhance the beauty of the gopuram. This fact was borne out by these thirteen kalaSam-s when they were on parade through the streets of Srirangam.

Pretty soon these kalaSam-s are going to adorn the gopuram and make one wonder if these are multitude of Suns that arise over the mountain at dawn! They are going to bring glory to Tamilnadu and invite everyone to come and receive the blessings of SrI Ranganathan.

The external plaster work continues after the inner areas have been finished.

I fervently wish to conduct the samprokshaNam in Ani Month itself. But what SrI RanganAthan wills, I will let you all know later. He commanded me to engage in this endeavor in my dream and now He has Himself made it a success. I am free of all burdens and fear!

प्रथनां में जनार्दनः

prathanAm me janArdanaH

Chittirai/April 1985

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितम् च सुजीवितम् ।

प्रथमावरणद्वारे रङ्गनाथं प्रपश्यन्तः ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

prathamAvaraNadvAre ranganaAtham prapaSyataH ||

I write this with great pleasure. The Rajagopuram of Srirangam is now fully built. The plaster work for the inner areas on all thirteen tiers is finished. All fixtures like the simha laATam have been affixed at the appropriate places. The plaster work for the external areas are being worked on now. So far seven tiers have been completed. The remaining areas will be finished within the next three months. The devoted public are also wholeheartedly continuing to support the kaimkaryam.

All are eagerly awaiting the day, the samprokshaNam would be conducted! SrI Ranganathan had a great desire to fulfill the longing of elephant king Gajendran. Now the Lord seems to display just the same kind of keenness to satisfy all of our wishes too!

He entered my heart to accomplish the Gopura kaimkaryam and He has also infiltrated the hearts and minds of people and inspired them to contribute money and cement towards the gopuram construction, bringing good fortune to them. Now the work for installing sculptures in the first tier (mUlavar level) is going on. An idol modeled after the Lord in the sanctum sanctorum, is going to be installed in the entrance to the first tier of the Rajagopuram.

A vimAnam similar to PraNavAkAra vimAnam has been placed here. Looking at these sculptures on the Rayar gopuram, one can get a fairly good idea of how the main deity of the Lord is situated in the sanctum. The sanctum sanctorum is inside the temple. Here on the gopuram the sculptures in the first tier can be viewed even from afar and confer blessings on the devotees.



An idol modeled after the Lord in the sanctum sanctorum installed in the first tier

To house the deities at home we design a structure made of wood in the form of a temple, which the SrI VaishNavA-s call as "kOvil AzhvAr." The gopuram-s of VishNu temples are called as "nayinAr."

What we understand from this is that a gopuram is not just an object made of granite and bricks. It is a special structure. By the blessings of the Lord, the gopuram gets infused with the presence of a divine being through mantra. This deity can be thought of as BhagavAn Himself.

So, our sins get destroyed the moment we look at a gopuram. We earn good rewards. Hence the statement, "gopura darSanam koTi puNya pradam...." Since this gopuram contains the sculptures of SrI Ranganatha with His VimAna, we are blessed with the darSanam of both in one place.

There are lot of rules related to the worship of the Lord in His sanctum depending on the time of day as well as the person. But no such rules are prescribed for worshipping the gopuram or the Lord under His VimAnam that is depicted in the gopuram. All can view and pray to Him at any time. Devotion and total faith are all that are necessary to pray here.

Those who reach Srirangam through public transportation like train or bus are also blessed with the sight of SrI Ranganathan and His VimAnam, the moment they step off their vehicle in front of the South gopuram. This is a boon to even those people, whose thoughts are on other things than visiting the temple.

One of the auspicious qualities of the Lord is the ease with which He can be approached (sarvasulabhan). So, through the Rajagopuram He has made it possible for everyone to easily have His darSan and thereby reap good rewards.

Hence, greater patronage is requested of all Astika-s to help complete all the pending work in the kaimkaryam. This will bring them good fortune in their lives. All are also requested to participate in the samprokshaNa celebrations and feel blessed by the sight of the glorious gopuram.

It is my firm belief that SrI Ranganathan will fulfill His wish of having the samprokshaNam performed, in the Thai month of this Kurodhana year.

पातु प्रणतरक्षायां विलम्बमसहन्निव ।

सदा पञ्चायुधीं बिभ्रत स नः श्रीरङ्गनायक ॥

pAtu praNatarakshAyAm vilambamasahanniva |

sadA pancAyudhIm bibhrata sa naH SrIranganAyaka ||

VaikAci/May 1985

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम् ।

श्रीरङ्गे दक्षिणे पार्श्वे दृष्ट्वा पूर्णं तु गोपुरम् ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

SrIrange dakshiNe pArSve drshTvA pUrNam tu gopuram ||

Due to someone's puNya, Srirangam Rajagopuram construction is now complete! Plaster work on the inner portions are finished. The external plaster work is done up to the sixth tier from the VimAnam. Five more levels to go. The figurines of Gajalakshmi, PakshirAjan (Garudan) etc., can also be found on the VimAnam. The thirteenth tier will house on its four sides about 25 statues. On the southern side of the first tier, the idol of SrI Ranganatha (mUlavar) with a divine maNDapa has been placed.

Thus far there has not been a paucity of cash, thanks to the divine grace of SrI Ranganathan. It has been decided to conduct the samprokshaNam during the upcoming Thai month. Soon the initiations will be printed and distributed. The amount required for the samprokshaNam (expenses) is likely to be five lakhs of rupees. Many devotees have offered to send required materials. I believe that the function will be a success. The gopuram kaimkaryam has so far been moving along smoothly without any hurdles and I am optimistic that the samprokshaNa celebrations too would happen without a hitch.

Remember that this profundity is the result of having the darSanam of the Srirangam Rajagopuram. Those who have seen it even once, become Astika-s. Even when one ridicules the gopuram, cast aspersions on it or is jealous of it, do they not still refer to it as SrI

Ranganathan's gopuram? At that very moment, SrI Ranganathan steals into their hearts. Steadily He removes all their negative thoughts and develops their faith. He transforms them into His devotees and leads them to a good AcAryan who will remove their ignorance and make them understand Him.

Even those who are identifying themselves as "nAstika-s" have not changed their names! They continue to use them, even though those are the names of the Lord. So if we call them – the people who bear the names of the Lord, that is – as 'nAstika-s' then let it be understood that there is none more foolish than us.

So, it is an established fact that due to the gopura darSanam people are able to cast off their sins and earn good karma, which bestows all kinds of auspiciousness on them.

Subhamastu

Ani/June 1985

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम् ।

गोपुरं रङ्गनाथस्य संपूर्णं वीक्षतो मम ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

gopuram ranganaAthasya sampUrNam vIkshato mama ||

The Rajagopuram of SrI Ranganathan is now fully constructed. It is beautiful to look at. The plaster work that is going on is expected to be completed soon as well. I am thinking of having the samprokshaNam performed in the month of Thai.

The sight of the gopuram delights all who see it. Is there anyone who have not been blessed by SrI Ranganathan? Seeing the devotees worshipping the gopuram with folded palms, one is left to wonder whether we are living in Kaliyuga or Krtayuga? People are very generous with their donations now.

Pleased with the reverence with which people view the gopuram, SrI Ranganathan thinks of their devotion as an act of surrender at His

sacred feet. As a result, He removes their sins and increases their faith in Him. This enables people to search for a means to attain salvation. They approach elders well-versed in SAstrA-s to gain knowledge and diligently follow the guidelines laid down by these learned scholars. This leads them to perform many good deeds. With the knowledge that all four class of people such as Brahmins and others are created by the Lord, the devotees perform the duties that are prescribed to the respective class. Each one of them undergoes samASrayaNam and achieves purity of thought and actions. Then through the act of surrender known as SaraNAgati, they ensure a safe passage into SrI VaikuNTham at the end of their earthly existence and live a good life here and in the hereafter. They have no re-birth and remain with the Lord in their exalted state.

ADi/July 1985

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम् ।

गोपुरं रङ्गनाथस्य संपूर्णं वीक्षतो मम ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

gopuram ranganAthasya sampUrNam vIkshato mama ||

The beautiful Rajagopuram is now in its finished state. Plaster work in the interior of the gopuram is completely done and only three levels of the exterior are left to be finished. The wood required for fitting the kalaSam-s became available only now. These have been shaped and treated with preservatives and paint to ensure that they will not deteriorate over the years. They are now being hoisted to the top of the gopuram. There they will be fitted with the kalaSam-s which will be nailed on to the wood. This work remains yet and is expected to be completed by the month of AvaNi. People who visit during the sadas in the month of AvaNi can view this and cheer. The intention is to get the samprokshaNam done in the month of Thai.

Subhamastu

AvaNi/August 1985

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम् ।

गोपुरं रङ्गनाथस्य संपूर्णं वीक्षतो मम ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam |

gopuram ranganaThasya sampUrNam vIkshato mama ||

The Rayagopura kaimkaryam started seven years ago is now complete by the grace of SrI Ranganathan and SrI LakshmiInrsimhan! Though the Lord used aDiyEn as the instrument to fulfill many other kaimkaryam-s too, SrI Ranganathan and SrI LakshmiInrsimhan periodically appeared in my dreams and spurred me on by saying, "The successful completion of the Rayagopura kaimkaryam would be the height of all achievements and also please Our Hearts immensely."

I had serious doubts about this kaimkaryam ever getting completed! I used to wonder as to how this structure that could not be constructed even during the times of SrI Tirumangai AzhvaR or the Kings of Vijayanagar Empire, be constructed now? But the Lord kept encouraging me at every instance and so I became confident that by His Will this effort will bear fruit.

EmperumAn commanded SrImad PeriyAzhvaR to go the court of the Pandya king to establish the Supremacy of SrIman Narayanan and win the bag of gold that was promised as a reward. Similarly He directs me to perform His kaimkaryam-s. I took up this endeavor with the thought that it will be easily possible because it is what He wishes to happen. For is it not known that His is the Absolute Will?

EmperumAn wanted to destroy the sins of the people of this world and grant them Eternal Bliss, hence He reached into their minds and persuaded them to participate in various ways in the gopuram kaimkaryam. Thus did He accomplish His goal of getting the gopuram built. Now this kaimkaryam is finished. The samprokshaNam is eagerly awaited. EmperumAn will definitely make this too to happen soon! We will all witness it!

People have derived two-fold benefits from this kaimkaryam. Everyone has given their hard-earned money towards the kaimkaryam to the extent possible for each. Seriously speaking, I think there is not

a single person left who has not given at least one rupee towards this effort. This is a commendable act and will fetch just rewards.

There are very few people who have not visited SrIrangam at regular intervals and worshipped at the gopuram with chants of "SrI RanagnathA! SrI RanganathA!" There are different types of human beings in the world such as Aastika-s, nAstika-s, Astika nAstika-s and nAstika Astika-s.

1) Those who have unceasing belief in God, temples and Veda-s are known as Astika-s,

2) Those who always deny the existence of the above are called as nAstika-s,

3) Some initially profess to believe in God etc., but later due to the instigation of others repudiate their faith. Such fiends are termed as

Astika nAstika-s. साक्षरा विपरीताश्चेत् राक्षसा एव केवलम् (sAksharA viparItAScet

rAkshasA eva kevalam) is the proverb. साक्षरा when read in reverse

spells राक्षसा. These people are monsters in both speech and deed.

They are the most brutal ones in their behavior. We have seen many examples of how they bounce from one group to another and end up strengthening the group to which they have switched their loyalties to.

4) nAstika Astika-s: Some people suffer from ignorance due to lack of association with virtuous individuals. They lack knowledge of God, Veda-s etc. Later, these people come in contact with pious men and develop deep faith in God and Veda-s.

The sight of the completed gopuram makes everyone an Astika. They will never turn out to be nAstika or Astika nAstika.

The moment one looks at the gopuram, their thoughts are directed towards SrI Ranganathan.

Once, SvAmi NammAzhvAr out of weariness thought, "I do not wish for God, nor do I wish to chant His name or be near His place", so svAmi chose to stay away from EmperumAn and took up residence in such a place where God's name was never uttered. At that time, a thief who was carrying a huge sack of stolen goods on his head arrived there. Swaying under the burden on his head, the thief cried, "Oh,

Narayana!” and dropped the sack. Hearing the thief cry out the Lord’s name, SvAmi NammAzhvAr was overcome with the mercy of EmperumAn who did not abandon the AzhvAr even after he had chosen to move away from the Lord. There is a legend that states that the pAsuram “celva nArAyaNan enRa col kETTalum...” was composed by AzhvAr after this incident. Even a person who is a nAstika now will be completely enchanted by the sight of the gopuram and find his thoughts going towards SrI Ranganathan. He will be overcome with ecstasy when he hears the chants of “RanganathA!” by the devotees! There is no doubt that he will be rid of his sins and will be freed from the whirlpool of mundane existence.

We are all aware of AjAmiLan’s story. SAStra-s unanimously agree on the fact that anyone who hears even unintentionally the name of Narayana will find freedom from all his sins.

AjAmiLan named his youngest son as Narayanan. When AjAmiLan was in his deathbed and wanted to see his son, he called him several times. When the son did not come, AjAmiLan got angry and scolded the boy, thus “Oh you son of a low born woman! Narayana!” Since the name of the Lord was uttered, even if in anger, the VishNudUtA-s arrived on the scene and chased away the servants of Yama who had come to fetch AjAmiLan’s soul to naraka. Thus he attained moksha.

There was a stack of wood arranged in a corner. A man wanting to sell the charcoal that would result from burning the wood, knowingly set fire to the stack. The wood got burnt and ended up as charcoal. There was another man who also had stacked logs so that he could sell it as firewood. A traveler going that way stuck a match and unintentionally set fire to the wood. This caused the wood to burn down to charcoal. Can we ask why? It is the nature of the fire to burn. Whether intentional or not, the moment a wood is set on fire, it will burn down. So too the name of the Lord will burn away our sins and grant us moksham, irrespective of whether we say the name knowingly or otherwise. Hence it is an indisputable fact that the gopura darSana and thereby the meditation on SrI Ranganathan would not only chase away people’s sins but also bestow eternal bliss upon them.

Subhamastu

PuraTTAci/September 1985

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

गोपुरं रङ्गनाथस्य संपूर्णं वीक्षतो मम ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam|

gopuram ranganaAhasya sampUrNam vIkshato mama ||

By the blessings of SrI RanganAthan, the thirteen kalaSam-s have been now been fixed on the freshly constructed South gopuram in Srirangam. A flight of stairs have been built for ease of access to the VimAnam. To enable circumambulation of the kalaSa-s in the Vimana, parapet walls have been constructed on both sides of the VimAna. The plaster work will be completed in three months. It now seems possible that the samprokshaNam can be conducted in Thai month itself!



The thirteen kalasam-s atop the vimAnam

All those who look at the gopuram raise their hands over their head in prayer. While offering prayers thus they think of SrI Ranganatha. This releases them from their sins. Consequently, they lose their fears and get relief from their troubles. When people find that merely seeing the gopuram results in them being showered with immediate rewards,

they are moved to offer something towards the gopuram kaimkaryam. Many come forward to contribute saying that they have received great benefits from helping out with the kaimkaryam. YamadharmarAjan alone is sad and worried at the huge reduction in the number of people travelling to his kingdom from this Earth.

One of the important things that people of this world should understand is that we are sunk in an ocean. Which ocean, you may ask – it is the ocean of human existence (samsAra). For how long, you may further ask and the answer would be many eons! The second important thing to know is the means to be freed of this pitiful existence. The third thing is to know why we get immersed in this ocean of samsAra! It is due to the innumerable sins that we commit in our lives, which causes repeated births and deaths and the associated trials and adversities. It is also important to seek the guidance of a good AcAryan and follow his instructions to pray to the Lord for deliverance from the travails of this life and admission in to the exalted SrIvaikuNTham. There the jIvan can enjoy permanent bliss by performing uninterrupted service (kaimkarya) to BhagavAn.

Subham

aippaci/October 1985

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

गोपुरं रङ्गनाथस्य संपूर्णं पश्यतो मम ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam|

gopuram ranganaAthasya sampUrNam paSyato mama ||

By the infinite mercy of SrI RanganAthan, the installation of the thirteen kalaSam-s on the South gopuram has been completed. Everyone viewing it are filled with joy.

Kartigai/November 1985

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

गोपुरं रङ्गनाथस्य संपूर्णं पश्यतो मम ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam|
gopuram ranganAthasya sampUrNam paSyato mama ||

The gopuram has made a believer (Astika) of everyone. People are moved to tears as they behold the majestic gopuram. They pray to it with reverence. They chant "Ranganatha" of their own volition. It sure is the magic of SrI Ranganathan that those who pray at the gopuram, develop a desire to worship at the gopuram in SrIvaikuNTham also!

Few critical things to bear in mind –

- 1) jIvan which is known as the "I" is infinitesimal in size,
- 2) It is indestructible,
- 3) Even BhagavAn cannot destroy it,
- 4) It has intelligence and is capable of doing good and evil deeds.
- 5) Such acts result in the jIvan experiencing happiness or sorrow and
- 6) The gopuram in SrIvaikuNTham can only be viewed by those who have been liberated from the bonds of both virtue and sins.

SrIman Narayanan is the only one who can save us from our sins. So we should learn the ways through which BhagavAn will be able to rid us of the effects of our transgressions and grant us the boon of living in SrIvaikuNTham. The Lord in SrImad Bhagavad Gita says, "mAmekam SaraNam vraja, sarvapApebhyo mokshaishyAmi". So, the best way to attain Him is to perform SaraNAgati (surrender) at His Sacred Feet. Then, He will remove the burden of our past karmas and grant us SrIvaikuNTham, where we can experience with joy thousands of gopurams, magnificent corridors, various grand mansions and halls belonging to the Lord. Finally He will bless us with the enchanting vision of Him reclining on the bed of AdiSesha and drench us in eternal bliss. Every one of us must clearly understand this. Of course, it is not enough to stop with just the understanding of the fact! This realization should be followed by the performance of SaraNAgati without further delay, thereby conferring every kind of joy in one's life.

The gopura samprokshaNam probably will be conducted in the month of Chittirai. Details of date etc., will be announced later through the AruLmozhiKaL in SrI Nrsimhapriya.

Subhamastu

Margazhi/December 1985

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

गोपुरं रङ्गनाथस्य संपूर्णं पश्यतो मम ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam|

gopuram ranganaAthasya sampUrNam paSyato mama ||

Every time we look at SrI Ranganathan's Rajagopuram, it looks afresh recalling the verse "navo navo bhavati". The sight of the SrI Rangantha and SrI RanganAyaki statues in the first tier brings untold joy to the mind. It has now been decided to have the samprokshaNam in the Chittirai month of Akshaya year. We will send the invitations soon. An amount of about fifteen lakhs of rupees will be required for this event. I have as yet no idea who the sponsors are going to be. SrI Ranganathan with His consort SrI RanganAcciyAr will decide what the course of action is to be. I have no worries.

thai/January 1986

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

गोपुरं रङ्गनाथस्य संपूर्णं पश्यतो मम ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam|

gopuram ranganaAthasya sampUrNam paSyato mama ||

The tall gopuram for SrI Ranganathan is now completely built. It is a captivating sight to behold. The plaster work too is fully done. Now the work on electric fixtures (electric bulbs) is going on. The statue of SrI Ranganatha in reclining pose can be seen on the South side of the first

tier while tAyAr adorns the North side. It is a beautiful sight and the heart brims over with happiness on seeing this. Many visitors to the temple are eager to climb the gopuram and praise the beauty of the structure.

The samprokshaNam date has been fixed for the 14th of VaikAci month. We will print the invitation cards and send them out soon. Everything is happening according the Will of SrI Ranganatha. I am filled with wonder myself that somehow this kaimkaryam is now fulfilled. It is all due to SrIRanganAtha's blessings, no doubt! sarvam samanjasam. Subhamastu

SrISaThakopaSrIH

Maci/February 1986

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

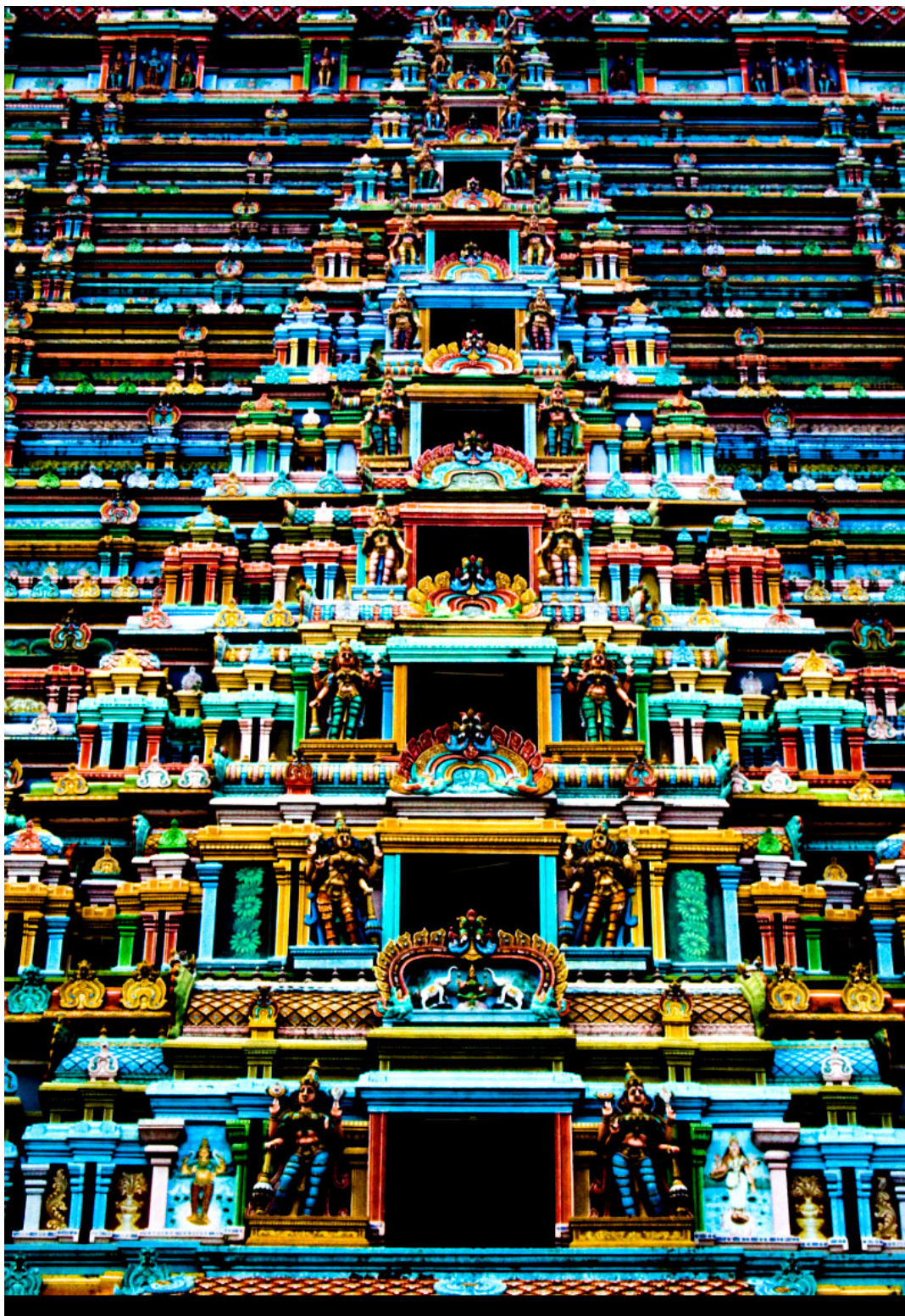
गोपुरं रङ्गनाथस्य संपूर्णं पश्यतो मम ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam|

gopuram ranganaAthasya sampUrNam paSyato mama ||

The work on SrI Ranganathan's gopuram is now complete. The date for samprokshaNam is also fixed. Now at the request of devotees, it has been arranged to install a pair of dvArapAlaka statues in front of the portal at each tier. In all, twenty six such statues will be installed on the South side of the gopuram. Work towards this end is being carried out.

Similarly, on the North side of the gopuram a total of twenty six statues of female door keepers (dvArapAlika-s) will be installed as this side houses the tAyAr statue. As in the South side, there will be two dvArapAlika-s at the entrance of each tier. That work too is going on. It has also been decided that statues of Garuda will be placed on the four corners of each tier. All the visitors to Srirangam are calling at our ASramam to express their delight over the gopuram. This gladdens our hearts as well!



The exquisite sculptures of 26 dvArapAlaki-s on the North side of the gopuram

One day a lady came to see me. She appeared to be poor yet gave ten thousand rupees. She said, "I have been trying to make this visit for a long time. Only now it became possible." At another time, another lady removed the ring she was wearing on her finger and gave it as her contribution.

Of even greater wonder was the act of the virtuous lady who generously donated her old set of tirumAngalyam along with its twin studs, after she had had a set of new ones made. Such are the generosity of the people who give whatever is possible for them to offer. It is all being used for the additional work that have been initiated and are going on now at the gopuram.

Subhamastu

Chittirai/April 1986

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

गोपुरं रङ्गनाथस्य संपूर्णं पश्यतो मम ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam|

gopuram ranganaAthasya sampUrNam paSyato mama ||

All the work relating to the Rajagopuram are now complete. Auspicious date for samprokshaNam will be announced later.

Margazhi/December 1986

अद्य मेसफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

गोपुरं रङ्गनाथस्य संपूर्णं पश्यतो मम ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam|

gopuram ranganaAthasya sampUrNam paSyato mama ||

"Why should a gopuram be constructed?" is the question asked by a few. The gopuram to Sri RanganAtha was built solely to bring salvation to all the people. "You have built the gopuram, so how can

others receive benefits out of it?”, is the next question. This is our answer, so listen well! The virtuous people who look at the gopuram exclaim that this huge structure is the gopuram of SrI Ranganatha’s temple. This makes them think of the Lord and they pray to Him with folded hands. The non-believers (nAstikA-s) are disdainful of this kaimkaryam. But even when they are insulting, do they not still use the Lord’s Divine name in their utterances? Consequently, the moment they call out His name, SrI Ranganathan takes a strong hold of them!

sAnketyam pArihAsyam vA stobham heLanameva vA|
vaikuNTha nAma grahaNam aSeshAghaharam viduH||

SAstrA-s proclaim that the name Ranganatha is capable of destroying all sins, even if it is uttered to simply address a person, or to ridicule someone, or as a praise. Similarly, the worship of a gopuram somehow brings great rewards to all people. There is no doubt whatsoever!

The benefits attained by a person who sincerely prays at the gopuram with folded hands cannot be described in mere words!

त्वदङ्घ्रिमुद्दिश्य कदाऽपि केनचित्
यथातथा वापि सकृत् कृतोज्जलिः।
तदैव मुष्णत्यशुभान्यशेषतः
शुभानि पुष्णाति न जातु हीयते ॥

tvadanghrimuddiSya kadApi kenacit
yathAtathA vApi sakrt krtonjaliH|
tadaiva mushNatyaSubhAnyaSeshataH
SubhAni pushNAti na jAtu hIyate ||

Similar to the Sloka above, the moment people see the gopuram, they are reminded of Ranganathan and they fold their hands in prayer. This frees them from their bondage. Hence, there is no doubt that seeing the gopuram results in people being blessed with all auspiciousness.

The samprokshaNa details will be given in next month’s magazine.

Subhamastu

Maci/February 1987

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

गोपुरं रङ्गनाथस्य संपूर्णं पश्यतो मम ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam|

gopuram ranganaAhasya sampUrNam paSyato mama ||

Dear readers of SrI Nrsimhapriya magazine! We are happy to announce the news that you have all been eagerly awaiting all these days!

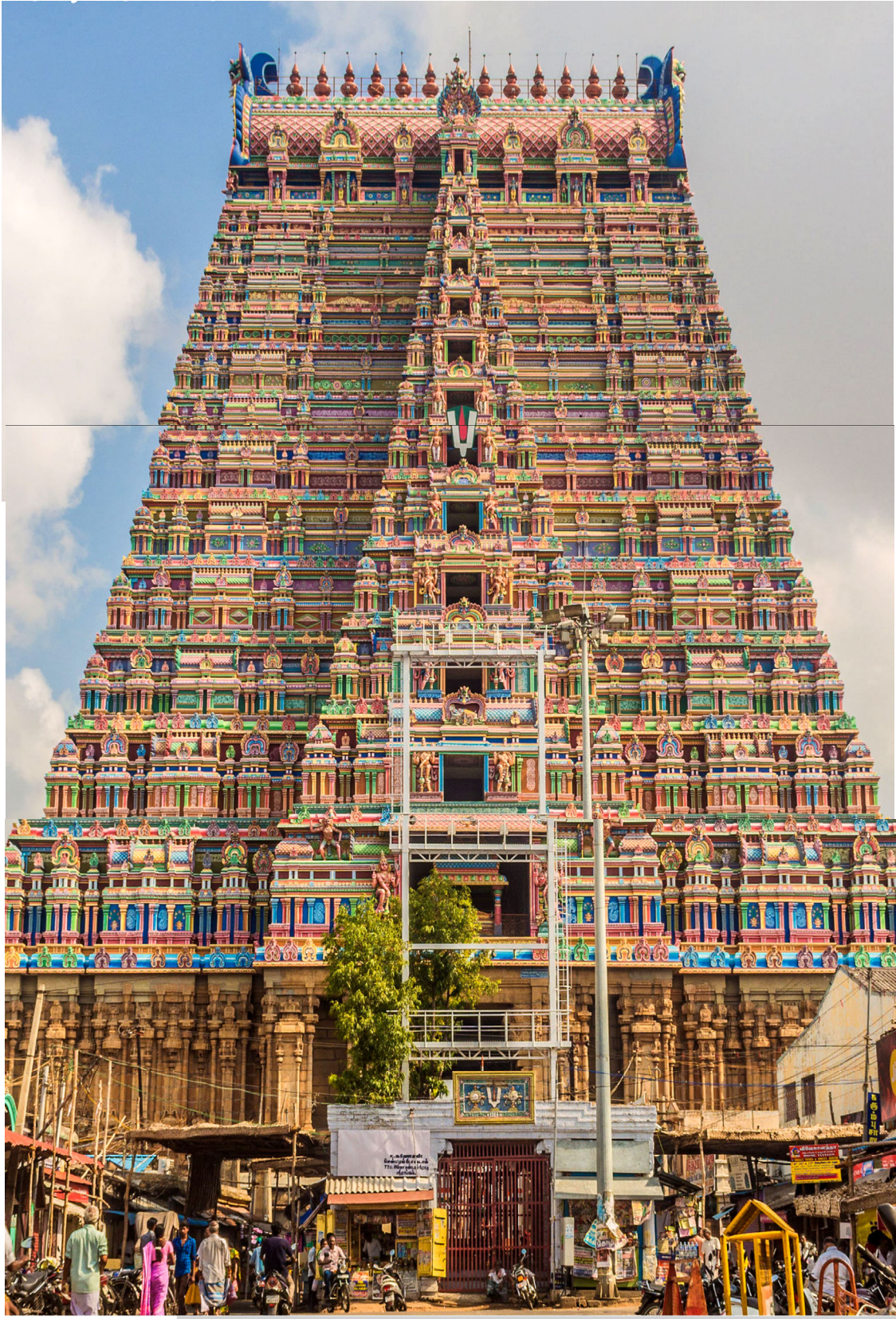
On the auspicious 11th day of Panguni month in this Akshaya year (25-3-1987), a Wednesday where SravaNa star is in ascendance, the MahA samprokshaNam of the recently constructed Rajagopuram on the South entrance of SrI Ranganathan's sannidhi at Srirangam will be conducted on the niyamanam by SrI Ranganayaki sameta SrI Ranganathan.

The celebrations are scheduled to start five days ahead of the samprokshaNam with daily Veda Prabandha pArAyaNam (recitations), homa-s and pUrNAhuti-s (fire-offerings) at the YAgasaala (consecrated place). All experts trained in the VedA-s, be they smArthA-s, SrIvaishNavA-s or mAdhvA-s are requested to participate in the celebrations. All Astika-s are also invited to take part in the activities and share in the joy. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity, so it should not be missed.

Those that attend the function are requested to contribute in cash or kind towards the samprokshaNam to the extent possible and be blessed with everlasting wealth by the grace of SrI Ranganatha! Every individual taking part is encouraged to give at least five rupees each and enjoy peace and prosperity in their lives.

Details about the samprokshaNam will be announced periodically in newspapers.

Subhamastu



The fully completed majestic RAjagopuram of SrIRangam

Panguni/March 1987

अद्य मे सफलं जन्म जीवितं च सुजीवितम्।

गोपुरं रङ्गनाथस्य संपूर्णं पश्यतो मम ॥

adya me saphalam janma jIvitam ca sujIvitam|

gopuram ranganaAthasya sampUrNam paSyato mama ||

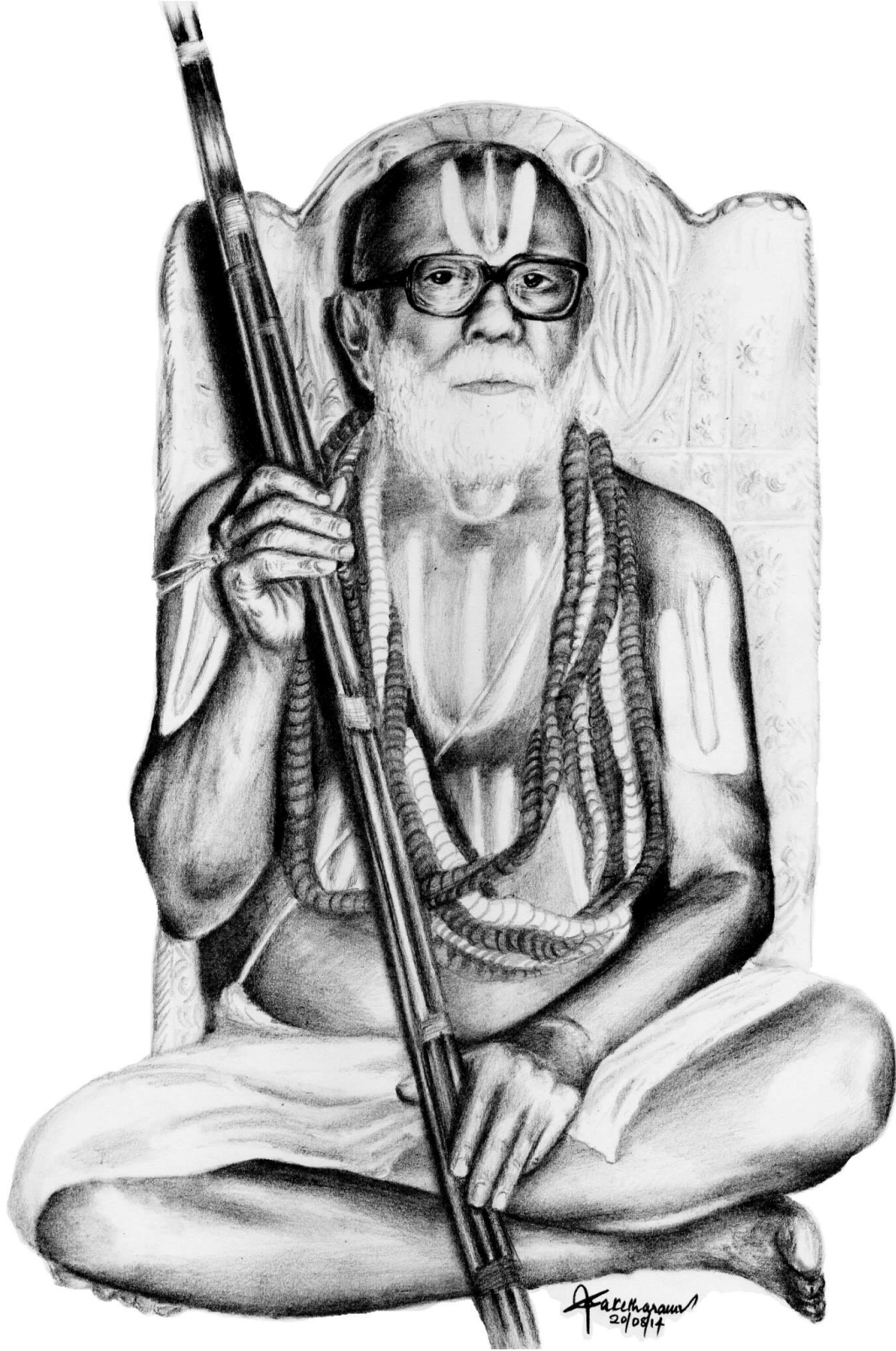
Human happiness is called as manushyaAnandam. VedA-s proclaim that this state of happiness is achieved when a person enjoys good health, is engaged in regular discourses on VedAnta, is admired by his fellow beings for the unsurpassed wealth possessed by him and lives a long life. Learned elders state that, "We do not care for material wealth that is perishable. Instead we long to perform unceasing service to BhagavAn. This is what we consider as wealth. kinkaratvAdirAjyam."

Unbroken, constant performance of kaimkarya to BhagavAn is only possible when one attains mukti. Out of His infinite mercy SrI Ranganathan gave me the opportunity in this life itself to perform the kind of permanent kaimkaryam which I would only have been able to engage in when I arrived at His heavenly SrIvaikuNTham. Instead, by His blessings I could perform this extraordinary kaimkaryam here at His Sriranga divya kshetram which is the BhUloka VaikuNTham! 'muktAnubhUtim iha me pradadau mukundaH dhanyam adyaivatame janma', I have often wondered if SrIman Narayanan descended to this Earth in His SrIranga vimAna just for the sake of aDiyEn, so that the Rajagopuram kaimkaryam could be fulfilled.

Everyone who witnesses the samprokshaNa celebrations either on TV, in person or through word of mouth, will be bestowed with good fortune.

You might remember that on a previous occasion I wrote that He started this lofty Rajagopuram kaimkaryam then and it is He Who has now brought about the successful conclusion. That is, this Rajagopura construction project was initiated and fulfilled by Him for His own pleasure. I wrote, "gopura nirmaNANakhyam karma svasmai svaprItye svayameva kAritavAn will be our refrain soon."

That auspicious time is at hand. Now I shall perform sAtvIka tyAgam as quoted above and join in the jubilation.



||Subhamastu||

ஸ்ரீ



ஸ்ரீமதே ஸ்ரீலக்ஷ்மீ நகுஸிம்ஹபரப்ரஹ்மணே நம:
ஸ்ரீமதே ஸ்ரீவண் சடகோப ஸ்ரீவேதாந்ததேசிக யதீந்த்ர
மஹாதேசிகராய நம:

ஸ்ரீரங்கம்

ராஜகோபுர மஹாஸம்ப்ரோக்ஷணப்

பத் திரிகை

25-3-1987

ஸ்ரீரங்கத்தில் ஸ்ரீரங்கநாதனுடைய தெற்குவாசல் ராஜகோபுரம் பதின்மூன்று நிலைகளுடன் மிகவும் அழகாகக் கட்டி முடிக்கப்பட்டு விட்டது.

நாளது அஷ்டிய பங்குனி மீ 7உ (21-3-87) சனிக்கிழமை மாலை ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டு பங்குனி மீ 11 உ (25-3-87) புதன்கிழமை சீரவண நக்ஷத்திரம் கூடிய சுபயோக சுபதினத்தில் காலை 9-15க்கு மேல் 10-30 மணிக்குள் மஹாஸம்ப்ரோக்ஷணம் நடைபெறும்.

22, 23, 24 ஆகிய மூன்று தினங்களில் காலையிலும் மாலை யிலும் வேதம், பிரபந்தம், ராமாயண, பாகவதம் பாராயணங்கள் நடைபெறும்.

பாராயணங்களில் த்ரிமதஸ்தர்களான வித்வான்கள் எல்லோரும் அந்நயித்து திவ்ய தம்பதிகளின் அநுக்ரஹத்தைப் பெற வேண்டும்.

பக்தர்கள் அனைவரும் திரளாக வந்திருந்து ஸம்ப்ரோக்ஷணத்தை ஸேவித்து தன்யர்களாக வேண்டும்.

ஸ்ரீஅஹோபில மடம்
முகாம் : ஸ்ரீதசாவதார ஸந்நித்
ஸ்ரீரங்கம், திருச்சி-620 006

இந்தப்படிக்கு ஸ்ரீநியமனம்
வித்வான் பனமுகை வீரவல்லி
நரஸிம்ஹாசாரியார்,
ஸ்ரீகார்யம், ஸ்ரீஅஹோபில மடம்.

The samprokshaNa patrika that appeared in SrI Nrsimhapriya



MahaasamprokshaNam



Appendices





NamperumAL - SrIrangam



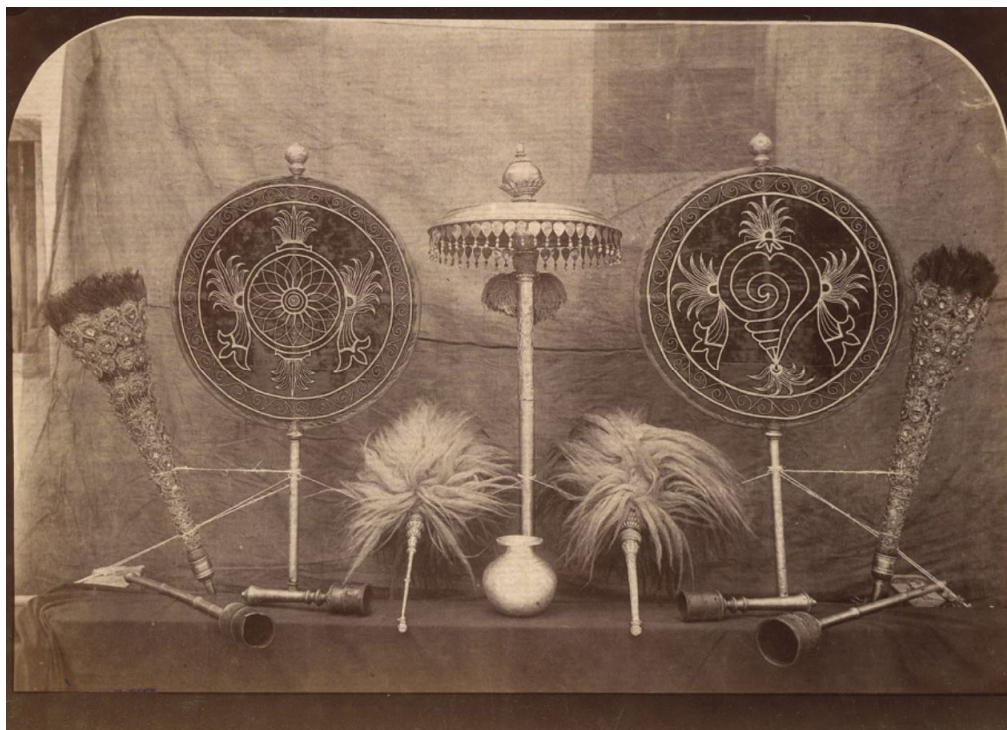
The Old MoTTai gopuram



MoTTai gopuram – another view



Another view of the MoTTai gopuram



Some of the jewels of SrIrangam temple



Some of the ornaments of Moolavar of SrIrangam temple



Some more ornaments of Moolavar and utsavar of SrIrangam temple



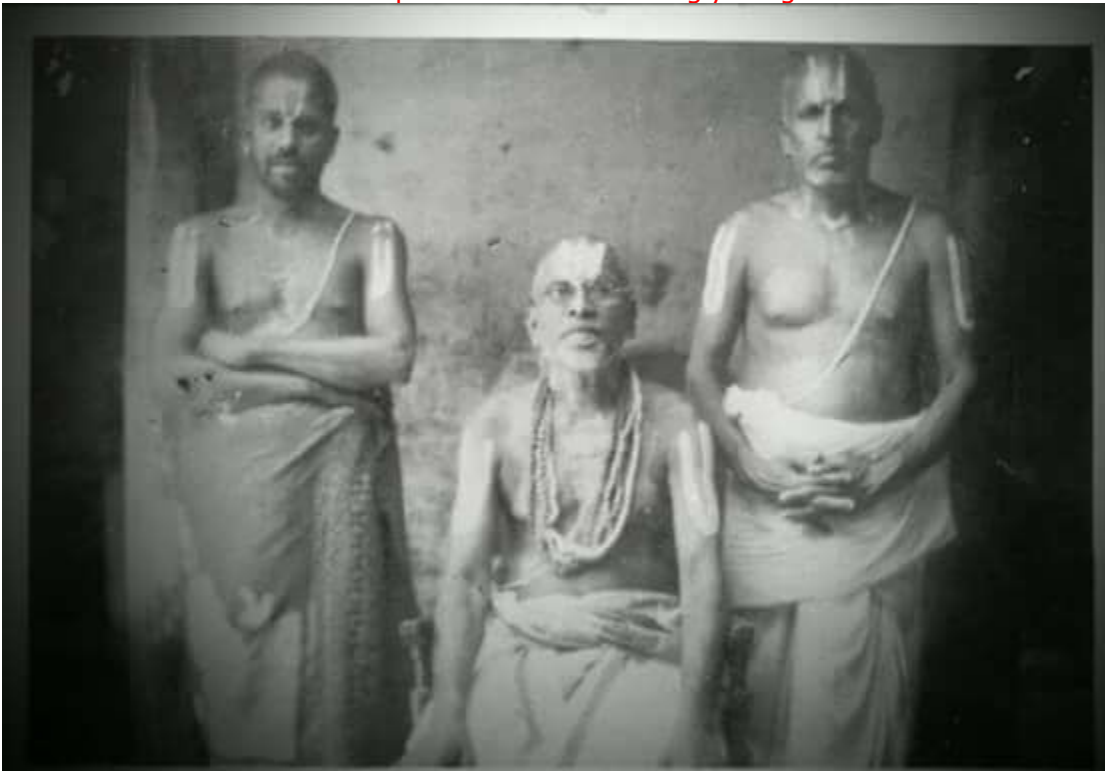
HH 44th paTTam SrImad Azhagiyasingar with sishtyas



HH 44th paTTam SrImad Azhagiyasingar performing upanyAsam

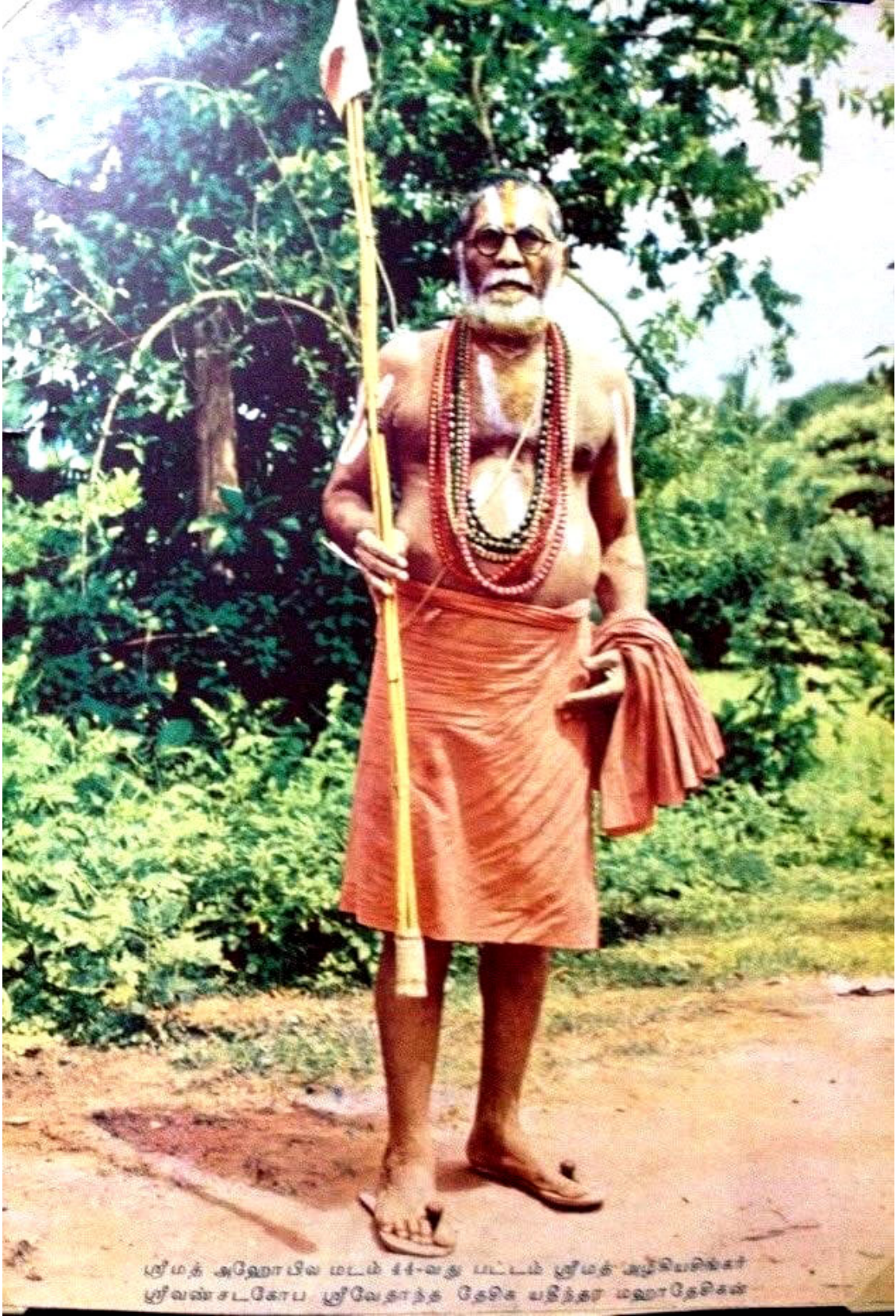


HH 44th paTTam SrImad Azhagiyasingar





Two great AcAryA-s – HH SrImad MukkUr Azhagiyasingar and HH SrImad TirukkuDantai ANDavan



An AcArya of matchless glory!



They came from far and wide and from all walks of life to have darSan of the great AcAryA-s!



HH SrImad TirukkuDantai ANDavan and HH SrImad MukkUr Azhagiyasingar



SrI Malolan and SrI MALola pAdukaa sevakar!



Many voluntarily made samarpaNam-s towards the RAjagopura kaimkaryam



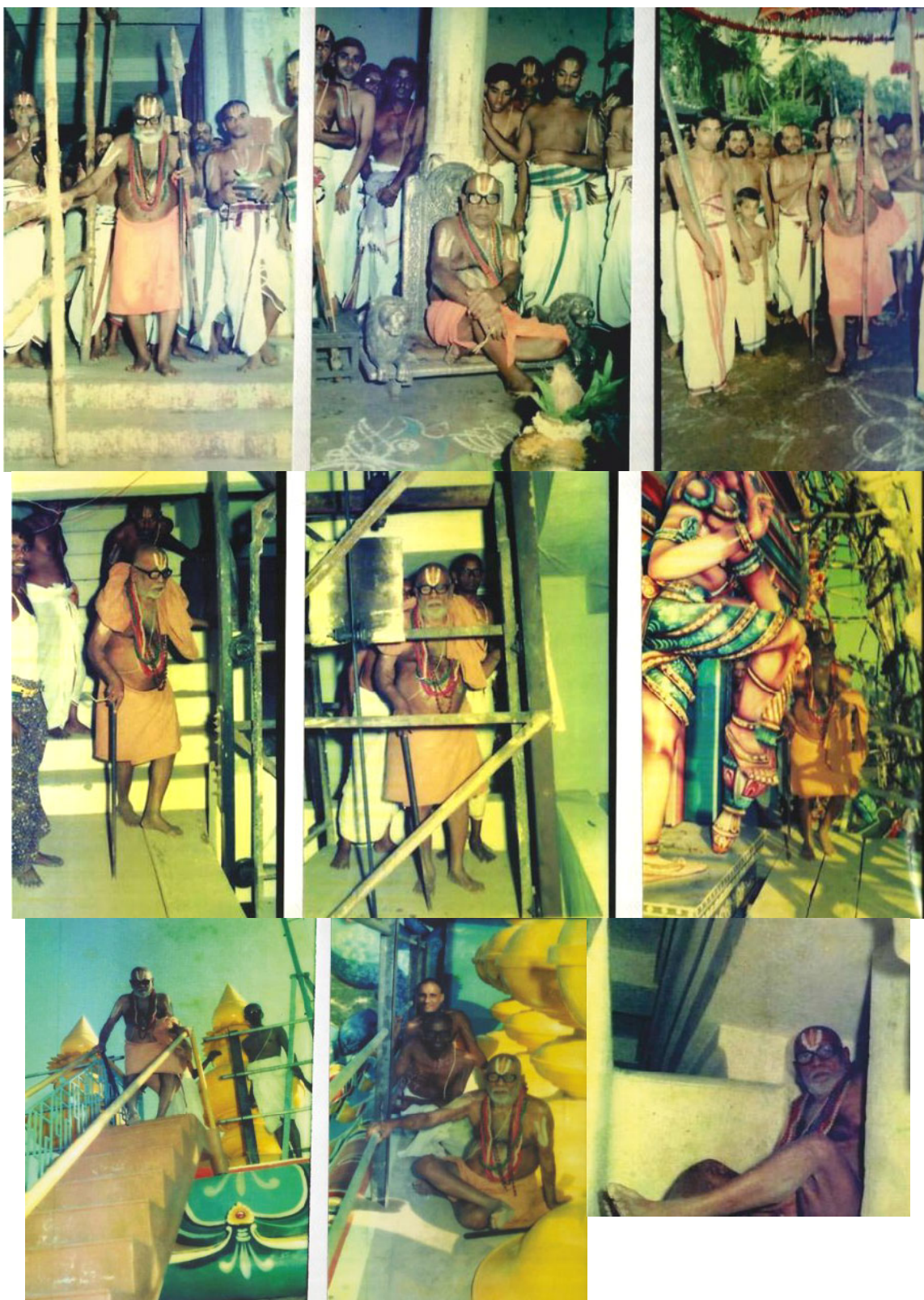


AcArya simham!

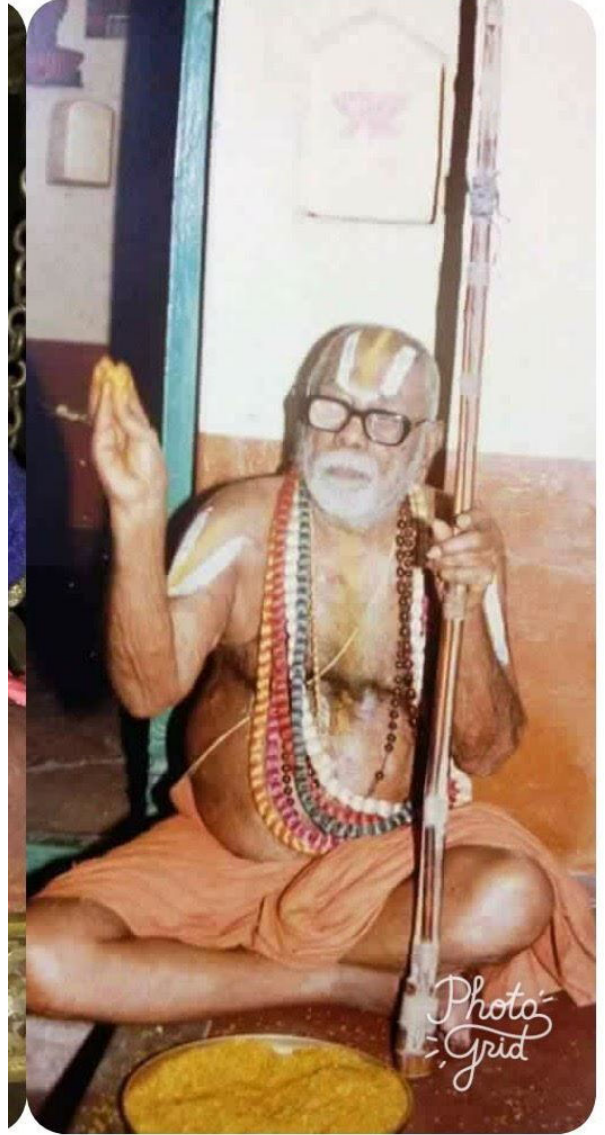


A colossus walked the Earth!





Indomitable spirit and personification of Faith! – AcAryan visits the completed gopuram!



SrI ranganAthaSaThakopayatIndradrshTam
 lakshmiInrsimhaSaThajitkaruNaikapAtram|
 SrI ranganavI ragaHurATSaThakopahrdyam
 vedAntadeSikayatIndramaham prapadye||

SrImate SrIvaNSaThakopa SrI vedAntadeSikayatIndra mahAdeSikAya namaH||



HH SrImad Mukkur Azhagiyasingar arcaa tirumeni at His brndAvanam at DaSAvatAra sannidhi – SrIrangam!