99

BLISS SUPREME

AND

OTHER VERSES

4- SEP 1937 ENGLISH

WRITTE & PUBLISHED BY

RAMANA DASA K. S. SESHAGIRI, B.A.

The Author of "The Maha Bharatha" in Tamil & English, "Sacred Thoughts," "Inspiring Thoughts" & "Who art Thou?" In English, "Iha Para Sukham," "Isvara Leelai," "Udayanan Kathai" "Uthama Pathniga]," etc., in Tamil

FIRST EDITION



138, BRODIE'S ROAD, MYLAPORE,
MADRAS (India)

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1937

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"குடும்ப வு ுகம்"

இல் வாழ்க்கையில் சம்பர்தப்படும் (என்னு பாட்டன் முதல் வீனயாடும் பாலன் ஈருக உள்ள) 55 பேர்கஊப் பற்றிக் கூறும்

திவ்விய வசன நால். (தமிழில்) வீல். 4 அணு.

"தமிழ் மலிர்"(தஞ்சாவூர்):—இது ஒரு விசித்திரமான தால்
.....இந்தால் ஜாதி மது பேதமின்றி அனேவருக்கும் பயன்படு
நறையில் நாதனமாக எழுதப்பெற்றிருக்கிறது. இந்த ஈவீன தால்,
சிறியவர்கள், பெளியவர்கள், ஆண்கள், பெண்கள், வேண்கள், வேண்கள், வேண்கள், வேண்கள், வேண்கள், வேண்கள், வேண்கள், வேண்கள், வேண்கள் முதலிய எல்லாரிடத்திலும் இருக்க வேண்டியது
தான்.......இந்த நால் எல்லோராறும் அங்கிகரிக்கப்பட்டு
வினாவில் பிரசீத்தியடையும் என்பதில் சிறிதும் சுந்தேகமில்?ல.

சுயம்பு வல்லி

அல்லது 81 இருடர்களே லோகோபகாரம் புரியும் ஸாதுக் களாக்கிய சிறமியின் கதை(தமிழில்). ஸ்ரீ பார்வதி பரமேச்வார் படத்துடன் விளங்குவது. வீலே 1½ அனு.

Approved for Library by The Madras T. B. C. Vide Fort St. G. Gazette of 4-5-37.

''கல்வி'' (ரங்கடன்); டிமைம்பர், 1936:— ஓரினம் பெண் 81 தீருடர்களே லோகோபகாரம் புரியும் லாதுக்களாக்கிய வித் தையை இந்தூலில் கண்டு பரவசமடையா திருக்க முடியவில்லே...தமிழ் மக்கள் ஒவ்வொருவரும் தவறது படிக்க வேண்டிய புத்தகம் இ*துவாகு*ம்.

பரீ கிருஷ்ண சரிதம்

[Approved for Library by The Madras T. B. C. Vide Fort St. George Gazettes of 17-11-1936 and of 4-5-1937]

(87 பக்கம் 5 படம் உள்ளது) வீல் 6 அணு.

" தமிழ் நேசன் " (கோலாலம்பூர்) 24-9-1936 :--

தீமத் பாகவதம், 10, 11-வத ஸ்கர்தங்களில் (காணும்) கிருஷ்ண பாமாத்மாவின் லீஸ்(களின்).....விஷ்யங்குள்ச் சுருக்கு மெனிதர் பலரும் அறியவேண்டிய தத்துவங்களின் சாராம் சங்களில் சிறிதம் குறைவின்றி இந்துலாசிரியர் சங்கிருஷித் கிருப்பது போற்றற் பாலதே. இவர் 15 அத்தியாயங்களில் 94 துலப்புகளின்கீழ் கிருஷ்ண சரித்திரத்தை அடக்கியிருப்பது ஒரு அரிய செய்கையே. தமிழ் நடை ஆற்றேழுக்குப்போல் வேத அழகாகவும் கம்பீரமாகவும் ஒருக்கிறது......பீழையற்ற தேனிந்த வசன நால்.

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PREFACE

The All-filling, Ever-present, Beginningless and Endless Nirguna (Attributeless) Brahman is an ocean of 1Bliss Supreme, a wave in which is what is known as Saguna Brahman or (a Personal) God2 to whom are attributed the qualities of Divine Power, Wisdom, Grace, etc Maya² (ωπωω) is (such a Personal) God's Shadow. The Mind³ is Maya's Instrument, [The Mind and Maya may even be regarded as the obverse and reverse of the same coin.] The Mind is (the source of all woss and) the cause of 4War on earth. 5Peace alone can end war. 6Love (somewhat precedes and) follows Peace True Love, like a large river, carries its votaries at last to the ocean of Unpollutable Ananda or the 'Bliss Supreme with which this booklet begins. Thus we conclude where we began.

Dear reader, if, amidst the stir, bustle and turmoils of these ever busy days, you could find some time or inclination to go through this tiny book, you will, I hope, be glad to note among other things a certain "cyclic order" in the evolution of the six verses which form the contents of this brochure. The successive numbers 1 to 6, (given above) against each of the different poems, show their respective order in this work. A frequent and wide perusal of this book, irrespective of its size or price, will. I believe, serve to promote the cause of perpetual peace on earth. I shall feel amply rewarded, if. as I hope, these few lines could contribute, in however humble a measure. to a quickening and consolidation of Universal Peace which has been so dear to the hearts of men and women of all times and climes

Mylapore.

a SERIBAT

SRI RAMANA PARAMATMANAY NAMA

BLISS SUPREME

(1) Sooner a doll of salt could find
The depths of sea than I can show
The Bliss Supreme beyond all mind,
Transcending Maya's weal and woe!

(2) A thousand petty joys(1) we get Of kingship, wealth and lore and love Are but streaks or sprays that jet From Bliss Supreme within, above.

(3) All earthly joys, by one if won, Poorly reflect that Bliss's sway, A drop in sea, a spark in sun, Or like a star in Milky Way.

(4) Thief, the victor, murd'rer, rake,
Through pelf, ambition, blood and lust,
Seeking that Supreme Bliss mistake,
Oppress and die, are laid in dust.

(5) Fear, bigotry, envy, greed, Hatred, wrath and pride mislead! The way to Supreme Bliss we need To know, to kill all woes indeed!

(6) The joys from wife or wine and wealth Have deeper, nearer, purer source; The Self, concealed as if in stealth, Is Joy Itself; It streams through pores.

⁽¹⁾ The relative pronoun 'that' is understood after 'Joys' in line stanza 2 above.

(7) This All-pervading Supreme Self, Devoid of ego, acts and sex, Is unending Bliss Itself And hence no care henceforth can vex.

(8) The gem-bedeck'd lovely beauties, Peerless emp ror's realm and crown, Skill and lore and love of duties, Kindness, piety, vast renown,

(9) Sons of valour, age in lakhs Of ye'rs, endowed with endless strength Throughout, Supreme, no vassal racks, Content in realm's all width and length

(10) And all such things that constitute
The maximum of joy on earth
A king may get tributes, repute.
Now, count as 'one' this combined
mirth.

(11) That unit of joy expand
And multiply by lakhs and crores,
To get to know a glimpse at hand
Of Bliss Supreme in 'Moksha's course.

(12) Bliss Supreme to see to-day
 Embodied in a human form,
 To Lord Sri Ramana, run away
 Forthwith and there enjoy the charm.

^{*} See Footnote (1) in Page 9.

TT

GOD AND MAYA

(1) Father of all that live and move!
What whim made Thee grim Maya(1)
raise

Above Thy Self till countless rays⁽²⁾ From Thee forget themselves and praise

- (2) Her⁽³⁾ alone as Goddess true, Eternal Blissful Be'ng of Pow'r, Though she confines so cruelly All souls in dreadful mis'ry's bow'r⁽⁴⁾.
- (3) Her ways and means make us forget One-ness⁽⁵⁾ in source and goal with Thee;

Delusion foully doth mislead All souls that ev'r are fully free.

- (4) Planets, suns, moons and fixed stars,
 Countless nebulae, milky ways,
 Endless the orbs and sorts of beings
 Enclosed, controlled in Maya's race.
- (5) Maya, the shade of God, hath pow'r To rule all worlds and beings aright.

An indescribable but all-powerful Illusion that sustains this universe of unreality until Self-Realisation dispels it,

⁽²⁾ Souls of all beings (that emanate from God).

⁽³⁾ Maya is often regarded as a Goddess.

⁽⁴⁾ Worldly life (which yields more of woes than weal).

⁽⁵⁾ All the (seemingly separate) souls in the universe are (always and) in reality one with God Himself, even as the one sun is found reflected in millions of water-filled vessels, which are variously made of gold, silver, copper, clay, etc.

Through Time, Space, cause, She doth ordain
Earths, hells and heav'ns with supreme might.

(6) All beings through⁽¹⁾ Karma's cloaks should oft Be born and die in Maya's scheme, Until mind-merged, breath-bated they Dive into heart, become Supreme.

(7) Maya is mind; God is in heart;
Merge her in Him beyond all sex:
Whatev'r thy faith or creed, catch⁽²⁾
her
Transfix⁽³⁾ or drown⁽⁴⁾, no more thee

(8) Of threefold⁽⁵⁾ paths choose one or more; Melt mind as does salt doll in sea;

Karmas are of three groups:—

⁽a) Sanchita (b) Prarabda and (c) Agamya—(a) denote the corores and crores of good, bad and indifferent deeds (and thoughts) of ours in our past lives which necessitate further births; (b) is that small portion [of the Himalayan heaps of (a)] for the exhausting of the fruits of which our present body is given or taken; (c) represents our thoughts and acts in our present birth which at our death will be included with those in (a) and form the source of further births in future.

⁽²⁾ The path of Yoga which helps us to bind down the mind by the control of our breath.

⁽³⁾ The path of Gnana which aids us to transcend and thus subdue the mind.

⁽⁴⁾ The path of Bhakthi or Devotion to God, by which the mind can easily be conquered or drowned in the thought or glory of any Personal God of our choice.

⁽⁵⁾ They are (2), (3) and (4); [or as is often done] the path of Yoga may be replaced by Karma Yoga which means doing work for duties, sake, resigning all fruits to God, never identifying ourselves with work, while doing ungrudgingly the work allotted to us in life.

Transcending thoughts of world and stars,
Dive down in heart, end all mis'ry.

(9) As children sport in blindfold race,
All beings are caught in Maya's ways;
Amusements end, their steps retrace
When souls all bonds and thoughts

efface.

(10) All that begin will have their ends. Ev'n Maya's sway no longer holds, While souls, the rays from God, re'lise Maya as dream, One-ness unfolds.

(11) Distinctions made as God and soul
Are such because of Maya's rule.
Know that beyond all shapes and
names
Thou art lone Bliss, no fool, no tool.

(12) No souls, no worlds, no Maya, woes 'Tis all mirage, so say the wise.

"There's God alone" Vedas declare, No parts or lots from God arise.

TIT

THE MIND

(1) O Mind! what wond'rous dev'l thouart, With skill to make all heav'ns and hells, Earths and planets, suns, in short, Each orb or soul in space that dwells!

(2) The Vedas rightly reiterate
'The Universe is nought but mind'
Transcend it to obliterate
All fates, leaving o'r woes behind.

(3) All weal and woe the mind doth make "No good nor bad but thinking so''(1)
The cat rejoices, rat doth quake
In terror at its sight of foe.

(4) The guide for wages leads on hills
And hence the labour views with pain;
The self-same act with pleasure fills
Those beings that wish to sights
obtain.

(5) One same act pleases you once;
Another time you hate it much;
In wrath you call yo'r pet a dunce;
In love extol with heavenly touch.

(6) Fantastic pranks the mind doth play, Yielding its victims grief and joy, Short-lived or long; that is the way The world enmeshed it doth annov.

7) All earth-born joys from spouse and pelf Are fleeting like some dreams at dawn;

And yet most men ignore the Self
That underlies delights⁽²⁾ are drawn.

(8) The Lord of Bliss is out, within

(8) The Lord of Bliss is out, within And All-pervading One, Alone; The mind-created sin and din Do make us miss the truth and moan.

(9) Velvets, silks and gems and gold With rosy cheeks and lovely form, Lands and houses, cash untold Enslave most beings like youthful charm.

(1) "There is nothing good or bad but thinking makes it to so". [Shakespeare in Hamlet.]

(2) The relative pronoun 'that' is understood after the word 'delights'.

(10) Pride of lore, prowess in war And ownership of pleasures all Are Maya's agents that us bar In our path to Moksha's hall.(1)

(11) The wooden tiger is but wood
To adults, but not so to boys
Who find in it all features good,
Worthy of tiger, not of toys.

(12) E'en so the clear-visioned soul, Freed from Maya's mental clog, Views all beings as God the whole, Mistakes no more for man the log. (2)

IV WAR

(1) O war! what horrors are involved In course thou takest to destroy The men whose wants make them

resolved

To die for dear ones(3) woes annoy!

Grim penury's dreadful touch

Forces the change of bowl for sword;

To beg is not a crime so much

As killing men to sins up hoard.

(2) A log of wood (or the stem of a tree or a post) in the dark looks like a man. Even so in the darkness of our ignorance, the One Absolute, All-filling Brahmam (God) appears as manifold beings, with

ever differing names and shapes.

⁽¹⁾ Moksha or salvation is said to be of four kinds (vir) Salokya, Sameepya, Saroopya and Sayujya. The first means dwelling in the same Loka or World with the Lord (Brahma the creator in Satyaloka, or Vishmt the Protector in Vaikunta, or Siva the destroyer of ignorance or Restorer of (Gnana) wisdom in Kailasa]. "Samecyaa" is nearness to the Lord (in any of those three worlds) dwelling in His own Hall. "Saroopya" is acquiring the shape of the Lord, looking almost like Him. "Sayujya" is to merge or become One with Him. The Advaitin's goal is Sayujya or Oneness with the Lord.

⁽³⁾ The relative pronoun 'whom' is understood after 'ones.'

(3) To drug the soldiers, egg them on Like brutes to beat and blow out brains Of foes to further plans (1) are drawn By kings, dictators, dead to pains!

(4) Pains produced by poison-gas, Machine-guns and tanks and shells, Rifles, microbes, 'planes amass Corpses; causers (2) go to hells.

(5) For God, the Father of us all, Will He forgive us when, like beasts, We cut each other's throats and fall Preys to hell, to brutes' good feasts!

(6) While deeper thought convinces soon That God is dwelling in us all, Why should be men so made to swoon And die ere yet destined to fall!

(7) The fading flowers, the falling fruits,
Why should you pluck or squeeze ere
time
Lays its destructive hand, uproots

From branches them in many a clime?

(8) The widow's wail and orphan's cry,
In twain, alas! do rend the sky!

The king to comfort them may try;

Who could replace the men that die?

(9) Who else will show a father's love?

Do all the widows wed again?

Why should a war remove the dove

Of soul from body with such pain?

^{(1) &#}x27;That' is understood after 'blans."

⁽²⁾ The producers of such destructive instruments as well as those that bring about war.

(10) There's fall in morals, wealth and trade,
Treas'ry ruined and mind depress'd,
Army restless; kings do fade
In the states by war oppress'd.

(11) Lawless men and times appear;
Beggars, ruffians, thieves abound;
The maimed, the widows, orphans fear;
With cries of mis'ry homes resound.

(12) Victor more oft immoral turns;
—(Ambition fires and mercy dies)—
With giddy mind the world he spurns,
Oppressing men, to hell he hies.

PEACE.

(1) O Peace that art the foe of war!

Immortal Attribute or State
Of God Himself that's near and far!
O Thou subduer of my fate!

(2) O Peace that art but One with Bliss!
O thou that art terror of foes!
Thy presence no man likes to miss;
For thou couldst blast all trace of woes.

(3) 'Tis Peace alone (1) can reign supreme;
It oft doth make e'en victors wise;
Its blessings such that sages deem
It one with God; defies it price.

(4) Powers it has to sinners raise From Folly's depths to heights of Joy; Unique its worth beyond all praise; All harms that come it could destroy.

⁽¹⁾ The relative pronoun 'that' is understood after 'alone' in the third stanza above.

(5) All souls in east and west do pant
For Peace from which they first did
start!
To Peace, their goal, though progress
scant,
They wend their way through many an
art.

(6) A few there are that get it soon, Desires dead and hating none, Beyond all greed or need for boon, Devoid of grief and fear and fun;

(7) Content within, serene in mind, The same for ever in praise or blame, Alike to friend or foe, behind The Source which yields the mind a name,

(8) Released from wrath and thoughts and hence

For ev'r in calm and quiet Bliss, To beings all kind in homes or dens, Nor tigers, snakes them hurt, at hiss;.

(9) Transcending thoughts, diving beneath The depths of heart, one feels at last The glowing, endless Joy; no sheath* Need be thought of to reach source fast.

^{*}There are five sheaths named Anna-maya kosa, Prana-maya kosa, Mano-maya kosa, Vignana-maya kosa and Ananda-maya kosa, which cover like concentric circles their common centre which is the Eternal "I" or God in all beings. The outermost sheath, mentioned first above, is no other than this gross (Sthoola Saveera or) physical body which at death is burnt or buried. The next three form the (Sooksima Sareera or) subtle body which parts from this physical body at death-time and enters others to exhaust the effects or consequences of its previous karmas (in preceding lives) or to give scope for the free-play of its (Vasanas or) tendencies or inclinations.

- (10) As oft a thought doth start in mind, So oft ask thee, "In whom this thought Arises! Who am I?" Thus find The deathless "I" that souls have got-
- (11) When that Eternal "I" within Eats up thy little ego, sure Art found in Peerless Bliss serene; No more can Maya thee immure.
- (12) Thus Peace is God. It is divine.
 It is the Source and Goal of all.
 It has the pow'r to heal and shine
 Eternally and Maya maul.

VI

LOVE.

- (1) A dreadful tiger darts on child!

 The fondling mother slays the brute!

 "Whence such strength to dame so
 mild?"

 "Trom love." e'en men so quick can't.
 - "From love;" e'en men so quick can't shoot.
- (2) What makes the parents work and pine Or even die for children's weal? Whence their wish to see them shine In life? 'Tis love for them they feel.

The fifth (above) is the (Karana Sarvara or) Causal body which is Ignorance of the real nature of One's own being. Only when this causal body is burnt by the fire of (Atma Gnana or) Self-Realisation, can we be freed from further births and deaths. For then, the (now troubling) petty, little. individual soul loses itself in the Divine. There is no more feeling of the second or third person then, but only a broadened, bigger "I "which is God-consciousness.

- (3) Of yore some ladies fire embraced In Ind undaunted, when they felt Loth to live since spouse had graced Some other worlds in which they dealt.
- (4) The thought of Rama's exile slew His father Dasaratha true! A tale of husband's death untrue Killed Jaideva's Padma (1) too!
- (5) True love is selfless, pure, serene, Forgiving, bold; it recks not realm, (2) Nor wealth, nor life, nor king, (3) nor queen,

No woe can e'er it overwhelm.

- (6) In kind the same as God's own Grace, In degree small compared with It, True Love is mercy; 't does efface All faults and frees from vice's pit.
- (7) Buddha would offer life for lamb. Jesus forgave his own betray'r.

⁽¹⁾ Padmavathi, the wife of Jayadeva, died the very moment in which she was falsely informed by a queen that a tiger pounced upon and destroyed her spouse. The queen's idea was simply to see what effect that news will have on such a loving and devoted (ideal) wife. The queen, of course, regretted it very much and was even condemned to death when the king came to know of it. But it was Jayadeva's persistent prayers and request that saved the queen ultimately from the doom that the wrathful monarch's lips had uttered.

⁽²⁾ King Edward VIII of England abdicated his throne and assigned to his brother, His Majesty King George VI, both the Crown of England and the vast empire in which the sun has never set for the last several scores of years.

⁽³⁾ A blind old Brahmin fearlessly cursed King Dasaratha, for his having unwittingly slain the son of the former.

Naren (1) made men think "God I am". To God in us bids Lord (2) repair.

(8) Love is divine; the bodies' clasp,
The kiss of lips on cheeks and chests
Are but poor signs that we can grasp
Of Grace flooding from God's behests.

(9) Scorn, contempt, distrust, conceit, Treach'ry, manners far from soft, Jealousy, hatred, wrath, deceit Do mar the married pairs so oft.

(10) Ignoble lust is miscalled love,
If changing spouse, like dress, you
move,

All woes and harms attack you now; 'Tis hard the mind to move from groove.

(11) In fact, in fine, you find no two
Souls to love, in turn be loved;
All are but One; who could it know
Except in heart when mind merg'd,

(12) From Lord Sri Ramana's Glance or thought

We feel a joy that knows no match;
His sight assures us we are not
Maya's slaves; none us can catch.

TAT SAT

VII. (1) Narendranath Dutt was the household name of Swami Vivekananda, who was never tired of dinning into our ears the Divinity of Souls and their Oneness with God.

⁽²⁾ Lord Sri Ramana (more deservedly known as Bhagavan) asks us to question seriously 'Who am I' (with the mind introverted) until its merging in the heart makes us realise that we are nothing less than 'The One Supreme Being without a Second."

Reviews and Opinions

"Who Art Thou" and other verses in English. Price 2 Annas.

The "Vision" (July 1937):—This is a booklet containing 8 poems, of which those on "Who Art Thou" "The How and Why of Self-Realisation," "Sivoham," "The Kingdom of God" and the "Lotus Feet of the Lord" are really thrlling with sublime thoughts.

Swami Shuddananda Bharathi (in a letter written on 8—7—37):—The English verses of Ramana Dasa contained in this brochure of love and light give a rapturous reading. They are the sparks of high devotion flaming in the heart's core of a Ramana Chaitanya! Indeed our Ramana Dasa has the soul of St. John and Francis in him and such is his love for the splendour of Reality embodied in the "Ramana Bhagavan".

"A tiny drop losing its name

And shape as such mingles in sea!"

Such is the glory of the Bhagavan's limitless Presence to the human individuality.

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