

Sri Swami Omkarananda's Talks On Deiva Tamil



Swami Omkarananda's talks on 'Deiva Tamil' (divine Tamil) organized by Sri Krishna Sweets were held from April 11 to April 13, 2014, at Kikani School, Coimbatore. Swami Omkarananda's insightful address rendered in his sweet and melodious voice captivated the audience.

In his talks, Swami Omkarananda pointed out language as an instrument used for communication and how great saints of Tamil Nadu, including the Nayanmars and Alwars, used Tamil to communicate their devotion and knowledge. To poet Bharathi, Tamil remained the sweetest language. A large amount of literary works and prayers are available only in Sanskrit and Tamil. A unique alphabet "la" is present only in Tamil language. It is noteworthy that all the earlier Tamil scholars were equally proficient in Sanskrit. Swamiji observed that in Tamil, there are Gurus propagating



devotion and Gurus propagating the *sastra*. While the “Thiruvasagam” is an example of the former, the “Thirumandiram” is of the latter.

If we talk in *deiva* Tamil, our words will be pure and sweet. Unfortunately, people talk in *asura* Tamil which lacks this beauty. The Tamil people should be proud of their cultural heritage and should strive to be an embodiment of *deiva* Tamil.

ULLATHU ANAYATHU UYARVU: On April 11, 2014, Sri Swamiji spoke on the topic ‘Ullathu anayathu uyarvu’ (Success is as per one’s enthusiasm). This topic is based on verse 595 of Thirukkural, which draws on the analogy of a lotus in pond. Just as the height of a lotus in a pond is determined by the height of the pond, one’s success in life will be determined by one’s level of enthusiasm.

The importance of enthusiasm in one’s devotional practices is evident in the many devotional prayers in Tamil written by Kumara Guruparar, Avvayar and Abhirami Bhattar seeking unbounded enthusiasm. We require will power to continue and remain committed in our pursuit. In the Bhagavad Gita, Lord



Krishna says in that He is the legitimate desire among desires.

Our mind, at the peripheral level has physical needs; at the middle level, has emotional needs; and at the deepest level, has spiritual needs. Therefore, we should not spend all our energy in the legitimate pursuit of wealth and pleasures; we should have an action plan and set goals for our material wealth. This implies that we limit our material pursuits at a point and commence study of the *sastra*. We should have a clear idea of what we need to pursue in this life.

INBAM PAYAKUM VINAI: On April 12, 2014, Sri Swamiji spoke on the topic “Inbam payakum vinai” (Perseverance leads to happiness). Talking on this topic, based on verse 669 of Thirukural, Sri Swamiji pointed out that although our pursuit is painful in the beginning, we should carry on as there will be happiness in the end.

In this regard, we should take Sage Viswamitra to be our role model. He had so many hindrances in his pursuit of the truth, but he did not stop until he attained the status of a *Brahma Rishi*. We can pursue legitimate wealth and pleasures; we should make efforts to earn enough *punya* and we should use that *punya* in pursuit of spiritual studies.

The Japanese are a case in point. They are committed to doing their duty; they find happiness in doing their duty. They do not violate rules. They are committed to values.

We should get rid of the wrong conclusion that our happiness depends upon material wealth. We should also not assume that our happiness depends upon the results of action. We should live a life of *karma yoga*. *Karma yoga* means that merely by doing one’s duties, one is happy. We should not

live as per the dictates of our own likes and dislikes, but we should do *pancha maha yajna*.

Sri Swamiji remarked that while there is a human rights organization, unfortunately, there is no human duties organization. We need not assert our rights, but we should simply do our duty. From an *animal* man (biped), we should evolve to become a *man*. And, from a *man* man, we should become a *God* man. Doing karma yoga alone will bring about this perfect evolution.

KURAIVILA NIRAIVU: On April 13, 2014, Swamiji spoke on the topic “Kuraivila niraivu” (Contentment without any binding desires). This topic, based on a selection from Thiruvassagam, is a profound and precious one.

The message of Vedanta is that I am the one unlimited, all pervading consciousness. I have a body but I am not the body. When I think about my individuality, I feel limited. Yet, during deep sleep I do not feel that I am a limited person. Saint Thiruvallur said that when a person crosses the notion of I and mine, he gets *moksha* (liberation). Kumara Guruparar said that one’s (real) wealth is a satisfied mind.

As a human being, our absolute goal is *moksha*. This is otherwise called *mukthi* or freedom or liberation from a sense of bondage. Gaining *moksha* translates to possessing that contentment which is free of any binding desires. Such an absolute freedom, such perfect contentment is attained only by pursuing *jnana yoga* (enabled by a committed study of the *Vedanta sastra* under a traditional Guru).

Report by N. Avinashilingam